



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 11, 2013
Approved By the Board**

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Friday January 11, 2013, at 9:05 pm, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Silver Spring, MD. National Chaplain Fr. Phil Salois recognized those who were ill and in need of prayer; and he remembered our military personnel. National Chaplain Fr. 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	Jackie Rector
Fred Elliott, Vice President	Allen Manuel	Dick Southern
Bill Meeks, Secretary	John Margowski	Dan Stenvold
Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer	Sara McVicker	Nancy Switzer *
Bob Barry	John Miner	Pastor Toro
Richard DeLong	Charlie Montgomery	Sandie Wilson
Marsha Four	Tom Owen	Herb Worthington
Ken Holybee	Felix Peterson	Jerry Yamamoto

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

Excused: Judith McCombs and Pat Bessigano

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

Preapproved Business

Affidavit of John Rowan, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

John Rowan, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am the National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA). The purpose of this affidavit is to comply with the requirements of Article I, Section 4.G. of the VVA Constitution which authorizes VVA's President to submit a question to

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the VVA Board of Directors for a vote in between Board meetings when he determines that the matter requires the Board's immediate attention.

2. On November 27, 2012, a motion requiring VVA’s support were submitted to the Board by e-mail for a vote with instructions that votes are to be returned by 5:00 pm on Thursday, November 29, 2012:

**Motion 1: To join as a named party in a class action: SHEPHERD v. McHUGH, at no cost to VVA, represented by Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization of Yale Law School (Yale).
Motion made and seconded by the Veterans Benefits Committee**

3. On November 30, 2012, the National Secretary notified me that the vote of each Board member who voted on the motions was as follows:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Motion #1</u>
John Rowan	No Vote
Fred Elliott	Y
Bill Meeks, Jr.	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y
Bob Barry	Y
Pat Bessigano	NR
Richard DeLong	Y
Marsha Four	Y
Ken Holybee	Y
Joe Jennings III	A
Allen Manuel	Y
John Margowski	Y
Sara McVicker	Y
John Miner	Y
Charlie Montgomery	Y
Tom Owen	Y
Pete Peterson, Jr.	Y
Jacqui Rector	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y
Pat Toro, Jr.	Y
Sandie Wilson	Y
Herb Worthington, Jr.	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

Yes	21
No	0
Non Vote	1

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Abstaining	1
No Response	1

4. As required by Article I, Section 4.G. of the VVA Constitution, I am filing this Affidavit with the National Secretary within seven (7) days of the Board's vote on the motions.



John Rowan

Preliminary Business

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

Motion 1

**To accept the BOD meeting agenda as amended.
Move the 2013 Convention Planning Committee meeting to Tier III 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm;
Committee Chairs Luncheon will be in the Persimmon Room; and
add VSF to the bottom of New Business.**

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

Motion 2

To accept the BOD meeting minutes from October 5, 2012, in Silver Spring, MD.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Officer's Report:

National President/J. Rowan

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

Welcome to the New Year

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday season. We wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year.

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On October 24th I participated in a Veterans Town Hall run by Rep. Robert Turner. Several veteran leaders were in attendance, including the American Legion Past Commander Wang Fong. Rep. Turner's district was dissolved so he was finishing out his term. The Congressman's home was destroyed during Hurricane Sandy.

I was supposed to travel to Tampa, FL, to meet Marc McCabe to attend the service honoring Charlie Steel Gopher, who had been badly treated by the Army and whose honor was restored by the tenacious actions by Marc to upgrade a bad discharge. Unfortunately, the weather had different ideas. I did manage to get to FL to attend the FL SC meeting and present Marc with a much-deserved VVA Meritorious Service medal on November 1st.

Veteran's Day weekend Mariann and I traveled to Washington with our dogs, Tank and Molly. We stayed by the tent and greeted Vietnam veterans both VVA members and non-members. The new tent is gorgeous and has the VVA Map of Vietnam imprinted on it. This was a big hit, especially with the new American Legion Commander, who liked it so much, that I had a copy sent to him.

The Cornerstone Lodge #178 of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Grand Lodge of New York held their Veterans Night on November 12th. I was the guest speaker. Many of the Brothers are veterans including Joshua Rosenthal, a Sergeant in the NY National Guard. I encourage everyone to reach out to the Masons as a source of support for your initiatives. The NY Grand Lodge's Military Outreach Committee at the behest of Queens Chapter #32 has donated the funds to purchase three flat screens TVs for the St. Albans OPC waiting rooms.

On November 14th I attended the 2012 Suicide Prevention Lifelines Luncheon at the University Club in Manhattan. They focused on veterans. The main speaker was our good friend Buddy Bucha, who gave an intensely personal speech, noting that practitioners had to familiarize themselves with military issues.

