



Vietnam Veterans of America

8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100, Silver Spring, MD 20910 • Telephone (301) 585-4000
Main Fax (301) 585-0519 • Advocacy (301) 585-3180 • Communications (301) 585-2691 • Finance (301) 585-5542
www.vva.org

A Not-For-Profit Veterans Service Organization Chartered by the United States Congress

Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors Meeting April 15-16, 2011

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Friday, April 15, 2011, at 9:23 am, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Silver Spring, MD. Wayne Reynolds, Alabama State Council President, offered the invocation and asked for the names of those in need of prayer; Pledge of Allegiance followed by acknowledgments then a moment of silence followed.

The National Secretary conducted the roll call of the National Board of Directors. Present were:

John Rowan, President	Fred Elliott	Francis Rowan
Jack Devine, Vice President	Marsha Four	Carol Schetrompf
Barry Hagge, Secretary	Steve House	Dick Southern
Larry Frazee Treasurer	Allen Manuel	Dan Stenvold
Pat Bessigano	John Margowski	Patrick Welch
Thomas Burke	Bill Meeks	Bruce Whitaker
Wayne Cartier	Thomas Meinhardt	Sandie Wilson
Richard DeLong	Charlie Montgomery	Jerry Yamamoto

Also present: Nancy Switzer, AVVA President and Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO/Staff Director.

Secretary Hagge conducted roll call of the State Council Presidents, present were:

Alabama	Present	Montana	Present
Alaska	Present	Nebraska	Present
Arizona	Present	Nevada	Present
Arkansas	Present	New Hampshire	Absent
California	Present	New Jersey	Present
Colorado	Absent	New Mexico	Present
Connecticut	Present	New York	Present
Delaware	Absent	North Carolina	Present
Florida	Present	North Dakota	Present
Georgia	Present	Ohio	Present
Idaho	Present	Oklahoma	Present
Illinois	Absent	Oregon	Present
Indiana	Present	Pennsylvania	Present
Iowa	Excused	Puerto Rico	Absent
Kansas	Present	Rhode Island	Present
Kentucky	Present	South Carolina	Present
Louisiana	Present	Tennessee	Present

Maine	Present	Texas	Present
Maryland	Present	Vermont	Present
Massachusetts	Present	Virginia	Present
Michigan	Present	Washington	Present
Minnesota	Present	West Virginia	Present
Mississippi	Present	Wisconsin	Present
Missouri	Present		

Preliminary Business

Motion 1 **To accept the agenda as amended.**
Without objection motion passed.
Yes: 23 **No: 0**
Non Vote: 1 **Not Present: 0**

Motion 2 **To accept the minutes of January, 2011.**
Without objection motion passed.
Yes: 22 **No: 0**
Non Vote: 2 **Not Present: 0**

There was a discussion regarding board actions and committee reports and the information contained therein.

Region 3 Director, Bruce Whitaker, requested that a copy of the Veterans Benefits Committee report of January 2011 be provided by Saturday.

Officers Reports

National President/J. Rowan

VVA's National President provided a verbal report.

President Rowan reported Veterans of Modern Warfare having a vacancy for an executive director.

Daughters of American Revolution and the Sons of American Revolution...nice bunch of folks; President Rowan attended an event of theirs and they gave him a stipend that was donated to the VHC.

National Vice President/J. Devine

VVA's National Vice President provided a verbal report as well as reported on his recent trip to Vietnam. He informed the body that Australia has developed their own Veterans Initiative team.

Vice President reported that it was an honor to represent VVA by going to Ukraine and Vietnam.

National Secretary/B. Hagge

The National Secretary provided a verbal report.

Secretary Hagge reported that he attended the Region 3 conference, it was an excellent conference.

He reported on this upcoming Memorial Day's activities and that VVA will have a membership tent on the mall.

Committee chairs were reminded to get their consent calendar items in right away.

The proper submittal of committee reports was discussed.

National Treasurer/L. Frazee

The National Treasurer provided a verbal report and submitted a written report.

He reported that he had attended Region 3 Conference, and that it was a very good conference.

Charlie Montgomery, Virginia State Council President, chimed in on the Region 3 Conference and its seminar.

Wayne Reynolds, Alabama State Council President, stated that Avery Taylor did a wonderful job in coordinating the Region 3 Conference.

Reports

National Chaplain/Fr. Salois

Fr. Phil was excused from the meeting.

Elections Committee/S. DeArman

In the Chair's absence, Adolph Gardner provided a verbal report.

