



## Vietnam Veterans of America

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

### **Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors Meeting April 11, 2014 Approved by Board**

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Friday April 11, 2014, at 9:12 am, at the Sheraton Hotel in Silver Spring, MD. National Chaplain Father Phil Salois delivered the opening prayer which was followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

John Rowan, President	Charlie Hobbs	Charlie Montgomery
Marsha Four, Vice President	Sharon Hobbs *	Tom Owen
Bill Meeks, Secretary	Joe Jennings	Felix Peterson
Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer	Joe Kristek	Dick Southern
Bob Barry	Allen Manuel	Dan Stenvold
Linda Blankenship	John Margowski	Herb Worthington
Dennis Cohoon	Sara McVicker	Jerry Yamamoto
Richard DeLong	John Miner	

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

Excused: Jim Pace and Pastor Toro.

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	Present	New York	Present
Delaware	Absent	North Carolina	Present
Florida	Present	North Dakota	Present

Georgia	Present		Ohio	Present
Idaho	Present		Oklahoma	Absent
Illinois	Absent		Oregon	Present
Indiana	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	Present
Massachusetts	Present		Vermont	Present
Michigan	Present		Virginia	Present
Minnesota	Present		Washington	Absent
Mississippi	Present		West Virginia	Present
Missouri	Present		Wisconsin	Present

**Preliminary Business**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motions:

**Motion 1**

**To accept the BOD meeting agenda.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 2**

**To accept the BOD meeting minutes from January 10, 2014 in Silver Spring, MD.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

**National President/J. Rowan**

President Rowan has submitted a written report and gave a verbal report:

On January 16 I met with Dominick Yezzo, a long-term member of Chapter 32 and an attorney and NYC Administrative Law Judge. Dominick is active as a mentor with the Queens County Veterans Court and is looking to get Chapter 32 involved..

January 24-25 Mariann and I attended the NYSC meeting in Owego, NY.

January 28-30 I visited VVA HQs.

On February 1-4 I went to LA to present a VVA Achievement Medal to Robert Rosenback for his continued leadership of the Sunday picket lines at the West LA VAMC regarding their misuse of VA property. That Monday I toured the CA State Veterans Home on the West LA VAMC Campus. I also met with the VAMC Director and her staff to review the utilization of these facilities and their work with homeless veterans.

On February 8th I attended the FL SC meeting in Orlando and presented two VVA Achievement medals, one of which went to FLSC President Ben Humphries.

From February 23 – March 1 Mariann and I attended the CSCP meeting in Anchorage, AK. We heard from the AK Director of Veterans Affairs, particularly on the efforts of Alaskan native tribes to obtain health care from the VA. Thanks to Rick Davidge we visited the Anchorage War Memorial which included a memorial for their Vietnam KIAs. This visit and the CSCP meeting was reported on by local media, which I have forwarded to you.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> I presented VVA's Legislative Agenda before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees. The other officers were in attendance. These are still the only congressional committees that are operating in a bi-partisan manner and as a result veterans' programs have been protected. Afterwards, I had a discussion with Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) about how we can help him and the minority work with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) to pass Sen. Sanders comprehensive veterans bill.

That following Friday and Saturday I sat in on the Finance committee's budget deliberations.

On March 12<sup>th</sup> I spoke before the Knickerbocker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> Mariann and I traveled to Woonsocket, RI to attend the Veteran of the Year banquet for the St. Joseph Veterans Association, which honored our own Chaplain, Fr. Phillip Salois. It was a great evening and we met with John Weiss, RISC President, and various local VVA members.

On March 27<sup>th</sup> I attended an initial meeting of veteran's organizations with the new Borough President of Queens, Ms. Melinda Katz. Melinda is an old friend and has been very supportive of veterans.

On March 29<sup>th</sup> I attended the dedication of the Texas State Vietnam Veterans Monument. This was a VVA operation as many of the leaders in the development of this monument were VVA members. It was good to see TXSC President Buster Newberry up and about.

On March 29<sup>th</sup> I traveled to Billings, MT to attend the National Tribal Health Summit sponsored by the National Indian Health Board. Tom Berger joined me at this three day event. It was very educational and I will send you a separate report on this program.

## **National Vice President/M. Four**

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

### **National Office Visits**

January 27 to 31

February 10 to 14

March 6 to 8

### **Security and Safety: National Office and Staff**

- Officer Joy Patil, Montgomery County Community Services Officer sent her report of the security evaluation of the national office which was done on Friday December 13, 2013.
- Joe Sternburg is contacting several security companies and their proposals will be discussed in the coming weeks.
- Met with contractor to review a first layout of a security wall in the reception area of the national office. We discussed ideas and he will get back to us with other drawings.
- On January 29, nine VVA staff attended the CPR and AED training. A service contract was arranged and our older unit was checked. A new battery was obtained for it.
- An additional AED unit was installed on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the national office with signage for location.

### **Personnel Policy - Employee Handbook**

A draft of the Employee Handbook was distributed for the beginning of the review process.

### **Annual Budget Process**

- Over the several months preceding the VVA annual budget submissions, discussions took place with department directors on the preparation of their FY15 budget. As part of this year's process on February 12<sup>th</sup>, VVA National President, John Rowan and I met to do a preliminary review of staff, officer, board, and committee chair budget submissions. CFO Joe Sternburg worked with us on this process. In part it allowed us to have a clearer picture of the fiscal intentions of those who submitted. Some adjustments were made on several of the submissions.
- All the national officers were present for the Finance Committee meeting which occurred on March 7-8, 2014.

### **In Memory Plaque**

- January 30, Mokie Porter, Carl Tuvlin and I with J.C. Cummings, the builder of the Vietnam Memorial, to discuss his interest in submitting a proposal for the relocation of the In Memory Plaque. He has agreed. We spoke of the NPS indication that any revision to the plaque would require relocation and that is what they are in favor of happening and that no one will spend any more money on the current site.
- He is aware that in order to be approved for the project the National Park Service stated that all VN Memorial partners have to be in agreement with the relocation.

He indicated that if it was difficult to get a meeting with Jan Scruggs that he is willing to intervene in the arrangements for a meeting.

