



VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

VICTORIAN BRANCH (INCORPORATED)

ADMINISTRATION INSTRUCTION NUMBER 23

BADGE WEEK

Introduction

1. The purpose of this AI is to explain the State Executive involvement with Badge Week and Sub-Branch responsibilities with respect to raising funds for Veterans' Welfare purposes.
2. To develop the potential for fund raising through donations the State Executive has introduced "Badge Week" as a major fundraising activity to provide welfare funds for the benefit of the Association and its members.

Detail

3. Badge Week revolves around Vietnam Veterans' Day with no fixed collection or badge selling days nominated. This allows each Sub-Branch arrange collection days to suit their individual circumstances.
4. The Museum Sub-Branch is responsible to coordinate "Badge Week" and as such, is responsible for developing and producing of material relevant to the event and the placing of all orders for Sub-Branch requirements needed to conduct their fundraising.
6. Welfare Badges, VVAA stickers, collections tins and other items will be supplied to Sub-Branches at wholesale prices or agreed cost. An invoice will be raised on delivery of the Badge Week stock to Sub-Branches with payment of the invoice to be made as quickly as possible after the Badge Week fundraising is complete.
7. The following information that may be of assistance to Sub-Branches prior to and during Badge Week:
 - Appendix 1 – Media release for use by Sub-Branches.
 - Appendix 2 – A letter outlining the aims of the Association.
 - Appendix 3 – An outline of the welfare activities of the Association.
8. It is a legislative requirement of the current *Veterans Act 2006* that monies raised specifically for Veterans' Welfare to be placed in a Welfare Fund Account and may only used for Veteran Welfare purposes.
9. All money raised is retained by the Sub-Branch. A Sub-Branch that does not have a separate Welfare Fund account should approach the State Treasurer for further information.

10. Sub-Branches are to sell the Standard Branch 4 Badge Collection and may also sell other suitable products.

Conclusion

11. Badge Week is an opportunity for Sub-Branches to raise funds for welfare purposes and raise their profiles in their local areas.

**Appendix 1 to
AI No 23 – Badge Week**

DRAFT MEDIA RELEASE TEMPLATE - FOR USE BY LOCAL SUB-BRANCHES TO RELEASE TO LOCAL MEDIA IN WEEK BEGINNING 7 AUGUST ANNUALLY

VETERANS APPEAL HELPS DIGGERS IN NEED

Vietnam Veterans will be rattling tins all over Australia next week, including (NAME OF LOCAL TOWNSHIP OR DISTRICT), in their annual appeal to raise funds for the welfare of less fortunate comrades and their families

The annual appeal, which culminates in Vietnam Veterans Day on August 18, raises thousands of dollars each year to provide desperately needed help to fellow Australian Veterans in desperate need.

Veterans remember their fallen comrades on this day, the anniversary of the famous Battle of Long Tan, at memorial services and reunions.

Local spokesman for the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA), Mr (NAME OF SPOKESPERSON) said the annual tin rattle, known as Badge Week, was the Association's only major fund raising drive throughout the year. Donors buy remembrance pins showing their support for veterans.

"Every year the support we get from people is very gratifying," Mr (NAME OF SPOKESPERSON) said. "It really does our members proud to see that people really do care, particularly for those of us who are less fortunate than others.

"Almost forty years after the war ended there are many veterans who still suffer from physical pain, psychological pain or both. And their families are always caught up in that and we try to provide them with help too.

The VVAA is a non-political, purely voluntary organisation concerned first and foremost with matters relating to the health, welfare and well being of veterans and their families. All funds raised during Badge Week are used to provide the organisational, welfare and support services required by the veterans' community." Mr (NAME OF SPOKESPERSON) said.

I would urge everyone in (NAME OF LOCAL TOWNSHIP OR DISTRICT) to invest a few dollars in honoring and helping those who have already served their country with great distinction pride and selflessness.

"I know it's a real honor and privilege to stand side by side with them.

