



THE FWCVHPA NEWSLETTER

FORT WOLTERS CHAPTER - VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

SEP-
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BER
1999

VOL.5, NO. 4

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL		
Bobby Bateman	940-325-8427	President
John Grow	817-834-3975	Vice-President
Charles Bogle	817-735-4713	Past President
Ira Will McComic	214-596-1361	Sr. Member-at-Large
Bob Davis	817-280-6958	Member-at-Large
Bill Murphy	940-568-1673	Jr. Member-at-Large
Jerry Barnes	972-866-4688	Secretary
Jim Messinger	940-664-3918	Treasurer
ADVISORY COMMITTEE		
Charles Bogle	Charles Holley	Angelo Spelios
NEWSLETTER		
940-325-8427	Fax 940-325-4009	Newsletter@fwcvhpa.org
WEB ADDRESS		
http://www.fwcvhpa.org		

President's Report

Welcome to all the new members and loyal newsletter followers.

Once again the December meeting will be in Fort Worth at the annual Christmas party.

If you live outside the DFW Metromess, and would like to have a quarterly meeting in your area, get those cards, letters and e-mails rolling in. If you have any suggestions for the Chapter, such as, a community service project or something you think the Chapter should be involved with, give us your input. We had great time at the Christmas party last year, and were the largest group in attendance. Hope to see you there. ☺

Bobby Bateman

Vice President's Report

I would like to "thank" those that "volunteered" me as a nominee for *Vice President*, and also the lovely **Gretchen** who insisted that I run. I sincerely thank those who voted for me; recognition by your colleagues always gives a pleasant feeling.

I was assured by the *Nominating Committee* that the *VP* had no specific responsibilities ... that he was like **Al Gore**, whose only official job is to chair the *Senate*, and we had no *Chapter Senate*. Next thing I know, **Cholly's** bugging me for the *VP's* column for the *Newsletter*. I'm sure I have more surprises in store, but one thing I know for certain: next year I'll be *President* and all he does is delegate responsibility. I can handle that!! ☺

I hope to see all of you at the Christmas Party!!

John Grow

Chapter Election Results

Elections were held for officer positions of the *FWCVHPA* at the business meeting held 11 September, 1999, at the *American Legion Post in Mineral Wells, Texas*.

By progression, *Vice-President* **Bobby Bateman**, became *President* and Member-at-Large **Ira Will McComic** became *Senior Member-at-Large*. Due to **Jim Messinger's** previous resignation as *Junior Member-at-Large* (to accept the position of *Treasurer*), the following elected positions were to be filled:

- ⇒ *Vice-President*:
- ⇒ *Member-at-Large*
- ⇒ *Junior Member-at-Large*
- ⇒ *Secretary*
- ⇒ *Treasurer*

The *Executive Council Nominating Committee* nominated the following as sole nominees and called for additional nominations from the floor:

- ⇒ *Vice-President*: **John Grow**
- ⇒ *Secretary*: **Jerry Barnes**
- ⇒ *Treasurer*: **Jim Messinger**

There being no further nominations for these positions, the motion was made and seconded that these nominees be approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

The *Executive Council Nominating Committee* nominated the following as candidates for the two *at-Large* positions and called for additional nominations from the floor:

- ⇒ **Rich Couch**
- ⇒ **Bob Davis**
- ⇒ **Bill Murphy**
- ⇒ **Tom Tolar**

No additional nominees were put forth and election was held by secret ballot.

This election resulted in a tie vote between **Bob Davis** and **Bill Murphy**. A motion was made and seconded that **Bob Davis** be *Member-at-Large* and that **Bill Murphy** be *Junior Member-at-Large*. Motion carried.

Jerry Barnes

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Secretary's Report

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The *Executive Council* meeting was held at the *American Legion Hall in Mineral Well, TX* on September 11, 1999. The meeting was opened at 1100 hours by the *President*.

General

- ⇒ The minutes of the June 5 meeting were accepted.
- ⇒ The Treasurer's Report as of September 10, 1999 was presented as follows:
 - a. Previous Balance a/o 5 June 5, 1999 = \$3,731.28
 - Income \$1,658.91
 - Expenses 804.86
 - Ending Balance \$4,585.33
 - b. A motion to accept the Treasurers Report was made and seconded. Approved.
- ⇒ The Secretary's Report showed a total of 302 members of which 170 are active. **Jerry Barnes** reported on an investigation concerning the possibility of purchasing

memorabilia of deceased pilots to be offered on the web for the Museum. The notion was not economically feasible.

- ⇒ **David Freeman**, *Chair of the Membership Committee*, reported that it does not seem we should have a life membership due to the financial problems incurred. He suggested we come up with a Chapter bumper sticker. This was referred to **Bobby Bateman** as he had an old decal that could be made into a bumper sticker. **David** suggest sending members an invoice at renewal time. A motion was made to have the membership committee mail an invoice to all members that are over 30 days overdue. Motion approved. A second motion was made and approved to provide \$200 to the membership committee for printing and postage of the invoices.
- ⇒ **Veterans Day** activities in *Mineral Wells* will include the dedication of a historical marker commemorating *Fort Wolters*.
- ⇒ **Charles Bogle** reported on the *Museum*, saying more sponsors are needed. A billboard will be placed on the property indicating the future home of the Museum. **Cholly** suggested that the Museum name needed to be Trade Marked to protect against infringement.