On November 16th I attended a Veterans Day Service on Hart Island, which is the site of NYC's Potter's Field. This was originally a Civil War prison and many Union and Confederate soldiers were buried there, only to be later reinterred in a VA cemetery. While we now try to insure that veterans are not buried in Potter's Fields, many were in the early years and this was the first time the City honored them, thanks to the efforts of Council Member Elizabeth Crowley. The property is run by the Dept. of Correction, which utilizes prisoners to bury the indigent. Many of the Officers were veterans, including their Chaplain, who was a combat Marine.

The Thomas Coughlin Brooklyn Chapter 72 had their 30th Anniversary Dinner on November 17th. The catering hall was running on generators thanks to "Sandy." Mariann and I were very glad to meet a number of old friends. Tommy was a personal friend of mine from when we were teenagers. After serving in the Navy, he came home and went to work for the International Association of Theatrical and Stage Employees. When Tommy contracted liver disease, he volunteered as VVA's Metro Council Director and helped form the Brooklyn Chapter of VVA. I was particularly proud of the Chapter when they honored Margaret Coughlin and other Chapter widows.

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On November 28th I represented VVA at the groundbreaking for the Education Center at the Wall. There were many dignitaries in attendance. I had the pleasure of being introduced to Ms. Tulsi Gabbard, who was recently elected to the House from Hawaii. She is a HI NG officer and Iraq combat veteran.

On November 29th Rick Weidman, Carl Tuvlin, and I met with Sen. Sanders (I-VT), who will become the new Chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. Rick has known the Senator for over 30 years. The Senator likes VVA over the old-line organizations, and we should be able to work closely with him on our agenda. VT was the site of one of the first “Faces of Agent Orange” town halls, and Sen. Sanders was in attendance. He is a friend of veterans.

On December 7th I spoke to the Association of County Executives about the value of their County Veteran Service Officers and how they can utilize our Veterans Health Council. I spoke to this group a few years ago. One of the members is Judge F.G. “Buddy” Villines the CEO of Pulaski County, AK. He is a Vietnam veteran who suffers from diabetes and other issues. The last time I told him he was entitled to compensation. He was skeptical but filed with his county VSO. He is now rated 90% and is a firm believer, who spoke on behalf of the VHC.

On December 12th Mariann and I once again attended a Holiday Reception at the White House. There were over 300 others in a wonderful reception. This is one of a dozen of these parties held every year in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The White House was beautifully decorated, including a large ornate crèche in the West Room. A large Christmas tree in the Blue Room was dedicated to the military and their families. When guests entered they were asked to write a card for service members. As usual I met many wonderful people.

Marching Orders for the New Year

Whether it is the UMW, the NAACP, or the NRA, or any other organization in your community, I urge all State Councils, Chapters, even members to reach out to these and similar organizations that can spread the word to the veterans and their families. We can provide you with the necessary VHC materials. Remember no veteran or their spouse or family should be left behind.

National Vice President/F. Elliott

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

October 3 - 6:

✓ Attended the National Board Meeting

October 11:

✓ Attended the Chapter 20 membership meeting

October 14:

✓ Took a tour of the former Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, NY. This was quite a facility with lots of “bunkers” where ammunition and other munitions were stored. And of course, the famous nuclear warheads that the Army still denies were ever there. But the most interesting item was the use of defoliants on the Depot to clear areas for security purposes.

October 21:

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✓ Attended the Pennsylvania State Council Meeting

November 2:

✓ Attended the Monroe County, NY County Executive's Veterans Advisory Committee meeting

November 6:

✓ Participated in the Monroe County Public Library's Oral History Project for veterans

November 10 & 11:

✓ Spent time at the VVA membership tent on the mall in Washington, DC, on both days

✓ Participated in the 30th Anniversary Ceremony at The Wall on Veterans Day

✓ Placed the VVA wreath at The Wall on Veterans Day

December 13:

✓ Helped wrap Holiday gifts for the patients at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center

December 21:

✓ Distributed Holiday gifts and sang Christmas Carols at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center

National Secretary/B. Meeks

Secretary Meeks provided a written report which provided updates on VVA business:

- The National Disciplinary Hearing Panel has rendered the findings on a disciplinary case against member # 325644, and the member's life membership has been revoked.
- The Regional Disciplinary Hearing Panel has rendered the findings on a disciplinary case against member # 024848; the member's life membership has been revoked and the findings further impose that a full restitution of a designated monetary amount be made to the appropriate VVA State Council in a reasonable timeframe.
- Subject to the National BOD's approval of the Disciplinary Rewrite and ratification by the Conference of State Council Presidents at their April 2013 meeting, the 2013 VVA National Disciplinary Policy, along with the new membership tool VVA National Disciplinary Policy by the Numbers will be posted to the Site Map of the VVA web site under Strategic Documents.
- As this is a VVA Convention year, please remember to submit your required VVA reporting (financial & election) to the VVA Membership Department prior to or on the reporting deadline of July 15th and this will insure your delegates (State Council & Chapter) will be seated at the convention.

