



## 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 April 20, 2012 Approved By the Board**

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Friday April 20, 2012, at 9:07 pm, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Silver Spring, MD. National Chaplain Father Phil Salois recognized those who were ill and in need of prayer; and he remembered our military personnel. Father Phil Salois delivered the opening prayer which was followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

|                              |                    |                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| John Rowan, President        | Joe Jennings       | Dick Southern    |
| Fred Elliott, Vice President | Allen Manuel       | Dan Stenvold     |
| Bill Meeks, Secretary        | John Margowski     | Nancy Switzer *  |
| Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer    | Sara McVicker      | Pastor Toro      |
| Bob Barry                    | John Miner         | Sandie Wilson    |
| Pat Bessigano                | Charlie Montgomery | Herb Worthington |
| Richard DeLong               | Tom Owen           |                  |
| Marsha Four                  | Felix Peterson     |                  |
| Ken Holybee                  | Jackie Rector      |                  |

*\* AVVA President is a non-voting member of the National Board of Directors*

Excused: Jerry Yamamoto, Judith McCombs and John Margowski had to leave for emergency at home

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

Secretary Meeks 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    | N/A     | New Mexico     | Present |
| Connecticut | Present | New York       | Present |
| Delaware    | Absent  | North Carolina | Present |

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

|               |         |                |         |
|---------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| Florida       | Present | North Dakota   | Present |
| Georgia       | Present | Ohio           | Present |
| Idaho         | Present | Oklahoma       | Absent  |
| Illinois      | Present | Oregon         | Present |
| Indiana       | Present | Pennsylvania   | Present |
| Iowa          | Present | Puerto Rico    | Present |
| Kansas        | Present | Rhode Island   | Present |
| Kentucky      | Absent  | South Carolina | Present |
| Louisiana     | Present | South Dakota   | Present |
| Maine         | Present | Tennessee      | Present |
| Maryland      | Present | Texas          | Present |
| Massachusetts | Present | Vermont        | Present |
| Michigan      | Present | Virginia       | Present |
| Minnesota     | Present | Washington     | Present |
| Mississippi   | Present | West Virginia  | Present |
| Missouri      | Present | Wisconsin      | Present |

**Preliminary Business**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion after providing additional room locations.

**Motion 1**

**To accept the BOD meeting agenda as amended.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

**Motion 2**

**To accept the BOD meeting minutes from January 13, 2012 in Silver Spring, MD.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

**National President/J. Rowan**

President Rowan submitted a written report and here were a few highlights from that report:

- January 26-29 attended CSCP meeting in Daytona, FL
- February 3-4 attended NY SC meeting
- February 6 attended Staten Island Chapter 421 meeting, met new member NYFD Commissioner Sal Casano
- February 16 attended Daughters of the America Revolution/Sons of the Revolution dinner in NYC

## **APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

- March 1-3 met with Officers, attended the annual Finance Committee Budget meeting
- March 10-11 attended the PA SC meeting
- March 17 participated in the 251<sup>st</sup> NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade with a VVA group, this was the first time veterans were invited to participate and the parade was dedicated to veterans
- March 20-22 visited HQ. On 3/20 met with the staff of several members of Congress: Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee; Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee; and Sen. Patty Murray, Chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. On 3/21 presented annual VVA testimony before the Joint House/Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
- March 24 participated in the NYC Vietnam Veterans Recognition day ceremony at the NYC Vietnam Veterans Memorial. All of the 1,741 names of NYC's KIAs were read
- March 29-April 1 attended VVA Region 3's Conference in Ashville, NC and on that Saturday attended a massive Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home celebration sponsored by the USO of NC and the NC Association of Broadcasters at the Charlotte Motor speedway. It was estimated that 62,500 people participated. I met with local chapter who had a table at the event and handed out a lot of literature that we sent them.

