



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 October 11, 2013 Approved by Board

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Friday October 11, 2013, at 9:09 am, at the Sheraton Hotel in Silver Spring, MD. National Treasurer Wayne Reynolds 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
Marsha Four, Vice President
Bill Meeks, Secretary
Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer
Bob Barry
Linda Blankenship
Dennis Cohoon
Richard DeLong

Charlie Hobbs
Sharon Hobbs *
Joe Jennings
Allen Manuel
John Margowski
Sara McVicker
John Miner
Charlie Montgomery

Tom Owen
Jim Pace
Felix Peterson
Dick Southern
Dan Stenvold
Pastor Toro
Herb Worthington
Jerry Yamamoto

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

Absent: Joe Kristek, Director, Father Phil Salois, National Chaplain and Mike Swift, Parliamentarian

Also present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO.

Secretary Meeks conducted roll call of the State Council Presidents. Present were:

Alabama	Present	Montana	Present
Alaska	Absent	Nebraska	Present
Arizona	Present	Nevada	Present
Arkansas	Present	New Hampshire	Absent
California	Present	New Jersey	Present
Colorado	Present	New Mexico	Present
Connecticut	Absent	New York	Present
Delaware	Absent	North Carolina	Present

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

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 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 August 26, 2013, the following motions relative to the committee chairs and committee appointments were submitted to the Board by e-mail for a vote by e-mail or fax with instructions that votes are returned to LaVonnia Cogdell by close of business August 28, 2013:

Motion 1: To approve Herb Worthington as Chair of the Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 2: To approve Leslie DeLong as Chair of the Constitution Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 3: To approve Jim Blount as Chair of the Credentials Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 4: To approve Frank Barry as Chair of the Economic Opportunities Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 5: To approve Scott DeArman as Chair of the Elections Committee..

Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 6: To approve Ned Foote as Chair of the Finance Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 7: To approve Felix “Pete” Peterson as Chair of the Government Affairs Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 8: To approve Sandy Miller as Chair of the Homeless Veterans Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 9: To approve Tom Corey as Chair of the Household Goods Donation Program.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 10: To approve Pat Toro as Chair of the National Leadership Conference/Convention Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 11: To approve Charlie Hobbs as Chair of the Membership Affairs Committee
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 12: To approve Jerry Yamamoto as Chair of the Minority Affairs Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 13: To approve Al “Butch” Huber as Chair of the National Disciplinary Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 14: To approve Richard DeLong as Chair of the POW/MIA Committee
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 15: To approve Dr. Tom Hall as Chair of the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/Substance Abuse Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 16: To approve Tom Burke as Chair of the Public Affairs Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).


Motion 17: To approve Dick Southern as Chair of the Resolutions Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 18: To approve Dan Stenvold as Chair of the Rules Committee.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

Motion 19: To approve David Simmons as Chair of the Veterans Against Drugs Task Force.
Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

- Motion 20: To approve John Margowski as Chair of the Veterans Benefits Committee. Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).
- Motion 21: To approve Pat Bessigano as Chair of the Veterans Health Care Committee. Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).
- Motion 22: To approve Dr. Tom Berger as Executive Director, Veterans Health Council. Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).
- Motion 23: To approve Terry Hubert as Chair of the Veterans Incarcerated Committee. Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).
- Motion 24: To approve Kate O' Hare-Palmer as Chair of the Women Veterans Committee. Motion made by J. Rowan; seconded by B. Meeks; (passed).

3. On August 28, 2013, the National Secretary notified me that the vote of each Board member who voted on the motions was as follows:



 John Rowan

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Agent Orange</u> <u>H. Worthington</u>	<u>Constitution</u> <u>L. DeLong</u>	<u>Credentials</u> <u>J. Blount</u>
John Rowan			
Marsh Four	Y	Y	Y
Bill Meeks	Y	Y	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y	Y	Y
Bob Barry	Y	Y	Y
Linda Blankenship	Y	Y	Y
Dennis Cohoon	NR	NR	NR
Richard DeLong	Y	Y	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y	Y	Y
Joe Jennings	Y	Y	Y
Joe Kristek	Y	Y	Y
Allen Manuel	Y	Y	Y
John Margowski	Y	Y	Y
Sara McVicker	Y	Y	Y
John Miner	Y	Y	Y
Charles Montgomery	Y	Y	Y
Tom Owen	Y	Y	Y
Jim Pace	Y	Y	Y
Felix Peterson	Y	Y	Y
Dick Southern	Y	Y	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y	Y	Y

Pat Toro	Y	Y	Y
Herb Worthington	Y	Y	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y	Y	Y

Results

Yes	22	22	22
No	0	0	0
Abstain	0	0	0
No Response	1	1	1

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Economic Oppt.</u> <u>F. Barry</u>	<u>Elections</u> <u>S. DeArman</u>	<u>Finance</u> <u>N. Foote</u>
John Rowan			
Marsh Four	Y	Y	Y
Bill Meeks	Y	Y	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y	Y	Y
Bob Barry	Y	Y	Y
Linda Blankenship	Y	Y	Y
Dennis Cohoon	NR	NR	NR
Richard DeLong	Y	Y	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y	Y	Y
Joe Jennings	Y	Y	Y
Joe Kristek	Y	Y	Y
Allen Manuel	Y	Y	Y
John Margowski	Y	Y	Y
Sara McVicker	Y	Y	Y
John Miner	Y	Y	Y
Charles Montgomery	Y	Y	Y
Tom Owen	Y	Y	Y
Jim Pace	Y	Y	Y
Felix Peterson	Y	Y	Y
Dick Southern	Y	Y	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y	Y	Y
Pat Toro	Y	Y	Y
Herb Worthington	Y	Y	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y	Y	Y

Results

Yes	22	22	22
No	0	0	0
Abstain	0	0	0
No Response	1	1	1

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Gov't Affairs</u> <u>F. Peterson</u>	<u>Homeless</u> <u>Veterans</u> <u>S. Miller</u>	<u>HGDP</u> <u>T. Corey</u>
John Rowan			
Marsh Four	Y	Y	Y
Bill Meeks	Y	Y	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y	Y	Y
Bob Barry	Y	Y	Y
Linda Blankenship	Y	Y	Y
Dennis Cohoon	NR	NR	NR
Richard DeLong	Y	Y	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y	Y	Y
Joe Jennings	Y	Y	Y
Joe Kristek	Y	Y	Y
Allen Manuel	Y	Y	Y
John Margowski	Y	Y	Y
Sara McVicker	Y	Y	Y
John Miner	Y	Y	Y
Charles Montgomery	Y	Y	Y
Tom Owen	Y	Y	Y
Jim Pace	Y	Y	Y
Felix Peterson	Y	Y	Y
Dick Southern	Y	Y	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y	Y	Y
Pat Toro	Y	Y	Y
Herb Worthington	Y	Y	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y	Y	Y

Results

Yes	22	22	22
No	0	0	0
Abstain	0	0	0
No Response	1	1	1

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Leadership/Conv.</u> <u>P. Toro</u>	<u>Membership</u> <u>C. Hobbs</u>	<u>Minority</u> <u>J. Yamamoto</u>
John Rowan			
Marsh Four	Y	Y	Y
Bill Meeks	Y	Y	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y	Y	Y
Bob Barry	Y	Y	Y
Linda Blankenship	Y	Y	Y
Dennis Cohoon	NR	NR	NR
Richard DeLong	Y	Y	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y	Y	Y

Joe Jennings	Y	Y	Y
Joe Kristek	Y	Y	Y
Allen Manuel	Y	Y	Y
John Margowski	Y	Y	Y
Sara McVicker	Y	Y	Y
John Miner	Y	Y	Y
Charles Montgomery	Y	Y	Y
Tom Owen	Y	Y	Y
Jim Pace	Y	Y	Y
Felix Peterson	Y	Y	Y
Dick Southern	Y	Y	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y	Y	Y
Pat Toro	Y	Y	Y
Herb Worthington	Y	Y	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y	Y	Y

Results

Yes	22	22	22
No	0	0	0
Abstain	0	0	0
No Response	1	1	1

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Disciplinary A. Huber</u>	<u>POW/MIA R. DeLong</u>	<u>PTSD &SA Dr. T. Hall</u>
John Rowan			
Marsh Four	Y	Y	Y
Bill Meeks	Y	Y	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y	Y	Y
Bob Barry	Y	Y	Y
Linda Blankenship	Y	Y	Y
Dennis Cohoon	NR	NR	NR
Richard DeLong	Y	Y	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y	Y	Y
Joe Jennings	Y	Y	Y
Joe Kristek	Y	Y	Y
Allen Manuel	Y	Y	Y
John Margowski	Y	Y	Y
Sara McVicker	Y	Y	Y
John Miner	Y	Y	Y
Charles Montgomery	Y	Y	Y
Tom Owen	Y	Y	Y
Jim Pace	Y	Y	Y
Felix Peterson	Y	Y	Y
Dick Southern	Y	Y	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y	Y	Y

Pat Toro	Y	Y	Y
Herb Worthington	Y	Y	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y	Y	Y

