



Vietnam Veterans of America

8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100, Silver Spring, MD 20910 • Telephone (301) 585-4000
Main Fax (301) 585-0519 • Advocacy (301) 585-3180 • Communications (301) 585-2691 • Finance (301) 585-5542

www.vva.org

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

Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors Meeting August 5, 2014 Approved by Board

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Tuesday August 5, 2014, at 4:05 pm, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Wichita, KS. 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	Jim Pace
Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer	Joe Kristek	Felix Peterson
Bob Barry	Allen Manuel	Dick Southern
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*

Absent: Dan Stenvold (excused)

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

Preapproved Business

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

John Rowan, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am the National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA). The purpose of this affidavit is to comply with the requirements of Article I, Section 4.G. of the VVA Constitution which authorizes VVA's President to submit a question to 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 May 8, 2014, an E-motion was submitted to the Board for a vote with instructions that the voting period would be open and continue until 4 p.m. on Monday, May 12, 2014.

Motion 1: To rescind Motion #10 from the Veterans Incarcerated Committee at the April 11, 2014, VVA Board of Directors meeting.

3. On May 12, 2014, 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	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	Y
Felix Pete Peterson, Jr.	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y
Pat Toro, Jr.	Y
Herb Worthington	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

<u>Results</u>	
Yes	23
No	
Abstention	
Excused	
Non Vote	1
No Response	

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

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 June 3, 2014, an E-motion was submitted to the Board for a vote with instructions that the voting period would be open and continue until 4 p.m. on June 5, 2014.

Motion 2: That VVA join in an amicus, and NO COST to VVA, to be filed by NVLSP and Paul Hastings LLP, for Writ of Certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of Mr. Birdeye Middleton, a Vietnam Veteran who has been rated 20% for his service-connected diabetes. If this writ is granted then the case would be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

3. On June 4, 2014, 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 #2</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	Y
Charlie Montgomery	Y
Tom Owen	Y
Jim Pace	Y
Felix Pete Peterson, Jr.	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y
Pat Toro, Jr.	Y
Herb Worthington	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

<u>Results</u>	
Yes	23
No	
Abstention	
Excused	
Non Vote	1
No Response	

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



 John Rowan

Preliminary Business

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motions:

Motion 3
To accept the BOD meeting agenda.
Without objection motion passed.
Yes: 21
No: 0
Non Vote: 1
Not Present: 1
Vacant Director Position: 1

Motion 4
To accept the BOD meeting minutes from April 11, 2014 in Silver Spring, MD.
Without objection motion passed.
Yes: 21

No: 0
Non Vote: 1
Not Present: 1
Vacant Director Position: 1

National President/J. Rowan

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

April 21-23rd I visited headquarters and on April 23rd I participated in a Veterans Health Council meeting.

On April 24th I testified at a NYC Council hearing in favor of a resolution in support of S2182 the Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act.

May 6-12 Mariann and I traveled to Seattle to participate in four Agent Orange Town Halls. The first one was in Lebanon, OR the home of Region 8 Director Tom Owens. Over 300 people attended consisting of veterans, family members, widows, divorcees, and children. The second one in Roseburg, OR had almost 200 people and was run by Chapter 858, a very active chapter that built their own traveling wall containing the names of Oregon's KIAs and MIAs. We finished the tour in Seattle at the home of the Nisea Veterans Committee.

May 15-18 I attended the 25th Anniversary Region 3 meeting in Norfolk, VA. This event was well attended and included several seminars on various topics. The highlight of the event was a memorial to Past President George Duggins. His wife Blanche, his daughters, granddaughters and friends were in attendance. Unfortunately, at the VA SC meeting Sunday morning one of their members, Ellis "Bootie" Smith had a heart attack and died. Condolences were sent to his family.

May 20th Mariann and I attended meetings of Chapters 126, Manhattan and 82, Nassau where I swore in their newly elected officers.

On May 21st I attended a meeting of the Hudson River society to listen to an interview with former Senator Jim Webb.

On May 22nd I attended a meeting of veteran organization leaders at Queens Borough Hall called by an old friend, new Borough President Melinda Katz. This was the first such meeting in years.