- The first proposal from Kline Memorials was received for consideration.
- Assisted in writing a letter sent to Jan Scruggs from John Rowan, President VVA, and Sharon Hobbs, President AVVA, requesting a meeting.
- Jan Scruggs sent an email indicating he was aware of the work we intended to do and stated: "Continue working with NPS. Everything should turn out just fine".
- The VVA/AVVA IMP working group held a conference call to discuss where we were and how to proceed. President Rowan was informed of the call and approved our desire to contact J.C. Cummings and request a proposal for consideration. He also has a landscape architect on board for the project.

### **Coalition Work**

- Dr. Tom Berger and I represented VVA in a coalition formed with the Service Women's Action Network to advocate for Senator Gillibrand's amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. Ultimately, the Senate decided not to consider any further amendments.
- The Senator's attempt to bring a stand alone bill to the Senate floor regarding the removal of certain offenses from the military chain of Command was rejected.
- VVA continues to move forward to work on this issue and remains in contact with Senator Gillibrand's Office.

### **Meetings and Conference Calls**

- **Conference Call: February 10<sup>th</sup>**
  - Mike Mika, Special Forces Association National Conference Contact
  - February 10<sup>th</sup> to formalize VVA attendance at the SFA conference for several days between June 9-15 (See meeting info below)
- **Meeting with Chapter 671 Flag Committee: February 12<sup>th</sup> Duggins Room**
  - Discussed their up-coming Flag Burning Ceremony
- **VVA Staff Meeting: February 12<sup>th</sup>**
  - Time Sheet and Leave Time Requests: Deborah Williams
  - Employee Handbook Up-date: Marsha Four
  - Up-date on Employee Health Insurance Information: Joe Sternburg
  - Up-date on Security and Emergencies: Marsha Four
- **Conference Call: February 24<sup>th</sup>**
  - Patrick Murphy, former U.S. Representative from PA, Iraq Veteran
  - Arranged a conference call to discuss an invitation to John Rowan to be on Mr. Murphy's MSNBC show "Taking the Hill".
  - Ideas discussed and VVA will be sending formalized presentation information to him.
- **Conference Call: April 8<sup>th</sup>**
  - With Dr. Tom Berger, Mokie Porter, SWAN, and Yale Law on law suit regarding MST claims.

### **Future Meetings and Events**

- Special Forces Association: VVA will have a presence at this national meeting where they anticipate over a thousand attendees. Our contract is very excited about our presentation on Toxic Exposure and Senator Blumenthal's Senate Bill and they will provide us a private area to have discussions with some of the Veterans. We submitted verbiage they will place in their newsletter *The Drop* and they will also mention VVA in an up-coming radio broadcast. VVA will have two information tables.
- Region 3 Conference: May 15 -17, 2014
- Memorial Day, Washington, DC
- PA Women Veterans' Summit: June 6-8
- PA State Council: June 28-29

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

Secretary Meeks stated there were no disciplinary actions currently underway.

- On March 6<sup>th</sup> I was present as President Rowan presented the VVA's Legislative Agenda before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.
- I was present during the Finance Committee's budget meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
- I attended the VVA Faces of Agent Orange briefing on April 10th.

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

Visited 7 VVA Chapters in Oregon with Ron Morgan. Discussed issues in VVA and in the Oregon State Council

Attended the Joint House and Senate testimony on Veterans Affairs.

Attended the Nevada State Council meeting and presented the VVA Achievement Award to Virgie Hibbler

Attended and advised the Finance Committee at the Budget Development meeting in Silver Spring.

Consulted and advised the Benefits Department Director on contractual compliance with the Service Officer Grants.

In coordination with the Veterans Affairs Department, lobbied Congressmen and Senators. I visited "on the hill" in April and with the CSCP and attended the Agent Orange Presentation

Responded to questions by phone and email from Regional Directors, State Council Presidents and members concerning financial issues to include financial oversight, reporting and on the bonding of officers.

Conferred with Dr. Robert Lane and Ms. Frankie Pressley regarding the iMIS functions and other IT related issues. Reviewed possible ways IT could assist other departments in preparation for the National Convention.

### **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America/ S. Hobbs**

President Hobbs submitted a written report:

At the beginning of the calendar year, AVVA sent out notices that our mailing address had changed for new membership applications and renewals. We are still getting phone calls and emails asking why people were not notified of the change. Once again, we are announcing the change; please help us by sharing this information at State Council meetings and at Chapter meetings. New application brochures have been printed and available free of charge for the asking. Contact the National Membership Department for new ones. If your current AVVA applications have a PO Box mailing address on them-throw them away. Our new address is: ***Monument Bank, AVVA Lockbox, 8602 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20910***

AVVA launched our newly designed website in March. The website is now a complete source of up-to-date information for our membership as well as visitors. However, it will be continually changing as current information changes. So, visit often. [www.avva.org](http://www.avva.org)

In February, I visited the *Leadership and Education Conference* site in Wichita, Kansas, with Wes Guidry. We met with the meeting planners, the audio-visual department, and the chef; we then toured the facility and visited ***Old Cowtown*** where the attendees will be going for a western barbeque and fun time. ([www.oldcowtown.org](http://www.oldcowtown.org)). In March, I made a trip to the National Office to participate in the completion of didactic component of the *National Leadership and Education Conference*. Although most of our time will be spent with VVA, AVVA will breakaway for two seminars and an Annual Membership meeting. Thank you, Wes, for including AVVA in the planning of the Conference.

Since signing MOUs with our vendors, AVVA have been working with them in the design and production of our products. The fifteen anniversary pin and patch are available. A Life membership patch will be offered soon. Other products available or soon-to-be available: clothing, tote bags, cigarette lighters, mugs, and small promotional products.

April is Chapter Representative and Chapter Officers election month. State Representatives and State Officers will be holding elections between January and June of this year. Representatives and Presidents elected this year will be the Delegates of Record to the AVVA National Convention in 2015.

Our Project Friendship has been chosen. ***Shalom Homes*** in Wichita, KS is a 501(c)(3) providing transitional housing for homeless veterans. The flyer has been posted to our website and distributed through the AVVA Talklist and News Flash. I will have flyers at the meeting. Please take one back to your home state and share with your State Councils and Chapters. This is an AVVA and VVA project; let's make 2014 a record contribution year.

The AVVA Board will be going to the Hill with the CSCP to attend the *Faces of Agent Orange* educational briefing and to meet with our elected officials. Afterwards, we will have our spring Board meeting. Our agenda is full with several crucial matters to discuss and conclude. Any additions to this report will be given orally during the VVA Board meeting on Friday.

