



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



August 2019 Newsletter



VVA 295 Officers

President	Larry Shaw
Vice President	Bob Parsons
Secretary	Mike Dolan
Treasurer	Vacant
Asst Treasurer	Jim Pierce
Chaplain	Fred Bishop

Board of Directors

Steve Anderson	Jim Finney
Mike Hamm	Steve Mabrey
Dennis Smalling	Tom Madden
Wallace Vaughn	Ken Walters

AVVA Liaisons

Holly Tookolo	Tony Gigli
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VVA Service Officer

Dennis Smalling
smallingindy@sbcglobal.net
 Thursday 8am-12pm
 Sunday 10am-2pm
 By appointment, 317-313-1577

Please take some time on August 7 to reflect on Purple Heart Day, an observance created to commemorate the men and women who have been killed or wounded during military service. On August 7, 1782, General George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit. After the Revolution, though, the award



was all but forgotten until Douglas MacArthur revived it in 1932 when he was Chief of Staff of the Army. He changed its name to the Purple Heart and expanded its scope to include receiving wounds as a result of enemy action.

 A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.
 ~ Christopher Reeve

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 269279, Indianapolis, IN 46226-9279
 Physical Address: 9450 E. 59th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46216

Phone: 317-547-4748
 Website: www.vva295.com

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm; Board Meeting 6:00pm

Newsletter Editor: Holly Tookolo If you have any information for the newsletter, the deadline is the last day of the month—email me: htookolo@indy.rr.com

Important Dates

- Aug 5** Military & Veteran Appreciation Day at Indiana State Fair, use northeast gate for FREE entrance and parking; ceremony at 3pm; Remembering Our Fallen exhibit at Renewal by Andersen Family Fun Park daily Aug 2-11, 9am-9pm, see flyer page 9.
- Aug 5-9** Bunker setup at Roudebush VA Medical Center; 7am-4pm daily. Call Steve if you can help with loading/unloading or selling, 317-459-6255
- Aug 10-11** Gathering of Veterans & Patriots by American Huey 369, see flyer page 8.
- Aug 14** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Aug 17-18** 37th Annual POW WOW by American Indian Council, at Lebanon 4-H grounds, flyer page 10.
- Sept 11** Patriot Day
- Sept 11** VVA 295 Board Meeting 6pm; Regular Meeting is 7pm
- Sept 17-21** Bunker will be setup at 37th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion at Kokomo

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- Aug 11, 1964** Lieutenant Everett Alvarez, the U.S. Navy pilot shot down and captured during the Pierce Arrow raids, is paraded through the streets of Hon Gay.
- Aug 26, 1964** Lyndon Johnson is nominated to run for re-election at the Democratic National Convention . His running mate will be Hubert H. Humphrey. During the campaign, Johnson will declare, “We are about to send American boys nine or ten thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves.”
- Aug 1, 1965** Operation Market Time, the monitoring of sea traffic along the Vietnam coast to cut off supplies to the Viet Cong, is removed from the U.S. Seventh Fleet and assigned to a newly created coastal surveillance force, but it will continue to be controlled by the U.S. Navy.
- Aug 18-24, 1965** U.S. Marines conduct Operation Starlite on the Van Tuong Peninsula 16 miles south of Chu Lai, Quang Ngai Province, I Corps. In this first major operation of the Vietnam War conducted only by U.S. troops, 5,500 marines from the 3rd, 4th and 7th Marines destroy a Viet Cong stronghold, scoring a resounding victory. My husband was in this operation.
- Aug 16-19, 1966** The House Un-American Activities Committee investigates Americans who have given aid to the Viet Cong with a view toward introducing legislation to make such activities illegal. The hearings are almost immediately disrupted by demonstrators.
- Aug 4, 68-Dec 31, 69** Elements of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division, Mobile Riverine Force, and Vietnamese marines conduct Operation Quyet Chien in Kien Giang Province, IV Corps.
- Aug 31, 70-May 7,71** Troops from the Americal Division join U.S. Marines to conduct Operation Imperial Lake, an attempt to clear North Vietnamese forces from the Que Son Mountains south of Danang, I Corps.