### **National Vice President/F. Elliott**

Vice President Elliott provided a written report and here were a few highlights from that report:

- December 18: Along with members of Chapter 20, Marie and I went to the Canandaigua VA to sing Christmas Carols to the veterans
- January 11-14: Attended the National Board meeting in Silver Spring; visited with VVA staff; met with the Officers of AVVA; participated in the Leadership Conference Planning meeting; and held a meeting of the Committee and Task Force Chairs
- February 2-8: Marie and I went to Galveston, Texas for their state council meeting and after the meetings, Marie and I spent a couple of days enjoying the area
- February 14-15: Marie and I attended an ice skating event in Silver Spring hosted by VVA's Veterans Against Drugs Task Force and met with staff and managers
- February 25: Attended an outreach for veterans benefits and healthcare sponsored by Chapter 20
- March 1-3: Attended the annual VVA Budget meeting in Silver Spring
- March 10-11: Attended the Pennsylvania State Council meeting (along with Marie of course)
- March 20-21: Flew to Silver Spring to attend VVA's annual testimony before the joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, visited with staff and traveled to the downtown VARO office to say hi (yes, Marie was with me)
- March 23: Attended a dinner for a Rochester area organization that provides activities for physically disabled veterans ([www.oasisadaptivesports.com](http://www.oasisadaptivesports.com))
- March 24: Attended the New York State Council meeting
- March 28-April 1: Attended the Region 3 Conference in Asheville, North Carolina

### **National Secretary/B. Meeks**

Secretary Meeks provided a verbal report which contained an update on past or current VVA disciplinary actions as required by an approved BOD motion and that update noted the VVA

## **APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

Region 9 disciplinary cases were dismissed. Secretary Meeks noted what VVA information was available on the VVA web site and the content of the VVA BOD Discussion Site.

- February 3-5 attended the TX State Council meeting in Galveston, TX
- February 24-26 attended the LA State Council meeting in Baton Rouge, LA
- March 1-3 met with Officers and attended the annual Finance Committee Budget meeting at National Office
- April 19 met with Officers at National Office

### **National Treasurer/W. Reynolds**

Treasurer Reynolds provided a written report:

This has been an incredibly active time since our last BOD Meeting. The CSCP met in Daytona Beach shortly after the VVA BOD meeting, and I attended as the Alabama State Council President and as a Presenter. I gave a comprehensive overview of the iMIS activities and had a very productive question-and-answer period.

The progress in our iMIS functionality has been significant since our last meeting. I have provided several updates to the BOD over the last three months. Carol Engle took an extended leave of absence since January but we have persevered. Dr. Robert Lane and his associates have been extremely effective in diagnosing and resolving many of the shortcomings we have endured with the iMIS System. Frankie Pressley has come on board as a contract employee. She is very experienced with the iMIS product, came highly recommended, and has proven her competence. I have had very positive feedback from our staff. We have completed the processing and payment of Dues Rebates to the States and Chapters. Membership has new leadership and Eric Harris is doing very well. Membership rosters have been updated and sent to the State Council Presidents.

Quentin Butcher and I have collaborated in order to develop a revision in the distribution of Household Goods Funds to the States. Those individual reports went to each State Council on March 29. We now have a manageable system which will allow better planning for those who receive these funds.

Dick Southern, Region 9 Director, and I have been engaged in a process to bring back the Colorado State Council and to form new Chapters in Colorado. We made an onsite visit and met with a number of VVA members in Denver and in Colorado Springs. Our meetings were very productive, and the attendees organized and scheduled their next meetings to move toward Chapter Charters in both cities. Secretary Meeks has been an essential resource in our efforts to avoid any problems in reestablishing a viable VVA presence in Colorado.

The Finance Committee has been in the process of reviewing and recommending a FY 13 Budget to the BOD. Chairman Ned Foote and I have maintained frequent communications, and I attended their development meeting as the Advisor to the Committee. We began the deliberations with a shortfall of more than 910K and left the meeting with a Proposed Budget that was balanced. Sara McVicker is Chair of the Subcommittee for Budget Oversight. John Miner and I serve with her on this subcommittee. We have been vigilant in trying to insure all cost centers remain within their budgets. Ms. McVicker has made cogent contributions and has some great ideas that should reduce the incidence of overspending by all cost centers.

## APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES

The four national Officers have maintained close contact and are working very well together. We are focused on our individual spheres of influence but collaborate frequently to insure a coordinated relationship which focuses on the increased services to the VVA membership. The degree of cooperation and effective pursuit of common objectives has been a source of great satisfaction to me.