Results

Yes	22	22	22
No	0	0	0
Abstain	0	0	0
No Response	1	1	1

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Public Affairs</u> <u>T. Burke</u>	<u>Resolutions</u> <u>D. Southern</u>	<u>Rules</u> <u>D. Stenvold</u>
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John Rowan			
Marsh Four	Y	Y	Y
Bill Meeks	Y	Y	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y	Y	Y
Bob Barry	Y	Y	Y
Linda Blankenship	A	Y	Y
Dennis Cohoon	NR	NR	NR
Richard DeLong	Y	Y	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y	Y	Y
Joe Jennings	Y	Y	Y
Joe Kristek	Y	Y	Y
Allen Manuel	Y	Y	Y
John Margowski	Y	Y	Y
Sara McVicker	Y	Y	Y
John Miner	Y	Y	Y
Charles Montgomery	Y	Y	Y
Tom Owen	Y	Y	Y
Jim Pace	Y	Y	Y
Felix Peterson	Y	Y	Y
Dick Southern	Y	Y	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y	Y	Y
Pat Toro	Y	Y	Y
Herb Worthington	Y	Y	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y	Y	Y

Results

Yes	21	22	22
No	0	0	0
Abstain	1	0	0
No Response	1	1	1

<u>Vets Against</u>	<u>Vets Benefits</u>	<u>Vets Healthcare</u>
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<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Drugs</u> <u>D. Simmons</u>	<u>J.</u> <u>Margowski</u>	<u>P. Bessigano</u>
John Rowan			
Marsh Four	Y	Y	Y
Bill Meeks	Y	Y	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y	Y	Y
Bob Barry	Y	Y	Y
Linda Blankenship	Y	Y	Y
Dennis Cohoon	NR	NR	NR
Richard DeLong	Y	Y	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y	Y	Y
Joe Jennings	Y	Y	Y
Joe Kristek	Y	Y	Y
Allen Manuel	Y	Y	Y
John Margowski	Y	Y	Y
Sara McVicker	Y	Y	Y
John Miner	Y	Y	Y
Charles Montgomery	Y	Y	Y
Tom Owen	Y	Y	Y
Jim Pace	Y	Y	Y
Felix Peterson	Y	Y	Y
Dick Southern	Y	Y	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y	Y	Y
Pat Toro	Y	Y	Y
Herb Worthington	Y	Y	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y	Y	Y

Results

Yes	22	22	22
No	0	0	0
Abstain	0	0	0
No Response	1	1	1

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Vets Health</u> <u>Council</u> <u>Dr. Berger</u>	<u>Vets</u> <u>Incarcerated</u> <u>T. Hubert</u>	<u>Women Vets</u> <u>K. O'Hare-</u> <u>Palmer</u>
John Rowan			
Marsh Four	Y	Y	Y
Bill Meeks	Y	Y	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y	Y	Y
Bob Barry	Y	Y	Y
Linda Blankenship	Y	Y	Y
Dennis Cohoon	NR	NR	NR
Richard DeLong	Y	Y	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y	Y	Y
Joe Jennings	Y	Y	Y

Joe Kristek	Y	Y	Y
Allen Manuel	Y	Y	Y
John Margowski	Y	Y	Y
Sara McVicker	Y	Y	Y
John Miner	N	Y	Y
Charles Montgomery	Y	Y	Y
Tom Owen	Y	Y	Y
Jim Pace	Y	Y	Y
Felix Peterson	Y	Y	Y
Dick Southern	Y	Y	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y	Y	Y
Pat Toro	Y	Y	Y
Herb Worthington	Y	Y	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y	Y	Y

Results

Yes	21	22	22
No	1	0	0
Abstain	0	0	0
No Response	1	1	1

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 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 September 10, 2013, the Finance Committee Chair had requested Board approval for the appointment of members to the Finance Committee; the following motion was put before the Board and was asked to e-mail their vote to the national office by 4 p.m. on September 13, 2013:

Motion 1: Move to approve the following individuals as members of the 2013 – 2015 VVA Finance Committee at no cost to VVA: Sara McVicker as Vice Chair; Dottie Barickman, Tom Burke, Allen Manuel, and Jim Pace as members; Wayne Reynolds, VVA National Treasurer as Special Advisor.

3. On September 13, 2013, the National Secretary notified me that the vote of each Board member who voted on the motion was as follows:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Motion #1</u>
John Rowan	No Vote

Marsha Four	Y
Bill Meeks, Jr.	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y
Bob Barry	Y
Linda Blankenship	Y
Dennis Cohoon	A
Richard DeLong	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y
Joe Jennings, III	NR
Joe Kristek	E
Allen Manuel	Y
John Margowski	Y
Sara McVicker	Y
John Miner	N
Charlie Montgomery	N
Tom Owen	Y
Jim Pace	A
Felix Pete Peterson, Jr.	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y
Pat Toro, Jr.	Y
Herb Worthington	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

Results	
Yes	17
No	2
Abstention	2
Excused	1
Non Vote	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 stated there were twenty-five (25) motions in Preapproved Business and submitted the following motion after striking an item under the Finance Committee.

Motion 26
To accept the BOD meeting agenda as amended.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motions:

Motion 27

To accept the BOD meeting minutes from August 13, 2013 in Jacksonville, FL.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 28

To accept the BOD meeting minutes from August 17, 2013 in Jacksonville, FL.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

National President/J. Rowan

President Rowan will submit a written report and gave a verbal report:

After the Convention, I underwent a procedure at the Manhattan VAMC to blast some kidney stones. Everything went well although it took a while to recover.

AFL-CIO Convention

September 8-12 Tom Berger and I attended the AFL-CIO's National Convention in Los Angeles. We shared an exhibit space with the Union Veterans Council (UVC). The AFL-CIO is attempting to identify all veterans in unions. Many of the major unions have created veterans groups within them in an effort to reach out to them. The UVC Chairman is J. David Cox, the President of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), which is the main union for VA employees.

President Cox is an old friend of VVA's and wants to work with us through our Veterans Health Council. While at the convention Tom and I met lots of veteran leaders, who were very interested in learning about the health issues facing veterans. We even presented at a seminar attended by about 40+ leaders.

We were joined in our booth by Gordon Pavey, who retired from the AFL-CIO, having worked with the UVC. Gordon is a VVA member living in Silver Spring and had agreed to help us in our association with the UVC.

President Cox also agreed to set up meetings with VA staffers from around the country and VVA to discuss the inner working of VHA and VBA.

New York SC

Mariann and I traveled to Owego, NY to attend the VVA NYSC meeting. The delegates were very interested in our work with the UVC and utilizing the VHC as part of their outreach effort, including working with the NAACP. I also talked to leaders of a Veterans of Modern Warfare chapter that are operating in Western NY. They are concerned about the viability of VMW and their future.

Headquarters

On September 24-26 I worked at the headquarters accompanied by VP Marsha Four. We dealt with several issues, including some reorganization plans for the Membership Department.

We met with AO Committee Chair Herb Worthington and Mokie Porter to develop an agenda for the Legacies of AO as we go forward to develop legislation for our children and grand-children.

We had lunch with Brian Kelleher our friend in the Hilton chain who set up the wounded warrior dinners.

Gordon Pavey stopped by to discuss some ideas on how we can work with the UVC. This will be a valuable relationship.

National Vice President/M. Four

Vice President Four submitted a written report and gave a verbal report:

National Office

August 27 thru 30, 2013

On August 27 I arrived to organize files, obtain phone and internet access and meet with the staff. Over the three and a half days I met with the leadership and staff of each department to discuss my position at the National Office as directed by the President and to have open conversations about the departments' activities and any barriers or obstacles they face. I will be meeting with the Department Directors monthly. This is a new process that has not been utilized for some time, if at all. Full staff meetings will also be held monthly.

September 24 thru 26, 2013

The first Directors' meeting was held with good participation in the exchange of ideas and expressed interest in continuing this helpful and healthy dialogue. A full staff meeting was held. The meeting is to be time well spent on ideas, overcoming hurdles, creating opportunities, staff development, and input on innovative thoughts. Staff meet with me privately to discuss items of concern they would prefer not to talk about in the open staff meetings.

Mary Stout provided me with an evaluation of gaps and possible improvements to be instituted in the Membership Department. This was provided to President Rowan. I was involved with attending meetings with President Rowan on issues related to the Membership Department. I was included in meetings with President Rowan and the following: AO Committee Chair, Herb Worthington; Finance Committee Chair, Ned Foote; Brian Kelleher of the Hilton Hotel corporation; Gordon Pavey, retired AFL-CIO and VVA member;

Activities

- Provide Women Veterans Chair with committee Transition information.
- Transported Committee materials to Nat'l Office for new Chair and historical filing.
- Conversation with President, Rolling Thunder 1 NJ regarding Agent Orange, the Faces of Agent Orange, Toxic Exposure, our legacy and possible legislation. He is interested in learning more and attending a town hall meeting.
- Begun a review of the Employee Handbook.
- Working to provide a VVA picture for distribution on Veterans Day for 20th Anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial
- Attended Faces of Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting.
- Participating in conference calls with VVA, IAVA and SWAN (Service Women's Action Network) organizing a network to advocate for Senator Gillibrand's Senate Resolution, Military Justice Improvement Act.
- Evaluating the National Office security system, alarms, staff safety, fire drills.
- Requested: VA Crisis Line phone number be placed on all National Office phones.
- Investigating alternative or addition of Q-giv. VVA now uses Pay Pal
- Began conversations with Public Affairs Committee Chair on review of web site and web pages.