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

CSCP President Montgomery stated they had 27 state councils go to the 2014 Winter Meeting in Anchorage and the meeting was very productive. He also noted that the CSCP attended the VVA Faces of Agent Orange briefing on April 10th. The CSCP has selected San Diego, CA as the site for the February 2015 meeting. There was a large framed print of the Iditarod Dog Sled Race in Anchorage, AK donated by VVA Chapter 904 to the VVA National office.

**Household Goods Donation Program/Q. Butcher**

Quentin Butcher noted that HGDP 2013 fiscal year had a 28% return while the normal was around 20%. There is an effort to expand the program with UPS and ongoing expansion into the Pennsylvania, Maryland and Florida markets.

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

1. Appellate Advocacy Statistics
2. VVA National Claims Statistics & AMC Office 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

<b>1. Appellate Advocacy Statistics</b>
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As of April 9, 2014, we have 195 cases in our inventory. The average date of receipt at the Board for our appeals is August 2013 with a median docket date of July 2012. The Median Docket Date for the Board is February 2012. For Q2 FY 2014, VVA improved upon its relative success at the Board. Our approval rate during this quarter for appeals was 31.5% (up 6.4% from a year ago), our denial rate was 19.9% (down 0.8% from a year ago). These statistics are based on 267 cases completed in FY’14 Q2- a decrease of 4 cases from 271 cases a year ago.

	Grants	Remands	Denials	Other
<b>Q1</b>	78 (30.1%)	119 (45.9%)	53 (20.5%)	9 (3.5%)
<b>Q2</b>	<b>84 (31.5%)</b>	<b>117 (43.8%)</b>	<b>53 (19.9%)</b>	<b>13 (4.9%)</b>
<b>Q3</b>				
<b>Q4</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>	162 (30.8%)	236 (45%)	106 (20.2%)	22 (4.2%)



## **. VVA National Claims Statistics & AMC Office Statistics**

For FY2014 Q2 veterans and dependent with VVA POA received a total of **\$357.5 Million** in compensation, pension, & DIC benefits.

For FY2013 veterans and dependent with VVA POA received a total of **\$669.2 Million** in compensation, pension, & DIC benefits.

As of 3/14/2014, VVA has **49,499** POAs. As of 04/09/2014 VVA has **14,381** active claims pending.

## **. Staff Changes**

There have been no staff changes in the VVA Veterans Benefits Department since the January 2014 BOD meeting. Our AMC Administrative Assistant position is vacant and we are looking for a replacement.

We are looking for an unpaid law clerk for our BVA office. The position is unpaid, but the law student receives a stipend from AmeriCorps/Equal Justice Works after completing 300 hours.

## **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:**

No update to report on this case.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

This case remains in dispute despite and order and attempt by the Court to have the parties come to an agreement. In this case, the Department of the Army (the main party in the action) was sued in a class action (certified in August 2013) of which VVA is a party in respect to the testing of up to 400 unknown chemical agents on soldiers at Ft. Detrick, the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, the Ridgewood Arsenal and other locations from the years 1952 – 1975.

On August 7, 2013 the Court ordered the parties to submit a joint proposed injunction and judgment that complies with the terms of the Order within 14 days

As a result of the partial grant, the Dept. of the Army was ordered to let the class members know what chemical agents they were exposed to, the dosages, health effects, and if any new information on medical effects becomes available.

Basically, the case is currently in a holding pattern. The parties were not able to come to an agreement despite the Court Order and VVA anticipates that the Government attorneys representing the Defendant's (CIA, Dept. of Army, etc.) are going to appeal the decision.

Trial has been vacated.

Copy of August 2013 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:**

No update to report on this case.

### **BACKGROUND:**

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.

In October 2013, we reported that the case is currently before the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut awaiting a ruling. The same holds true as of today, however, one branch of service has decided to negotiate. The Coast Guard has formally offered to negotiate in the case and has sent data to Yale University for analysis.

## **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](http://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>

No decision yet in this case, but VA is drafting new regulations to address claims from veterans in same sex marriages.

#### **5) Monk v. Mabus, Case No. 3:14-cv-00260 U.S.D.C. (Conn. 2014).**

On March 3, 2014, five combat Veterans and three VSOs filed a class action lawsuit in Federal District Court seeking relief for Vietnam Veterans who developed PTSD during their military service and subsequently received an other than honorable discharge.

Copy of Complaint:

[http://www.law.yale.edu/documents/pdf/Clinics/VVA\\_PTSD\\_3.3.14\\_complaint.pdf](http://www.law.yale.edu/documents/pdf/Clinics/VVA_PTSD_3.3.14_complaint.pdf)

[No update- case just filed last month.](#)

## **5. Service Officer Training**

The VBP is planning on hosting advanced service officer training at this year's VVA Leadership Conference in Wichita, KS. We intend to record this session and post it on our training website. If you have requests for topics you would like presented, please contact Jamie Rudert or Jim Vale.

## **6. VVA Accredited Representatives List**

Currently there are **934** VVA accredited representatives nationwide listed on the "VA OGC Accreditation Search" database. We are continuing to update our list.

## **8. Proposed VBP Policy Changes**

The VBP Policy was updated April 2013. The VBP committee is still reviewing additional proposed changes. A revision with these changes will be submitted to the VVA Board of Directors for approval later this year.

## **9. Service Officer Suspensions/Revocations**

None at this time.

## **10. VVA GRANTS**

The VBC has received 16 grant applications for the Oct. 1, 2014-Sep. 30 grant cycle. These applications are under review.

The 6-Month Report from the current grantees is due April 15, 2014. As of April 9, 2014, we have received 6-Month Reports from **Buckeye, CA, CT, FL, MI, NY, & WA**. The VBC is still waiting for reports from the remaining 8 grantees. 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.

### **Government Affairs R. Weidman**

Executive Director Rick Weidman thanked everyone for Going-to-the-Hill for the VVA Faces of Agent Orange briefing on April 10th. He encouraged everyone to use CAP Wiz more often. They will be meeting with the VA over appeals and Veterans' Court.

### **Consent Calendar Motions/National Secretary**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

#### **Motion 3**

**To accept the Consent Calendar Motions:**

- 1. Move to retire the following motions under Chief Financial Officer/Executive Director from the National Secretary & CFO:**

### **September 1990**

Motion #42 - That the previous Board of Directors and all Board of Directors in the future, receive a personalized memento for their service to the National organization.

