



# THE FWC/HPA NEWSLETTER

## FORT WOLTERS CHAPTER - VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

An independent organization not under control nor authorized to act as an agent or representative of the VHPA.

**September, 2016**

**VOL. XXI, NO. 3**

### **President's Message**

Greetings! My wife Duncan and I went to the national reunion in Reno and had a really great time hauling our travel trailer over the mountains, avoiding interstate highways on purpose. We took six days to get there and six days to return but wish we could linger longer. Nothing like just wandering with no schedule deadlines but we couldn't quite abandon our obligations that far. Anyway while in Reno we saw a few folks we know and met quite a few new ones. The reunion is undoubtedly the biggest and most important activity the VHPA does.

One thing that stood out in Reno to me was the number of VHPA members I ran into that were from our area but are not chapter members. When I questioned them with the "Why not?" I got mostly the "They don't do anything." answer. I would point out to them the museum booth near the "O-Club" but I don't think I convinced any to join the chapter. Perhaps we should re-think our direction a little, maybe have one or two special activities in addition to our quarterly luncheons. I'm not a soap-box guy so I'm done.

At the national business meeting we passed a resolution allowing the executive council to explore the possibilities of extending the lifetime of the VHPA organization beyond the current "last man standing" policy. This simply gives the EC permission to look into it, for example other organizations such as the Tuskegee Airmen. This is not permission to actually change the policy. You might be amazed at the controversy generated at the meeting over such a simple concept.

On a different note, our long-time secretary Jerry Barnes has indicated that he would like to step down and allow someone else the position. So at our next regular meeting and elections we will need someone to step up to the job. Also we've voted to email the newsletter to save postage but haven't really implemented that yet. One of the secretary's jobs has been maintenance of the database that keeps addresses and emails. That's a big job in itself and could probably be split out between two people, one for the database and one for more traditional secretary duties like meeting minutes. Anyway that's a heads-up for the meeting. See y'all there!

Editor's note: This is the first time that I can recall that a president's message (including my own) made it through my spell checker on the first pass.

## Notes from the VP

From July 1967 to July 1968, Bob Ford flew over 1000 combat missions in Vietnam. Bob received his US Army commission upon graduating from Oklahoma U. in 1966. Within one year after volunteering for Army Helo, school he was flying combat in RVN. After returning stateside, he became an IP at Ft. Wolters. Discharged in 1969, he moved to Okeene, Oklahoma to head the Okeene Division of the family flour milling business, which he still actively manages. Bob wrote a book about his Vietnam experience called "Black Cat 2-1". For further information on Bob, go to [www.blackcat2-1.com](http://www.blackcat2-1.com) All you other interesting old helo jockeys, send a brief blurb on yourself to me at [Chopperdon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Chopperdon@sbcglobal.net) Be immortalized in an issue of *The FWCVHPA Newsletter*.

### Secretary's Stuff

For questions or actions about membership, dues, change of address and email issues, contact Jerry Barnes at [baron67@verizon.net](mailto:baron67@verizon.net) or 214-212-0761.

You can update your contact info with VHPA on-line at <https://directory.vhpa.org/login.php>. Log in and click on "Update My Information."

### Treasurer's Report

Finally got time to do a full report. I plan to e-mail copies through our chapter web site later today so look for it. Here's the summary:

Through August 10, net income = 187.26.  
Total funds on hand \$4,244.43.

**MORE IMPORTANT STUFF** – To date, chapter members have donated \$15,000 towards restoration of the OH-23 that will be in the museum building. Our goal was \$25,000 to get the chapter name on the helicopter plaque as donors. So, can we get another \$10,000 please? I started asking for \$1,000 per person, but I would take less if it would help. Here's the list of donors: Ancelin, Brazell, Couch, Faught, Fowler, Grow, Hart, Kane, Koenig, Lawrence, Lowey, McMillen, Messinger, Poland, Richardson, Salisbury,

and Steczko. If you sent funds and do not see your name here, call me 940-452-1470. Jim.