National Secretary/B. Meeks

Secretary Meeks submitted a written report:

Please consider this progress report as a tool to further enhance the communication level between the BOD and the membership:

- There are two (2) disciplinary cases in Region 4 and the cases will proceed to a disciplinary hearing.
- There are fourteen (14) VVA Chapters on VVA suspension (SI) (tax-exempt status revoked by the IRS) and thirty-seven (37) VVA Chapters on VVA suspension for not submitting the required VVA reporting (election or financial or both).
- There are forty-five (45) Honorary Life Members HLM listed in the VVA database.
- The amended VVA Constitution is posted on the VVA web site under Strategic Documents for your benefit.

National Treasurer/W. Reynolds

Treasurer Reynolds submitted a written report:

Since the last National Convention last August I have been involved in carrying out the Duties as National Treasurer. Among other activities, I have done the following.

1. Maintained close contact with the other National Officers through e-mail and telephone.
2. Came to the National Office September 18 and 19 and met with the office staff.
3. Met with Fox and Associates in Chicago with Mike Keating to examine the status and future of our advertising contract.
4. Attended the Illinois State Council Meeting in Carlyle, IL. September 27-29.
5. Prepared a listing and analysis of all of VVA's contracts for presentation to the Board of Directors.
6. Consulted with the Finance Committee chair and members on a number of issues.
7. Refined contracts with a number of vendors in concert with President Rowan and CFO Sternburg.

Announcements

President Rowan spoke about Gordon Pavey with the Union Vets Council AFL-CIO.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America/ S. Hobbs

President Hobbs introduced the newly elected AVVA Board of Directors and submitted a written report:

The newly elected AVVA Board of Directors met for the first time on Saturday, August 17, 2013. This mini-meeting was geared to appointing Committee Chairs, signing commitments, and educating on travel to the October Board meeting in Silver Spring.

Since that meeting, the Board has conducted business and communication through the Internet. The minutes from the Annual Business General Session and Board meeting have been approved and can be read on the AVVA website. (avva.org). And speaking of the website, some new changes are taking place there. We are revamping and adding more information for our membership. It's our goal for it to be a source for all AVVA information and communication. Since our counter was installed in the spring of 2011, we have had approximately 60,000 hits. So, we know that our members are using it.

Our first "full" AVVA Board meeting this term will be held on Thursday, October 10th. I will report those results verbally during the VVA Board meeting. The AVVA Officers will be attending the Veteran's Day event in Washington DC in November. We will work alongside of VVA in the Membership Tent. We plan to hand out Agent Orange lapel pins, DIC brochures, Paper Safes, and membership applications (of course!). On Veterans Day we will be laying wreaths at the *In Memory Plaque*, The Vietnam Memorial Wall, and in Arlington Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Included with my report is a listing of AVVA Board contact information.

Conference of State Council Presidents/C. Montgomery

CSCP President Montgomery stated they had thirty-eight (38) State Council Presidents in attendance and introduced the CSCP Officers. The CSCP meeting agenda had a welcome from

the National Officers, CFC presentation by Dick Southern and John Margowski spoke about VetPro participation. There was discussion on the 2014 Winter Meeting in Anchorage, AK by Wes Guidry.

Veterans Health Council/Dr. T. Berger

-VHC full page ad in *Washington Times* on Sept 18

-President Rowan and I attended the AFL-CIO annual meeting in LA last month where we addressed the Union Veterans Council... several important contacts were made with other union leaders (invite to the Postal Workers Union convention)

-attended the Patient Advocacy Leadership summit (PALS) and the National Leadership Conference, both of which focused on ACA's health exchanges

-finished rewriting the criteria for service-connected mental disorders section (PTSD) of the VASRD (VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities) using the diagnostic criteria found in DSM-5 and adopting the basic domains (areas of dysfunction) used by the World Health Organization; these include: cognition (e.g., memory, concentration attention and other); interpersonal interactions and relationships; task completion and life activities (e.g., navigating environments independently); and self-care. The objective is to take the use of clinical symptoms out of the hands of the raters... Our rewrite also utilizes a new numeric scoring system for the domains that is much fairer to the veteran client and actually would increase the level of compensation for a given severity within the individual domains (i.e., no difficulties, minimal, moderate, severe, and total, or extreme).

Next step: after training a selected group of VA raters from a small group of VAROs in the new system, the next step is a pilot project comparing the old system with the new system. Then it all goes to the VBA lawyers for review before the public review process, i.e., publication of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register. Our deadline is sometime in early 2015 if the previous steps can be accomplished without delays.

-involved in two national health information campaigns: 1. We've partnered with the Men's Health Network to facilitate a series of prostate cancer town halls around the country involving the following states: Tennessee, Oklahoma, California, Florida, Missouri, and New York; 2) lung cancer screening events. Get screened for prostate cancer and breast cancer.

Veterans Benefits Program Director's Report/J. Vale

1. Appellate Advocacy Statistics
2. VVA National Claims Statistics
3. Staff Changes
4. VVA Litigation
5. Service Officer Training
6. VVA Accredited Representatives List

7. VetPro Database
8. VBP Policy Change
9. Service Officer Suspensions/Revocations
10. VVA Grants

1. Appellate Advocacy Statistics

As of October 1, 2013, we have **292** cases in our inventory. The average date of receipt at the Board for our appeals is April 2013 with a median docket date of May 2011. The Median Docket Date for the Board is June 2011. We have a new staff of three appellate attorneys. For Q4 FY 2013, VVA continues to have relative success at the Board. Our approval rate during this quarter for appeals was **24%** and our denial rate was **19.8%**.

2. VVA National Claims Statistics

For FY2012 the total for all Compensation, Pension, and DIC claims won under VVA POA is **\$667 Million**.

3. Staff Changes

Since Fall 2012 we have lost 4 attorneys (Christopher Clements, Patrick Corcoran, Jeremy Bedford, Lauren Kologe). Our high staff turnover is attributed to low salaries in this high cost of living DC metro-area job market.

We have had the following changes in the Veterans Benefits Department:

Ms. Lauren Kologe has departed VVA to become the Deputy Director of Veterans & Survivor Services at the Military Officers Association of America.

Mr. Jamie Rudert replaced Mr. Christopher Clements as Deputy Director on May. 20, 2013.

Mrs. Betty Lam has been promoted to Senior Appeals Attorney.

We have hired two new Appeals Attorneys: **Micah Lemons** (hired June 2013) and **Amanda Radke** (hired July 2013)

4. VVA Litigation

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 July 24, 2013, United States District Court Judge Claudia Wilken issued an Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part VVA's Motion for Summary Judgment and Granting in Part and Denying in Part Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment.

The Court resolved all of the remaining claims in the case. The Court granted Plaintiffs partial summary judgment concerning the Notice claim: summarily adjudicating in Plaintiffs' favor, finding that "the Army has an ongoing duty to warn" and ordering "the Army, through the DVA or otherwise, to provide test subjects with newly acquired information that may affect their well-being that it has learned since its original notification, now and in the future as it becomes available."

The Court granted Defendants' motion for summary judgment with respect to the other claims.

The Court ordered the parties to submit a joint proposed injunction and judgment that complies with the terms of the Order within 14 days of the date of the Order (August 7, 2013). If the parties are unable to agree to such terms, the parties are to submit individual forms indicating terms agreed upon and proposals for the remaining terms.

Trial has been vacated.

Copy of Opinion and Order:

<http://www.edgewoodtestvets.org/court-filed-documents/pdfs/20130724-MSJ-Order.pdf>

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:

This case is currently before the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. The Plaintiffs argue that the Department of Defense has violated the law by failing to release records showing that it has wrongfully discharged nearly 26,000 service members on the basis of so-called "Personality Disorder," preventing disabled veterans from receiving the disability compensation and other benefits they have earned. There has been no ruling on this case as of today.

3) "Hamster Wheel" Case (Amicus Brief)

DeLoach v. Shinseki & Greene v. Shinseki

UPDATE:

In both appeals, the records contained at least one favorable medical opinion from a private physician and one ambiguous or inconclusive opinion from a VA doctor that was relied on by VA in denying the claims. The CAVC remanded both appeals to the Board. The appellants argued that the CAVC should have reversed. The Court held that "where the Board has performed the necessary fact-finding and explicitly weighed the evidence, the [CAVC] should reverse when, on the entire evidence, it is left with the definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed." Because the CAVC found that the Board provided inadequate explanations for its denials and failed to provide an adequate medical exam, the Federal Circuit determined that the CAVC properly remanded to the Board.