The Bunker

Hours: 10am—2pm on Sunday.

Your purchases support VVA 295 and Fort Harrison Veterans Center.
The Bunker will be setup at Roudebush VA on August 5-9.
Call Steve if you are going to help load/unload, 317-459-6255.

President's Message:

Hello Brothers and Sisters,



As usual, I hope this finds you well. We have returned from Spokane and the National convention, where we thought of you often. While you were enjoying temperatures in the 90's, we had to suffer with the 70's. One morning was 49, and windy, not a good day for shorts.

For your information, the decision on what to do with VVA has been put on hold for two more years, with a possible closing when the organization is fifty (50) years old. Another ten (10) years. By becoming a Life Member now, or signing up a new Life Member the cost is only \$5.00 a year. The magazine alone is worth much more than that. A few months back, I passed out Membership Applications in the meeting. This was so you could sign up new members for the Chapter. I find it hard to believe than not one of you doesn't know any Vietnam Veterans that are not already members.

The Building Fund has one more donor since the last newsletter.. As I said earlier, I know that every one of our members cannot afford \$100.00 at one time, but I am sure that more than six (6) members can. \$600.00 will not go very far towards a roof, parking lot, or any other repairs that we need to make to the building. If you can afford to give \$5.00 or \$10.00 this would add up, so please give what you can. Don't continue to sit back and wait on the others to do something. As you have seen over the years, they are waiting for any one to do something, as long as it is not them. It took team work in Vietnam, and it will take team work to turn this Chapter around from it's down hill spending spiral. Are you with me? Can we count on you? If not, then please get out of the road, and let us move on.

Do you believe in Prayer? If so, they may soon be answered. As many of you know Steve, Patty, and Holly (and help from Terri Anderson and Ron Ayres) take things from the Bunker to sell for a week at the V.A.. Steve then donates part of the proceeds to the VVA 295. The other Organizations in the building donate to the Building Fund. This allows the following bills to be paid on a regular basis Water and Sewage, Electricity, Phone, Insurance, Internet, C.P.A., Inventory, Trash, Mowing, Gas, and Snow Removal. This does not leave extra funds for building repair. The V.A. has asked them to be there full time. This would allow more money for the Building Fund. We can not ask, or expect these three people to give up their lives to help us. They have been asking for help for years as it is. We need you to step up and get trained before they are asked to go full time. This is not a chance for you to go and spend the day talking to other Veterans. You will be required to make cash and credit card sales, keeping the receipts in numerical order.

Do you know of a military family near you? Have you ever offered to sit with their kids, so they can go shopping, visit with friends, or have some alone time. Mow their lawn, run errands, or make them a meal? The same goes for shut ins, Widows, Widowers, or Assisted Living Centers. They all need someone to care, and listen to them. These are little things that you can do to make other peoples lives better. The more we do for others, the more our lives will be rewarded.

Remember we will be electing a Treasurer to finish out this term..

We will also be deciding on the date of our Chapter Christmas Party.

May GOD Bless America, our Troops, their families, and you.

Keep those Flags flying.

In Comradeship,

Larry L. Shaw

VVA 295 President

765-618-4067

Vice President’s Corner



VVA and AVVA brothers and sisters,
Hope you have all made it safely through the July “heatwave”. Kinda reminds me of
“sunny Southeast Asia, how about you ?

Your VVA 295 delegation has just returned from the 2019 VVA Convention in Spokane and I must say that it was one of the more productive and informative VVA conventions that I have attended. Before the convention report, permit me to share our experiences flying to and from Portland...you may find it interesting. I flew Delta and American. On one flight the gate attendant announced that there were Vietnam Veteran’s among the passengers and we were permitted to board first. When the announcement was made other passengers waiting to board applauded us as we boarded....it brought tears to my eyes. As we deplaned at our destination the flight attendant made the same announcement and again...applause. We really are appreciated. But....in Phoenix there were a number of Vietnam Veterans and we were again allowed to board first although no announcement was made. Several first class passengers at the front of the line were offended that we were allowed to go first and loudly voiced their displeasure. One woman was quite vocal and stated that “this is B.S. , I am going to contact American Airlines and register a complaint !” It was embarrassing but we boarded anyway. Kinda reminded me of the warm welcomes we received in the 60’s. She wasn’t wearing a tie-dyed shirt and didn’t have flowers in her hair but what do you want to bet that her favorite actress is Jane Fonda ? Anyway.....here is a condensed convention report:

Along with the elections for National officers for the coming two years and committee reports on PTSD, Agent Orange (including the “Blue Water Navy Bill), proposed reduced waiting time for veteran widow’s compensation, suicide prevention programs , homeless veterans programs and restoring previously earned veteran’s benefits to incarcerated veterans. Undoubtedly, the most anticipated (or dreaded) item on the agenda was the discussion determining of the future of VVA as an organization. While not a topic we were enthusiastic about delving into , the average VVA member’s age is now 72 so it is something that needed to be addressed. I anticipated a real “slugfest” on this topic and while discussion on the alternative plans for dissolution or transfer of the organization was passionate at times it was largely pleasantly civil. The eventual consensus reached was that we investigate a path that would gradually assimilate newer groups of veteran’s into a reconfigured VVA (or whatever we or they choose to rename it). This would enable them to “pick up the torch” so to speak and use our established and proven programs, governmental relationships and organizational structure to take advantage of the gains we have made in acquiring better care, benefits and programs for our and future generations of veterans. In other words, living up to our motto: “Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”. We also heard from National Veteran Affairs , Secretary, Robert Wilke, who outlined VA plans and goals for the future. Goals and plans, if realized, will benefit not only our generation but those veterans who follow us. If the VA lives up to their promises and we are able to reconfigure the VVA into an organization that encompasses both ours and future generations of veterans then, in my opinion, we will leave a lasting, positive legacy of our service and sacrifice. We will be glad to share more information on the convention at the next chapter meeting.

On another subject: Our home, The Fort Harrison Veteran’s Center, serves as a home to many veterans organizations, in addition to VVA 295. The building is leased to VVA 295 and the upkeep and maintenance is our responsibility, but we can’t afford to maintain it by ourselves. We have asked in past newsletters for financial help from our members as well as other organizations who share the building.

Continued on page 5, VP Corner

Continued from page 4, VP Corner

In addition to the normal monthly expenses such as electric, water and insurance etc. we are in dire need of a new roof and HVAC system. To date a number of our members have stepped up with generous donations. They are sincerely appreciated, but with nearly 300 VVA members that number is very small. It is understood that not everyone or organization can afford to contribute \$100 or more, but virtually everyone can contribute something . We need your help !

Some who share our building such as AVVA, Rolling Thunder, “The Bunker” and others have generously assisted financially and frankly, without them we would probably be meeting in a parking lot somewhere. Please consider making a donation to the building committee or think about creating an event which will raise funds to help keep us “afloat”.

While not a part of the VVA, our largest benefactor, for many years, has been “The Bunker”. Their generous donations have literally been a “life preserver” for us. The tireless efforts of Steve and his “army” of volunteers have raised funds via sales of military related items at the VA Hospital and other veteran’s events throughout the state which they have generously donated to the building fund to help maintain our “home”.

Often they set up for several days and occasionally for a week at the Roudebush VA Hospital in Indianapolis and garner much needed funds. While there they frequently meet Vietnam Veteran’s who they recruit as new VVA 295 members.

In the past, they have only been permitted to set up on a sporadic basis. Recently , however, they have been asked to maintain “The Bunker” at the VA Hospital as a permanent entity. Folks, I am not exaggerating when I say that this could be our “salvation” with regard to the funds needed to repair and maintain the Fort Harrison Veteran’s Center. We can’t treat this opportunity lightly since we don’t know how long it might last. With these extended days and hours it’s obvious that Steve and his “crew” can’t do it alone, they need our help. Yes it will entail a lot of effort and hours, but this is nothing short of a “blessing” that has been set before us and we need to capitalize on this opportunity !

We will need individuals to man “The Bunker” 7am-4pm Monday through Friday. It is imperative that the individuals who volunteer treat this like a job, and be there when scheduled. If you can volunteer for a full day that’s great but your assistance for even part of a day will be invaluable. Volunteers will need to be trained by Steve or someone on his staff so that we can maximize this opportunity. This is an opportunity that may not last forever, so we need to “make hay while the sun shines”.