National Treasurer/W. Reynolds

Treasurer Reynolds provided a written report and here were a few highlights from that report:

1. Represented VVA at the National Observance of Veterans Day in Washington, DC. Assisted at our beautiful new tent with Membership chair, Charlie Hobbs and assisted Secretary Meeks to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, VA.
2. Jim Vale and I reviewed the current contracts for the Service Officer Programs. The contracts are now all between the various State Councils and VVA. VVA has the contract with Veterans Support Foundation (VSF) for partial funding of the State Councils Service Officer Program.

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3. Maintained contact with LTG Kicklighter and his staff regarding VVA's participation in the 50th year Commemoration of the Vietnam War. LTG Kicklighter came to Montgomery, AL, to present a Flag and Certificate to the State of Alabama, the State Council of Alabama and Chapter 1066. Governor Robert Bentley, a life member of VVA, received the certificate of behalf of the State of Alabama and issued a proclamation in support of the Commemoration.
4. Reviewed the status of the \$500,000 donation which was promised to VVA by Ken Fisher at our 2011 National Convention. The commitment to VVA was on behalf of the Fisher Foundation and to date we have only received \$100,000 and the funds are being used by Dr. Berger and with the Veterans Health Council. President Rowan is the contact person for this obligation with the Fisher Foundation and he reported he has attempted to contact the Fisher Foundation several times.
5. The Ruth Mathews Funds are overseen by the VVA Finance Committee and I have served as an advisor on the disposition of the funds. There have been several attempts to have a viable RFP for grants from RMF and the Finance Committee is considering other alternatives.
6. At the direction of President Rowan, we conducted a review of our Information Technology (IT) department. Dr. Robert Lane assisted and we have concluded that we do not need to fill Carol Engle's position as it had existed. We have moved our iMIS server in-house and Ms. Frankie Pressley continues to provide contracted on-site support. Network Express is contracted for our computer network services support. Mike Najarian and Tracie Houston are doing a fantastic job in our IT department.
7. The Veterans Support Foundation (VSF) is supported by VVA. Our staff performs VSF's financial and accounting functions in our VVA facility but we have no contract for these services. We are evaluating the services we perform and have notified VSF that we need to have a contract in place by the April BOD meeting.
8. Dana Terry resigned as VVA's Controller in December. Search criteria have been developed for that position. We are still in the process of refining the specifications of our controller position and expanding our search for the right individual for VVA to employ.
9. I attended the CSCP meeting in Jacksonville, FL, and presented on iMIS and the 50th Commemorative Program.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America/ N. Switzer

AVVA President Switzer provided a verbal report and written report for the meeting minutes:

1. In Memory Plaque: Carl Tuvin, Bill Williams, and I met with the aides for the following Senators:
 1. Senator John Tester
 2. Senator Max Baucus
 3. Senator Mark Udall
 4. Senator Ron Wyden
 5. Senator Sanders

At these meetings we informed and showed pictures of the In Memory Plaque and explained that this was a National Monument and felt disgraced by its condition. Explained that it was

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to be raised and canted. Both Senator Tester and Baucus were very enthusiastic in getting this changed. Additional information was requested from each of the Senator's staff.

2. The 2014 AVVA Budget Cycle is in the process this weekend and to be completed.
3. 2013 AVVA Convention: At our Thursday meeting, we went over all of our needs, Wes came to our meeting. The one thing that needs to be stressed is the fact that this year will be the first that every chapter rep may have a vote, but only if the elections are done correctly. Our election chair, Elayne Mackey, is sending this out to all State Reps/Presidents as well as through our email list.
4. AVVA/VVA coins for our service officer program have generated \$1,500.00.

Conference of State Council Presidents/C. Montgomery

Charlie Montgomery spoke about the CSCP meeting in Jacksonville, FL, and noted 35 of the 46 Presidents attended the meeting. He noted that VVA Chapter 1046 was the host for the meeting and one speaker was Ken Johnson from the City of Jacksonville. The Annual/Winter CSCP meeting for 2014 will be held in Alaska and the proposed CSCP FY 2013/2014 budget was discussed.

HGDP Report/ O. Butcher

Quentin Butcher noted that the 2013 contracts are all signed. The HGDP meeting discussed postal increases, mail cards, rebate vouchers and working on a new corporate relationship.

Veterans Benefits Program Director's Report/J. Vale

Jim Vale spoke about the following items on his written report and provided three (3) charts:

1. Appellate Advocacy Statistics: Since the addition of staff at our BVA office we reduced our backlog from 725 cases in October 2010 to a low of 191 cases in January 2012. Due to staff turnover, the backlog is currently 349 cases, but holding steady. On average our attorneys are working cases received at the Board in September 2012, with a median docket date (date Form 9 was filed) of December 2009. Please notify the Veterans Benefits Dept. of any cases that should be expedited due to severe illness or financial hardship. See attached charts showing our BVA office statistics history. Our Q1 win Ratio improved from 73% to 81% and our denial rate decreased from 27% to 19%.