### **March 1991**

Motion #37 - That beginning in January 1992 VVA's Washington Office will mail materials necessary for the completion of annual financial report to State Councils and Chapters no later than January 15 of each year and that State Councils and Chapters must submit completed financial statement postmarked no later than July 15 of each year, or the State Councils or Chapters will be suspended, and the suspension continued until the report is filed.

### **October 1995**

Motion #16 - That we broaden VVA's Commercial General Liability coverage to include chapters and state councils at the cost of \$12,500.00 annually. This policy would go into effect March 1, 1996.

### **April 1996**

Motion #5 - The investment policy be modified to allow for investments in the following ratios (+/-) treasuries and agencies; (+/-) high-quality corporate bonds; (+/-) liquid money markets.

### **October 1996**

Motion #11 - That the employees' health care contribution formula shall revert back to the one in effect on September 30, 1996.

### **August 1997**

Motion #3 - To accept the Corporate Banking and Borrowing Resolution relative to check signing authority, authorizing the VVA officers, executive director, chief financial officer and controller as check signers.

### **April 2000**

Motion #35 - To remove from the Veterans Benefits Policy Manual the requirement that the National Board of Directors approve the hiring of the Veterans Benefits Director. That the hiring and firing of that position be turned over to the Executive Director.

### **January 2001**

Motion #9 - That any funds received from the calendar end of year Household Goods Solicitation Program (HGSP) revenue and expense reconciliation ("true-up") be disbursed in the following manner after the distribution to the respective VVA State Councils participating in the HGSP program in accordance with HGSP policy: 15% up to \$50,000 be allocated the VVA Contingency Fund and to subsequently be used in accordance with the VVA Board of Directors approved Contingency Fund Policy; 35% to be used as additional funding of the Fundraising program; and the remaining balance to be deposited into the VVA Cash Reserve Fund and to subsequently be

used in accordance with VVA Board of Directors approved Cash Reserve Fund Policy.

**2. Move to retire the following motions under Board of Directors from the National Secretary:**

**January 1988**

Motion #22 - To accept that it is the policy of VVA to expose and, where appropriate, to cause legal actions to be taken against any groups or individuals who are shown to be exploiting Vietnam veterans or Vietnam veterans issues for primarily personal, political or financial gain; and it is the responsibility of the VVA National Board of Directors and all leadership levels within the organization to educate our membership and the public as to factual nature of such exploitive individuals or organizations.

**April 1989**

Motion #20 & 30 - That the Board of Directors direct the General Counsel of VVA to obtain an attorney who will render an opinion of the legal and constitutional issues as to the meaning of access to, and copies of, records requested by any of the four principal officers, an officer acting in the capacity of the President, and the Board of Directors directs the best pamphlets or summaries regarding the rights and responsibilities of non-profit Board of Directors. Copies of this opinion and pamphlets will be given to all officers and Board of Directors within 45 days.

**March 1990**

Motion #34 - That the budget for fiscal 1990/91 be amended to provide that the salary of the President be increased from \$52,000 per year to \$56,500 per year and that the salary of the Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary be increased from \$46,000 to \$50,000. That these increases be retroactive to January 1, 1990.

**June 1992**

Motion #43 - That the National Board of Directors authorizes Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund to use the registered logo of VVA, Inc. with the modification of Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund incorporated in the logo. The Board of Directors reserves the right to cancel this modification at anytime, without notice.

**January 2001**

Motion #10 -To hereby allow the VVA Finance Committee to remove all finance related VVA Board of Directors active motions which have become obsolete by time, events or completion. Any motions so removed will be reported to the board via the Finance Committee report.

**3. Move to retire the following motions from the Finance Committee & CFO:**

**April 1989**

Motion #31 - That VVA National pay the Board of Directors expenses to attend the National Convention.

**December 1989**

Motion #17 - Resolved, that the National Officers in conjunction with the Finance Committee and General Counsel aggressively explore opportunities for fund-raising in support of VVA national programs consistent with the continued growth of Vietnam Veterans of America and the programs and objectives of this Board.

**August 1991**

Motion #10 – To exempt National Officers from full-time employment and allow them to receive compensation from other sources.

**March 1992**

Motion #26 – That the National Board of Directors adopts the scholarship guidelines submitted by the Scholarship Committee.

**April 1995**

Motion #12 – To approve the policy concerning bonding of chapters and state councils.

**January 1997**

Motion #14 – That the CFO be authorized to reimburse no more than 50% of travel & related expenses to the National Convention for officers, members of the board of directors, liaisons and committee chairs. This limitation does not apply to the members of the Nominating Committee, whose expenses will be fully reimbursed.

**April 1997**

Motion #19 – To set the compensation of the executive officers for FY 1999 at the following levels: President @ \$55,000.00, Vice President @ \$27,500.00, Secretary @ \$27,500.00, Treasurer @ \$27,500.00 starting 3/98.

**January 1998**

Motion #17 – To establish nine (9) four (4) year region scholarships and add one (1) four (4) year special scholarship at \$1000 each starting FY99.

**April 1998**

Scholarship Sub-Committee Report – The chair reported that a four-year scholarship was introduced. Once it has been awarded to a student, as long as the grade point average is kept on or above the requested level, then the scholarship funds will continue. The scholarship applications are included in the monthly mailing and also the VVA Veteran.

**January 1999**

Motion #11 - That each newly appointed Finance Committee (following each National Convention) resubmit previous motions to the National Board to affirm or negate any previous motions to compensate a member of the corporation for any product or services performed for the corporation. This policy does not include reimbursement of reasonable expenses. (Reference, Constitution Article IV General Provisions, Section 2 – Discipline part A).

**January 2002**

Motion #7 – That all cost center directors must present to the CFO a narrative with their budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal years (FY 04), which provides a rationale for their proposed expenditures for that fiscal year.

**March 2002**

Motion #7 – To accept the VVA Travel Policy as presented.

**April 2006**

Motion #4 – To accept the ANC (At No Cost) definition policy in lieu of ANAC (At No Additional Cost).

**January 2008**

Motion #2A - To approve a loan up to \$225,000 from the Vietnam Veterans of America to the Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund for the purpose of publishing and distributing a VVA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book.