In addition, I have been “on the Hill,” visiting Senators and Congressmen. Carl Tuvin, Jim Kuhn, and I visited 12 Senators’ offices for scheduled appointments with staffers in a 24-hour period. We concentrated on the issue of the “for-profit colleges and the post-911 GI Bill” and had success in our attempts to convince the targeted individuals of the need to act. I have a keen interest in continuing my efforts to be an effective spokesman for VVA, and the staff has been encouraging, instructive, and very helpful.

We have made some modifications to those identified as contact persons to various contractors. Mokie is working with the website, and we are attempting to modify the website to make the changes suggested by the staff, officers, BOD, and membership. We have developed new contracts for Joe Wynn, Dr. Berger, and Tuvin and Kuhn. The content of these contracts is more consistent, and the terms follow the effective budget dates for VVA. All three contracts are signed and ready to be implemented when the budget provides funding.

We have renewed our contract with modifications until April 2014 with Fox and Associates. Michael Keating is increasing the quality and funding for *The VVA Veteran*. We had a meeting with Marlys Fox at our Silver Spring office, and everyone was in accord with what we wanted to see happen over the next two years. Each issue has shown a lower net cost to VVA, with increased space allocated to our content. Mike solicits content from each of you.

I recently had the opportunity of being interviewed by an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student from Aberdeen, Maryland. He sought out a Vietnam medic and conducted the interview in our Silver Spring office. Being interviewed as a VVA veteran was certainly an honor as is being able to work as your National Treasurer.

Dr. Berger and I have collaborated on an interview and expanded news coverage of the “Personality Disorder” discharges. I have been interviewed, and we are trying to facilitate an interview for a soldier who actually received a Personality Disorder Discharge. This was one of our joint efforts with Yale Law School.

I am enjoying serving all of our members as National Treasurer. I have made more than a dozen visits to our National Office since August 20 as I work to address the concerns within VVA.

### **Announcement**

Wes Guidry introduced the Hotel General Manager Peter Young who gave further details on the hotel renovation and what we should expect after the work is completed.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Committee Chair Ned Foote presented the following motions out of committee:

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion 3**

**To accept the proposed budget for fiscal year ending 2013.  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

Director Marsha Four presented the following motion:

**Motion 3A**

**To revise the budget FY 2013 to permit Committee Chairs who would not be funded to receive budget dollars to attend the Leadership Conference (\$2,000 from un-appropriated surplus).**

**Motion failed.**

**Yes: 5**

**No: 16**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

Finance Committee Chair Ned Foote presented the following motion out of committee:

**Motion 4**

**To accept the proposed budget for the 2013 National Convention.  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

Vice President Elliott presented the following motion:

**Motion 5**

**That the NBOD hold a meeting at the 2012 Leadership Conference to include financial reporting and reports by all staff and committees/task forces who normally report to the NBOD and are present at the Conference.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

**Reports**

**National Chaplain Report/Fr. Phil Salois**

Father Phil Salois provided update on his activities since our last meeting.

## **APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

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

AVVA President Switzer provided a written report and here were a few highlights from that report:

- Drafted changes to Duties of Officers and Regional Directors
- Drafted and prepared President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Regional Director and State and Chapter President Manuals. These cannot be finished until the Policy and Procedure Manual are voted on, as there are quotations in the manuals.
- In February I worked in the National office and attended a Vet Pro demonstration for the Service Officers. This is an excellent program and I am in negotiations with a contract for our AVVA Service officers. I was quoted at \$2.00 per individual every time the go into the program. This will make for an easier way of electronically sending the benefit requests to the VA.
- Faces of Agent Orange. Participated in the following Town Hall Meetings: Wisconsin: March 23 to 25, 2012 - Missouri and Kansas: March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 2, 2012
- Leadership Conference: I have been working with the committee on various issues of the Leadership Conference, example seminars, forms and will report out at the board meeting.
- The AVVA board has approved the AVVA/VVA Challenge Coin and AVVA and Agent Orange Awareness Challenge Coin. The VVA board's vote for approval of the AVVA/VVA Challenge Coin is on Saturday. If approved, these will be available at the Leadership Conference in August.
- Union Gospel Mission Dallas will be this years AVVA/VVA project. In working with Sandy Miller, Chair of the Homeless Task. They have a wonderful program for Veterans and also children. I thank Sharon Hobbs for making contact with them.
- Paper Safe: The Paper Safe is now finished and on our Web Site.
- Memorial Day Weekend: I have ordered 3 wreaths.
- Updates: This has taken much of my time with reviewing and asking for reports and then sending them to Nancy Retkowski and her husband Bernie.