Copy of Opinion and Order:

www.cafc.uscourts.gov/images/stories/opinions-orders/2011-7166.opinion.1-28-2013.1.pdf

4) Case challenging VA's definition of "Spouse" (Amicus Brief)

Cardona v. Shinseki

UPDATE:

As of today, there has been no ruling on this case. Carmen Cardona is a disabled Navy veteran who served her country honorably for eighteen years. Ms. Cardona is married to another woman under the laws of the State of Connecticut. The VA denied Ms. Cardona's application for dependency benefits because she is married to a woman, and the case is before the CAVC. In a December 18, 2012 order, the Court stayed the proceedings until the resolution of *United States v. Windsor* and the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act. The Supreme Court has since held DOMA unconstitutional. While the case has not been resolved, the President has accepted the Attorney General's recommendation that the Executive Branch cease enforcement of the definition of

“spouse” and “surviving spouse” in Title 38 to the extent that they limit Veterans’ benefits to couples of the opposite sex.

Copy of Order:

<https://efiling.uscourts.cavc.gov/cmecf/servlet/TransportRoom?servlet=ShowDoc/01202260593>

5) “West LA Land Use” Case

Valentini v. Shinseki

UPDATE:

Valentini v. Shinseki is a class action lawsuit against Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki and the director of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System on behalf of homeless veterans with severe disabilities. The suit contends that the VA’s benefits program discriminates against veterans who are homeless as a result of their severe mental disabilities, because they cannot access the medical, mental health and other services to which they are entitled.

A robust body of research has established that homeless individuals with severe mental disabilities cannot access necessary medical and mental services without stable living conditions combined with supportive treatment services. Although the VA has recognized the importance of such supportive housing for seriously disabled homeless veterans, it has refused to offer them to Plaintiffs and other disabled veterans in Los Angeles and around the country.

The suit also challenges the misuse of the 387-acre West LA VA campus, which was deeded to the United States in 1888 for the specific purpose of providing a home for disabled veterans, which it did for nearly 80 years, but which now is leased out to private companies, such as a rental car business and Sodexo Marriott for a laundry facility. The VA has not publicly disclosed how much it is being paid for these private deals or where the money from them is going. The Court denied the Government’s motion to dismiss the case, and we are now focused on taking the case to trial.

RULING:

On **August 29, 2013** the Court ruled that the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) violated federal law when it leased portions of its sprawling West L.A. campus to 11 businesses and organizations for purposes unrelated to providing medical care or treatment for homeless and disabled veterans.

Copy of Order:

<http://www.aclusocal.org/cases/valentini-v-shinseki/judgment/>

5. Service Officer Training

NVLSP provided advanced service officer training on Special Monthly Compensation (T) Rating and Musculoskeletal disability ratings. These the sessions were recorded and edited by the VVA Communications Department, and will be posted to benefitsforum.org.

6. VVA Accredited Representatives List

Currently there are **642** VVA accredited representatives nationwide. We are continuing to update our list.

7. VETPRO Database

We have 97 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 VSOs (called D2D or Digits to Digits). This has been an ongoing effort since July 2011. Our vendor, VetPro, had been in meetings with VA on the technical design phase of this project.

The VVA VBP is reviewing its participation with VetPro and D2D.

8. VBP Policy Changes

The VBP Policy has been updated and approved by the VVA BOD April 2013. Additional revisions are necessary. The VB Committee has created a sub-committee to make recommended changes to this manual.

9. Service Officer Suspensions/Revocations

The VBC Disciplinary sub-committee revoked a VVA Service Officer's accreditation for cause. A timely appeal was filed and is now pending with the VB Disciplinary sub-committee.

10. VVA GRANTS

The 12-Month Report for existing grant recipients is due on October 15, 2013. We received timely 12-Month Reports from **Buckeye, CT, MA, MI, MN, NJ, NY, & WA**. All reports received are under review for grant compliance. Those who fail to comply with the terms of the MOU will be subject to loss of grant funding. All grant recipients have been warned.

Still waiting for 12-Month Reports from AK, CA, Chapt. 317, FL, IA, IN, & VT.

Government Affairs R. Weidman

Executive Director Rick Weidman spoke about working with the VVA Committee Chairs on the Legislative Agenda. He noted there was very little movement on legislation due to the government shutdown and service connected issues.

National Meetings and Special Events/W. Guidry

Wes Guidry noted there was a new limo service at the hotel and gave the lunch menu.

Consent Calendar Motions/National Secretary

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

Motion 29

To accept the Consent Calendar Motions:

- 1. POW/MIA Committee Members:** Grant Coates (Vice Chair) – Lawrence Carter – Terry Courville – Pattie Dumin – Allen Harvey – Steve Mackey – Ted Wilkinson – Ron Zink – Charlie Hobbs; **Special Advisors:** Susie Stephens-Harvey – Gary Jones – Bill Duker - Kaye Gardner; **VVA Staff Liaison:** Sharon Hodge; and **VVA Staff Liaison (VI Program):** Mokie Porter
- 2. National Leadership Conference/Convention Committee Members:** Dan Stenvold – Pete Peterson – John Margowski – Ron Zink – **AVVA Special Liaison:** Sharon Hobbs

3. **Membership Affairs Committee Members:** Steve Mackey (Vice Chair) – Charlie Montgomery – Richard DeLong – Dick Southern – Carol Baker – Jim Pace – Richard Lindbeck – Joe Kristek – Ben Humphries – Carol Schetrompf – Len Ignatowski – Barry Rice – Jerry Pounds; **Special Advisor:** Bill Meeks, Jr. - Penny Meinhardt; and **AVVA Special Liaison:** Cathy Keister
4. **Elections Committee Members:** Adolph Gardner – Terry Nolan – Jill Mishkel
5. **Veterans Against Drugs Task Force Members:** Paul Crowell (Vice Chair) – Ted Wilkinson – Richard DeLong – Pattie Dumin – Ivan Freeland – Adolph Gardner – Billee Culin – Ray Bates – Cecilio Bezares – Ed Ryan; **Special Advisors:** Herb Worthington – Pat Gualtieri - Elaine Simmons – Patsy Varnell – Felicea Catapono – Nancy Nix – Margaret Wojciechowicz – Donna Crowell – Kaye Gardner – Kathy Andras; and **AVVA Special Liaison:** John Birch
6. **Veterans Benefits Committee Members:** Jim Pace (Vice Chair) – Richard Carman – Pat Toro – Joe Kristek – Dick Southern – Pete Bessigano – Jerry Klein – Joe Jennings – Ned Foote – Bob Barry – Herb Worthington – Charlie Montgomery – Ben Humphries – Pete Peterson; **Director of Veterans Benefits:** Jim Vale; **VVA Staff Liaison:** Sharon Hodge; and **AVVA Special Liaisons:** Sharon Hobbs – Nancy Switzer
7. **Homeless Veterans Committee Members:** Dr. Tom Hall (Vice Chair) – Linda Blankenship – Dr. Tom Berger – Dave Johnston - Tom Johnson – Jerry Yamamoto; **Special Advisors:** Cathy Keister – Joanna Henshaw – Nancy Switzer; and **VVA Staff Liaison:** Sharon Hodge
8. **Women Veterans Committee Members:** Sandy Miller (Vice Chair) - Dottie Barickman – John Wallace – Leslie DeLong – Pat Bessigano – Patty Dumin – Dr. Tom Berger - Dr. Tom Hall – Sara McVicker – Lee Jackson – Linda Blankenship; **AVVA Special Liaison:** Elayne Mackey; and **VVA Staff Liaison:** Sharon Hodge
9. **Economic Opportunities Committee Members:** Ted Daywalt (Vice Chair) – Dennis Andras – Ric Davidge – Marc Goldschmitt – Larry Cartler; **Special Advisors:** Paul Ignosh – Joe Wynn – Nancy Rekowski; **AVVA Special Liaison:** Sharon Hobbs; and **VVA Staff Liaison:** Rick Weidman
10. **Agent Orange/Dioxin & Other Toxic Substances Committee Members:** George Newell (Vice Chair) – Tom Owen (Vice Chair) – Bill Dumsick (Vice Chair) – Dennis Andras (Vice Chair) – Wayne Cartier – George Claxton – Billee Culin – Mike Demske – Tom Hall – Steve House – Darrel Martin – Marc McCabe – Luther Newberry – Francis Rowan – John Weiss – Nathaniel

Washington – William Whaley – Tom Berger – Maynard Kaderlik – Joseph Armstrong; **Sub Committee Chairs:** Sandie Wilson – Ken Holybee; **Special Advisors:** Paul Sutton – Bruce Dobson – Jim Doyle; **AVVA Special Liaisons:** Nancy Switzer – Kathy Andras – Elayne Mackey; **VVA Staff Liaisons:** Bernie Edelman – Mokie Porter

- 11. PTSD & Substance Abuse Committee Members:** Fr. Phil Salois (Vice Chair) – Dan Stenvold – Dennis Cohoon – Dr. Ed Ryan – Pat Bessigano – Sandy Miller – Charlie Stapleton – Allan Perkal – Jerry Yamamoto; and **Special Advisor:** Dr. Tom Berger – Frances Cartier
- 12. Constitution Committee Members:** Ken Holybee (Vice Chair) – Bruce Whitaker – Tom George – Tom Insley – Grant Coates – Beverly Stewart; **AVVA Special Liaison:** Mary Miller; **Special Advisor:** Michael Swift; and **VVA Staff Liaison:** Tracie Houston
- 13. Government Affairs Committee Members:** Pat Toro (Vice Chair) – Herb Worthington – Frank Barry – Sandy Miller – Tom Corey – Jerry Yamamoto – Richard DeLong – Dr. Tom Hall – Tom Burke – Dave Simmons – John Margowski – Pat Bessigano – Tom Berger – Terry Hubert – Kate O’Hare-Palmer – Patrick Welch – Spence Davis – Gene Crego – Wayne Reynolds – Dennis Cohoon; **AVVA Special Liaisons:** Sharon Hobbs – Nancy Switzer; **Special Advisors:** Nancy Rekowski – John Birch – Jeri Wallis; and **VVA Staff Liaisons:** Sharon Hodge – Rick Weidman
- 14.** To extend the term of office of the National Treasurer as the Compliance Officer for the 2013-2015 term of office.
- 15.** Move to retire the following VVA Finance related motions.