HGDP Report/Q. Butcher

Quentin Butcher, Business Director, provided a verbal report. He stated that radio advertisements are in the near future. He asked if anyone had any media contacts to get the information to him. He stated that he would be doing a newsletter. The vva.org donor site will be up on Monday.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America/N. Switzer

AVVA's President provided a verbal and written report.

Nancy Switzer recognized the presence of two past AVVA presidents Mary Miller and Elaine Simmons.

She thanked Jack Devine for being so helpful and beneficial in assisting AVVA. She also thanked California and both AVVA & VVA reps.

Conference of State Council President/C. Montgomery

CSCP Chair provided a verbal report.

Ric Davidge, Darrel Martin, Kentucky State Council President, Ron Zink, Kansas State Council President; Darrol Brown, Nevada State Council President, Dennis Andras, Louisiana State Council President, and Ted Wilkerson, NY, reported on their trip to Capitol Hill.

Dennis Andras, Louisiana State Council President, thanked Ric Davidge and stated that Ric is well respected by the Alaskan delegates on Capitol Hill.

National VAVS Report/ J. McCOMBS

The National VAVS Representative provided a verbal and written report.

The National VAVS Rep announced that the 2011 VAVS Outstanding National Advisory Committee (NAC) Volunteer of the Year Award was given to VVA's rep John Kinzinger.

National Meetings and Special Events Report/W. Guidry

The Meeting Planner provided a verbal report.

He stated that Convention reservation form is due for the individuals being funded by VVA. Also, those who are planning to be a delegate must register. If not, then just purchase your meal function tickets in advance.

Veterans Health Council Report/T. Berger

The VHC Executive Director provided a verbal report.

He reported that he attended and presented a workshop at the Region 3 Conference. He also provided an update on the Vietnam Veterans Readjustment study.

Dr. Berger announced that April is Brain Injury Month.

GUESTS

Dr. Berger introduced Dan Fraley, Director of Veterans Affairs, Bucks County, Pennsylvania Office of Military Affairs.

Mr. Fraley addressed the body concerning benefits and how many veterans may not know what benefits they are entitled to. He touched on a few points and encouraged that VVA endorses November as National Health Awareness month.

Rick Weidman introduced Mike Walcoff, Assistant Director, Department Veterans Affairs for Veterans Benefits and Tom Pamparin, Deputy Associate Under Secretary for Veterans Benefits. Mr. Walcoff addressed the body and he spoke about outreach services available for veterans and the importance of it. He stated that it was very important for veterans to know the benefits that they are entitled to. He extended his assistance to VVA. Voc Rehab was also discussed.

There was an open discussion of questions and answers.

President Rowan moved the agenda down a half hour.

The meeting recessed at 11:33 am.

Saturday, April 16, 2011

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 9:15 am on Saturday, April 16, 2011.

The National Secretary conducted roll call present was:

John Rowan, President	Fred Elliott	Francis Rowan
Jack Devine, Vice President	Marsha Four	Carol Schetrompf
Barry Hagge, Secretary	Steve House	Dick Southern
Larry Frazee Treasurer	Allen Manuel	Dan Stenvold
Pat Bessigano	John Margowski	Patrick Welch
Thomas Burke	Bill Meeks	Bruce Whitaker
Wayne Cartier	Thomas Meinhardt	Sandie Wilson
Richard DeLong	Charlie Montgomery	Jerry Yamamoto

Also present: Nancy Switzer, AVVA President, Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO/Staff Director, and Mike Swift, Parliamentarian.

Secretary Hagge conducted roll call of the State Council Presidents, present were:

Alabama	Present	Montana	Present
Alaska	Present	Nebraska	Present
Arizona	Present	Nevada	Present
Arkansas	Absent	New Hampshire	Absent
California	Present	New Jersey	Present
Colorado	Absent	New Mexico	Present
Connecticut	Present	New York	Present
Delaware	Absent	North Carolina	Present
Florida	Present	North Dakota	Present
Georgia	Present	Ohio	Present
Idaho	Present	Oklahoma	Present
Illinois	Absent	Oregon	Present
Indiana	Present	Pennsylvania	Present
Iowa	Excused	Puerto Rico	Absent
Kansas	Present	Rhode Island	Present
Kentucky	Absent	South Carolina	Present
Louisiana	Present	Tennessee	Present
Maine	Present	Texas	Present
Maryland	Present	Vermont	Present
Massachusetts	Present	Virginia	Present
Michigan	Present	Washington	Present
Minnesota	Present	West Virginia	Present
Mississippi	Present	Wisconsin	Present
Missouri	Present		

Also present: Nancy Switzer, AVVA President and Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO/Staff Director.

Preliminary Business

President Rowan presented two staff members with gifts of appreciation, LaVonnia A. Cogdell and Tracie D. Houston for 25 years and 20 years of service respectively.