2. VVA National Claims Statistics for 2011: At the end of FY2012 Q4 VVA had **26,498** POAs. For FY2012 veterans and dependent with VVA POA received a total of **\$53,287,233** in new compensation, pension, & DIC benefits. The estimated running total for all claims under VVA POA in FY2012 is **\$550 to \$560 Million** (official number to be available April 2013).

3. Staff Changes: We have had the following changes in the Veterans Benefits Department: VVA Board of Veterans Appeals Office **Ms. Betty Lam** will begin work at the end of the month as our newest Appellate Attorney, filling the vacancy left by Patrick Corcoran. Her father served as an officer in the RVN, and her husband is currently serving as JAG officer in the US Army.

4. VVA Litigation

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1) CIA Case *Vietnam Veterans of America, et al. v. Central Intelligence Agency, et al.* Case No. CV-09-0037-CW, U.S.D.C. (N.D. Cal. 2009)

UPDATE: On September 30, 2012, class-action status was gathered. VVA and two individuals are the class representatives, and Morrison & Foerster LLP is class counsel. Litigation is ongoing. Trial is set for July 2013 unless earlier resolved.

SEE: <http://www.edgewoodtestvets.org/>

2) FOIA Case *Vietnam Veterans of America Connecticut and Vietnam Veterans of America v. US Dept. of Defense, Dept of Homeland Security and Veteran's Affairs*

UPDATE: Litigation is on-going.

3) “Hamster Wheel” Case (Amicus Brief) *DeLoach v. Shinseki & Greene v. Shinseki*

UPDATE: Oral arguments were heard on the case before the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on July 10, 2012. We are still awaiting a decision.

4) Case challenging VA’s definition of “Spouse” (Amicus Brief) *Cardona v. Shinseki*

UPDATE: This case is before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. A stay was issued on this case on December 18, 2012, while the Supreme Court of the United States hears and decides on *United States v. Windsor*, a case addressing the constitutionality of a section of the Defense of Marriage Act. The Supreme Court’s decision is likely to impact this case.

5) Federal Court challenges to VA’s untimely provision of medical and disability benefits (Amicus brief) *Veterans For Common Sense and Veterans United For Truth, Inc., on Behalf of themselves and their members, Petitioners, v. Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, et al.*

UPDATE: On January 7, 2013, the Supreme Court unfortunately denied the petition to hear arguments on this case. The Ninth Circuit’s decision stands, so veterans are unable to sue in federal district court over systemic challenges to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs’ untimely provision of medical, death and disability benefits. We will continue working with the DVA, the Department of Defense, and Congress on addressing these issues, and provide better outreach to Veterans in distress so their cases may be heard expeditiously.

5. Service Officer Training: NVLSP will be providing advanced service officer trainings for us this spring on topics including special monthly compensation and rating musculoskeletal disabilities. The exact dates are TBD, but will take place this spring. All sessions will be recorded. If you are interested in attending the live presentations in Silver Spring, or have questions on these topics you would like addressed in the training, please contact Lauren Kologe or Jim Vale.

6. VVA-Accredited Representatives List: According to the latest list from VA Office of General Counsel there are 808 VVA accredited representatives nationwide. This is up from 638 last April. We are continuing to update our list.

7. VETPRO Database: We have 77 service officers on VetPro, and are continuing webinar training so we can add more service officers. VetPro and VVA are working with the Veterans Benefits Administration, to discuss VA’s plan to allow for electronic submission of claims by

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VSOs. This has been an ongoing effort since July 2011. VVA was selected to be one of the test VSOs for this process.

8. Proposed VBP Policy Changes: The VBP Policy has not been updated since 2006. The VBP committee is still reviewing proposed updates and expects to have the update completed for vote in April 2013.

9. Service Officer Suspensions/Revocations: One VVA service officer is being reviewed for revocation for cause.

10. VVA Training Website: It was announced at our Advanced Training at the 2012 VVA Leadership Conference that we have launched our VVA Service Officer Training website, at www.benefitsforum.org. This website hosts both our Basic Training and Advanced Training videos. The site also contains a service officer forum, brief bank, and a tab for VetPro and is fully functional. Upgrades were recently made to make the website easier to administer. For more information about online training, and for access to the website, please contact the Veterans Benefits Department.

11. VVA SC GRANTS: On January 3, 2013, **Jerry Klein**, former VBP and former Florida State Council President, presented at the VVA Conference of State Council Presidents Meeting in Jacksonville, FL. He discussed the VVA SC grant process and offered advice and tips for the SCs on how to submit a successful application. Grant request applications for the Oct. 1, 2013-Sept. 30, 2014 grant cycle are due **March 31, 2013** at VVA National. Early submissions are HIGHLY encouraged as there is not enough time for VVA National staff to review last minute submissions.

The **6-Month Report** (which includes, but no limited to, the CFC narrative) for existing grant recipients is due **April 15, 2013** at VVA National. Early submissions are HIGHLY encouraged as there is not enough time for VVA National staff to review last minute reports before the deadline. Those who fail to comply with the terms of the MOU will be subject to loss of funding.