January 11, 2013

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.

October 5, 2012

Motion # 8 To approve Finance Committee Policy as amended.

April 20, 2012

Motion # 9 (consent Calendar # 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.

Motion #9 (consent Calendar # 2) To add Dave Johnson as member and A.J. Paige as a special advisor to the Homeless Veterans Committee at no cost to National.

Motion # 14 Move to approve the Ruth Mathews Bequest – Special Projects Fund Policies and Procedures.

January 14, 2012

Motion # 25 (Consent Calendar # 3) To amend the Finance Committee Policy, Motion #25, November 15, 2003 by inserting the words “the State, or Chapter” as indicated: The VVA Finance Committee shall provide oversight of the financial activities of the Corporation, the State, or Chapter and shall recommend policies on financial matters to include, but not limited to, assisting-and consulting with the Treasurer on all financial planning, budgeting, reporting and other related matters.

January 13, 2012

Motion #12 To authorize the President/Treasurer to contract with Lane Services:

- 1) To perform the additional work outline in Dr. Lane’s January 6, 2012 report at a cost not exceed \$25,000 including travel and software.
- 2) To evaluate iMIS related issues in the membership department and obtain work hours/cost estimate at a cost not to exceed \$3,600.
- 3) To perform the work identified in the evaluation of the membership department at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 including travel and software. Approximately, \$15,000 is available in unused funds in the FY’12 Information Technology budget. The remaining costs will be taken from the Professional Fees account in the Administration cost center. A monthly report will be provided to the BOD on progress in resolving issues. The contract will include a timeline for completion of tasks.

Motion #14 To approve funding through April 30, 2012 for consultant fees for Dr. Tom Berger & expenses for the Veterans Health Council in the amount of \$7,500 per month. Funding to come from prior year excess funds as the period of time in the motion overlaps two VVA Fiscal Years.

October 7, 2011

Motion #28 (consent Calendar # 3) Move to add the following individuals as members of the VVA Finance Committee: Tom Burke, Alan Manuel, Sara McVicker, John Miner, and Sandie Wilson and to add VVA Treasurer Wayne Reynolds as Special Advisor.

Motion #28 (consent Calendar # 9) - Move to approve Councilor, Buchanan, and Mitchell as the VVA auditors for the FYE 2-28-12 year in accordance with VVA Constitution, Amended 08/18/2011, Article IV, General Provisions, Section 1 – Finance, paragraph D.

Motion # 29 - Move to increase the Membership Department Cost Center budget by \$25,000, funding to be allocated \$17,500 to the Temporary Help expense line and \$7,500 to be allocated to the Printing expense line. Funding to accomplish the above to be taken from the President’s Salary line (\$12,000 from unused salary) and \$13,000 to be taken from Prior Year Excesses.

Motion #30 – Move to amend the Budget Oversight Policy by adding the following to the end of the “Purpose” paragraph to wit:

In 2008, the VVA Board of Directors directed that all consultant monthly reports would be reviewed by the Finance Committee’s Budget Oversight Sub-Committee and reported out as part of the Finance Committee’s quarterly report to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors further directed that consultants who do not submit monthly reports to the Finance Committee’s Budget Oversight Sub-Committee will have their payments suspended until the reports have been submitted.

Motion #31 – Move to close out the Mike Nash Scholarship Program and disburse the funds allocated to this program, over the next two years.

October 2010

Motion #5 To modify the Annual Financial Report Instructions for State Councils/Chapters whose revenue is LESS than \$25,000.00 by inserting the following – “Submit a copy of your 990-N email confirmation letter acknowledging that you have in fact submitted your 990-N for the fiscal year.

Motion 4A To approve the execution of the qualified, limited exclusive marketing agreement between Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. and Medals of America, Ltd.

October 7, 2006

Motion #5 To approve the Unbudgeted Revenue Policy.

April 21 & 22, 2006

Motion # 5 To accept the VVA Contracting Policy.

Motion # 6 To discontinue the current Mike Nash Scholarship Fund Policy (MNSF) immediately; to close down MNSF portion of the VVA web site (until updated); to continue to pay out scholarships to current MNSF

scholarship recipients (20 students); to pay out scholarships for 2006 (06/07 school year) for one year only; and finally, to reconstitute the MNSF policy to reflect funding from donations and fundraisers (such as annual con/conf golf tournaments) only and a different process for giving out scholarships.

Motion # 7 To accept the new Mike Nash Scholarship Fund Policy.

January 21/22, 2006

Motion # 8 To accept the rewritten VVA Travel Policy.

April 22, 2005

Motion #6 To approve the amended Investment Policy.

October 9, 2004

Motion #12 Move that each time a cell phone rings during a VVA Board of Directors meeting, the owner will be penalized. Fines for a ringing cell phone will initially be \$5.00 for the first ring and increase in increments of \$5.00 per ring until the end of that respective meeting.

Fines will be paid immediately or deducted from any reimbursement due the offending party.

If the offending party is a visitor they will be expected to pay or vacate the meeting.

This policy will be announced before each VVA Board of Directors meeting and all fines collected will be donated to the Mike Nash Memorial Scholarship Fund.

April 24, 2004

Motion #7 To approve the Officers' Salaries and Benefits Policy.

November 15, 2003

Motion #25 To approve the Finance Committee policy.

March 23, 2002

Motion #8 To accept the Special Events Coordinator Policy.

April 19-21, 2001

Motion #9 To accept the Budget Oversight Policy as presented.

November 9-10, 2000

Motion #11 To accept the fundraising surveys presented by Linda Mansfield of Mansfield & Associates, Inc. and John Thomas of JWT Consulting and further move that the VVA Finance Committee is authorized

and encouraged to implement the recommendations therein presented within appropriate VVA Budget constraints and protocol.

July 10-11, 1998

Motion #11 That all solicitations and grant proposals be submitted to the Finance Committee first, prior to being presented to the board.

Motion #13 To move the Scholarship Fund from being a subcommittee of the Membership Affairs Committee to being a subcommittee of the Finance Committee.

March 8-10, 1991

Motion #33 That VVA National Board adopts a sliding scale for new life membership on the applicant age. The scale is as follows:

- 49 and under - \$250.00
- 50 to 55 - \$225.00
- 56 to 60 - \$200.00
- 60 to 65 - \$175.00
- 66 and over - \$150.00

16. Public Affairs Committee Members: Herb Worthington (Vice Chair) – Bob Barry – Ken Holybee – James Maddox – Tom Owen – Dick Southern – Bev Stewart; **AVVA Special Liaison:** Beverly Pounds – Sherry Wright-Anderson; **VVA Staff Liaison:** Wes Guidry – Michael Keating – Mokie Porter; **Awards Subcommittee:** Dan Stenvold (Chair) – Grant Coates – Richard DeLong – Charlie Stapleton – Ron Zink; and **Education Subcommittee:** Tom Hall (Chair)

17. Move to approve Councilor, Buchanan & Mitchell as the independent certified public accounting firm to perform the VVA audit for FYE 2-28-14 in accordance with The VVA Constitution, Article IV, General Provisions, Section 1 – Finance, paragraph D.