**October 2008**

Motion #8 (Consent Calendar) - To approve using Councilor Buchanan & Mitchell (Certified Public Accountants) to prepare the FYE 2-28-09 VVA audit in accordance with Article IV, General Provisions, Section 1 – Finance, Paragraph D of the VVA Constitution which states in part ... “a CPA firm selected by the National Board not less than annually”

That consultants that monthly reports have not been submitted to the Finance Committee budget Oversight Subcommittee as requested will have their payments suspended until the reports have been submitted to the Budget Oversight Subcommittee.

Motion #18 - To utilize approximately \$300,000 from cash reserve fund to fund expenses associated with lease agreement of 8719 Colesville Road as a result of dual payments of rent.

**January 2009**

Motion #3 - To amend VVA Travel Policy approved 01/21-22/06 by adding the following under the third section – “Exceptions”: For all VVA functions for which there is a “Master List” of individuals to be paid for by VVA, reimbursement of hotel and possible subsequent taxi 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.

Motion #4 - To have the Finance Department develop and distribute a request for proposal (RFP) of not less than three (3) accounting firms to conduct an audit for FY '10.



### **April 2009**

Motion #4 - To approve the FYE 2/28/11 VVA Leadership Conference budget as presented.

Motion #8 – To approve the 02/28/10 budget as amended with the following:  
Reduce Veterans Benefits \$29, 500; IT –\$7,000; Government Affairs Department - \$14,000; President’s salary - \$11,645; Convention - \$10,000; Printing (Corporate level) - \$50,000 – freeze on all printing unless approved by president and/or board; Membership Committee - \$12,000; Communication Dept. - \$20,000; Membership Dept. - \$15,000; and Public Relations - \$27,000 for a total reduction of \$196,145.

Motion #12 - To record the appropriate entries in VVA’s financial records the amount of one hundred twenty-four thousand and 90/100 (\$124,897.90) dollars from our accounts receivable (owed from VSF) to an expense item incurred by VVA in regards to its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wall Parade. This move to take place as of 02-28-09.

### **October 2009**

Motion #3 – In regards to the loan of \$210,000 from VVA to VSF, VVA acknowledges receipt of \$38,500 in payment from VSF to VVA leaving a balance of \$171,500 as an Account Receivable on the books of VVA. Be it resolved that VVA will accept a payment of \$64,272 as full and complete payment from VSF to VVA.

Motion #4 – To take one hundred five thousand five hundred seventy nine (\$105,579.00) dollars from the cash reserve fund for the purpose of signing a contract with IBC (Intuitive Business Concepts) to begin purchasing IMIS Software & Services to include conversion, implementation, training a report writing as a replacement for the current VVA Database System; in the amount of \$177,579.00.

### **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.

### **January 2011**

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

### **January 2012**

Motion #25 (Consent Calendar) – To approve the VVA Annual Financial Report Form as amended.

Motion #25 (Consent Calendar) – To amend the Household Goods Donation Program (HGDP) 6 month and 12 month report.

**August 2012**

Motion #5 (Consent Calendar) – To remove completed/outdated Financial BOD Motions.

**4. Move to retire the following motion under Conference of State Council Presidents from the National Secretary & CFO:**

**June 1990**

Motion #14 - To accept VVA's plan to provide a portion of the monies derived from donations of discarded household goods to Chapters and state Councils with the additions of a thorough communications component addressing the rationale for the current distributions of thrift store net revenues and an outline of future activities that would result in fund distribution for Chapters and State Councils not participating in thrift store revenues.

**5. Move to retire the following motion under Leadership Conference/National Convention from National Secretary & CFO:**

**June 1996**

Motion #12 – To approve a new class of registration for the VVA National Convention. That class of registration would be “observer” and would include only a name badge and no other materials. The cost of “observer” status will be \$10 and would allow the observer access to the convention observation areas (not the convention floor) during the period(s) the convention is in session.

**6. Move to retire the following motion under Officers & Directors and Policies from the National Secretary & CFO:**

**April 1994**

Motion #14 – To purchase fax machines for board members and advisors who currently do not have fax capability.

**January 2006**

Motion #8 – To accept the rewritten VVA Travel Policy.

**April 2008**

Motion #18 – To approve the policy on the use of the Vietnam Veterans of America and Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America trademarks, service marks, and logos by VVA State Councils, VVA Chapters, or VVA Regions.

**August 2010**

Motion #4 – To approve the proposed VVA Membership Policy on Honorary Life Memberships as amended.

Motion #4A – Bruce Whitaker moved to amend the proposed VVA Membership Policy on Honorary Life Memberships by striking reference to spouses.

**April 2011**

Motion #5 – To accept the proposed Corporate Printing Policy as presented.

**7. Move to retire the following motion under Meetings and MOUs/Contracts from the National Treasurer & CFO:**

**April 2008**

Motion #8 – To authorize the Director of Meetings to negotiate and enter into contract with Crowne Plaza, Silver Spring, for BOD meetings 2011-2012-2013.

**January 2006**

Motion #24 – To enter into a three (3) year contract with Crowne Plaza in Silver Spring for lodging, breakout rooms, and general session room for years 2008, 2009, and 2010 as proposed.

**8. Move to retire the following motions under Restricted Activities and Travel from National Secretary:**

**November/December 1990**

Motion #10 – That the Board accept the process of developing a contract to present to the State Council Presidents and if accepted by a majority of State Councils, the Officers are authorized to enter into an agreement. If an agreement is signed, no State Council will be permitted to engage in telemarketing for advertising outside of the signed agreement.

**September 1993**

Motion #53 – To retain the per diem rate at \$37.50/day; and to review the per diem rate annually starting with the budget preparation meeting of January 1995 for the FY 3/1/95-2/29/96.

**January 2006**

To accept the rewritten VVA Travel Policy.

**Meeting recesses: 10:45 am**

**Saturday, January 11, 2014**

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 9:07 am on Saturday, April 12, 2014. National Chaplain Father Phil Salois officiated the opening prayer followed by a Moment of Silence.

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

John Rowan, President	Bob Barry	Charlie Hobbs
Marsha Four, Vice President	Linda Blankenship	Sharon Hobbs *
Bill Meeks, Secretary	Dennis Cohoon	Joe Jennings
Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer	Richard DeLong	Joe Kristek

Allen Manuel  
 John Margowski  
 Sara McVicker  
 John Miner

Charlie Montgomery  
 Tom Owen  
 Felix Peterson  
 Dick Southern

Dan Stenvold  
 Herb Worthington  
 Jerry Yamamoto

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

Excused: Jim Pace and Pastor Toro.