Patrick Welch stated that he would not be running for office again and that it has been a wonderful experience. He stated that Sharon Hodge, Bernie Edelman and Rick Weidman have been an asset.

Jack Devine mentioned the Repatriation program. He also announced that there would be a reception on Saturday morning of the convention for JPAC folks.

Missouri State Council President, Charles Stapleton, thanked everyone for assisting him. He saw the Wall for the first time on Friday night and it was quite an experience. He asked that consideration be given to washing the wall at October's meeting.

New Business

Motion 5 **To accept the proposed Corporate Printing Policy as presented.
Motion made and seconded by the Finance Committee;
Without objection motion passed.
Yes: 23 No: 0
Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 0**

Secretary Hagge announced that at the request of Region 7 that Chapter 838, Arkansas, under chapter revocation, be included.

Secretary Hagge provided background information on Motion 12 from the January 9-10, 2009. There was a discussion about the accountability of this motion.

Motion 6 **To amend previous Motion 12 from January 10, 2009, to strike “furthermore the National Secretary is directed to file charges and suspend all State Councils failing to satisfy this motion”.
Motion made by B. Whitaker; seconded by B. Hagge; passed.
Yes: 20 No: 1
Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 1**

Motion 7 **To revoke the charter of VVA Chapters 766 (Montana), VVA Chapter 241 (Minnesota), VVA Chapter 976 (Tennessee) and VVA Chapter 838 (Arkansas).
Motion made by B. Hagge; seconded by T. Burke; Passed
Yes: 20 No: 1
Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 1**

IMIS update

Secretary Hagge provided an update on the computer system conversion. IT Director, Carol Engle, also provided an update.

Joint Task force Full Accounting (JPAC) PRESENTATION

Bernie Edelman introduced Marty Herbert.

(Ret) Lt. Col. Herbert addressed the body and presented a video presentation. He provided detailed information on recovering trips and the importance of these recoveries.

President Rowan announced the room/suite arrangements at the convention. He stated that a lottery would be held.

Recessed for lunch at 12:03 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 pm.

Consent Calendar

Motion 8 **To accept the consent calendar.**

- **To remove Marshall Mudge from the Membership Affairs Committee.**
- **To increase the per diem for Board of Directors, Committee/Taskforce Chairs to forty-five (\$45) effective April 13, 2011.**
- **To remove Marshall Mudge from the Veterans Benefits Committee.**

Without objection motion passed

Yes: 23

No: 0

Non Vote: 0

Not Present: 1

Unfinished Business

Secretary Hagge provided an update on Medals of America and the pricing of items. He also provided an update on having more women's apparel.

AVVA President Nancy Switzer mentioned that AVVA products were now being offered for sale through Medal of America.

Herb Worthington, New Jersey State Council President, announced that the general manager of Medals of America would be attending the Region 2 Conference.

Bill Messer, Arizona State Council President, provided an update on the disciplinary procedure issue in Region 8. After the January 2011 meeting, a panel was created. This particular subject should be resolved soon.

Francis Rowan, Region 8 Director, stated for the record that the timeliness of resolving this issue in Region 8 was unacceptable.

Richard DeLong, At-Large Director, inquired about the process that was involved including the first letter that was being sent.

Bill Messer stated that the letter would be sent out on Monday.

There was a brief discussion to clarify the procedural process.

VVA's Vice President provided an update on the future of Vietnam Veterans of America. The board was provided with reports from 2005 along with the most recent one. VP Devine stated that both reports would be available at the convention.

President Rowan stated that both reports would be sent out to every chapter as well.

Richard DeLong talked about the Last-Man-Standing mentality.

Dennis Andras, Louisiana State Council President, asked for clarification of the remark and he stated that at the Louisiana State Council meeting, folks were told that this was a fact finding task force.

Marsha Four stated that this has been a task that has been facing us for a while and for the most part, the feedback has been they are not ready for this. She suggested that the task force continue to accumulate options that are viable and could be available to us down the road. She stated that she thinks it is important for our membership to understand that the board is not trying to make a decision just look at options and legal avenues available. She also thinks the way and the time that it is presented at convention should be thought out.

President Rowan stated that the task force did an extraordinary job in putting together their report.

Dan Stenvold thanked the members of the task force and stated it was a lot of work in progress.

Barry Hagge stated if you want to hurt this organization, say you want to shut this organization down. We still have our own that are in need of our services as well as present military personnel.