Old Business

- ⇒ The proposed amendment to the Constitution to allow associate members was discussed. It will be presented to the members at the meeting.
- ⇒ Nothing has been heard of the New Chapter Support request to HQ. **Cholly** is following up for us, as well as all local Chapters.
- ⇒ The *Nominating Committee* reported on its results:
 - a. By progression:
President: Bobby Bateman
Sr. Member at Large: Ira Will McComic
 - b. Nominees:
Vice-President: John Grow
Secretary: Jerry Barnes
Treasurer: Jim Messinger
Jr. and Member-at-Large candidates:

Rich Couch
Bob Davis
Bill Murphy
Tom Tolar

New Business

- ⇒ Member dues can now be paid on-line via credit card over a secure connection; reported by **Cholly**.
- ⇒ Transfer of *Chapter* assets to the *Museum* was accomplished by the signatures of the *Executive Council* on documents furnished by the *Secretary*. Acceptance by the *Museum* was by **Charles Bogle**. The assets include the OH-23, helicopter models, and land for the Museum.
- ⇒ The AAAA meeting will be in *Fort Worth* in 2000 and we should participate.
- ⇒ **Cholly** discussed preprinting color copies of the Newsletter cover to have the Newsletter in "color" at a reduced price. A motion to preprint 3000 copies was made, seconded, and passed. Jim Messinger will make the arrangements.
- ⇒ The next *Chapter* meeting will be held on 3 December at the *Petroleum Club* in *Fort Worth*. It will be our annual Christmas Party, in conjunction with AUSA/AAA.

The meeting was adjourned at 1210 hours.

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

The General Business meeting was held at the *American Legion Hall* in *Mineral Well, TX* on September 11, 1999. The meeting was opened at circa 1240 hours by *President Charles Bogle*.

- ⇒ Chapter elections were conducted (results previously reported).
- ⇒ The proposed amendment to the Constitution to provide for an **Associate Member** classification was presented. A motion was made and seconded to accept the amendment. Motion carried.

⇒ General discussion took place on a variety of topics. Nothing reportable was said.

The business portion of the meeting was closed at some point by new *President Bobby Bateman*.

Jerry Barnes

Treasury Report

AS of September 5, 1999.

Prior Balance(6/5/99)	\$3,731.28
Income	1,658.91
Expenses	804.86
Balance	\$4,585.33

Jim Messinger

e-mail ADDRESSES

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If you're in the e-mail database, you will get a quarterly update of the database (about the same time as the newsletter). If you don't receive the database, it means the e-mail address we have on file is incorrect or not working. Send e-mail additions and changes to **Jerry Barnes** <baron67@airmail.net>.

PARAPHERNALIA COMMITTEE

Chapter paraphernalia can be purchased by contacting **Bobby Bateman** (940-325-8427 or bbateman@wf.net). Patches (\$5), an audio tape of Vietnam-era music (\$10), T-shirts -- available in two colors (\$15), caps (\$15), museum bricks (\$100). The patch graphic is in the newsletter masthead.

Members: Bobby Bateman, Cleve Clark, Charles Holley, Ron Paddock, Bob Springer (Chair)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Remember, dues are due on or before January 1, and to make it easy, you can pay by credit card. Just go to <http://www.fwcvhpa.org> and follow the link for buying paraphernalia, paying dues, etc. Ten dollars isn't much to spend for the good fellowship, newsletters, and the chance to be involved with the museum project. And don't forget, you can always pay dues ahead, say for 5 years (\$50) or ten years (\$100) or even more, as a hedge against inflation (well, we might go up, you never can tell).

If you don't have a bumper sticker, get one! Mine's a simple one, a small Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with the silhouette of a Huey on it, but it attracted enough attention that a fellow VHPA'er, who had just moved to the area, followed me home the other day and I got to sell him on the benefits of joining the Chapter. Now if I could just get the e-mail address he gave me to stop bouncing my messages. ☺

David Freeman

Members: Tom Forbes, David Freeman (Chair), Virgil Laughin, Gerry Morgan, and Jack Suttle.

<http://www.fwcvhpa.org>

You can now join the *Chapter*, pay your dues, buy *Chapter* paraphernalia, join "Friends of the Museum", and buy *Museum* bricks using MasterCard or Visa via our secure server connection.

The *Fort Wolters Chapter Web Site* continues to draw visitors. Each month a number of inquiries are made about *Fort Wolters* and its history, many going back to **WW II days**. Whenever possible, the webmaster tries to find someone in the *Mineral Wells* area that may have the information being sought. These inquiries re-emphasize the importance of capturing and displaying the history of *Fort Wolters* through the *National Vietnam War Museum* and through both the *Chapter* and the *Museum Websites*.