Next week collectors will be At (NAME OF LOCATION/S or donations can be left at the following businesses (NAME OF BUSINESSES)

For further information, contact (NAME OF CONTACT PERSON) on TELEPHONE (CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER)

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MEDIA PLEASE NOTE:

Mr (NAME OF SPOKESPERSON) will be available for interview in person or by telephone. The contact telephone number is (CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER)

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA)

The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA) was formed in the late 1970's as a result of the realization that many Vietnam Veterans and their families were experiencing health and emotional problems which could be related to war service. At the time, veterans seeking assistance reported a lack of understanding of their problems and some indifference was demonstrated by government authorities. As well as this indifferent attitude the veterans often considered that they had been discharged from the services into a hostile society, which they believed had little interest in their welfare.

The VVAA as an organization adopted aims and objectives to redress the problems experienced by Vietnam veterans. The Association seeks to achieve redress by:

- providing welfare advice and support to veterans and their families:
- monitoring the health problems of veterans and their families so that relevant authorities can be made aware of adverse trends and difficulties being experienced.
- ensuring that individual veterans are not disadvantaged when dealing with government departments: and
- providing on-going evaluation of the exposure of Agent Orange and other chemicals.

The Victorian State Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association provides direct welfare support to the veteran community and is involved in the operation of Nui Dat House (emergency accommodation) and the Vietnam Veterans Crisis Unit (Repatriation Hospital Heidelberg). Furthermore, the State Branch is represented on sub-committees within:

- The Department of Veterans Affairs
- The Heidelberg Repatriation and General Hospital
- The Veteran and Veterans Families Counselling Service
- The Returned and Services League
- The Vietnam Veterans Council of Victoria

The VVAA is a non-political organization concerned first and foremost with matters relating to the health, welfare and well being of veterans and their families. Additionally, the Association provides an important point of social contact for veterans and families, particularly those who feel isolated and alone within the civilian community.

Every state in Australia has a branch of the VVAA and in Victoria there are over 28 Sub-Branches serving the veteran community. For further information please contact (NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CONTACT PERSON)

(Name)

Secretary

Sub-Branch (Name)

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (Victorian Branch)

WELFARE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association has no paid employees and exists on the goodwill of the veteran community and the efforts of volunteer workers. Listed below are welfare activities that the VVAA Is involved in and welfare services, which are offered:

Welfare Advice or Assistance

Veterans looking for advice or assistance on welfare or pensions should call the Victorian State Office of the Vietnam Veterans Association on (03) 9655-5588. This is the office of the Melbourne Sub-Branch of the VVAA. The office is manned 10:00 am to 2.00 pm, Monday to Friday. At other times an answering machine may be in operation.

Vietnam Veterans Crisis Unit

The Crisis Unit is situated at RGH Heidelberg. This service offers support for veterans presenting for treatment at RGH after hours and who may be in an anxious state. Volunteers will attend the hospital and assist the veteran to gain admission or treatment if it is necessary. The hospital has set aside a quiet room for use by the Crisis Unit.

Veteran and Veterans Families Counselling Service

The VVCS is not part of the VVAA but is an integral part of the treatment of veterans and their families who are experiencing emotional problems. The VVCS can be contacted on 9818 0388 or on 1800 011 046 for those outside the metropolitan area.

The VVCS provides a range of lifestyle programs, which provide instruction and education to veterans and their partners in dealing with anxiety related problems and managing their lifestyle. This is a seven-day, live in, program which provides information on such things as relationships, diet, stress management, managing medication and relaxation.

Small Business Advisory Group

This group, which is generally referred to as SMALLBAGS, has been set up to provide advice to Vietnam Veterans who operate small businesses and who may be experiencing difficulties. Contact Laurie Bunworth through the VVCS on (03) 9818 0388 or direct on (03) 5781 0169. A second SMALLBAGS group has recently in the Wangaratta/Wodonga area and a third group been set up has been started in Melbourne.

Advocacy

The VVAA can put veterans in contact with advocates who will represent them at the Veterans Review Board.

Training

Training is available for volunteer Pensions and Welfare Officers through the 'TIP' program.