



## Vietnam Veterans of America

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

### **Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors Meeting January 14-15, 2011**

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Friday, January 14, 2011, at 9:14 am, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Silver Spring, MD. The Pledge of Allegiance was 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	Richard DeLong	Francis Rowan
Jack Devine, Vice President	Fred Elliott	Carol Schetrompf
Barry Hagge, Secretary	Marsha Four	Dick Southern
Larry Frazee Treasurer	Steve House	Dan Stenvold
Pat Bessigano	Allen Manuel	Bruce Whitaker
Thomas Burke	John Margowski	Jerry Yamamoto
Wayne Cartier	Charlie Montgomery	Sandie Wilson

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

Excused: Bill Meeks, Thomas Meinhardt and Patrick Welch

#### **Preliminary Business**

It was announced that Kathleen Aylward-Barnes, widow of Randy Barnes, had passed that morning.

President Rowan recognized Tom Insley, Maryland State Council President and Tom Corey, past president of VVA.

**Motion 1**      **To accept the agenda as amended.**  
**Without objection motion passed.**  
**Yes: 20**                      **No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**                **Not Present: 3**

**Motion 2**      **To accept the minutes of October 8-9, 2010.**  
**Without objection motion passed.**  
**Yes: 20**                      **No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**                **Not Present: 3**

#### **Officers Reports**

**National President/J. Rowan**

VVA's National President provided a verbal report.

President Rowan reported on his trip to VVA's Angola, LA, incarcerated chapter. He was impressed with what they have going on.

Segal Corporation is an advertising/marketing firm that works with unions and they are currently working with VVA in getting the word out about health care.

He reported on a NAACP meeting that Tom Berger, Joe Wynn and he had attended and mentioned the plot program in California that will be discussed later in the meeting.

Another item on his agenda is trying to set up a meeting with National Rifle Association (NRA).

President Rowan mentioned the Army Times article regarding the lawsuit VVA spearheaded about destroyed records. It was reported that Navy Times ran the article as well.

**National Vice President/J. Devine**

VVA's National Vice President provided a verbal report as well as a written report.

NVP reported that Nancy Switzer and he met with VVMF (Jan Scruggs) to discuss the In Memory Plaque and the position of it.

**Announcement**

President Rowan provided an update on a request he had made concerning state medals for veterans.

**National Treasurer/L. Frazee**

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

**National Secretary/B. Hagge**

The National Secretary provided a verbal report.

He reported that he had spoken at a veterans' memorial ceremony.

He provided an update on the IT process at the national office as well as staff development.

**Reports**

**National Chaplain/Fr. Salois**

Fr. Phil was excused.

**HGDP Report/Q. Butcher**

The HGDP Director provided a verbal report of the recent activities of the program.

He reported that they are in the process of establishing a national telephone number for service. Also, that the March issue of Women's Day will have an article about the program.

National Board of Directors Meeting

January 14-15, 2011

Tom Corey reported on recent meetings he has attended. He reported that Alan Cook was been replaced by Larry Frazee on the Liaison Committee,.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Rowan acknowledged the Veterans Benefits Program staff that was in attendance. Jim Vale introduced the team: new Deputy Director, Lauren Kologe; appellate attorneys Elizabeth Pesin, Jorge Rueda (Marine); Jeremy Bedford (Army) and Eric Decker (Marine)

### **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America/N. Switzer**

AVVA's President provided both a verbal and written report.

### **GUESTS**

Rick Weidman introduced Ray Jefferson, Assistant Director, Veterans Employment and Training at the Department of Labor.

### **Conference of State Council President/C. Montgomery**

The CSCP Chair reported that there was not too much to report because the CSCP would be meeting the following weekend.

### **National VAVS/ J. McCombs**

The National VAVS Representative provided both a verbal and written report.

### **National Meetings and Special Events/W. Guidry**

It was announced that the 2014 leadership conference would be held in Wichita, Kansas. He introduced Dee Wallace who would be assisting him with meetings.

