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

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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.


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:

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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, LaVonia A. Cogdell and Tracie D. Houston for 25 years and 20 years of service respectively.
**Finance Committee Report/B. Whitaker**
The Finance Committee Chair provided a verbal report on the budget’s revenue and expenses.

**Motion 3**
To accept the proposed budget for the 2012 National Leadership Conference.
Motion made and seconded by the Finance Committee; Passed.
Yes: 23  No: 0
Non Vote: 1  Not Present: 0

**Motion 4**
To accept the proposed budget for fiscal year ending 2012.
Motion made and seconded by the Finance Committee; passed.
Yes: 23  No: 0
Non Vote: 1  Not Present: 0

**Open Discussion**
President Rowan thanked everyone for their service as this is the last regular board meeting.

Sandie Wilson thanked AVVA; and she acknowledged the service of staffer Mokie Porter.

Maynard Kaderlik mentioned his trip to Capitol Hill and the effectiveness of it.

Tom Burke thanked the CFC Task Force and thanked the committee members Herb Worthington and Dick Southern. He also thanked the subcommittee members Sandie Wilson and Ned Foote.

Carol Schetrompf stated that it is scholarship time and she will be contacting folks for donations.

Wayne Cartier mentioned Project ARCH and suggested to GOOGLE it and to get involved. It is a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pilot program to provide health care services through contractual arrangements with non-VA care providers. Project ARCH (Access Received Closer to Home), intends to improve access for eligible Veterans by connecting them to health care services closer to home.

Allen Manuel thanked folks who attend functions at Angola Correctional Institution and stated that the veterans are very proud of the visits. They also raised money for scholarship. Allen challenged other chapters to do the same.

President Rowan mentioned the program where prisoners train guide dogs. VVA will be working with the Vet Dogs program that involves training dogs for veterans.

Beverly Stewart announced that Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day would be March 30. She thanked Dan Stenvold and others for their part.

Dan Stenvold announced that March would now be recognized as Women Veterans Month. He also announced that South Dakota is now online.

Connie Steers thanked John Rowan for appointing Alan Oates as chair of AO Committee. Legislation is being written to honor Gold Star Mothers for the last Sunday in September.

Darrol Brown stated that when you come to Reno in August to be certain to drink lots of water and be careful of the heat. There is a VA Center that is close in distance.
Patrick Welch stated that he would not be running for office again and that is 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 Manuel 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.
Women Veterans – M. Four
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,

Bill [Signature]
National Secretary
Approved on January 13, 2012