



**CHAPTER 391**  
*Tuolumne County, California*

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
**GUERRILLAS IN THE MIST**

**Vietnam Veterans - Chapter 391**

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## VVA Chapter 391 elections held in April



*The new slate of officers for Chapter 391 was sworn in by Dennis Croucher, Central District Vice-President of the VVA California State Council. (Photo by George Eldridge)*

### VA Women Veterans Program

Veterans Affairs Department officials are promising to improve privacy for female veterans who use its medical facilities after a new report discovered that some old problems have not been fixed. A March 31 report from the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, found women using VA hospitals and clinics continue to face:

- Examination rooms set up so that passersby can see patients disrobed when the door is opened.
- Restrooms that lack sanitary napkin or tampon dispensers.
- A lack of privacy at appointment and reception desks, so that others can overhear discussion of medical problems.

Investigators reviewed nine medical centers and 10 outpatient clinics; none fully complied with VA policy on privacy, the report says. While acknowledging that things are better than when GAO released a similar survey last year, the new report to Congress suggests that medical facilities need additional pressure to address problems that

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The Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 391 of Sonora elected a new slate of its officers on April 13 which takes effect at their next monthly Board of Directors meeting on May 6. The officers were sworn in by Dennis Croucher, Central District Vice-President of the California State Council. Croucher is from Mariposa Chapter 368.

The election made history in that a woman veteran, Cher Brandt, was named president. Chapter 500 in Sacramento had the only woman veteran as president until this last election so Brandt is now the only woman veteran who is president in California of a Vietnam Veterans of America chapter. Al Sickle was elected first vice-president and William Motty was elected second vice-president. It is the first time for both to be elected to these positions. Also for the first time, Navy veteran Carol Scamara was elected as treasurer replacing Barry Schloffel who had served in the position for the past six years.

Dan Brown, the outgoing president was elected to serve as the California State Council representative and as a director-at-large. Chere Brandt was chosen as the alternate CSC representative. Ron Coit, Russ Tait, Barry Schloffel, and Ross Williams were also chosen as directors-at-large. Because of a rise in membership numbers, nine convention delegates were chosen instead of eight chosen last year. The winners are Cher Brandt, Dan Brown, John Marrs, John Mendiola, Stephen Cambra, Mario Salas, Al Sickle, Barry Schloffel, and Carol Scamara with alternates Vincent Juracich and Ron Dodson.

The Motorcycle Group committee of Chapter 391 also held their elections in April with Al Sickle of Murphys being elected as director. Steve Cambra of Twain Harte was named assistant director, chaplain, and Road Captain. Carol Scamara of Sonora was elected as treasurer of both the Chapter and the Motorcycle Group. Laurie Dodson was elected secretary and Dale Nulph was elected as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Chapter 391 meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Hall on Washington Street at 6 p.m. and has a Board of Directors meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.. All members are invited to attend the directors meeting. The Motorcycle Group meets the third Thursday at the Pine Tree Restaurant in East Sonora at 6 p.m.