Government Affairs Executive Director/R. Weidman

Rick Weidman spoke about accountability and VVA's legislative agenda. Rick Weidman introduced Kevin Secor who spoke briefly on VVA's work with the VA, noted local government, homeless veterans, and access to VA facilities.

iMIS Presentation/ W. Reynolds

Treasurer Reynolds introduced Robert H. Lane, Ph.D., Principal/CEO of Lane Services, LLC, who does Technology Consulting for Not-for-profits and is an authorized iMIS Fundraising Professional. Dr. Lane spoke about the our iMIS software and the future work to accomplish the true productivity available with iMIS. Treasurer Reynolds introduced Frankie Pressley, PMP who is the Database Administrator for VVA providing solutions and staff training on iMIS.

Meeting recesses: 11:07 am

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Saturday, January 12, 2013 (con't)

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 9:05 am on Saturday, January 12, 2013. National Chaplain Fr. 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	Joe Jennings	Jackie Rector
Fred Elliott, Vice President	Allen Manuel	Dick Southern
Bill Meeks, Secretary	John Margowski	Dan Stenvold
Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer	Sara McVicker	Nancy Switzer *
Bob Barry	John Miner	Pastor Toro
Richard DeLong	Charlie Montgomery	Sandie Wilson
Marsha Four	Tom Owen	Herb Worthington
Ken Holybee	Felix Peterson	Jerry Yamamoto

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

Excused: Judith McCombs and Pat Bessigano
 Also present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO, and Mike Swift, Parliamentarian.

Finance Committee Report

Committee Chairman Ned Foote presented the following motion out of committee:

Motion 3

Move to disburse the remaining funds in the Ruth Mathews Fund (\$480,369) as follows: \$4,000 to each VVA State Council, plus \$4.00 per member, \$2,000 to each independent VVA Chapter - (CO 1075 & 1071, DC 958, Guam 668, Hawaii 858, PI 887, UT 961, WY 99, 849 & 927, plus \$4.00 per member, based on membership numbers as of 2-28-13 and being in good standing.

Amendment by Marsha Four to the motion: To amendment Motion 3 to reduce the amount of total distributed to State Councils \$4,000 to \$3,000 with a distribution of \$50,000 to the VVA Faces of Agent Orange Project within the Communication Department.

President Rowan stated this would be a roll call vote and Secretary Meeks recorded the votes:

<u>Board Members</u> <u>Roll Call Vote</u>	<u>Motion 3</u> <u>Finance Committee</u> <u>Ruth Mathews Fund</u>			
	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>NV</u>	<u>NP</u>
John Rowan			X	
Fred Elliott	X			
Bill Meeks	X			

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Wayne Reynolds	X			
Bob Barry	X			
Pat Bessigano				X
Richard DeLong	X			
Marsha Four	X			
Ken Holybee	X			
Joe Jennings	X			
Allen Manuel		X		
John Margowski		X		
Sara McVicker	X			
John Miner	X			
Charlie Montgomery	X			
Felix Peterson	X			
Tom Owen	X			
Jackie Rector	X			
Dick Southern	X			
Dan Stenvold	X			
Pastor Toro	X			
Sandie Wilson	X			
Herb Worthington	X			
Jerry Yamamoto	X			
	Yes 20			
	No 2			
	Non Vote 1			
	Not Present 1			

To amend Motion 3 passed.

Vice President Elliott presented the following motion:

Motion 4

To postpone distribution of the funds until April National BOD meeting.

President Rowan stated this would be a roll call vote and Secretary Meeks recorded the votes:

<u>Board Members</u> <u>Roll Call Vote</u>	<u>Motion 4</u> <u>Fred Elliott</u> <u>To Postpone</u>			
	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>NV</u>	<u>NP</u>
John Rowan			X	
Fred Elliott	X			
Bill Meeks		X		
Wayne Reynolds		X		
Bob Barry		X		
Pat Bessigano				X
Richard DeLong		X		
Marsha Four		X		
Ken Holybee		X		
Joe Jennings		X		
Allen Manuel		X		
John Margowski		X		
Sara McVicker		X		
John Miner		X		
Charlie Montgomery		X		

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Felix Peterson		X		
Tom Owen		X		
Jackie Rector		X		
Dick Southern		X		
Dan Stenvold		X		
Pastor Toro		X		
Sandie Wilson	X			
Herb Worthington		X		
Jerry Yamamoto		X		
		Yes 2		
		No 20		
		Non Vote 1		
		Not Present 1		

Motion 4 to postpone failed.