Bottom line: We need VVA 295 chapter members to step up and help! So...don’t wait for someone else to step up...examine your available time (or make time) to help. If you volunteer you need to treat your commitment seriously and work when you are scheduled.

Inconvenient..? Probably.Time consuming..? Yep.....Gratifying and Helpful.? Definitely
Please consider donating some time to help with this project. Scheduling for individual days or time slots has yet to be done but let us know via email or in person if you are “onboard” and willing to help.

That’s all for now....stay cool and stay safe.

God Bless The USA

Bob Parsons, VVA 295 V.P.

Phu Bai, Vietnam

1966-67-68

317-919-7589

IndyGo Veteran Card

IndyGo is beginning the transition of Veteran Cards to its new MyKey fare system. The cards will be transitioned during the next few months, and veterans will be notified individually when their new card is available. Current Veteran Cards have the printed expiration date of July 31, 2019 but will be honored with visual verification until further notice. Current cardholders will not pay a fee to receive the new MyKey compatible card. The program does not include paratransit (Open Door) service. Call 317-635-3344 if you have questions.

Member Speaker Program at Meetings—

Fred Bishop, Chairman 317-918-1142



Members can call Fred to sign up. Speakers signed up so far:

- Aug Joe Williams
- Sept Ron Ayres

Guest Speaker at Meetings

Call Larry Shaw to schedule a speaker from outside VVA. 765-618-4067

Last month we had no guest speaker.

Roudebush VA Medical Center is needing volunteer drivers. Veterans Transportation Service provides Veterans a ride to their medical center or outlying clinic. This is a great way to help Veterans. To volunteer, visit or call Volunteer Services, 317-988-2734 or call driver Pat Parrish, 317-632-4263 (he's a VVA member). Most recently members Bob Parsons and Mark Fix have become volunteers Thank you Pat, Bob and Mark.

HVAF needs volunteers. Volunteers help sort and stock donations that come to HVAF. They provide essential services to Veterans to help promote them towards self-sufficiency. Volunteers also beautify housing properties by raking leaves, painting and landscaping. Call 317-951-0688 or email hvaf@hvaf.org

Company/Coffee All Veterans WWII to present day are invited for free coffee & safe space to share. Come every Tuesday 10am—2pm at Higher Grounds Coffee Shop inside Geist Christian Church, Promise Rd & 126th St. Fishers. If you have questions, contact John Smitha 317-439-6304 or jonsmitha@comcast.net

Food Drive for HVAF

Bring non-perishable food to the next meeting for HVAF (Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation) for the Veterans they are helping. What they need the most is canned meat & tuna, pasta and noodles. You can visit their website to see what they do. <http://www.hvafofindiana.org/>

Commissary will be getting 3 million more Customers

The fiscal 2019 National Defense Authorization Act has expanded the eligible shoppers to include all with service connected disabilities, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and primary veteran caregivers. This expansion is about a 50% increase in customers at the Commissaries. For the disabled and other eligible veterans, they will use the veterans health ID card. For caregivers the process will be different. At first caregivers will be given a memo to be used for access along with driver's license or other ID. Later there will be a caregiver ID card. All new commissary customers will pay a fee for using a credit card, except for the military resale system's Military Star Card. For complete article, go to: <https://www.militarytimes.com/pay-benefits/2019/07/22/heres-how-3-million-more-people-will-get-military-shopping-benefits/>

Digital DD214 is on its way

The Defense Department is working on creating a fully electronic version of the DD 214 document, which would give veterans access to all of their information and cut down on the privacy concerns. The goal is to bring the new forms online by 2024 at the latest. This is the first big revamp of the military's official discharge document since they were first issued in 1950. The new DD 214 process could only apply to service members who are not yet separated. Current veterans will keep their existing documentation.