AVVA President Switzer presented a donation for \$2,500 to Charlie Hobbs Chair of VVA Membership Affairs to help cover the cost of the new canopy to be used by both VVA/AVVA during events on the National Mall.

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

CSCP President Charlie Montgomery gave update on the CSCP Meeting in Daytona Beach, FL, noted that IL President Butch Huber gave fund raising seminar and that the CSCP would not hold their January 2013 meeting in Silver Spring, MD.

### **Government Affairs Executive Director/R. Weidman**

Director Weidman noted ongoing discussions with Congress about priorities, service providers and the back logged claims process.

### **Household Goods Donation Program/O. Butcher**

HGDP Manager Quentin Butcher noted that the HGDP Liaison Committee (John Rowan, Tom Corey and Marsha Four) met prior to the BOD meeting. Manager Butcher stated revenue was

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

down 20% from the previous year, that expansion and mail costs were also a factor, resale was down and web page solicitation for new donors was underway.

**Meeting recesses: 11:20 am** – President Rowan asked that Tier time frames be adjusted to accommodate for the overrun of the meeting recess time for the morning session.

**Saturday, April 21, 2012 (con't)**

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 9:01 am on Saturday, April 21, 2012. Father Phil Salois officiated the opening prayer followed by a Moment of Silence.

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

|                              |                    |                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| John Rowan, President        | Ken Holybee        | Jackie Rector    |
| Fred Elliott, Vice President | Joe Jennings       | Dick Southern    |
| Bill Meeks, Secretary        | Allen Manuel       | Dan Stenvold     |
| Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer    | Sara McVicker      | Nancy Switzer *  |
| Bob Barry                    | John Miner         | Pastor Toro      |
| Pat Bessigano                | Charlie Montgomery | Sandie Wilson    |
| Richard DeLong               | Tom Owen           | Herb Worthington |
| Marsha Four                  | Felix Peterson     |                  |

*\* AVVA President is a non-voting member of the National Board of Directors*

Excused: Jerry Yamamoto, John Margowski and Judith McCombs  
 Also present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO/Staff Director, and Mike Swift, Parliamentarian.

Secretary Meeks 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    | N/A     | 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       | Absent  |
| Illinois    | Absent  | Oregon         | Present |
| Indiana     | Present | Pennsylvania   | Present |
| Iowa        | Present | Puerto Rico    | Present |
| Kansas      | Present | Rhode Island   | Present |
| Kentucky    | Absent  | South Carolina | Present |
| Louisiana   | Present | South Dakota   | Present |



## APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES

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

### **Preliminary Business**

CSCP President Montgomery gave update on the washing of “The Wall” endeavor by the State Council Presidents this morning with VVA Chapter 641.

Government Affairs Director Weidman introduced Kevin Secor who is the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and serves as the liaison with veterans’ organizations. Mr. Secor provided a brief update on DVA activities and thanked VVA for their hard work for all veterans.

NE State Council President Dottie Barickman asked President Rowan for ruling on seating the Alternate Region 6 Director since the Region 6 Director John Margowski had to depart for home on family business. President Rowan consulted with the Constitution Committee Chair Leslie DeLong and ruled that the alternate director could not be seated because the absence was not due to illness.

### **Veterans Benefits Program Director’s Report/J. Vale**

Director Jim Vale provided a written report and here were a few highlights from that report:

- Appellate Advocacy Statistics
- VVA National Claims Statistics FY 2012 – Q1 & Q2
- Staff Changes
- VVA Litigation
- Service Officer Training
- VVA Accredited Representatives List
- VetPro Database
- VBP Policy Change
- Service Officer Suspensions/Revocations

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

Judith McCombs not present and no report submitted.