Motion 3A

**Motion to disburse the remaining funds in the Ruth Mathews Fund as previously amended:
A distribution of \$50,000 to the VVA Faces of Agent Orange Project within the
Communication Department, \$3,000 to each VVA State Council, plus \$4.00 per member,
\$2,000 to each independent VVA Chapter - (CO 1075 & 1071, DC 958, Guam 668, Hawaii
858, PI 887, UT 961, WY 99, 849 & 927, plus \$4.00 per member, based on membership
numbers as of 2-28-13 and being in good standing.**

President Rowan stated this would be a roll call vote and Secretary Meeks recorded the votes:

<u>Board Members</u> <u>Roll Call Vote</u>	<u>Motion 3A</u>			
	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>NV</u>	<u>NP</u>
John Rowan			X	
Fred Elliott	X			
Bill Meeks	X			
Wayne Reynolds	X			
Bob Barry	X			
Pat Bessigano				X
Richard DeLong	X			
Marsha Four	X			
Ken Holybee	X			
Joe Jennings	X			
Allen Manuel	X			
John Margowski	X			
Sara McVicker	X			
John Miner	X			
Charlie Montgomery	X			
Felix Peterson	X			
Tom Owen	X			
Jackie Rector	X			
Dick Southern	X			
Dan Stenvold	X			
Pastor Toro	X			
Sandie Wilson		X		
Herb Worthington	X			
Jerry Yamamoto	X			
				Yes 21

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	No 1 Non Vote 1 Not Present 1
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Motion 3A as amended passed.

Reports

Veterans Health Council/Dr. T. Berger

- on Tuesday, VHC received a donation of \$7,500 from Bill Nelson, former CEO of HBO, Inc.
- on November 9th joint Lung Cancer Alliance/VVA program at Walter Reed Medical Center for kickoff of lung cancer screening campaign
- on-going efforts with various partners re: Affordable Care Act – essential health benefits, state insurance exchanges, Medicare Part B (prescription drugs), reimbursement for Medicare docs (the so-called “doc fix”), efforts to combat Medicaid fraud, and prostate cancer screening guidelines
- attended The White House Interagency Task Force on Military and Veterans Mental Health
- attended meeting with DoD Community Action Team re: military suicide risk prevention
- named to the National Crisis Center Advisory Board
- presented testimony before FDA re: prescription pain relievers that contain acetaminophen and its impact on liver failure amongst Vietnam veterans
- partnership with Janssen Biotech’s “Veterans Initiative” re: national prostate cancer screening campaign

National Meetings and Special Events/W. Guidry

Wes Guidry announced that the 2016 VVA Leadership Conference would be held at the Hilton El Conquistador in Tucson, AZ. He asked that reservations by the Board Members for the VVA Convention be made after the April 2013 BOD meeting.

National Chaplain/Fr. Salois

Fr. Salois spoke about working with veterans on PTSD at last November’s retreat in MD, this year’s retreat in Dickerson, TX, and the weekly mailing of Taps notices provided by VVA staff.

Legacies of War/ R. Phenneger

Herb Worthington introduced Richard E. Phenneger who spoke about his research that has uncovered irrefutable evidence that Vietnam Veterans have been victims of a decades-long scheme to conceal the know effects of Agent Orange, and that the government, up to and including the executive offices of the president, then covered its tracks by systematically manipulating scientific data. On behalf of VVA Herb Worthington presented Richard Phenneger with an Honorary Life Membership.

Committee – MOTIONS ONLY

Constitution – L. DeLong – None

Economic Opportunities – F. Barry submitted the following motion:

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Motion 5

The VVA go on record requesting the Center for Veterans Enterprise take a 90 day hiatus to fix the pattern & practice of Veterans Small Business verification with the assistance of Congress & the White House.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Minority Affairs – J. Yamamoto – None

Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons - None

POW/MIA – R. DeLong - None

Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs submitted the following motion:

Motion 6

To accept the newly created trifold membership application with the following change: delete the entire paragraph “VVA is a “home of our own” – a community of fellowship with people who share your experiences, needs, and hopes for the future. We are rebuilding the camaraderie of Vietnam veterans and providing a sense of self-worth and pride in service.”

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Public Affairs – T. Burke submitted the following motion:

Motion 7

VVA Incorporated hereby endorses the establishment of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the town of Ennis County Clare, Ireland to honor the sacrifice of those Irish Citizens who served with U.S. Forces in Vietnam.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Veterans Incarcerated – T.P. Hubert - None

Veterans Benefits – J. Margowski - None

PTSD and Substance Abuse- Dr. T. Hall - None

Women Veterans – None

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Homeless Veterans – None

Veterans Healthcare – S. Wilson - None

Government Affairs – R. Davidge – None

Resolutions – D. Southern - None

Agent Orange/Dioxin – H. Worthington submitted the following motions:

Motion 8

To appoint Tom Owen as a member to the Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee at no cost to National.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 9

To add to the Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee a sub-committee called “The Legacy of Toxic Exposures in War” with the project of Faces of Agent Orange as the information gathering project of The Legacy of Toxic Exposures in War Committee.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 10

To appoint Sandie Wilson and Ken Holybee as co-chairs of “Legacy of Toxic Exposures” sub-committee along with Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee Chair Herb Worthington providing guidance for the Faces of Agent Orange Project and Town Hall Meetings.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Lunch: 11:45 pm