Veterans Underwater Memorial

A dozen life size statues are now in the Gulf of Mexico as part of an underwater dive memorial dedicated to U.S. veterans. The memorial, known as the "Circle of Heroes" and touted as the first of its kind by its creators, will feature 24 concrete statues of service members in total to represent the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. The statues are anchored by 2,000 pound bases 40 feet below the surface about 10 miles off the coast of Dunedin Beach in Florida. They are part of a 100 foot circle facing a pentagon shaped monument honoring the services with bronze emblems on its five sides. Those who visit the monument can either scuba dive below the water or can snorkel to view from above. A ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication for the monument are slated for August.

Blind Veterans get Braille American Flag

Braille flags are popping up in many VA hospitals in Florida because of a legally blind veteran from Georgia named Walt Peters. This is his way to show appreciation for all blind veterans. His goal is to one day have these flags in every single U.S. VA hospital. It is a plaque with the stars and stripes raised up so you can feel it with your fingers and the Pledge of Allegiance written in braille. Humberto Rodriguez is a U. S. Army veteran who is totally blind. He said " This flag is important from the standpoint of being blind and the place like we are now in the VA hospital in Lake City, Florida. It's very important to know that you're remembered because we're a very small percentage of the population; the blind percentage is less than 2 percent."



2019

!!NEW LOCATION!!

13th Annual

GATHERING OF VETERANS & PATRIOTS

August 10th & 11th, 2019



Hosted by: American Huey 369 Inc.
and the American Huey History Museum

WE WILL BE ON THE NEW MUSEUM PROPERTY!

2901 W. BROADWAY, BUNKER HILL, IN

(Also known as IN 218, across from the Chrysler Dealership)

Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. / Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is \$10.00 adults / \$5.00 Students / Children 10 & under are free

All proceeds from this benefit go towards the continued maintenance of 369, 803/Warrior 11, Gunship 049, and their future home, The National American Huey History Museum.

Become a member and get a complimentary flight on Huey 369 or 803.
Membership is \$100.00 per person per year. You must be a member to fly.

Annual Auction Saturday at approx. 11 a.m. with Vietnam Veteran Auctioneer, Rex Gordon
Always lots of fun items in the auction!

AIR & GROUND RE-ENACTMENT SATURDAY & SUNDAY AFTER LUNCH

Watch Huey DustOff 369, Slick 803 Warrior 11 and Gunship 049 along with Little Bird 026 owned & piloted by Peter Bales and the Wolfhounds Living History Group as they perform an air to ground mission.

Music Provided by: DJ George Mize

Lunch available Saturday & Sunday by: Rochester Meats & Deli

Sunday Morning Service by: John & Donna Steer

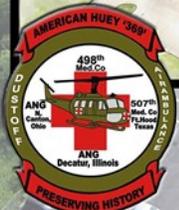


For information about camping, the Golf Outing or general information please call John Walker @ 765.469.2727

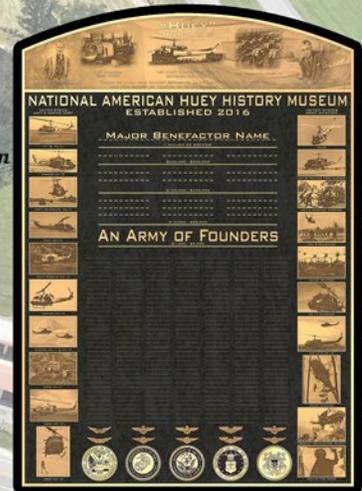
8th Annual Golf Outing
Monday August 12th
@ Peru Municipal Golf Course.
Tee Time: 10 a.m.

Note: This event location could change if we experience excessive rain prior to the event. Should that occur we will return to the original venue, the American Huey Museum on the Grissom Aeroplex. Check the website for updates. www.americanhuey369.com

3rd Phase fund raising is under way!



American Huey 369 Inc. is a 501(c)3 Not for Profit Organization
Our Mission is to Preserve the History of the Huey Helicopter
Educate the Public as to WHY they are important, and
MOST IMPORTANT, to Pay Tribute to our Veterans from ALL Wars!