On May 23rd I attended the dedication of the Wall of Wars on the campus of the Northport VAMC. The memorial consists of twelve large black granite slabs, each containing artwork related to each of the dozen wars in US history. This memorial was the brainchild of Richard Kitson, the President of Chapter 11, Suffolk, and was heavily supported by the chapter and the DAV. I was joined by the DAV National Commander and four Members of Congress, Israel, Bishop, King, and McCarthy.

On May 24th we held an Agent Orange Town Hall at the IBEW Hall in conjunction with Queens Chapter 32 and the Military Outreach Committee of the Grand Lodge of NY of the Free and

Accepted Masons. It was endorsed by Borough President Katz and council Member Eric Ulrich, chair of the Council's Committee on Veterans.

On May 26th I attended Memorial Day service in Little Neck, NY with Queens Chapter #32.

On May 27-28th I traveled to Anaheim, CA to speak before the 2nd Annual Veterans Court Conference run by Justice for Vets. Over 400 people were in attendance from all across the country. I ran into several VVA members. VVA's role in the development of the vet courts was mentioned by other speakers and some of people, including Pat Welch were to get awards.

On June 6th I attended a D-Day commemoration in Whitestone, NY run by Queens Chapter #32. A luncheon followed. Several D-Day veterans were in attendance.

On June 13th I attended a reception at HBO headquarters in Manhattan in honor of Gen. Raymond Odierno in honor of the 239th Army birthday.

On June 23rd I testified at a NYC Council hearing on the operations of the NYC Mayor's Veterans Advisory Board of which I am a member. At this hearing the Council's Committee on Veterans announced that they are trying to elevate the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs to a separate Department of Veterans Affairs.

June 26th-29th I attended the CA State Council Convention. I want to thank Kate O'Hare-Palmer and Ken Holybee for picking me up and later dropping me off at the San Francisco Airport. The Convention was well attended with informative sessions and a spirited election process. Steve Mackey was re-elected as SCP. I want to thank Steve and the convention delegates for their generous hospitality.

July 8th and 9th I participated in the wake and funeral service for At-Large Director Pastor "Pat" Toro, Jr.

July 16th and 17th I was at the headquarters along with VP Four. We dealt with several staff issues as well as some other items. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge VP Four's great work over the past year. She has been especially effective in working with the Directors and overall staff, thereby insuring their effectiveness and efficiency. She has made sure that everyone is informed about all of the organizations activities and that all the units are working in coordination. Thanks Marsha.

National Vice President/M. Four

National Office Visits: April 20 to 24 May 11 to 14 July 14 to 18

Memorial Day: May 23 to 26

- Worked with Membership Chair Charlie Hobbs at the VVA tent
- Represented VVA at the Wall Ceremony and the ceremony at WIMSA
- Discussion with Director of the VA Center for Women Veterans.

Staff and Department Director Meetings

- These are held independently on each visit to the Silver Spring Office.
- Discussions with individual department directors and staff.
- In June a separate staff meeting was held for a Fire Safety presentation from the Montgomery County Fire Department.
- In July a documentary was shown on personal and inter-personal relationships.
- Discussions at staff meetings involve up-dates, new processes, staff input, new department work, and staff development opportunities.
- Department Director's set the agendas for these meetings and it includes up-dates on department activities, requests for and the sharing of resources and ideas, and cooperative departmental assistance.

Security and Safety: National Office and Staff

- Joe Sternburg has contacted several security companies and their proposals will be evaluated.
- Security for the reception area of the national office remains a work in progress. A second draft for consideration was obtained. Awaiting the cost out of the new construction ideas.
- In June, Vonnie and I developed an evacuation policy/procedure and a staff meeting was held with a presentation from the Fire Department. The intention is to also have ands on training with fire extinguishers. Fire extinguishers are inspected on a routine schedule.

Personnel Policy - Employee Handbook

An edited draft of the Employee Handbook was distributed for further review.

Strategic Plan Working Group

- Distribution of past strategic plans to the group
- Began development of an excel file on its work.
- Meeting to be held during VVA Leadership Conference.