18. Move to approve Sara McVicker as chair of the Budget Oversight Sub-Committee and Tom Burke as Chair of the Investment Sub-Committee and further to approve Allen Manuel and Wayne Reynolds as members of the Budget Oversight Sub-Committee and Jim Pace as a member of the Investment Sub-Committee.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Finance Committee

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

Motion 30

Move to add Barry Rice as a member of the VVA Finance Committee and as a member of the Investment sub-committee:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Minority Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Jerry Yamamoto presented the following motion:

Motion 31

To approve the following members of the Minority Affairs Committee:

Minority Affairs Committee Members: Dave Simmons (Vice Chair) – Pat Toro, Jr. (Vice Chair for Puerto Rico) – Stephen Bowers (Vice Chair for American Indians) – Jorge Pedroza – Buster Newberry – Henry Urioste – Paul Crowell, Jr. – Joe Jennings – James Maddox – Gerald Ney – Joe McIntyre – Pete Peterson – Allen Manuel – Cecilio Besares – Ric Davidge – Ivan Freeland – Tommy Gipson – Virgie Hibbler – Tom Meinhardt – Ron Speight – Tom Wilson – Connie Steers – Lou Nunez – Gumersindo Gomez; **AVVA**

Special Liaison: Joanna Henshaw; and **Special Advisor:** Joe Wynn

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Finance Committee

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

Motion 32

Move to approve hiring Mary Stout as the part time Director of Membership Affairs to be funded from the current Salary line in the Membership Department budget:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 33

**Move to approve the VVA Women Veterans Committee overspend their approved budget by \$680 authorizing them to design and print 500 posters in support of the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial:
Without objection motion passed.**

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 34

**Move to approve Tom Berger as a full time employee of Vietnam Veterans of America which will be funded under the dedicated funds received for the VHC. This will take effect as of 10-13-13 at which time his contract with VVA will be terminated by mutual consent.:
Without objection motion passed.**

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Meeting recesses: 10:50 am

Saturday, October 12, 2013

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 9:10 am on Saturday, October 12, 2013. National Treasurer Reynolds 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	Charlie Hobbs	Tom Owen
Marsha Four, Vice President	Sharon Hobbs *	Jim Pace
Bill Meeks, Secretary	Joe Jennings	Felix Peterson
Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer	Allen Manuel	Dick Southern
Bob Barry	John Margowski	Dan Stenvold
Linda Blankenship	Sara McVicker	Pastor Toro
Dennis Cohoon	John Miner	Herb Worthington
Richard DeLong	Charlie Montgomery	Jerry Yamamoto

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

Absent: Joe Kristek, Director and Father Phil Salois, National Chaplain
Also present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO and Mike Swift, Parliamentarian.

Secretary Meeks conducted roll call of the State Council Presidents. Present were:

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

Preliminary Business

Secretary Meeks presented a housekeeping motion:

Motion 35

Move to amend the October 11, 2013 BOD Meeting approved Motion # 29 Consent Calendar by striking Tom Berger as a voting member on consent calendar motions # 7, # 8, # 10 and # 13. Then add Tom Berger as a VVA Staff Liaison to those four (4) committees (Homeless Veterans, Women Veterans, Agent Orange/Dioxin & Other Substances & Government Affairs):.

7. Homeless Veterans Committee Members: Dr. Tom Hall (Vice Chair) – Linda Blankenship – ~~Dr. Tom Berger~~ – Dave Johnston - Tom Johnson – Jerry Yamamoto; **Special Advisors:** Cathy Keister – Joanna Henshaw – Nancy Switzer; and **VVA Staff Liaisons:** Sharon Hodge – Dr. Tom Berger

8. Women Veterans Committee Members: Sandy Miller (Vice Chair) - Dottie Barickman – John Wallace – Leslie DeLong – Pat Bessigano – Patty Dumin – ~~Dr. Tom Berger~~ - Dr. Tom Hall – Sara McVicker – Lee Jackson – Linda Blankenship; **AVVA Special Liaison:** Elayne Mackey; and **VVA Staff Liaison:** Sharon Hodge - Dr. Tom Berger

10. Agent Orange/Dioxin & Other Toxic Substances Committee Members: George Newell (Vice Chair) – Tom Owen (Vice Chair) – Bill Dumsick (Vice Chair) – Dennis Andras (Vice Chair) – Wayne Carter – George Claxton – Billie Cullin – Mike Demske – Tom Hall – Steve House – Darrel Martin – Marc McCabe – Luther Newberry – Francis Rowan – John Weiss – Nathaniel Washington – William Whaley – ~~Tom Berger~~ – Maynard Kaderlik – Joseph Armstrong; **Sub Committee Chairs:** Sandie Wilson – Ken Holybee; **Special Advisors:** Paul Sutton – Bruce Dobson – Jim Doyle; **AVVA Special Liaisons:** Nancy Switzer – Kathy Andras – Elayne Mackey; **VVA Staff Liaisons:** Bernie Edelman – Mokie Porter - Dr. Tom Berger

13. Government Affairs Committee Members: Pat Toro (Vice Chair) – Herb Worthington – Frank Barry – Sandy Miller – Tom Corey – Jerry Yamamoto – Richard DeLong – Dr. Tom Hall – Tom Burke – Dave Simmons – John Margowski – Pat Bessigano – ~~Tom Berger~~ – Terry Hubert – Kate O’Hare-Palmer – Patrick Welch – Spence Davis – Gene Crego – Wayne Reynolds – Dennis Cohoon; **AVVA Special Liaisons:** Sharon Hobbs – Nancy Switzer; **Special Advisors:** Nancy Rekowski – John Birch – Jeri Wallis; and **VVA Staff Liaisons:** Sharon Hodge – Rick Weidman - Dr. Tom Berger

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Finance Committee Report

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

Motion 36

**Move to approve the Bequeathed Funds Policy as presented.
Bequeathed Funds Policy**

Background

VVA is frequently the recipient of wills and bequests of varying amounts of money, mostly nominal in nature. However, within the last couple of years, VVA has received two large bequests, one for almost a half million dollars and another approximating \$100,000. In the past, bequests that were not designated for specific purposes would have been considered additional donations, and “operating funds”. However, the VVA Board of Directors felt that additional consideration should take place when receiving bequests. Thus, Motion 5 of the August 13, 2013 VVA National Board of Directors Meeting directed “the Finance Committee to develop a policy for the distribution of funds or property bequeathed to VVA”. This policy is in response to that motion.

Implementation

Upon receipt of bequests which are not designated for a specific purpose, the funds will be deposited in the VVA Operational Funding (general funds) bank account. When the next of kin is known, an acknowledgement, signed by the VVA President, will be sent. The funds will be credited to a specific accounting account number and be able to be accounted for at any time. Bequests of \$25,000 or greater will be reported to the Finance Committee Chair upon receipt and a total report of bequests received during the year will be provided to the Finance Committee along with other revenue reports.

If unbudgeted funds are needed during the VVA fiscal year, the VVA Finance Committee will determine whether this need can be funded by bequests received during the current fiscal year. Expenditures that are ongoing or recurrent beyond the current fiscal year will not be funded by one time bequests. Bequest revenue received during the fiscal year will be reflected in the final fiscal year reports as revenue received for the fiscal year and will not be carried forward beyond the year received.

Bequeathed funds which are not designated for a specific purpose will not be carried as a separate “fund” and will not be carried over from year to year.

Bequests designated for specific purposes will be managed in accordance with the VVA policy on the Use of Restricted Donations.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 37

Move to approve the VVA Finance Committee Policy as presented.

FINANCE COMMITTEE POLICY

Approved Motion # 25 November 15, 2003

Amended October 9-10, 2009

Amended Motion #25, January 14, 2012

Amended Motion #8, October 6, 2012

Amended Motion #17, April 20, 2013

PURPOSE

The VVA Finance Committee shall provide oversight of the financial activities of the Corporation, the State, or Chapter and shall recommend policies on financial matters to include, but not limited to, assisting and consulting with the Treasurer on all financial planning, budgeting, reporting and other related matters. (Appendix II to the VVA Constitution – paragraph I.)

The Finance Committee shall serve to advise the President and the Board of Directors as to financial matters and to perform such other duties as the President and Board of Directors shall from time to time assign to it. (VVA Constitution, Article I, Section 7 – Committees, para B.)

The duties of the Finance Committee, as defined above, do NOT include oversight of the national staff, personnel policy matters, staff evaluations, etc. These functions fall under the duties of the VVA President who "...shall be the principal executive officer of the Corporation and shall, in general, supervise and control all the business and affairs of the Corporation." (VVA Constitution, Article 1, Section 5 – Officers, para D.)

While it is agreed that the Finance Committee shall advise and recommend policies relative to financial matters that may affect the other VVA committees, this "advice and recommendation" does not extend to policy issues, which are "germane to (the committee) their areas of subject matter jurisdiction."

To recap the above, the VVA Finance Committee shall provide oversight of the financial activities of the Corporation; shall recommend policies on financial matters; and shall serve to advise the President and the Board of Directors. The committee shall not direct activities or set policies.

FORMATION

The VVA President with the approval of the Board of Directors appoints the Chair of the Finance Committee. The Chair, in turn, shall appoint members to the committee, again with the approval of the Board of Directors. Members are normally appointed "ANC" (at no cost) to national and will not be reimbursed for their meeting expenses. The only exception to ANC is the annual two-day budget meeting when all appropriate expenses are reimbursed.

STRUCTURE

The Finance Committee generally operates as a "body of the whole". However, within the committee are several sub-committees. The sub-committees currently within the Finance Committee are:

Budget Oversight Sub-Committee (Approved Motion #9 – 4-21-01)
Investment Sub-Committee (Approved Motion #7 – 6-17-00)

For further information on these sub-committees, consult the VVA policies for these sub-committees.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Finance Committee regularly meets on the evening preceding the VVA Board of Director meetings. In addition, the committee meets "on call" as necessary.

In addition to the above, the annual budget meeting is by far the longest if not most important meeting of the committee. This is a two-day meeting, generally held in the month preceding the VVA Board of Directors meeting in which the annual budget will be proposed for acceptance. See the Financial Manual for a more detailed explanation of the VVA budget process.