### **GUEST**

Michael L. Townes, Colonel, USAF (Ret.) who is now Executive Director, Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration, addressed the board and provided an update on the commemoration plans.

**The meeting recessed at 11:10 am.**

### **Saturday, January 15, 2011**

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 9:11 am on Saturday, January 15, 2011.

The National Secretary conducted roll call:

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  
Charlie Montgomery

Francis Rowan  
Carol Schetrompf  
Dick Southern  
Dan Stenvold  
Bruce Whitaker  
Jerry Yamamoto  
Sandie Wilson

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

Excused: Bill Meeks, Thomas Meinhardt and Patrick Welch

**Preliminary Business**

President Rowan announced that the meeting would start with the roll over issues from yesterday.

**Health Care Council Report/T. Berger**

Dr. Berger provided a verbal report then introduced James Maddox.

Mr. Maddox addressed the body regarding NAACP in relationship to VVA. He announced that NAACP has an Active Armed Services Committee.

Dr. Berger encouraged everyone to get tested for prostate cancer.

**Finance Committee Report/B. Whitaker**

The Finance Committee Chair provided a verbal report on the budget's revenue and expenses.

**Motion 3**      **To amend VVA Annual Financial Report instructions to comply with the current IRS requirements.**

**Motion made and seconded by the Finance Committee; Passed.**

**Yes: 20**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 3**

There was a brief discussion concerning insurance and credit card coverage via USAA.

**Motion 4**      **That Vietnam Veterans of America accept the proposal from United Services Automobile Association (USAA) for a Credit Card and Financial Services Program, and enter into an agreement as proposed.**

**Motion made and seconded by the Finance Committee; passed.**

**Yes: 20**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 3**

**Open Discussion**

Sandie Wilson announced that the hosting of the opening of a documentary call the Vietnam Generation by Keith Famme. He did one last year on the Greatest Generation. Keith interviewed many Vietnam veterans with different jobs during the war. It would be held in Detroit on January 28, 2011.

President Rowan announced that Veterans Day will be on 11/11/11 this year.

Joe Sternburg acknowledged Kyara Mullings who was helping out with the board meeting before returning to college this evening.

Jack Devine mentioned VVA's experience in dealing with veterans who are incarcerated.

Region 3 Director announced that the annual George C. Duggins Conference would be held in May 2011 in Greenville, SC.

Wayne Cartier reported Maine Troop Greeters have greeted 1,231, 856 troops and 302 dogs.

**New Business**

Marsha Four asked that Medals of America be approached about the lack women veterans' materials. Secretary Hagge stated that a conference call will be conducted and it will be addressed along with other issues.

Marsha Four – reviewed a reformatted organizational chart that provides a better view of the organization and managers.

Pat Bessigano stated that the State Council Presidents have had problems in particular with Finance and Membership Departments. President Rowan encouraged that issues be identified and forwarded to the Treasurer and Secretary as appropriate.

**Motions only**

**Motion 5 That the National Board of Directors adopts of VVA's National Legislative Agenda for 2011-2012 as amended and submitted by the Government Affairs Committee.**

**Motion made and seconded by the Government Affairs Committee.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 20**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 3**

A motion was made and withdrawn to bring VVA board members, committee chairs, and state council presidents for two additional days at the April 2011 joint meeting to allow them to meet and greet their congressional representative.

Tom Burke indicate the additional days would have the itinerary of folks arriving on Monday, have training on Tuesday, take a trip to Hill on Wednesday then regular business starting on Thursday.

There was a discussion concerning the feasibility and reasoning for VVA folks to meet their congressional representatives.

John Margowski stated this needs to be resolved as soon as possible; folks need to make travel arrangements, etc.

**Recessed for lunch at 11:50 am.**

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 pm.