In Memory Plaque: Update of involvement

- National Park Service made it clear to us that no further revision would be made to the present plaque where it is now located. Any revision or "repair" would require its relocation. This is the only plan they could support.
- The first proposal from Kline Memorials was received for consideration.
- 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".
- J. C. Cummings provided a proposal for the "repair" which is in the process of being reviewed.
- Copy of proposal went to the BOD for initial review.
- Conference call requested with J. C. Cummings. Present: J. C., John Rowan, Sharon Hobbs, Marsha Four, Mokie Porter, Carl Tuvin.
- President Rowan requested an opinion on the Cummings proposal from VVA General Council. This will be discussed at August BOD meeting.

Coalition Work

- VVA continues to move forward to work on women Veteran issues and remains in contact with Senator Gillibrand's Office and the Service Women's Action Network.
- Special Forces Association through its President and Communication's Chair on items for distribution to its membership.

Meetings and Conference Calls

- Chapter 862, Rochester PA: May 2 - 3
 - Key Note speaker at its annual banquet
 - Met with Chapter President, Skip Haswell and several other members to discuss VVA national areas of interest.
- Regional III Conference, Virginia Beach: May 15 – 17
 - Participation in workshop on national officer activity up-dates and an open Q and A with attendees. Attended other workshops.
- Veteran Motorcycle Association, Virginia Beach: May 17
 - My brother is a member and the association invited me to speak at their meeting. I discussed topics of relevance to its Veteran membership, women veteran issues, the VA, Veteran benefits and toxic exposures. Q and A followed.
- Philadelphia West Point Society: June 6
 - Invited to make a presentation to the membership. Opportunity to discuss the work of VVA and the toxic exposure legislation along with other organizational involvement.
- Pennsylvania Women Veteran's Summit, Pittsburgh, PA: June 5 to 8
 - Participation in discussions on variety of topics related to women veterans and the work with which VVA has been involved. Opportunity to meet with Deputy Director of the VA Center for Women Veterans.
- Special Forces Association National Conference, Columbia South Carolina: June 11 to 14
 - Assisted with the VVA informational table
 - Discussions with Executive Officers of the Association related to VVA's work on toxic exposures and its legislation. Discussed how we could work together to get the word out to their membership.
 - Presentation to the membership
 - Invited to return for next year's annual conference.
- Philadelphia VA Medical Center: June 23
 - Invited by VA to attend a small group meeting with Acting Secretary Gibson of the VA.
 - Q and A provided the opportunity to ask information on local Veteran input at VAMC's and oversight of local Veterans use of community medical care and the tracking of health care records into the VA files when this community care was obtained.
- Service Women's Action Network, Conference Call: June 24

- Anu Bhagwati requested input on a possible Op-Ed article on which SWAN wanted to collaborate related to women Veteran participation in organizations.
- VVA Pennsylvania State Council, State College, PA: June 28 to 29
 - Attended committee meetings
 - Addressed the membership with an up-date on activities and held a Q and A session.

National Secretary/B. Meeks

Secretary Meeks submitted a written report:

Failure to submit a completed financial or election report prior to or by the reporting deadline of July 15th each year means that a state council or chapter shall be automatically suspended upon written notice of suspension to the state council, chapter and the VVA Board of Directors.

Historically when it is not a convention year the number of state councils and chapters on VVA suspension expands and this year is not as bad as past years. As of July 31st per the suspension list from the VVA Membership Department there are seven (7) state councils and one-hundred fifteen (115) chapters being placed on VVA suspension for no financial or election reporting.

State Council	Financial Report	Election Report	Both Reports
7	2	3	2

Chapter	Financial Report	Election Report	Both Reports
115	55	24	36

VVA Constitution

1. **ARTICLE III CHAPTER PROVISIONS SECTION 9 - ELECTION RESULTS:**
 The Chapter shall submit the election results to both the State Council and National Membership Department not later than July 15 of the year in which the elections take place. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or the National Disciplinary Policy, the Charter of any Chapter that fails to file its election report within the period specified herein shall be automatically suspended upon written notice of suspension to the appropriate State Council and the National Board of Directors. In such cases, no charges shall be required under the National Disciplinary Policy for such suspension to be effective. Written notice of such suspension shall be sent to the Chapter at it last known address.