New Business

Chapter Charter Revocation:

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

Motion 11

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To approve the Consent Calendar Motions

1. **Motion from National Secretary to revoke the charters of Chapters 128 (TN), 518 (ME), 545 (NV), 627 (VA), 880 (CA), and 934 (KS) at the request of the CA SCP, NV SCP, TN SCP, ME SCP, VA SCP, and KS SCP. The State Councils have done all they needed to do to keep the Chapters active and the efforts have failed to rejuvenate the members.**
2. **Motion from the Constitution Committee to add Michael Swift as a Special Advisor, to remove Bill Messer from the Constitution Committee and to change the committee member status of Craig Tonjes to Special Advisor at no cost to VVA.**
3. **Motion from Minority Affairs Committee to appoint Pat Toro as a member of the Committee at no cost to VVA.**
4. **Motion from the Constitution Committee to add Ken Holybee as a member – change status from advisor to member.**

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 1:30 pm.

Unfinished Business

Policy on Use of the VVA and AVVA Marks: Secretary Meeks provided update on revisions to the policy.

New Business

DoD Commemorative Partner Statement of Understanding: Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

Motion 12

To enter into a Statement of Understanding with the Department of Defense as a Commemorative Partner on the Vietnam War Commemoration.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Amended Corporate Printing Policy: Vice President Elliott submitted the following motion:

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Corporate Printing Policy
January 12, 2013**

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Definitions:

Photocopying: Work that is done on any of the machines located within the national office whether it is duplication of existing documents or the production of new documents from electronic files sent to the machine.

Printing: Work that necessitates the use of an outside vendor to produce the quality and quantity desired for the particular project. Such projects may be the production of the VVA Annual Report, VVA's Agent Orange Self-Help Guide, or other documents that require a more professional appearance.

Budgeting:

All VVA Cost Center managers that anticipate the need for photocopying or printing within a given VVA Fiscal Year must include a budget amount on the appropriate budget line with the necessary justification when submitting the proposed Cost Center budget for the upcoming budget year.

When budgeting for **photocopying** you need only budget for the number of copies you anticipate in black/white or color.

When budgeting for **printing** you must include and specify the cost of design, authorship, formatting, delivery, material, the number of copies to be produced, sales tax, etc. Once the bids have been received, the cost center manager will determine the best vendor based on cost, quality, and delivery time. Cost Center managers must have documentation available to support their requested amounts for printing.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2014, all lease expenses for the photocopying machines will be charged as an expense to the "owning" departments.

Internal Costs:

All costs below are for one-sided copying. If budgeting for two-sided copies, the cost must be doubled.

The "700 Copier" in the second floor copy room is charged out at \$0.013 for each black & white copy and at \$0.049 for each color copy.

The "7655" Copier on the first floor near the receptionist is charged out at \$0.011 for each black & white copy and at \$0.0118 for each color copy.

The "Membership Copier" is charged out at \$0.009 for each black & white copy and at \$0.069 for each color copy.

The remaining copiers are charged out at \$0.013 for each black & white copy. No color.

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Information Technology will maintain a spreadsheet for each photocopying machine in the national office. Each spreadsheet will provide the name of the individual responsible for the photocopies (by Department), the number of black & white and/or color copies made, the cost per copy, and the total cost for each person in the department, and the department's total cost for the copies. Each month, IT will provide a copy of the spreadsheet to all cost centers.

Each month, using the spreadsheet provided by the IT Department, the Finance Department will assign photocopying and printing costs to each cost center.

Approvals:

Photocopying: a Cost Center's budget line for photocopying is approved by the National Board of Directors as a part of the annual budget. If/when the Cost Center Manager anticipates that photocopying expenses will exceed the approved budgeted amount, and such additional photocopying expenses cannot be absorbed within the overall cost center budget, the cost center manager must submit a fully justified request to the Finance Committee for approval for either additional funds or approval to overspend the approved budget.

Printing: a Cost Center's budget line for printing is approved by the National Board of Directors as a part of the annual budget. However, printing projects which are not detailed in the budget justification, or which were denied, require approval by the Finance Committee even if sufficient funds are available within the cost center's approved budget.

Requests from State Councils and Chapters:

All requests from State Councils and Chapters for printed/photocopied materials will be directed to the Communications Department. Whenever a request is received from a State Council or Chapter, it must be explained that VVA requires a minimum of a ten day turn-around period to produce and ship the requested materials.

VVA will **NOT** maintain stock supplies of materials which are photocopied in-house. All requests for bulk photocopying, whether from State Councils, Chapters, National Committees, or VVA National Departments will be managed on a "just-in-time" basis.

Stock supplies of materials printed by outside vendors will be stored in locked cabinets either within the Communications Department or within the VVA National Department whose budget pays for the production of the materials. The Communications Department will coordinate with the producing department or committee regarding stock levels. All requests for printing must originate from the Cost Center Manager whose Department budget will be charged.