### **Veterans Health Council/Dr. T. Berger**

- Attended meeting with National Association of States United for Aging and Disability re: Medicaid and Medicare dual eligible clients
- On the Hill re: personality disorder discharges; separate meetings with Col. D. Sutherland, Special Advisor to the Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the entire Senate Veterans Affairs Committee staff, and the entire Senate Armed Services Committee staff, and individual staff from Sen. McCain’s (R-AZ), Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA), Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD)

## **APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

Appropriations, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle (R-NY), and Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV)

- Attended ReACT (Respect a Caregivers Time) luncheon presentation on *The Cost of Caregiving: Understanding and Responding to the Challenge* at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The event featured presentations from Jane Goss, author, *The New York Times* blogger and former family caregiver and Dr. Michael Hodin, Executive Director, Global Coalition on Aging and Adjunct Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations. In addition, Gail Hunt, President and CEO, National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC), premiered new research from the *Best Practices in Workplace Eldercare Report*.
- Partnership letter re: mental health wait times at VA from Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) and Military Health Liaison Group (MHLG) sent to VA Mental Health chief administrators
- Letter sent to all US governors and state directors of Medicaid re: welcome physicals and military history
- GA state legislation re: prostate cancer and VHC

### **IT Department/C. Engle**

Carol Engle thanked everyone for their support and well wishes during her leave of absence.

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

Wes Guidry gave update on hotel renovation and other upcoming events.

### **2012 VVA Leadership Conference Committee/P. Peterson**

Committee Chair Peterson presented the following motion:

#### **Motion 6**

**The Leadership Conference Planning Committee proposes that the 2012 Leadership Conference be a joint Leadership Conference with VVA and AVVA. All revenue from registration fees will go to VVA. Any profits or deficit will be absorbed by VVA.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

Finance Committee Chair Foote presented the following motion:

#### **Motion 7**

**To amend the FY 2013 VVA Budget for: 1) the Homeless Veterans Committee cost center by adding \$1,000 to the Conference account and moving \$500 from the Training and Development account; and 2) adding \$1,500 to the Membership Affairs Committee cost center Conference account. The \$2,500 in additional funding will come from prior year excess.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

Region 7 Director Allen Manuel presented the following motion:

**Motion 8**

**Move to reconsider Motion 7:**

**To amend the FY 2013 VVA Budget for: 1) the Homeless Veterans Committee cost center by adding \$1,000 to the Conference account and moving \$500 from the Training and Development account; and 2) adding \$1,500 to the Membership Affairs Committee cost center Conference account. The \$2,500 in additional funding will come from prior year excess.**

**Motion failed.**

**Yes: 8**  
**No: 12**  
**Non Vote: 2**  
**Not Present: 2**

**Open Discussion/National BOD**

Several National Board Members discussed various topics and the State Council Presidents added comments to the discussions.

**Consent Calendar Motions/National Secretary**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

**Motion 9**

**To accept the Consent Calendar.**

**Consent Calendar Motions**

- 1. To convert the bequest of \$452,499 from the estate of Ruth Mathews to a special fund called the Ruth Mathews Bequest – Special Projects Fund, to be used to support various VVA programs or projects in accordance with the policies and procedures which will be established upon approval of this motion from the VVA Finance Committee.**
- 2. To add Dave Johnson as a member and A.J. Paige as a special advisor to the Homeless Veterans Committee at no cost to National.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

**Unfinished Business**

**Operational Review VVA Chapter 279/National Secretary**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion 10**

**To accept the recommendations from the National Secretary on the VVA Operational Review of VVA Chapter 279.**

**I recommend this review be sent to every member of Chapter 279 in the hope the membership will understand there are necessary procedures involved in operating a VVA chapter and the past endeavors covered in this review are far from normal VVA business procedures. I would recommend the following items be provided for better record keeping, better management of chapter business and to provide knowledge of the duties of elected officers.**

- **Copies of the VVA Leadership Handbooks**
- **All chapter meetings should have a copy of agenda for the members**
- **Meeting minutes should have the motions numbered with maker of motion and the second recorded**
- **Regular scheduled board of directors meetings per the VVA Constitution**
  - **Treasurer's Report attached to the meeting minutes**
  - **Complete the proposed chapter bylaws for review**
  - **Conduct chapter audit as approved by membership**
- **Provide updates to membership on Chapter Scholarship Funds**

**I would recommend the Regional Director attend a chapter meeting to answer any questions by the membership and consult with the newly elected chapter officers.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 32 of the October 7, 2011 BOD Meeting/National Secretary**

National Secretary Meeks provided update on the chapters who are working to resolve their tax-exempt status revocation by the IRS.