Such suspension shall continue until (1) the Chapter shall file its election report for the election year which caused the suspension; or (2) the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall relieve the Chapter of the responsibility for the filing of such report for the election year in question; or (3) the Charter of such Chapter shall be thereafter revoked upon the filing of charges under the National Disciplinary Policy.

2. **ARTICLE II STATE PROVISIONS SECTION 12 – REPORTING:** The State Council shall submit the election results to the National Membership Department not later than July 15 of the year in which the elections take place. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution or the National Disciplinary Policy, the Charter of any State Council that fails to file its election report within the period specified herein shall be automatically suspended upon written notice of suspension to the National Board of Directors. In such cases, no charges shall be required under the National Disciplinary Policy for such suspension to be effective. Written notice of such suspension shall be sent to the State Council at its last known address.

Such suspension shall continue until (1) the State Council shall file its election report for the election year which caused the suspension; or (2) the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall relieve the State Council of the responsibility for the filing of such report for the election year in question; or (3) the Charter of such State Council shall be thereafter revoked upon the filing of charges under the National Disciplinary Policy.

3. **ARTICLE IV GENERAL PROVISIONS SECTION 1 – FINANCE A:** Each Chapter and State Council shall conform to all applicable Federal, state, and local laws, and with this Constitution, the rules and directives of the Corporation, as concerns the reporting of any financial activities of the Chapter or State Council. By July 15 of each year, each Chapter shall file an annual financial report with its State Council and with the Corporation in a format to be specified by the Corporation. By July 15 of each year, each State Council shall file a similar annual report with the Corporation. The deadline for filing the State Council or Chapter annual financial report with the Corporation and/or the State Council may be extended 3 months by submitting a copy of the “Application for Extension of Time to File an Exempt Organization Return,” which was filed with the IRS, to the State Council or Corporation by July 15. This extension only applies to State Councils and Chapters who file an IRS 990 form and not the 990-N. Notwithstanding any other provision of this constitution or the National Disciplinary Policy, the Charter of any Chapter or State Council that fails to file its annual financial report by the date specified herein shall be automatically suspended upon written notice of such suspension sent to the appropriate State Council and to the National Board of Directors. In such cases, no charges shall be required under the National Disciplinary Policy for such suspension to be effective. Written notice of such suspension shall be sent to the Chapter or State Council at its last known address.

Such suspension shall continue until (1) the Chapter or State Council shall file its financial report for the year which caused the suspension; or (2) the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall relieve the Chapter or State Council of the responsibility for the filing of such report for the year in question; or (3) the Charter of such Chapter or State Council shall be thereafter revoked upon the filing of charges under the National Disciplinary Policy.

Membership Director Mary Stout stated: *“We have not processed the letters to the Chapter and State Councils yet. Please DO NOT bring financial reports or election reports to the Leadership conference. I will not be able to process them in Wichita. Have them sent to the National Office. Note: Chapters and State Councils that filed for IRS extensions are not suspended if they sent the extension request to me.”*

While the number on VVA suspension is somewhat normal, the number that have filed neither the financial and election report (state council (2) & chapters (36) is disturbing and the state councils and chapters have the responsibility to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements per the VVA Constitution. While some reports were submitted by July 15th, they are not complete as required and here are various reasons why the reports are incomplete.

Financial Report – No 990-N	990-N with No Financial Report	Election Report Unsigned
12	2	8

National Treasurer/W. Reynolds

Treasurer gave no report to the Board.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America/ S. Hobbs

The April Board meeting proved to be very busy and productive. The 2015 budget was passed, several policy changes, we made a trip to Capitol Hill, and all attended VVA Committee meetings on Thursday and Friday. While in Silver Spring, the Officers, along with Sharon Hodge, visited the Fisher House in DC; we presented them with a donation check for \$3,896.00 from AVVA.