David Freeman

Members: Jerry Barnes, Del Belanger, Ed Faught, David Freeman (Chair), Charles Holley, Ira Will McComic, James Rankin, Lee Westbrook

DUES WARNING

As previously reported the Chapter has gone to a January 1 to December 31 membership year. **Your expiration date is now shown on the mailing label of this newsletter. If it still shows 1/1/99 (or prior), your dues have expired and this will be your last newsletter until dues are current.** Memberships are still a measly \$10 a year (multiple years accepted) and should be sent to: FWC-VHPA PO Box 461 Mineral Wells, TX 76068-0461 (or online by credit card at <http://www.fwcvhpa.org>).

If you have questions about your membership or mail address, contact me at baron67@airmail.net or 3305 Laurel Lane Plano, TX 75074.

I'm getting serious and serious about this!!!

Jerry Barnes

Chapter Status as "New Chapter"

The Chapter re-re-re-re-submitted its required paperwork in November. Everything is awaiting a "nod of approval" by the designated "noddors" and then the Chapter will be proposed for approval as an official chapter to the VHPA EC. The EC will likely vote on the approval at its December meeting.

Upon approval, the Chapter will receive its "New Chapter Package", which includes:

- ⇒ \$500 to support recruiting efforts
- ⇒ VHPA banner with Chapter streamer

(Note: Don't "hold your breath" waiting for the banner and streamer ... they haven't been designed yet, but it's in-progress.)

Cholly

THE FWCVHPA NEWSLETTER is published four times a year: March, June, September, and December. It is distributed to members as part of their \$10 annual dues, and to others as designated by the *Executive Council*.

ADVERTISING RATES		
SIZE	QUARTERLY	ANNUAL
Full Page	\$30	\$100
Half Page	15	50
Quarter Page	8	25
2" x 3.3"	4	10
Classified	1/line	N/A

Status of Ellen Forbes

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We learned at the March Chapter meeting that **Ellen Forbes**, wife of *Chapter* member **Tom**, had been severely burned in a kitchen fire at their home. Here, **Tom** provides an update on her status.)

Ellen continues to improve, but I'm still going to Parkland with her every week. She had her 10th surgery last week; this one on her neck. The surgeries will be at least a one-year process. Her right shoulder comes next, and then back to finish the left shoulder; these will be coming up in the next few months. We continue to appreciate all the calls, cards, and prayers from all the *Chapter* members. **Tom Forbes**

MEETINGS COMMITTEE

Our next *Chapter Meeting* will be a Christmas party in conjunction with AAAA/AUSA on Friday, December 3 at the *Petroleum Club* in *Fort Worth*. The *Club* is located at 777 Main Street, 39th floor. Parking garage is across the street (get ticket stamped at party for free parking). Cocktails at 7:00 p.m., buffet dinner at 8:00 – 9:00 p.m., and the band plays until everyone leaves. Coat & tie for men; evening attire for women. Cost is \$30/person, which is a very good rate!

Reservations are required; cut-off date is November 29:

⇒ Tom Forbes at 817-232-2990 (work), 817-232-1676 (home)

⇒ Nealana Patton at 817-280-2333 (work).

☛ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!** **Gerald Brazell**

Members: Vance Barton, Bobby Bateman, Gerald Brazell (Chair).

[Editor's Note: Fortunately, we previously sent out a postcard with this information.]

Walker Wakes Up?

[While doing some housecleaning in my computer, I came across this post that had been composed some time ago, but remained unsent somehow. Too late, but I just didn't want to waste it. ☺]

⇒ You could announce that I have failed to pay my dues.

⇒ I could send you a photo of the big Red Snapper I caught off *Padre Island*.

⇒ I could announce that I have started a *VN Unit Home Page*.

⇒ I could say that another chapter member, **Jay Elliot and wife**, will vacation during Thanksgiving holiday on *S. Padre Island*, and will meet for the first time, with **Walker and Linda Jones**, from *Harlingen* (hopefully).

⇒ I could mention that *C Troop 1/9th* has put together the coins to buy a brick to honor its fallen.

[I see that I never finished ... probably dozed off at the computer. Maybe I can have something for the following issue.]

Walker Jones

[Editor's Note: You think we've got it bad ... Walker has to live with his brain! ☺]

VHCMA Reunion 2000

The VHCMA Reunion-2000 will be held June 19-25 in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the Marriott Executive Park Hotel. For additional contact:

⇒ Chris White <n3tef@toad.net>

⇒ Charlie Rains vhcmaed@sprynet.com **Chris White**
VP VHCMA

Newsletter Editor Vacancy

Regrettably, I must resign as your *Newsletter Editor*. I've been at the job since our inception, which is now going onto five years. It's time for some "fresh blood" and for other members of the *Chapter* to step forward.

If you have desktop publishing skills and are interested in volunteering, please contact **Bobby Bateman** (bbateman@wf.net).
Cholly