A log will be created and maintained by the Communications Department of all requests noting the requestor, the date the request was made, the date the materials are needed, the title/s of the materials requested, the quantity of the materials requested, and the date the materials are actually shipped. Additionally, the Communications Department will provide a monthly report to the Finance Committee and to each Department or Committee which produces printed and/or photocopied materials for distribution specifying the number of each document provided during

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the previous month and a summary of the entities requesting documents provided to each. Data on Chapter requests should include the Chapter's number and its state/jurisdiction.

All materials requested by, and sent to, State Councils and Chapters shall be at no cost to the requestor.

Shipping:

The shipment of materials to State Councils and Chapters should always be done at the lowest cost possible. All shipping costs will be charged to the Communications Department which will provide a monthly report to the Finance Committee detailing the costs by method of shipping; e.g. USPS, UPS, FedEx, etc.

~~This Policy replaces any and all previously existing VVA Corporate Printing Policies.~~

Motion 13

**To approve the revised "VVA Corporate Printing Policy – January 2013" as presented.
Without objection motion passed.**

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Revisions to VVA Personnel Policy: Vice President Elliott submitted the following motions:

Motion 14

**To revised "G. Recognition of Service" on page 18 of the VVA Personnel Policy as follows:
to change "continuous service" on each of the lines to "total service" to bring this section
into line with section "F. Seniority" on page 7..**

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 15

To amend Paragraph 7 of Subsection O of Section VIII of the VVA Personnel Policy:

7. Paternity Leave. Paternity leave is three weeks of paid leave for participating in the birth or adoption of your child or providing newborn care to your child. Paternity leave may be taken at your choice during the period ending five weeks after the child's birth. ~~consists of three weeks paid leave, to be taken at your choice consecutively with advance notice to your immediate supervisor. Such advance notice must be accompanied by appropriate medical certification from the physician of the pregnant woman.~~ Eligibility for paternity leave begins

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after one year of continuous employment and may be taken in conjunction with annual leave in order to extend the leave period.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 16

To amend Paragraph 1 of Subsection Q of Section VIII of the VVA Personnel Policy:

1. Family Leave. This leave is to attend to an ill family member i.e., spouse, child or parent, or other event such as **participating in the birth or adoption of one's child or providing newborn care to one's child up to 16 workweeks after birth** ~~child adoption or foster parenting~~. You are entitled to a total of 16 workweeks of unpaid family leave **for each such event.**

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Veterans Support Foundation (VSF): Treasurer Reynolds noted that the Veterans Support Foundation (VSF) financial and accounting functions done by our staff in our facility. We have an MOU with VSF for the Veterans Service Officer Program and no contract for these services. We are evaluating the services we perform for VSF and we need to have a contract with VSF for the services in place by the April BOD meeting.

Code of Disciplinary Policy & Procedures: Secretary Meeks gave some background on the rewrite of the Code and answered questions on the recommended verbiage in sub-paragraph 2 under Misconduct: 2. *Conviction of a Crime, if the person convicted is an officer, director or member and his or her continuation in office or as a member is harmful to the reputation of the Corporation.* The Board of Directors after a lengthy discussion determined that sub-paragraph 1 does cover criminal conduct that causes harm to VVA's reputation. There was further discussion on the document title.

Director Holybee submitted the following motion:

Motion 17

To remove sub-paragraph 2 from Section 1, Paragraph A.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Director McVicker submitted the following motion:

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Motion 18

To change the name of the document presented as “VVA Code of Disciplinary Policy & Procedures” to “VVA National Disciplinary Policy.”

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motions:

Motion 19

To approve the amended VVA National Disciplinary Policy pending ratification by the Conference of State Council Presidents at their April 2013 meeting.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 20

To approve the amended VVA National Disciplinary Policy by the Numbers pending ratification by the Conference of State Council Presidents at their April 2013 meeting.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Committee Reports Only:

Written reports (digital requested) submitted to National Secretary

Constitution – L. DeLong – provided a written report.

Economic Opportunities – F. Barry – provided a written and a verbal report.

Minority Affairs – J. Yamamoto – provided a verbal report.

Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons – provided a verbal report.

POW/MIA – R. DeLong – provided a verbal report.

Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs – provided a verbal report and written report.

Public Affairs – T. Burke – provided a verbal report.

Veterans Incarcerated – T.P. Hubert – provided a verbal report and written report.

Veterans Benefits – J. Margowski – provided a written and a verbal report.

PTSD and Substance Abuse – Dr. T. Hall - provided verbal report.

Women Veterans – M. Four – provided a verbal report.

Homeless Veterans – S. Miller – provided a verbal report.

Veterans Healthcare – S. Wilson – provided a verbal report.

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Government Affairs – R. Davidge – provided a verbal report.

Resolutions – D. Southern – provided a verbal report.

Agent Orange/Dioxin H. Worthington – provided a verbal report.

Rules – D. Stenvold – provided a verbal report.

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Meeks, Jr.

National Secretary

Approved: 04/19/13