**2012 VVA Personnel Policy/National Vice President**

Vice President Elliott presented the following motion:

**Motion 11**

**To adopt the revised VVA Personnel policy.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

## APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES

### New Business

#### Discussion on Friend-Of-The-Court Brief with the Yale Law School/National President

Georgia State Council President Lionel Marmolejo spoke at length about the need for VVA to rescind Motion 2 of January 2012 and Veterans Benefits Director Jim Vale explained the reasoning for the brief.

Vice President Elliott presented the following motion:

#### Motion 12

**Move to rescind Motion 1 of January 2012:**

**To allow the Yale Law Clinic to provide a quote in a press release that VVA supports a female veteran, with the assistance of YLC to appeal a denial for spousal VA benefits because she is in a same sex marriage. Also, allow VVA to participate in a Friend-Of-The-Court Brief with the Yale Law School to be filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims (CAVC).**

**Motion made and seconded by the Veterans Benefits Committee.**

**Motion failed.**

**Yes: 6**

**No: 15**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

#### The VVA Veteran/M. Keating

Editor Michael Keating noted in talking with the staff of *The VVA Veteran*, it is our opinion that the magazine would be best served by having its own website, [www.vvaveteran.org](http://www.vvaveteran.org). With today's technology, we should be building the electronic version of the magazine as we prepare the paper edition. This way, the staff most invested in the success of the paper issue can also assume responsibility for the electronic issue.

#### VVA Contracting Policy

Treasurer Reynolds presented the following motion:

#### Motion 13

**To accept the revised VVA Contracting Policy.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

#### Ruth Mathews Bequest – Special Projects Fund Policies and Procedures

Finance Committee Chair Ned Foote presented the following motion out of committee:

#### Motion 14

**Move to approve the Ruth Mathews Bequest – Special Projects Fund Policies and Procedures.**

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

**Chapter Charter Revocation**

Secretary Meeks presented the following motion:

**Motion 15**

**To revoke the charters of Chapter 281 (OH), 762 (MN), 714 (IL) and 591 (VI) at the request of the OH SCP, MN SCP, IL SC and Region 4 Director: The OH SC, MN SC, IL SC and Region 9 Director have done all they needed to do to keep the Chapters and the efforts failed to rejuvenate the membership.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

**Colorado State Council & Chapter(s)/National Secretary**

Region 9 Director Dick Southern presented the following motion:

**Motion 16**

**To revoke the charter of the Colorado State Council.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

Region 3 Director Sara McVicker presented the following motion:

**Motion 17**

**To amend Motion 32 from October 7, 2011 by adding the following verbiage:  
Chapters which have had their tax-exempt status revoked by the IRS to hold elections and conduct business meetings if in the opinion of the appropriate State Council President and/or Regional Director have demonstrated progress toward filing a Form 1024 and submitting any delinquent VVA reports. Such chapters shall have until July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to file a 1024 and submit any delinquent VVA reports. Chapters which have not met this requirement and submitted both 2012 election and financial reports by that date shall be revoked without appeal.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

**AVVA Challenge Coin Approval For Logo Use/National Vice President**

Vice President Elliott presented the following motion:

**Motion 18**

**To allow the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) to use the VVA logo on a proposed challenge coin to be sold by AVVA to raise funds for the AVVA Veterans Service Officer Program. All funds realized through this effort to be the sole property of AVVA.**

**Motion passed.**

**Yes: 20**

**No: 1**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

**To rescind motion 12 from January 10, 2009/National Secretary**

Secretary Meeks presented the following motion:

**Motion 19**

**To rescind motion 12 from January 10, 2009.**

**Whereas, VVA State Councils are responsible for ensuring that all VVA chapters within a state comply with the governance documents of the corporation (VVA, Inc.);**

**Whereas, VVA State Councils and VVA Regional Directors are accountable for ensuring that VVA chapters within their respective state and region comply with the reporting requirements established by the delegates to the VVA national Convention and set forth in the VVA Constitution;**

**Whereas, a significant number of VVA chapters are not complaint with the reporting requirements established by the delegates to the VVA national Convention and set forth in the VVA Constitution;**

**Whereas, a substantial number of VVA chapters, which are non-profit corporations within their states, are not in compliance with state law requirements that a non-profit corporation periodically file a corporate report within their respective states;**