## HELP WANTED!

Our longtime secretary is retiring and the Chapter needs a replacement ASAP! Contact any member of the EC to put your name in the hat. Even better, attend the September meeting and announce your availability to the assembled throng.

### Current Chapter Officers

Ed Faught	President
Don Ancelin	Vice President
Adam Steczko	Imed. Past President
Rick Couch	Sr. Member-at-Large
John Grow	Midterm Member-at-Large
Pat Richardson	Jr. Member-at-Large
Jerry Barnes	Secretary
Jim Messinger	Treasurer

#### NEWSLETTER CONTACT

Pat Richardson, Editor & Chief Flunky  
817-723-8225      [Newsletter@fvcvpha.org](mailto:Newsletter@fvcvpha.org)

For Chapter info, rattle these cages. Someone will eventually answer. Landline - 940-325-8427 or Fax – 940-325-4009

## More Help Wanted!

Your longtime editor wants to do some travelling before he gets too old and creaky. Like maybe next Spring (Spring = February in this job). A new editor would be in order. I took this job back when Lee Westbrook was ill. I would rather change editors while I am still in reasonable health for the shape I'm in. If you have basic computer skills and can still read and write, you may be just the person the Chapter needs as editor. Give me a call or email me at the contact info above.

## Dues Changed to \$20! Still Cheap!

This was mentioned last time, but the secretary observes that 10% never get the word. If you are reading a hard copy edition, the previous instructions apply; look at the mailing label for a number beside your name. That is the year your dues will expire or did expire. The month is always January. Send \$20 to the secretary at the return address in the upper left corner above your address.

If you are reading this on-line and don't get a snail mail edition, dues are still \$20 due in January every year. The EC will have to work out how you will be notified if past due. Meanwhile, you can call or email the secretary to find out.

[Editor's note: The Newsletter transition to more electronic copies and fewer paper copies is more complex than first anticipated. It may take a couple of editions to work out the bugs.]

### Quarterly Meeting Notice

**The next meeting will be on Saturday, September 10, at Logan's Roadhouse in Hurst. That is the second Saturday in the month due to not meeting on Labor Day Weekend. The Executive Council will meet at 11 AM with General Membership meet at 11:30 (or whenever the EC finishes its meeting.) Lunch is \$20 per person from a special rate menu. The beer is on you. Guests eat if you or someone pays. Peanuts are free and you can throw the shells on the floor. Address is 948 NE Loop 820, Hurst, TX. Phone is 817-590-0261. GPS (no one uses MAPSCO any more) data: 32°49'32.43"N. 97°2'03.69"W.**

### UNTHSC Looking for "Older" Males for TIA Research Project

This is condensed from an announcement from the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth. The medical school is conducting a faculty supervised research study on transient ischemic attack (TIA), also called a "mini-stroke." Currently, there is a shortage of male volunteer subjects in the 50 – 80 age bracket. (That puts most FWC-VHPA members in the upper end of the target group.) The study is now closed to female as there has been enough volunteers in that category.

The purpose of the study is to help identify  
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novel risk factors for TIA and ischemic stroke in young adults in comparison to older adults. There are some restrictions. You will not be eligible to participate if you have had a traumatic brain injury or concussion in the past 5-years, have a substance use disorder, multiple sclerosis or any neurological disease or cognitive impairment, any physical or sensory limitation or impairment that would prevent you from completing the study assessments, or cannot speak, read, and write in English.

Complete details of the scope of the interview will be provided prior to any interview. The data will be collected and processed as a double-blind study to protect participants' privacy. If all of the study assessments are completed, you will receive a \$10 Target gift card.

**If you would like to volunteer for this study, here is the contact info:**

[youngadulttiastudy@gmail.com](mailto:youngadulttiastudy@gmail.com)

Ranna Al-Dossari  
Student Co-Investigator  
TCOM Class of 2019  
UNTHSC

Ed. note: I have already participated. Ranna is very patient with old codgers who can't hear because of "helicopter ears. She and the other co-investigator understand.