The goal of the annual budget meeting is to review budget submissions from Cost Center (CC) managers, analyze budget expense justifications and to present a proposed budget that is fiscally responsible and allows for accomplishing the goals and objectives of VVA. To this end, if the Finance Committee feels that the proposed budget of a Cost Center, along with all Cost Centers, exceeds available funds, the Finance Committee will

Make reductions to achieve those goals. When time and circumstances permit, the Finance Committee may return the CC's budget back to the CC manager directing that a specific dollar amount of expenses be reduced. If directed to make reductions, the CC Manager will return his/her recommendations for the new budget allocations to the Finance Committee and the CFO of within 5 days.

Final cuts as recommended by the Finance Committee will be incorporated into the proposed budget for presentation to the Board of Directors for their approval.

Once the annual VVA budget is approved, budget managers do not need additional approval to expend their funds as allocated among accounts. Funds will no longer be moved from among accounts during the fiscal year.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 38

Move to approve the VVA Travel Policy as presented.

TRAVEL POLICY

(Approved January 21/22, 2006)

(Amended Motion #14, April 27, 2007)

(Amended Motion #6, October 6, 2007)

(Amended Motion # 2, January 10, 2009)

BACKGROUND

A very significant percentage of each VVA budget consists of travel-related expenditures. It is imperative that such expenses be as cost effective as possible. Additionally, it is incumbent upon all Cost Center managers to make every effort to ensure that their travel expenses are kept within the parameters of their approved budget lines.

PURPOSE

The establishment of the VVA Travel Policy is to provide a mechanism for an established set of rules and procedures for travel-related expenditures. Over time the VVA Board of Directors has passed many motions and directives relating to travel; these have been incorporated within this policy. This policy applies to all personnel traveling on VVA funds.

EXCEPTIONS

Once the VVA budget has been approved by the VVA Board of Directors, usually in April, travel funding within the various Cost Centers has also been approved and does not need further approval with the exception of the following:

- * All international travel funded by VVA must be approved by the Board of Directors in advance and the trip participants must be identified and approved.
- * If a Cost Center manager is responsible for more than one Cost Center, the manager is prohibited from expending the resources of one Cost Center for the purpose of fulfilling the responsibilities of another Cost Center
- * Prior to committing to committee and task force discretionary travel (Travel & Related Expenses on your B2A Report), the committee or task force must approve the travel in question.
- * For all VVA functions for which there is a “Master List” of individuals to be paid for by VVA, reimbursement of hotel expenses will not exceed one half of room cost of the VVA designated hotel should someone choose to move to another hotel for their own convenience.
- * **There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy** unless prior written approval is provided by a majority of the VVA Officers.

IMPLEMENTATION

A. Transportation

1. Travel on official VVA business will be reimbursed at the prevailing IRS rate for travel by privately owned vehicle and at the economy airfare rate ONLY for travel by air. In no case will ground travel by privately owned vehicle be reimbursed at more than economy airfare.

2. Airfare travel must be scheduled no later than 21 days in advance of departure. This is to ensure that VVA obtains the best rates for airfare travel. Airfare travel with less than 21 days advance notice must be approved by the Chief Financial Officer or National President.

3. Individuals not adhering to this policy will be responsible for making and paying for their own travel reservations (this will not be charged to the normal VVA travel account) and will be reimbursed to the extent that they would have been had they made their travel reservations prior to the twenty one day cut off.

4. Airline reservations may be made through VVA’s travel agent Let’s Travel (800-659-4441). Travelers may make their own travel arrangements but will not be reimbursed in excess of what the fare would have been through Let’s Travel.

5. When renting an automobile, decline all insurance coverage which the rental company offers. VVA pays insurance under arrangements with our insurance carrier.

B. Lodging

1. Room reservations must be made at least thirty (30) days in advance of VVA-supported functions, e.g., BOD meetings, National Convention, Leadership Conference. (The 30 day cutoff dates are determined by the first day of the block of rooms covered in the contract and will be determined by the VVA Meeting Planner in advance. What day of the week you arrive has no bearing on the 30 day cutoff date.) When making your 30 day advance room reservation for a VVA supported function:

- a. You **MUST** use the VVA E-reservation form available on the VVA web site.
- b. VVA will pay 50% of the room rate and tax; the options available to you are:
 - * Agree to pay 50% of the total room cost and have no roommate, **OR**
 - * You may select a roommate that is funded by VVA, **OR**
 - * Accept a roommate assigned by the VVA Meeting Planner, **OR**
 - * Choose to room with someone who is not funded by VVA. If the non-VVA funded person does not show up you will be responsible for that person's share of the room rate and must pay it.

2. If you do not make room reservations at least thirty (30) day advance in advance, you will be responsible for arranging for a room directly with the hotel and you will be responsible for paying the entire bill. You will be reimbursed 50% of "VVA's negotiated rate" only and you will be responsible for the balance of any higher rate.

3. A person that does not check in on the arrival date booked is considered a "no-show". VVA is then charged Room and Tax for one night. By hotel policy, the remaining days reserved are automatically cancelled. The individual is then responsible for paying VVA back for the "no-show" date and for making new arrangements for any rooms needed. (same conditions as above apply)

C. Other Authorized Expenses

1. VVA will reimburse expenses for ground transportation to and from airports and baggage checking fees.

2. Per diem will be paid to help defray meals and incidental expenses while on official VVA travel at the rate established by the Board of Directors.

D. Unauthorized Expenses

1. VVA will not reimburse for airline seat upgrades such as economy plus, etc. In addition, VVA will not pay for additional bags fees (over 1), overweight bags fees, oversized bags fees, ticket change fees and seat selection fees.

2. The VVA Chief Financial Officer is hereby directed to bill individuals for or to deduct from any reimbursement charges incurred in changing airline reservations, “no show” on hotel room reservations, any of the above charges, etc.

E. Reimbursement

1. Reimbursement of authorized expenses must be requested by submitting the proper form within thirty (30) working days after completion of the travel. If an expense voucher is submitted more than 30 working days after the expenses are incurred, it will only be paid if approved by the Finance Chair.

2. *Receipts are required for:*

- a. Air travel not arranged through Let’s Travel.
- b. Lodging not billed to a VVA Master Account
- c. Baggage checking fees
- d. Automobile rentals

3. Receipts are not required for per diem reimbursement.

F. Expense Advances.

You may receive an advance for official VVA travel by completing the proper form (Advance / Reimbursement Form) and submitting it to the Finance Department. To allow adequate time for processing, expense advance requests must be received in the Finance Department seven working days prior to commencement of travel.

G. ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

1. If a Cost Center Manager, or an authorized alternate, incurs travel expenses while performing duties within another Cost Center’s area of responsibility, the expense shall be charged to the Cost Center in whose area of responsibility it falls, provided that if it is chargeable to another Cost Center, the manager of that Cost Center must approve the expenditure before it is incurred.

2. The expenditure, use, or obligation of VVA budgeted funds by incumbent VVA officers, board members and committee/task force chairs for the purpose, in whole or in part of running for, campaigning for, or otherwise seeking an elected position within VVA is prohibited.

a. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to travel charged to a VVA Cost Center during **any** fiscal year with particular emphasis on travel to Regional and State Conferences.

b. This prohibition further eliminates any and all pro rata of expenses between VVA business and political. The two may not be combined in one trip.

c. In VVA elections years (odd numbered years), incumbent VVA officers, directors, and committee or task force chairs operating on a VVA approved budget will not be reimbursed for visits to Region, State Council, or Chapter meetings prior to the VVA elections of that fiscal year. However, Regional Directors are herein authorized to be reimbursed for expenses to attend their own Regional Conference.

C. Honoraria paid to VVA officers, board members or staff as a result of representing VVA or as a result of using VVA funds to travel are the property of VVA, Inc. and should be turned in to the Finance Department as soon as paid. Honorees will receive an IRS Form 1099 in January or February of the following year. The Chief Financial Officer will provide advice to honorees as to how to make adjustments to personal income tax returns when asked.

Motion 38b to amend Motion 38 by John Miner by striking subparagraph c. under item number 2 on page 4:

~~e. In VVA elections years (odd numbered years), incumbent VVA officers, directors, and committee or task force chairs operating on a VVA approved budget will not be reimbursed for visits to Region, State Council, or Chapter meetings prior to the VVA elections of that fiscal year. However, Regional Directors are herein authorized to be reimbursed for expenses to attend their own Regional Conference.~~

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>Amend Motion 38</u> <u>Finance Committee</u> <u>VVA Travel Policy</u>			
	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>NV</u>	<u>NP</u>
John Rowan			X	
Marsha Four	X			
Bill Meeks	X			
Wayne Reynolds	X			
Bob Barry	X			
Linda Blankenship	X			
Richard DeLong	X			
Marsha Four	X			
Charlie Hobbs	X			
Joe Jennings	X			
Joe Kristek				X
Allen Manuel	X			
John Margowski		X		
Sara McVicker	X			
John Miner	X			
Charlie Montgomery	X			
Jim Pace	X			
Felix Peterson	X			
Tom Owen	X			
Dick Southern	X			
Dan Stenvold	X			
Pastor Toro	X			
Herb Worthington	X			
Jerry Yamamoto	X			

	Yes 21 No 1 Non Vote 1 Not Present 1
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Motion to Amend Passed.