**Consent Calendar**

**Motion 6 To accept the consent calendar.**

- **To add Ben Humphries to the Elections Committee.**

**Motion made and seconded by the Committee;  
Without objection motion passed  
Yes: 20                      No: 0  
Non Vote: 1                Not Present: 3**

**Unfinished Business**

The board viewed a JPAC video. Via the presentation it was reported that 88,000 Americans are still missing from previous conflicts. JPAC's highest priority is to investigate any and all tips of POW/MIAs. The video covered step-by-step in the analysis, investigation, identification and return of remains to the family of American military personnel.

Veterans Health Council (VHC) presented a video. Pat Sajak made a 30-second promo for the VHC.

Francis Rowan inquired about an ongoing disciplinary matter. Secretary Hagge stated that once it is in the disciplinary process, it is there ... in the hands of Disciplinary Review Panel.

VVA/NVLPS MOU was discussed. The Board was presented with a copy of the MOU. President Rowan explained the process that was involved in getting to this point.

**Motion 7        To accept the MOU between VVA and NVLSP.  
Motion made and seconded by the Veterans Benefits Committee;  
Without objection motion passed.  
Yes: 20                      No: 0  
Non Vote: 1                Not Present: 3**

Secretary Hagge and Region 2 Director, Fred Elliott, provided background information on the request of VVA Chapter 791 to change a member's status to at-large.

**Motion 8        To change the membership status of Chapter 791 member #186619 to at-large status.  
Yes: 18                      No: 1  
Non Vote: 2                Not Present: 3  
Motion made F. Elliott; seconded by B. Hagge; passed.**

**Motion 9        That VVA endorses National Disabled Veterans for Life Monument.  
Motion made and seconded by the Government Affairs Committee; passed.  
Yes: 20                      No: 0  
Non Vote: 1                Not Present: 3**

**END OF FORMAL BUSINESS at 3:15 pm**

**Committee Reports Only**  
**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 pointed out that there are no women veterans pictures displayed in the window.

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.

Government Affairs – P. Welch

In the absence of the Government Affairs Committee Chair, Tom Burke provided a verbal report.

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

The AO/DOTS Committee Chair provided a verbal report.

The AO/DOTS Committee Chair advised the Board of a print that the artist had donated to VVA for fundraising purposes. He presented a check in the amount of \$290 as a donation for the sale of the print he had previously mentioned.

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

In the absence of the Membership Affairs Committee Chair, Dick Southern provided a verbal report.

President Rowan stated it would be interesting if Membership could do an analysis of how many deceased members VVA has on an annual basis. Our membership numbers have increased despite the loss. He also would be interested in the numbers of permanently hospitalized members that we have.

Public Affairs – Keith King

In the absence of the Public Affairs Committee Chair, Steve House provided a verbal report.

President Rowan received a letter from Chapter 20 regarding their 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in June 2011.

VVA chapters having reached their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries were briefly mentioned. Chapter 141 formed in 1982 and Chapter 185 also reached this milestone.

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 claims at the board; staff changes; court cases; Section 504 violations; service rep training and accredited service representatives. He stated that he would like to have software called VetPro database.

The VBC Chair spoke in favor of the VetPro software.

Also discussed was the failure of states failing to provide appropriate information to retain funding from VSF. It was stated that 50% of those awarded grants were not in compliance with the action that was requested of them.

A written report was requested and submitted.

Point of Privilege

President Rowan mentioned the reunion noticed that was received from 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion 5<sup>th</sup> Marines.

President Rowan announced that Tom Corey has been floating around this weekend, in his position as chair of the Liaison Committee for the HGDP.

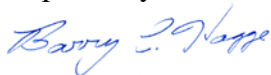
President Rowan announced his plans to put in his budget funds for any past officers and/or widows to come to the national convention VVA expense.

Wes announced that March 11, 2011, is the deadline for room reservations for April 2011 joint meeting.

**Motion 9 That VVA endorses National Disabled Veterans for Life Monument.  
Motion made and seconded by the Government Affairs Committee; passed.  
Yes: 20 No: 0  
Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 3**

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry Hagge  
National Secretary  
Approved: 04/15/2011