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	Present	New York	Present
Delaware	Absent	North Carolina	Present
Florida	Present	North Dakota	Present
Georgia	Present	Ohio	Present
Idaho	Present	Oklahoma	Absent
Illinois	Absent	Oregon	Present
Indiana	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	Present
Massachusetts	Absent	Vermont	Present
Michigan	Present	Virginia	Present
Minnesota	Present	Washington	Absent
Mississippi	Present	West Virginia	Present
Missouri	Present	Wisconsin	Present

**Announcements**

President Rowan spoke about the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument dedication and the National Purple Heart Hall of Fame located in New Windsor, New York. President Rowan awarded the VVA Achievement Medal to Treasurer Wayne Reynolds and the VVA Commendation Medal to Tom Burke.

**Finance Committee Report**

Committee Chair Ned Foote spoke about the budget cycle meeting and there was discussion on the process.

Region 1 Director John Miner made the following motion with second from Charlie Montgomery and asked for a roll call vote.

**Motion 4**

**To amend the budget to put \$1,500 in the Region 1 budget.**

The National Secretary recorded the vote of each Board member who voted on the motion as follows:

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Motion #4</u></b>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	N
Bill Meeks, Jr.	N
Wayne Reynolds	N
Bob Barry	N
Linda Blankenship	N
Dennis Cohoon	Y
Richard DeLong	N
Charlie Hobbs	Y
Joe Jennings, III	Y
Joe Kristek	Y
Allen Manuel	N
John Margowski	N
Sara McVicker	N
John Miner	Y
Charlie Montgomery	Y
Tom Owen	N
Jim Pace	E
Felix Pete Peterson, Jr.	N
Dick Southern	N
Dan Stenvold	Y
Pat Toro, Jr.	E
Herb Worthington	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

<b><u>Results</u></b>	
Yes	9
No	12
Abstention	0
Excused	2
Non Vote	1
No Response	0

**Motion failed.**

Committee Chair Ned Foote made the following motions:

**Motion 5**

**To approve the FYE 2-28-15 VVA Budget as presented.**

The National Secretary recorded the vote of each Board member who voted on the motion as follows:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Motion #5</u>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	Y
Bill Meeks, Jr.	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y
Bob Barry	Y
Linda Blankenship	Y
Dennis Cohoon	Y
Richard DeLong	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y
Joe Jennings, III	Y
Joe Kristek	Y
Allen Manuel	Y
John Margowski	Y
Sara McVicker	Y
John Miner	N
Charlie Montgomery	Y
Tom Owen	Y
Jim Pace	E
Felix Pete Peterson, Jr.	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y
Pat Toro, Jr.	E
Herb Worthington	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

<u>Results</u>	
Yes	20
No	1
Abstention	0
Excused	2
Non Vote	1
No Response	0

Motion passed

**Motion 6**

**To approve the VVA 2015 National Convention Budget (FYE 2-28-16) as presented.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

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

**Motion 7**

**To approve the VHC Budget FYE 2-28-15 as presented.  
Without objection motion passed.**

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

Treasurer Reynolds made the following motion with second by Secretary Meeks:

**Motion 8**

**To approve the Double Tree Hotel Contract.  
Without objection motion passed.**

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

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

-President Rowan and I attended the National Tribal Public Health Summit in Billings, MT, March 31 – April 2, 2014

-with the assistance of the VVA Communications Department, we've been designing an 11 x 17 poster for the Fisher houses throughout the US

-with colleagues from SWAN and IAVA, we advocated for Senate passage of Sen. Gillibrand's Military Justice Improvement Act, which went down to defeat by five votes

-along with several VHC partners, we were able to force CMS to back down on proposed changes to Medicare Part D specialty drug classes

-at the direction of President Rowan, Vice President Four and I had a conference call with former Congressman Murphy of Pennsylvania re: an appearance on his monthly cable TV show to talk about veterans' health issues

-worked with various VHC urology partners to advocate for Sen. Sanders' S.1982 veterans bill which was also defeated

-opened the next personality disorder discharge class action suit for Vietnam vets

-Harvard research projects

-Senators Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), John Walsh (D-Mont.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) are introducing legislation that requires the panel that reviews military discharges to have at least one mental health professional on its board.

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

Wes Guidry noted that everyone could start the Conference room reservations and the travel day would be Tuesday.

### **National Chaplain Report P. Salois**

Father Phil noted that there are 20 deaths a week. He announced that the United Veterans Council in his hometown of Woonsocket, Rhode Island presented him with the "Veteran-of-the-Year" on 22 March and President Rowan did attend.

### **Membership Affairs M. Stout**

Thank you to Regional Directors and State Council Presidents for helping get more chapters on the electronic roster listing. We are saving over \$200 in postage from just these first changes. Now that the board has approved the funding for upgrades to the iMis system Traci Houston and I will begin working on the system to allow officials to get their rosters on-line.

A list of pending Life Members, who are pending because we did not receive DD214's with their applications, has been given to the State Council Presidents. We will appreciate any assistance they can give us in finding the DD214s so we can complete the Life Membership process for these individuals.

I have reviewed the IRS Revocation list and have determined that all active VVA chapters on the list have complied with IRS requirements and are now awaiting the lifting of that revocation.

The list of chapters suspended due to missing Election and/or Financial Reports was given to the State Council Presidents. Eight of the Chapters on the list have been made active because all their paperwork is in order. Most of the remaining 27 Chapters need to be considered for revocation of their charters. State Councils were asked to review the list and take appropriate action to either bring the records up to date or ask for revocation of the charters of these chapters.

A large number of Chapters are sending their membership applications and payments directly to the National Office. All membership applications and payments need to be sent to the Lockbox locations for processing.

VVA applications, renewals, and payments must be sent to:

**Vietnam Veterans of America**

**P.O. Box 64299**

**Baltimore MD 21264-4299**

AVVA applications, renewals, and payments must be sent to:

**Monument Bank**

**AVVA Lockbox**



**8602 Colesville Rd.  
Silver Spring, MD 20910**

Sending any items that include money (checks or credit card payments) to the National Office in Silver Spring slows down the process and interferes with our established workflow.