Motion 38

**Move to approve the VVA Travel Policy as amended.
Without objection motion passed.**

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Open Discussion/National BOD & CSCPs

Several National Board Members discussed various topics, the State Council Presidents added comments to the discussions and are a few highlights.

- Director McVicker and Director Montgomery spoke about the upcoming Region 3 Conference in Virginia Beach, VA on May 15-18, 2014
- Director Stenvold spoke about the Agent Orange Campaign in ND with billboards (14'x 48')
- Director Southern thanked everyone for their concerns when the Big Fire was near his hometown
- Director Peterson thanked everyone for the support after the tornado in Moore, OK
- President Rowan spoke about TSA donated items to VVA

Contracts

Treasurer Reynolds submitted the following motions:

Motion 39

**Move to approve the Military Best Marketing Agreement.
Without objection motion passed.**

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 40

**Move to approve the Proforma Marketing Agreement.
Without objection motion passed.**

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

CFC Kick Offs

Director Southern wanted to thank CT, NJ, AR, MA, VT, OH, IN and PA for ordering table top displays and brochures for their CFC kick offs. A gentle reminder: there are more displays and brochures available from Joe Sternburg jsternburg@vva.org. Time is running out to get in on the action. Those State Council Presidents that haven't gotten involved need to. Our VSO programs are in need of financial support to continue to help veterans and their families. Just a bit of effort from everyone will be rewarded with some very good results.

Committee – MOTIONS ONLY

Agent Orange/Dioxin – H. Worthington

Motion 41

To endorse the “Agent Orange Legacy” children of Vietnam Veterans.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 42

To write a letter requesting the EPA to finalize the Dioxin Cancer Study which has been in development for the past 25 years.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 43

To endorse Petition for Children’s Center produced by Birth Defect Research for Children.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 2

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Constitution – L. DeLong

Motion 44

To add Craig Tonjes and Bill Messer as Special Advisors.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Economic Opportunities – F. Barry

Motion 45

To add Nancy Rekowski as an AVVA Special Liaison.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Minority Affairs – J. Yamamoto

Motion 46

To add Manuel Pedraza as a member of the committee.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons

Motion 47

To add Russ Fankell, J.D. Soileau, Terry Courville and John Weiss to the VAD Task Force at no cost to VVA..

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

POW/MIA – R. DeLong – no motions

Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs

Motion 48

To add Rex Moody, Pete Bessigano and Mark Madsen as members of the MAC Committee and Mary Stout as the VVA Staff Liaison.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 49

To phase out the Membership Time Payment Plan on all VVA applications.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Public Affairs – T. Burke

Motion 50

**To add John Riling and Ron Morgan as committee members.
Without objection motion passed.**

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 51

**To adopt new design for VVA Commendation Medal.
Without objection motion passed.**

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 52

**To approve Exploratory Task Force within the PA Committee for purpose of
researching Veterans Real-Estate Referral Network at no cost to VVA National at
this time.**

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Veterans Incarcerated – T. Hubert

Motion 53

**To approve the following members of the Veterans Incarcerated Committee.
Members: Allen Manuel (Vice Chair), Dave Simmons, Ben Humphries, John H.
Riling III, Gene Crego, Tom Meinhardt; AVVA Special Advisors: John Birch and
Penny Meinhardt; and Special Advisors: Wayne Miller, Steve Konstienius, Linda
Blankenship and Tom Hall.**

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Veterans Benefits – J. Margowski

Motion 54

**That VVA join in an amicus, and no cost to VVA, to be filled by NVLSP and
Covington & Burling LLP, to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
(CAFC) for panel rehearing or en banc review at the Federal Circuit later on
behalf of Mr. Birdeye Middleton, a Vietnam Veteran who has been rated 20% for
his service-connected diabetes. He was found by VA not to meet the criteria for a
40% rating, because he has not been prescribed insulin, even though he takes oral
hypoglycemic agents as well as an injectable medication called Byetta, which**

stimulates his own insulin production. Importantly, he also has been ordered to regulate his activities by his doctors (this is the primary additional criterion at the 40% level).

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

PTSD and Substance Abuse – Dr. T. Hall

Motion 55

To add Dottie Barickman as a committee member and Terry Hubert as a Special Advisor at no cost to VVA National.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Women Veterans – K. O’Hare-Palmer

Motion 56

To add Billee Culin, Ed Ryan and Tom Devlin as committee members at no cost to Committee/VVA National.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Homeless Veterans – S. Miller

Motion 57

To Sunset Motion # 41, July, 1995 “To create a Homeless Veteran Transitional Membership”, which was rescinded by Motion # 9 of January 2004.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Veterans Health Care – P. Bessigano

Motion 58

To approve the following members of the Veterans Health Care Committee.

Members: Sandie Wilson (Vice Chair), Sandy Miller, Dr. Tom Hall, Jerry Yamamoto, John Margowski, Herb Worthington, Sara McVicker, Kate O’Hare-Palmer, and Linda Blankenship; AVVA Special Liaison: Sherry Wright-Anderson; and VVA Staff Liaisons: Dr. Tom Berger, Rick Weidman and Bernie Edelman all at no cost to VVA National.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 59

To retire April 2006 Motion # 16 & # 24, April 2008 Motion # 5 and January 2012 Motion # 14.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Government Affairs – F. Peterson

Motion 60

That the Government Affairs Committee will submit an updated Legislative Agenda & Policy Initiatives for the 113th Congress (previously approved by the BOD during the April 2013 meeting) to the National Secretary by COB on 14 November for its approval via e-vote to be completed by 29 November..

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 61

To add Ron Morgan as voting member of the committee at no cost to VVA National.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 62

To remove Wayne Reynolds as a voting member to a Special Advisor at no cost to VVA National.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Introduction

President Jorge Pedroza of Puerto Rico State Council introduced Ricardo Rossello, PHD Biomedical Engineer in Neurobiology, a Graduate of MIT, University Of Michigan and a Research Professor at

Duke University. Dr. Rossello spoke about the Veterans of Puerto Rico and the vote for statehood which passed on November 6, 2012.

Director Toro submitted the following motion:

Motion 63

That the Vietnam Veterans of America seek a Legislative Sponsor to support the Plebiscite that was voted for and passed by the American Citizens of Puerto Rico on Nov. 6, 2012 hereby approving statehood and that said Plebiscite be introduced before Congress for the admission of Puerto Rico to the Union.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Unfinished Business

2013 VVA National Convention After-Action Report: Director Toro stated that the panic and frustration over the lack of hotel rooms at the Hyatt was unnecessary. Even though this Convention was the biggest in VVA history, the Committee was overly confident that rooms would begin to be available once the unneeded rooms were returned for hotel use.

New Business

2017 National Convention Site Selection: Wes Guidry noted he had three sites under consideration: San Diego, CA, New Orleans, LA and Las Vegas, NV. Wes Guidry explained more facts and offers from the different sites.

Director Toro submitted the following motion:

Motion 64

To approve VVA Event Planner Wes Guidry to negotiate with the following hotels; Town & Country in San Diego, CA; Hilton, Marriott and Sheraton in New Orleans, LA; and the Rio in Las Vegas, NV for an acceptable rate package for the 2017 National Convention.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 2

Proof of Membership Eligibility (DD-214s) & the IRS: Secretary Meeks recounted the various ways proof of eligibility is submitted to VVA National, State Councils or Chapters. There was discussion on whether the VVA database's pertinent information acquired from the DD-214s or other proof of eligibility would satisfy an IRS inquiry and CFO Sternburg will follow-up with one of his sources.

Approval of Honorary Life Members in the Database: Secretary Meeks provided information on the honorary life members already in the database and there were various discussions as to what should be done. Treasurer Reynolds submitted the following motion:

Motion 65

Upon written request to VVA National by a State Council President to award membership in VVA to all MIAs as at large members in their appropriate State without any annual rebate.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 2

Committees and Task Forces

Director Miner submitted the following motion:

Motion 66

That each Committee and Task Force bring a report to the January 2014 Board meeting on short term and long term goals.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

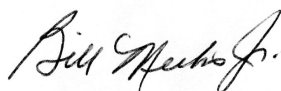
Not Present: 1

Committee Reports Only

Agent Orange/Dioxin – H. Worthington – verbal report
Constitution – L. DeLong – verbal report
Economic Opportunities – F. Barry – verbal report
Minority Affairs – J. Yamamoto – verbal report
Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons – verbal report
POW/MIA – G. Coates – verbal report
Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs – verbal report
Public Affairs – T. Burke – verbal report
Veterans Incarcerated – T. Hubert – written report
Veterans Benefits – J. Margowski – written & verbal reports
PTSD and Substance Abuse – Dr. T. Hall – verbal report
Women Veterans – K. O’Hare-Palmer – verbal report
Homeless Veterans – Dr. Tom Hall – verbal report
Veterans Healthcare – P. Bessigano – verbal report
Government Affairs – F. Peterson – written & verbal reports

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Meeks, Jr.

National Secretary

Approved: January 10, 2014