During the Board meeting, the Finance Committee recommended that all incorporated states and chapters be reimbursed for crime insurance premiums paid in 2012 & 2013; the Board voted unanimously to do so. Since then, refund checks have been mailed along with a letter from me explaining that AVVA National will pay their premium from this day forward as long as the entity is in good standing with AVVA. Thirteen (13) states and nine (9) chapters received letters; seven (7) states and two (2) chapters received a reimbursement check for \$200.

I had the opportunity to hold several AVVA elections this spring, in April I started with my own Chapter 203. Congratulations to Joyce Simpson, President, Charlene Holloway, VP, and Susan Price, Treasurer. The office of Secretary is vacant at the present time.

In May, I was invited to the Ohio State Convention in Cincinnati. I met several AVVA members; held the election for OH State Representative and administered the Oath of Office to Jerry Eversman; he is our first elected Representative in Ohio since 2008. Welcome back, Ohio! By the way while I was there, two VVA Chapter Presidents joined AVVA as dual members. Later in the month, I attended the George C Duggins Regions 3 Conference in Virginia Beach, VA.

While there I presented a seminar entitled “All Aboard”; a look at AVVA progress, objectives and destination. I also co-presented a seminar with Charlie Hobbs, VVA National Membership

Chair, entitled “Together = Success”; VVA and AVVA working as a team on the National level, state-level, and the local-level.

In June, I traveled to the AVVA Tennessee Association meeting in Murfreesboro, TN. (At no cost to AVVA). I conducted the state elections. Congratulations to the Officers: Beverly Pounds, President; Susan Price, VP; Linda Finch, Secretary; and Joyce Simpson, Treasurer.

Later that month, I attended the California State Convention in Fresno. I had a wonderful time with the members of AVVA; however, my time was too short. I had the privilege of attending an AVVA Secondary PTSD Committee meeting; it was excellent! Nina Schloffel, CA Association Vice President, moderated the class. There were as many VVA members there as AVVA. AVVA National will certainly be exploring the possibility of cultivating and expanding this seminar into a full-blown program in the future.

The Leadership and Education Conference time is here. Three weeks ago, the Board met online to finalize our plans. We want our fifteen birthday to be a special event so every effort is being made to make it happen. Although most of our time will be spent with VVA, we will have an Annual Membership Meeting and Open Forum on Thursday afternoon, along with two seminars geared solely to AVVA.

Our Project Friendship, Shalom Homes in Wichita, KS, is very excited about being our choice for help. Shalom Homes is a 501(c)(3) providing transitional housing for homeless veterans. Please take the challenge and let’s make this the biggest and best participation that AVVA and VVA have ever had.

Since the signing MOUs with our vendors, I have been working with them in the design and production of AVVA products. The fifteen anniversary pin and patch are still available. We now have the mini stick AVVA flag with holder; a Zippo cigarette lighter, and numerous other items. I have suggested an AVVA table cover and Life Member patch.

Mid July I had the opportunity to visit West Virginia and attend a Faces of Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting. There were approximately 75 people there. And although the weather was very rainy, it was a very successful meeting.

The AVVA Board and Committees are doing an excellent job. Being surrounded and supported by competent, dedicated, and caring people, makes my job much easier. I thank you all!!

Since my last report in April, I have written one (1) article for the VVA Veteran, one (1) for the UPDATES, one (1) for the VVA Board, and one (1) for the AVVA Board.

Together Always,

Sharon

Finance Committee Report/N. Foote

Chairman Foote had nothing new to report to the Board.

Director H. Worthington who is the Chair of the Agent Orange/Dioxin and Toxic Exposures Committee submitted the following motion:

Motion 5

To rescind the Budget Oversight Committee.

The motion initiated a lengthy discussion on the committee budget and the Budget Oversight process.

Vice President Four with second from Treasurer Reynolds made a motion:

Motion 5A

To Call the Question.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Vacant Director Position: 1

Motion passed.