The Membership Department is striving to use electronic communications as much as possible. The letters acknowledging the receipt of Annual Election and Financial Reports will be sent by e-mail whenever possible and paper copies will only be sent when there is not an e-mail address available for the chapter. Regional Directors and State Councils will receive only electronic copies.

**Committee – MOTIONS ONLY**

Economic Opportunities – T. Daywalt – No motions  
Minority Affairs – J. Yamamoto – No motions  
Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons – No motions  
POW/MIA – R. DeLong – No motions  
Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs

**Motion 9**

**To approve the new Honorary Life Membership Form.  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

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

Public Affairs – T. Burke – No motions  
Veterans Incarcerated – T. Hubert

**Motion 10**

**For VVA sign on as Amicus Curiae on Writ of Certiorari Petition Andrew Howard Brannan vs Carl Humphrey, Warden Georgia filed April 7, 2014 requesting review of imposition of death sentence for mitigating PTSD consideration and imposing a life without parole.**

The National Secretary recorded the vote of each Board member who voted on the motion as follows:

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Motion #10</u></b>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	Y
Bill Meeks, Jr.	N
Wayne Reynolds	A
Bob Barry	Y
Linda Blankenship	Y
Dennis Cohoon	Y
Richard DeLong	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y

Joe Jennings, III	Y
Joe Kristek	Y
Allen Manuel	Y
John Margowski	Y
Sara McVicker	Y
John Miner	Y
Charlie Montgomery	Y
Tom Owen	Y
Jim Pace	E
Felix Pete Peterson, Jr.	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y
Pat Toro, Jr.	E
Herb Worthington	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

<b><u>Results</u></b>	
Yes	19
No	1
Abstention	1
Excused	2
Non Vote	1
No Response	0

**Motion passed.**

Veterans Benefits – J. Margowski – No motions  
PTSD and Substance Abuse – Dr. T. Hall

**Motion 11**

**The PTSD/SA Committee moves that VVA join the lawsuit with the Service Women’s Action Network to afford veterans suffering from MST and MST related PTSD the same evidentiary presumption used for other claims.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

Women Veterans – K. O’Hare-Palmer – No motions  
Homeless Veterans – S. Miller – No motions  
Veterans Health Care – T. Berger – No motions  
Government Affairs – F. Peterson – No motions  
Agent Orange/Dioxin – H. Worthington

**Motion 12**

**To endorse HR4261 – Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

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

Constitution – L. DeLong – No motions

**Consent Calendar Motions/National Secretary**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

**Motion 13**

**To accept the Consent Calendar Motions:**

**1. Move to retire the following motions under Board of Directors from the National Secretary & CFO:**

**September 1987**

Motion #4 - To transfer the authority to review restricted fund-raising activities as described in the Constitution from the Constitution Committee to the Finance Committee along with a Finance Committee resolution. A friendly amendment offered to the Finance Committee Resolution which would change the first sentence to read: The Finance Committee shall formulate and upon board approval implement a National Policy.....

**April 1988**

Motion #18 - To accept the guidelines for the VVA Chaplaincy Program.

**December 1989**

Motion #32 - That the VVA Chaplaincy Guidelines be amended to change the contact person for selection and certification of VVA Chaplains, as outlined in Section IV of the Guidelines, from the Chair of the VVA Veterans Affairs Committee to the National Secretary.

**March 1990**

Motion #37 - To reassure State Council President and reinforce the organizational structure of VVA, the National office communicate regularly with State Council Presidents.

**June 1990**

Motion #5 - That the draft minutes of each Board meeting be distributed to the Board members within a reasonable time following the conclusion of each meeting not to exceed 30 days.

**November/December 1990**

Motion #27 - To fill a vacancy in the position of Regional Director on the National Board of Directors. The President shall nominate and the Board approve a Nominating Committee made up of three (3) Regional Directors. The Nominating Committee will solicit candidates from within the region of the vacated seat and use the eligibility criteria from the immediate past National Convention to certify eligibility. The Nominating Committee shall set deadlines for reception of candidates' credentials, distribution of information to all Chapters

in the region and reception of votes. The entire process must not exceed three (3) months from the date of determination of the need to fill the vacancy. The Nominating Committee will certify eligible candidates, prepare and distribute ballots to all Chapters in the region and act as tellers to receive, count and certify the election results. Each Chapter in the region will be entitled to one vote to be cast by the Chapter President. The election shall be conducted by mail through procedures established by the Nominating Committee.

**September 1991**

Motion #71 - That individuals on the Board of Directors who are engaged in fund raising on behalf of the Corporation or a VVA Committee shall coordinate their efforts with the National office and the National Treasurer.

**January 1994**

Motion #44 - That the Board of Directors endorses, in principle, the practice by Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., of directly soliciting contributions from its membership provided that such solicitations clearly set forth their purpose and do not utilize deceptive or misleading statements or formats.

**January 1996**

Motion #53 - To begin Board meetings on Fridays at 9am and ending Saturday evenings.

**January 2000**

That National Board of Directors pursue a thorough and prompt investigation of the DVA Conservatorship Program for incompetent veterans. Further, that this investigation shall address the policy, procedure, assignment and oversight of conservators, to include a review of their activities and appropriate delivery of their services.

Motion #30 - To authorize the President to take all steps necessary to affiliate Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. with the Federation of Military and Veterans Affairs, if and when the President, with the advice of the Executive Committee and the appropriate members of the national office staff determines that such affiliation is in the best interests of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

**April 2005**

Motion #35 - That the Board packets (to include the meeting agenda) be available at the hotel (upon check-in) on Wednesday for all Board members and Committee Chairs.

**2. Move to retire the following motions under Chapter Charter Revocations from the National Secretary & CFO:**

**April 2008**

Motion #21 - To revoke the charter of Chapters 296, 420, 567, 662, 718, 728, 782, 792, 811, and 814.

**July 2008**

Motion #4 - To revoke the VVA National charter of “voluntarily dissolved” Chapters #330 (TX) and #831 (FL).

Motion #5 - To revoke the VVA National charter of “suspended” Chapters #323, 536, 567, 615, 943.

**October 2008**

Motion #16 - To revoke the charters of Chapters 690 and 813.

**April 2009**

Motion #21 - To revoke the charters of VVA Chapters 246 and 761.

**July 2009**

Motion #1 - To revoke VVA Chapters 712, 375, and 895.

**August 2009**

Motion #5 - To revoke the charters of chapters 94,126,and 713.