Wayne Reynolds, Alabama State Council President, stated that a lot of members/chapters in his state say "didn't you hear what we said in '05". He would be glad to take both documents for review at their next meeting. "Are you continuing to bring this back up until you get the right answer" would be one question or concern that Alabama would have. He stated that how this issue is presented to the membership is of great importance.

By a show of hands, President Rowan asked how many state council presidents would rather send out the two documents with a cover letter with their signature on it versus it being sent out by national, it was indicated that most rather send it out themselves.

Sandy Miller, stated that if the task force continues she would ask that additional members be added, one a state council president, a representative from the staff, and a representative from AVVA.

Dotty Barickman, Nebraska State Council President stated that she totally understood the objective of the task force.

Francis Rowan voiced his opinion on the matter and stated he doesn't know why this subject would be brought up at this convention. He asked why not let the Conference of State Council Presidents review it and go from there.

Jim Kristek, South Carolina State Council President stated the first thing he did was send it out state council presidents then chapter presidents ... talked with 53 chapter presidents and asked

for their feedback. He stated he asked for feedback from chapters. Some have sent feedback. The State Council is only gathering information.

Carol Schetrompf stated that it was too late for rumors, it is already out there.

President Rowan replied that rumors need to be addressed by VVA's leadership.

Allen Manuel stated folks would be upset if given only two hours to address this issue at the convention. He stated more time needs to be allotted.

President Rowan stated that we need to take a head-on approach.

Tom Burke stated that he talked with his state councils and tried to explain the responsibilities of the task force. A decision is going have to be made at some point whether five, ten years from now.

Bruce Whitaker asked VP Devine to explain part of the report.

Alan Oates suggested that the membership is contacted for ideas. We are getting up there and ask membership for their ideas and go from the outside in then go back out with the information.

Ned Foote, NY State Council President, stated that New York would appreciate it very much if they are included in the process.

Sandie Wilson stated that she would like to see audio visuals on the subject matter and that it needs to be addressed.

Dottie Barickman stated that it is all in presentation. She would like for the state councils be responsible for disseminating information and that they are given a script.

John Miner asked how many more issues of *The VVA Veteran* would be coming out before convention. He stated we have an avenue of disseminating information and not using it. Instead of filling it with ads, put the information in it.

John Margowski stated that it needs to be put out there. We can diffuse a situation before it gets too out of hand.

Wayne Cartier stated that he would like to give his slot in *The VVA Veteran* to have this information included.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the future of VVA with views from both board members and state council presidents.

Motion 9 To postpone task force report on the future of VVA until the 2013 convention.

Motion made C. Schetrompf; seconded by C. Montgomery; failed

Yes: 5

No: 17

Committee Reports Only

Government Affairs – P. Welch

The Government Affairs Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

Agent Orange/Dioxin and Other Toxic Exposures – A. Oates

The AO/DOTS Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

Constitution – L. DeLong

The Constitution Committee provided a written report.

Economic Opportunities – R. Davidge

The Economic Opportunities Committee provided a verbal report.

Minority Affairs – J. Yamamoto

The Minority Affairs Committee provided a verbal report.

POW/MIA – G. Jones

The POW/MIA Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

Membership Affairs – B. Meeks

The Membership Affairs Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

Public Affairs – Keith King

The Public Affairs Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

Veterans Incarcerated – T.P. Hubert

The Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

Veterans Benefits – J. Klein

The Veterans Benefits Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

Jim Vale, VBP Director, provided an update on the status of backlogs, claims at the board, staff updates litigation, funding, and service officer training during the week of July 11, 2011.

Motion 10 **To approve Veterans Benefits Policy Manual to include the policy update that addresses the conflict of interest that is created when a VVA rep becomes a VA Agent.**

Motion made and seconded by the Veterans Benefits Committee; passed.

Without objection motion passed

Yes: 23

No: 0

Non Vote: 0

Not Present: 1

PTSD and Substance Abuse

The PTSD and Substance Abuse Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

The Women Veterans Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

The WVC Chair reported that VA Women Veterans Summit will be held in Washington, DC, July 15-17, 2011.

Homeless Veterans – S. Miller

The Homeless Veterans Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

Veterans Health Care – P. Bessigano

The Veterans Health Care Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons

The VAD Chair provided a verbal report.

Credentials – J. Blount

Jim Blount stated if National does not have a 990 on file, your chapter delegates will not be seated at the convention. Regional directors are members of the Credentials Committee and help is needed. He encouraged regional directors stay on top of their state councils and encourage them to send in their registration early.

Point of Information

Secretary Hagge asked for committee reports

President Rowan thanked everyone and said “see you in Reno.”

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry Hagge
National Secretary (Past)
Pending Approval

Respectfully submitted,



National Secretary
Approved on January 13, 2012