President Rowan called for a roll call vote:

Motion 5

To rescind the Budget Oversight Committee.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Motion #5</u>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	N
Bill Meeks, Jr.	N
Wayne Reynolds	N
Bob Barry	N
Linda Blankenship	N
Dennis Cohoon	N
Richard DeLong	N
Charlie Hobbs	N
Joe Jennings, III	N
Joe Kristek	N
Allen Manuel	N
John Margowski	N
Sara McVicker	ABS
John Miner	ABS
Charlie Montgomery	N
Tom Owen	N

Jim Pace	N
Felix Pete Peterson, Jr.	N
Dick Southern	N
Dan Stenvold	NP
Herb Worthington	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	N

<u>Results</u>	
Yes	1
No	18
Abstention	2
Excused	1
Non Vote	1
No Response	0
Vacant Director Position	1

Yes: 1
No: 18
Non Vote: 1
Not Present: 1
Abstention: 2
Vacant Director Position: 1
Motion failed.

Conference of State Council Presidents/C. Montgomery

CSCP President Montgomery stated there are a lot of old forms being used on the required VVA reporting being submitted and that there eight (8) new state council presidents.

Consent Calendar Motions/National Secretary

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

Motion 6

To accept the Consent Calendar Motions:

- 1) To revoke the Chapter Charter of Chapter 817 (NY) and
- 2) To add Skip Haswell as a member to the Membership Affairs Committee
at no cost to VVA

Without objection motion passed.

- **Yes: 21**
- **No: 0**
- **Non Vote: 1**
- **Not Present: 1**
- **Vacant Director Position: 1**

Special Order – Election of Director At Large on the National Board of Directors

President Rowan stated the following: *“Nominations are open for at-large director.”*

President Rowan stated: ***“If there are no objections the election will be by ballot.”***

The Chair appoints Leslie DeLong, Grant Coates, and Larry Frazee tellers to conduct the elections. The tellers distributed the ballots.

President Rowan stated: ***“Are there any nominations?”***

The following nominations were submitted by Board Members:

Tom Burke
Alan Harvey
Ken Holybee
Steve Mackey
Bill Messer
Craig Tonges

President Rowan stated: ***“There being no further nominations, nominations are closed.”***

The tellers collected the ballots from the Board Member, then retired to hallway to tabulate the votes and President Rowan continued with the meeting business while the votes were being tabulated.

Veterans Health Council/Dr. T. Berger

-Submitted proposal for a presentation by President Rowan and myself at the National Indian Health Board Conference next month in Albuquerque

-submitted a Eugene Washington PCORI application with a colleague from Harvard entitled “Engaging peers in comparative effectiveness research”; this proposal represents the bold and innovative goal of integrating peers into the research process.

-partnered with SWAN on the MST claims discrimination suit against VBA

-continue to work with the National Institute of Corrections on a veterans court project

-held a VHC meeting

-participated in AO town hall meetings in Indianapolis and Wilmington, NC

-addressed the Senate Forum on Addictions

-attended and addressed the Executive Committee of National Alliance for Suicide Risk and Prevention

-participated in a Medicare Part D conference on the Hill

-attended VA Symposium “Where Do We Go from Here?”

-presented and moderated panel discussion at the Foundation for Veterans' Health Care and NAVAPD Summit entitled "Coming Together: The Future of Veterans Health Care"

-attended a DoD-sponsored peer support conference

-attended IOM briefing re: release of "Treatment for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Military and Veteran Populations – Final Assessment"

-attended the Legion-sponsored TBI and PTSD symposium

-prepared and submitted HVAC statement for record on veteran suicide

-attended a White House-sponsored forum entitled "Addictions and Women"

-since March the VHC has received \$57,100.00 in donations, including 50k from the Fisher Foundation and 5k from the Ed Vick Foundation.

Special Order – Election of Director At Large on the National Board of Directors (con't)

The tellers completed the count, the tellers' Chair Leslie DeLong reported that Ken Holybee was elected to the board. President Rowan declares Ken Holybee elected director-at-large for the remainder of the term 2013-2015 and Director K. Holybee was seated with the Board members for the remainder of the meeting.

Motion 7

To destroy the ballots.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Committee – MOTIONS ONLY

There were no motions submitted by the Committees.