**Whereas, a significant number of VVA Chapters have had their corporate status revoked by their state, commonwealth or territory because they have not filed one or more required corporate reports;**

**Whereas, a VVA chapter's loss of corporate status under state law creates the risk of potential personal liability for officers and board members of such VVA chapter;**

**Whereas, the VVA Constitution requires that VVA chapters be a non-profit corporation before being granted a VVA Chapter Charter;**

**Whereas, many states provide routine procedures for a revoked corporations to file missing corporate reports, often with a late fee, and to regain their corporate status by**

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**being reinstated as a corporation;**

**Now, Therefore, the National Board of Directors of Vietnam Veterans of America directs all State Councils of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. to certify to the VVA National Secretary in writing, by February 28 of each calendar year, that the State Council and all chapters in their state,**

- (1) are in compliance with requirements for filing financial and election reports set forth in the VVA Constitution and no chapters are under suspension for failing to file a required report, and**
- (2) have filed with the appropriate state agency or office in their state, commonwealth or territory, any report necessary to maintain corporate status and are a non-profit corporation in good standing.**

**If a State Council is unable to certify that all chapters in the state are in compliance with VVA and state, commonwealth, or territory corporate reporting requirements, a State Council shall certify to the VVA national Secretary in writing, by February 28 of each calendar year, exactly which chapters:**

- (a) are in full compliance with VVA and state, commonwealth, or territory reporting requirements, including which reports the chapter failed to file. To ensure a uniform format for such State Council certifications, the National Secretary shall send to each State Council a form to be used for the certification.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

Secretary Meeks presented the following motion:

**Motion 20**

**To rescind Motion 26 from June 1990: That in the future the Committee Chairs submit written reports to secretary Corey in efforts to reduce administrative work and therefore, assist in getting the draft of the Board Minutes out in a timely fashion. These reports will be a part of the minutes.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

President Rowan presented the following motion:

**Motion 21**

**To appoint Pastor Toro as Chair, Ken Holybee and Dan Stenvold as members of the 2013 Convention Planning Committee.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**



**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

**Lunch: 12:17 pm**

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 1:23 pm on Saturday, April 21, 2012.

**Announcement**

Charlie Montgomery had two (2) certificates which were presented to delegates at VVA's 1<sup>st</sup> National Convention and presented the certificates for the VVA National Office for display.

Region 3 Director Sara McVicker presented the following motions for the CSCP:

**Motion 22**

**To amend paragraph A.2 of the VVA Chapter Charter Revocation Membership Policy dated 10/10/09 by removing the phrase "conduct Chapter business only for the purposes of calling meetings for disbursing funds previously raised in VVA's name to pay Chapter obligations," and to add immediately following, a new paragraph to read: "While suspended under the provisions of this policy, Chapters may conduct Chapter business only for the purposes of calling meetings for disbursing funds previously raised in VVA's name to pay Chapter obligations unless specifically exempt from this restriction by the National Board of Directors. Such exemptions shall not be granted when suspensions are due to filing of charges or imposition of sanctions under the VVA Code of Disciplinary Policy & Procedures. When such exemptions are granted by the National Board of Directors, Chapters may hold business and informational meetings, hold elections, and otherwise engage in organized Chapter activities."**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 23**

**To allow Chapters that are suspended due to IRS revocation of tax-exempt status, but that have filed a Form 1024 requesting reinstatement and are otherwise in good standing with VVA (i.e., election and financial reports submitted for 2010 and subsequent years) to continue to hold meetings, conduct elections and otherwise engage in Chapter activities pending decision by the IRS regarding reinstatement of tax-exempt status. The prohibitions enumerated in paragraph A.2 of the Chapter Charter Revocation Membership Policy as amended April 21, 2011 will remain in effect.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 24**

To establish a workgroup composed of two (2) Regional Directors and three (3) State Council Presidents to examine issues related to the suspension of Chapters and State Councils for failure to file required reports and to make recommendations to the National Board of Directors regarding: 1) measures needed to ensure tracking and accurate entry of submitted reports and data, 2) electronic submission of reports, 3) provision of periodic reports to Chapters, State Councils, and Regional Directors for action and feedback, 4) measures to inform members of the status of their Chapter/State Council, 5) measures needed to strengthen the authority of State Council Presidents to deal with non-compliant Chapters, 6) revision of VVA policies to remove barriers to revoking non-compliant Chapters/State Councils, and 7) special issues with incarcerated chapters. The Workgroup will consult with other State Council Presidents and Regional Directors during the development of recommendations and report to the BOD at the August meeting.

