

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the last newsletter when I was thanking our Chapter members who have been performing a great job volunteering at the Gift Shop I wrote Chapter member Mike Foley instead of Mike Fogarty. I am sorry Mike; but we do have a Chapter member named Mike Foley.

We are now sending our newsletter by email as well as by US mail; to cut down on cost. If you want to receive yours by email, call us @ 682-4949, email us @ chapter49@aol.com or go to our web site @ vietnamvets49.org

New York State passed a Bill granting a School tax break for veterans, but it is up to each School Board to pass it or not. So ask your local School Board to hold a hearing. Find out when the hearing will be and get as many vets as you can to attend. Since the School tax is the largest part of your taxes, there will be a lot of resistance to the break for vets. The reason they will be against it is that when they give a break to some the rest of the people's taxes will be raised to make up for the lost revenue. Let us know when your School Board hearing is and we will try to attend to support you. So far Yonkers voted for it and Lakeland school District in Yorktown voted it down. In Putnam County the Carmel and Mahopac School Districts have adopted the exemption.

I have looked up the number of veterans in each City that already are receiving the alternative tax exemption. When you go to your hearing you will be able to inform everyone that this is the number of vets were talking about, and so that the effect will not be that great on the other tax payers. Call me and I will let you know how many vets are receiving the Alternative tax exemption in your City.

In April the VA will be sending the new medical ID cards to everyone who has the old card. People signing up now will receive a card sometime afterward. In the meantime do not carry your old card with you; someone with a cell phone standing next to you can scan your Social Security number right off of your card while it is in your wallet in your pants.

Take care of yourself and each other

Dan Griffin