**October 2009**

Motion #18 - To revoke the charters of VVA Chapters 726 (FL), 855 (NJ), 127 (FL), and 916 (FL) following voluntary dissolution.

Motion #19 - To revoke the charter of Chapter 34 (OH).

**January 2010**

Motion #13 - To revoke the charter of dissolved chapters: Biloxi, MS Chapter 1005, and Minnesota Chapters 214 and 375 at the request of the respective state presidents.

**April 2010**

Motion #7 - To revoke the charters of Chapters 878 (OK), 460 (CA), 573 (MI), 612 (MI), 497 (MI), 516 (MI), and 884 (NE), at the request of the state council presidents. MI incarcerated chapters 573 and 612 are disbanded as the prisons have closed. MI Chapters 497 and 516 are inactive and do not respond. Chapter 884 has been dissolved by the state of Nebraska. Chapter 878 of Oklahoma has formally dissolved.

**October 2010**

Motion #7 - To revoke the charter of Chapters 418 (OH) and 826 (FL).

**April 2011**

Motion #7 - To revoke the charter of VVA Chapters 766 (Montana), 241 (Minnesota), 976 (Tennessee), and 838 (Arkansas).

**January 2012**

Motion #15 – To revoke the charters of VVA Chapters 418 (OH), 646 (OH), and 901 (ID) at the request of the OH State Council and the ID State Council.

### **April 2012**

Motion #15 – To revoke the charters of Chapter 281 (OH), 762 (MN), 714 (IL), and 591 (VI) at the request of the OH SCP, MN SCP, IL SC, and Region 4 Director: The OH SC, MN SC, IL SC, and Region 4 Director have done all they needed to do to keep the Chapters and the efforts failed to rejuvenate the membership.

Motion #16 – To revoke the charter of the Colorado State Council.

### **August 2012**

Motion #5 (Consent Calendar) – To revoke the charter of Chapter 121 FL, 1026 FL & 797 TN. At the request of the FL & TN SCP: The FL & TN SC have done all they needed to do to keep the Chapters and the efforts failed to rejuvenate the membership.

### **October 2012**

Motion #24 (Consent Calendar) – To revoke the charters of Chapter 57 (CO), 735 (WA), 737 (WI), 745 (WA), 802 (NJ), 889 (IN), 924 (UT), and 971 (MN) at the request of the IN SCP, WA SCP, WI SCP, MN SCP, Region 2 Director, and Region 9 Director: The IN SC, WA SC, WI SC, MN SC, Region 2 Director, and Region 9 Director have done all they needed to do to keep the Chapters and the efforts failed to rejuvenate the membership.

## **3. Move to retire the following motion under Meetings from the National Secretary & CFO:**

### **October 2004**

Motion #12 – 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 increased 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 Scholarship Fund.

## **4. Move to retire the following motion under Miscellaneous from National Secretary & CFO:**

### **June 1990**

Motion #25 - That the national office display the American flag, the VVA national flag, and the POW/MIA flag in the national office.

## **5. To add Perry Melvin and Gene Crego as members to the Veterans Benefits Committee at no cost to National.**

## **6. To revoke the charter of Chapter # 493 (LA), Chapter # 963 (MO) and Chapter # 1007 (PR) because the LA, MO and PR State Councils has done everything they could to revive the chapter membership and these efforts have failed.**

7. To add Dennis Cohoon of the Constitution Committee at no cost to National and to remove Bruce Whitaker from the committee.

8. To add Gene Crego as member of the Women Veterans Committee at no cost to National.

9. To present Senator Gillabrand with a VVA Legislative Award.

10. To add Harold Nash as a special advisor of the Veterans Incarcerated Committee at no cost to National.

11. To add Ray Brezinski to the Agent Orange Committee as a special advisor at no cost to National.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 2

### VVA Web Redesign

Tom Burke spoke about the web redesign briefly; he then turned the presentation over to Quentin Butcher who explained the game plan for the web redesign and Quentin Butcher introduced Garrett Goepfinger of Web Studio Interactive LLC who made the slide presentation.

### Unfinished Business

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motions:

#### Motion 14

To rescind the BOD motion from January 1998: National will no longer require a DD 214 from a member when the application comes from the chapter level. This does not include incarcerated chapters. Life members still must submit a DD 214 to process life memberships. A SF-180 will alleviate this problem.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 2

#### Motion 15

Motion that each chapter shall file with the Corporation a copy of a DD Form 214, or other proof of qualification for membership for each member.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 2

President Rowan submitted the following motion with a second from Vice President Four:

**Motion 16**

**To establish a Strategic Working Group consisting of Dan Stenvold, Sandy Miller and Joe Kristek. This group will be charged with gathering all relevant information both internal & external to prepare an honorable, acceptable and appropriate plan for VVA's future at no cost to National.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

**New Business**

**National Leadership Handbooks:** CSCP Chairman Charlie Montgomery submitted the following motion:

**Motion 17**

**To approve the revisions to the State Council Presidents Handbook.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

**Motion 18**

**To designate the following individuals as Honorary Life Membership (HLM) within the Corporation.**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>REQUESTED BY</b>
Guzucki, Brain	IN 1027
Goldsworthy, James	MD 172
Schmitt, Teresa	AL 1067
Hilgert, John	NE State Council
Buonto, Y-Jut	OR 757
Cleaver, Emanuel	MO 317
Smith, Thuy	WI 5
Horton, Veron	NV 388
Horton, Brenda	NV 388

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 21**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 2**

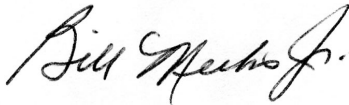


**Committee Reports Only**

Economic Opportunities – T. Daywalt – verbal report & written  
Minority Affairs – J. Yamamoto – verbal report  
Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons – verbal report  
POW/MIA – R. DeLong/G. Coates – verbal report & written  
Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs – written & verbal report  
Public Affairs – T. Burke – verbal report  
Veterans Incarcerated – T. Hubert – written & verbal 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 & written  
Homeless Veterans – Dr. Tom Hall – verbal report  
Veterans Healthcare – T. Berger – verbal report  
Government Affairs – F. Peterson – verbal reports  
Agent Orange/Dioxin – H. Worthington – verbal report  
Constitution – L. DeLong – verbal report  
Leadership Conference – F. Peterson/W. Guidry – verbal report

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Meeks, Jr.

National Secretary

Approved: August 5, 2014