Without objection motion passed.

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

President Rowan presented the following motions:

**Motion 25**

To appoint Sara McVicker Chair of the Suspension Workgroup along with Dick Southern as a member.

Without objection motion passed.

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 26**

To appoint Disciplinary Workgroup of Butch Huber, Ned Foote, Bruce Whitaker and Bill Meeks, Jr. to re-write the Code of Disciplinary Policy and Procedures at no cost to National.

Without objection motion passed.

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee – MOTIONS ONLY**

Constitution – L. DeLong: No motions  
Economic Opportunities – F. Barry: No motions  
Minority Affairs – Dave Simmons:

**Motion 27**

**To add Ivan Freeland as a member of the Minority Affairs Committee at no cost to VVA.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

POW/MIA – No motions  
Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs: No motions  
Public Affairs – Herb Worthington:

**Motion 28**

**To add Tom Hall (of Florida) to be reappointed as National Education Sub-Chair to the Public Affairs Committee at no cost to National.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 29**

**To add Charlie Montgomery (Chair), with member Richard DeLong and Judy Vargo as special advisor to the Awards Sub-committee of the Public Affairs Committee at no cost to National.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

Veterans Incarcerated – T.P. Hubert:

**Motion 30**

**To change Allen Manuel to Vice-Chair, add Tom Burke, Roland Kaufman, Ed Ryan, Patrick Lavin as members and John Birch as special advisor to the Veterans Incarcerated Committee at no cost to National.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

Veterans Benefits – J. Pace:

**Motion 31**

**To add Bob Mello to the Veteran Benefits Committee at no cost to National.  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

PTSD and Substance Abuse – T. Hall: No motions  
Women Veterans – M. Four:

**Motion 32**

**To send a letter of support from VVA, under the signature of the President, to Business Professional Women’s Foundation (BPWF) regarding its women Veterans Peer Support Program. Additionally, if approved through the VVA Logo Use Policy BPWF can display the VVA logo on its web site with a statement of VVA support for its peer program.  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

Homeless Veterans – S. Miller: No motions  
Veterans Healthcare – P. Bessigano: No motions  
Government Affairs – R. Davidge:

**Motion 33**

**That Vietnam Veterans of America fully supports Chairman Jeff Miller’s Bill, H.R. 3895, that would exempt VA accounts from sequestration should this be forced to go into effect on January 2, 2013.  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 34**

**That Vietnam Veterans of America supports the legislation that will set aside federal lands in our nations’ Capitol for a Gold Star Mother’s Memorial.  
Without objection motion passed.**

**APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES**

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 35**

**The Chair of the Conference of State Council President is forever a member of the Government Affairs Committee.  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

Agent Orange/Dioxin – A. Oates:

**Motion 36**

**To remove James Cripp and Stan Goodwin from the committee and add Herb Worthington to the Agent Orange Committee at no cost to National.  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons:

**Motion 37**

**To add Tony Molina, Dr. Ed Ryan and Cecilio Besares as members of the Veterans Against Drugs Task Force at no cost to National.  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 2**

**Committee Reports Only:**

**Written reports (digital requested) submitted to National Secretary**

Constitution – L. DeLong – verbal report

Economic Opportunities – F. Barry – verbal report

Minority Affairs – Dave Simmons – verbal report

POW/MIA – No report

Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs – verbal report

Public Affairs – H. Worthington – verbal report

Veterans Incarcerated – T.P. Hubert – verbal and written reports

## APPROVED BOD MEETING MINUTES

Veterans Benefits – J. Pace – verbal report  
PTSD and Substance Abuse – T. Hall - verbal and written reports  
Women Veterans – M. Four – verbal and written reports  
Homeless Veterans – S. Miller – verbal and written reports  
Veterans Healthcare – P. Bessigano – verbal report  
Government Affairs – R. Davidge – verbal report  
Agent Orange/Dioxin – A. Oates – verbal report  
Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons – verbal report

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Meeks, Jr.

National Secretary

Approved: 08/07/12