CHEVROLET MILITARY DAY AT THE INDIANA STATE FAIR

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

Current and former Military and their families receive **FREE Admission** with valid ID presented at the gate.
(There is an \$8 per car charge for parking)

Arrive early for the "Honoring Our Veterans" Flag Raising Ceremony at 9AM in Pioneer Village then enjoy a full day of traditional Fair favorites and new activities celebrating the 2019 theme – Heroes in the Heartland!

For more information and details about the 2019 Fair please visit WWW.INDIANASTATEFAIR.COM



THE 2019
INDIANA STATE FAIR
AUGUST 2-18
PRESENTED BY
INDIANA DONOR
NETWORK

Indiana State Fair | August 2 – 11, 2019



REMEMBERING *Our Fallen*™

This national memorial is unlike any other and was created to remember our nation's fallen who died from wounds in the war zone since September 11, 2001. Unlike most war memorials, it includes both military and personal photos.

The memorial travels nationally and its legacy will be that these heroes will be remembered and their names will be spoken.

Easterseals Crossroads — an organization proud to serve our nation's veterans — is bringing the exhibit to the Indiana State Fair this year for all fair visitors.

National Memorial of our Country's Fallen from Iraq and Afghanistan

Indiana State Fair
August 2 - 11, 2019 | 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily

Remembering Our Fallen is a program of Patriotic Productions
rememberingourfallen.org

Please Join Us

Monday, August 5, 2019 | 3 p.m.
Military and Veteran Appreciation Day

Indiana State Fairgrounds
Remembering Our Fallen exhibit area
(use northeast gate for entrance and parking)

Ceremony will include remarks from special guests as we gather to remember our fallen



easterseals
Crossroads
VeteranServices@eastersealscrossroads.org
317.466.1000 | eastersealscrossroads.org



American Indian Council, Inc.

proudly invites you to attend their
**37TH Annual Traditional POWWOW
and Indian Market**

at the Witham Pavilion, Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds,
1300 E 100 S, Lebanon, IN 46052 (1-65, Exit#138)

Saturday August 17, 2019

Hours: 10am - 9:30pm

Grand Entry: 1pm & 6:30pm

Feast for participants at 5pm

Admissions

\$5.00 General (13-59)

\$3.00 Elders (60+)

\$3.00 Veterans

\$3.00 Children (6-12)

Dancers - Free (feast is \$3)

Free Ages 5 and Under

Camping

\$5.00 Primitive

\$15.00 Tents w/Elec

\$25.00 Anything on Wheels
per day/per unit



Visit us on April 4 & 5 for our
2020 Spring Powwow

Sunday August 18, 2019

Hours: 10:30am - 4:30pm

Grand Entry: 1pm

Hotel Accommodations

Host Hotel: Econo Lodge 765.482.9611

 Ask for pow wow rate

Other Area Hotels:

Comfort Inn 765.482.4800

Holiday Inn Express 765.483.4100

Motel 6 765.482.9190

Super 8 765.482.9999

Head Staff

Host Drum: Chaska Hotain

Co-host Drum: Wind Eagle

Arena Director: Aaron Stevens

Head Man Dancer: Bernard Webster

Head Woman Dancer: Natalie Webster

Head Veteran: Roger Campbell

Emcee: Tony Castoreno

Junior Boy Dancer: TBD

Junior Girl Dancer: TBD

Flint Knapping: Ron Kennedy

Flute Playing: Ken Noland

Weaving: Sharon & Tony Wells



Contact Information

For more information, contact the coordinators:

Sandy Maddox, maddox.s@comcast.net, 765.453.9025, Chair

Sally Tuttle, 765.453.1298, Co-Chair/Powwow Publicity

Vivian Anderson, 765.453.0259, Co-Chair/Council Treasurer

www.americanindiancouncil.wix.com/americanindiancouncil

Native American Singing, Dancing, Red Road Specials, and Food

Additional drums will be honored with Blanket Dances

Sponsored by the Boone County Visitor's Bureau in conjunction with the American Indian Council, Inc.



We are a not for profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of our Native American Heritage. Not responsible in the event of accident or injury. No drugs, alcohol, or firearms are allowed on site. No outside raffles. Trading by invitation only. No politics - Just Fun! No pets by order of the fairgrounds. We reserve the right to ask anyone to leave the Powwow.