Unfinished Business

Question on Tax-exempt Status & Incarcerated Chapters

Director McVicker started a discussion pertaining to incarcerated chapters filing the required VVA reports and then submitted the following motion:

Motion 8

All Chapters, including incarcerated Chapters must maintain their incorporated status and file all required reports. For incarcerated Chapters such reports shall be filed by the Chapter or by an outside supporter or their State Council.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0
Non Vote: 1
Not Present: 1

J.C. Cummings Contract “In Memory Plaque”

President Rowan and Vice President Four provided more information on the timeframe leading up to the last minute delivery of the contract and there was discussion.

Director Manuel submitted the following motion:

Motion 9

To postpone the J.C. Cummings Contract “In Memory Plaque” to the 2014 October BOD meeting.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22
No: 0
Non Vote: 1
Not Present: 1

New Business

VVA E-Rules of Order Policy

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

Motion 10

To approve the revised VVA E-Rules of Order Policy.

**E-Rules of Order Policy
National Board of Directors**

1. The secretary shall notify members of the Board by e-mail OB@vva.org that the president submitted a specific question to the Board for consideration.
2. Members shall check their e-mail frequently for further posts.
3. Members shall conduct business in Eastern Standard Time (EST).
4. Members shall notify the secretary by e-mail or phone if they are not available to participate in the consideration of the question.
5. The secretary shall post the question on the Board’s Electronic Debate Site (BEDS).
6. The secretary shall notify the members by e-mail using the “delivery receipt requested option” that the question is posted on the BEDS and consideration of the question can begin; the secretary shall include instructions on accessing BEDS in the notice.
7. Members shall acknowledge the “delivery receipt requested” by logging in on BEDS, and shall await instructions from the secretary.
8. Members shall notify the secretary or other officer, by phone or e-mail, if there is a problem on BEDS.

9. Members shall consider the question for 24 hours.
10. At the end of the 24-hour period, the secretary shall post notice on BEDS and by e-mail that consideration of the question is closed.
11. The secretary shall notify the members by e-mail that the polls are open and shall provide instructions on the voting procedure.
12. Designated VVA staff shall conduct the voting procedure.
13. The polls shall remain open for 24 hours or longer if less than 16 votes have been cast.
14. After the polls are closed, the secretary shall e-mail the result of the vote and issue any additional instructions.
15. After the Board has finally disposed of the question, the designated VVA staff shall close BEDS and delete the text.
16. The secretary shall notify the Board and council presidents of the question considered and the result of the vote.
17. The secretary shall place the question considered and the result of the vote in the minutes of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Vice President Four submitted an amendment to the motion:

Motion 10A

On item # 13, strike the number 24 and insert 48.

13. The polls shall remain open for 24 48 hours or longer if less than 16 votes have been cast.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Director Montgomery submitted an amendment to the amended revised policy:

Motion 10B

To amend sentence # 1 to add texting to the E-Rules of Order.

Yes: 5

No: 17

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion failed.

President Rowan asked for a roll call vote:

Motion 10

To approve the amended VVA E-Rules of Order Policy.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Motion #10</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
Ken Holybee	Y
Joe Jennings, III	N
Joe Kristek	Y
Allen Manuel	Y
John Margowski	Y
Sara McVicker	Y
John Miner	Y
Charlie Montgomery	N
Tom Owen	Y
Jim Pace	Y
Felix Pete Peterson, Jr.	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	NP
Herb Worthington	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

<u>Results</u>	
Yes	22
No	2
Non Vote	1
Not Present	0

Motion passed.

Honorary Life Membership

Secretary Meeks submitted a list of individuals for Honorary Life Membership and there was lengthy discussion on the lack of criterion on the current policy to determine whether any individual is worthy of consideration.

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motions:

Motion 11

To designate Neva Bisette as Honorary Life Membership (HLM) within the Corporation.

NAME	REQUESTED BY
Neva Bisette	MO 1056

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 12

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

NAME	REQUESTED BY
Curtis M. Oda	UT 1079
John Braun	OH 97
Deborah Knapp	MD 965
Paul Olivares	MD 965

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

President Rowan tasked that Secretary Meeks and the VVA Membership Affairs Committee draft criterion for honorary life membership to be presented at the 2014 October BOD meeting.

Director Cohoon submitted the following motion:

Motion 13

To rescind motion revoking Chapter 110's charter as all necessary reports have been filed and received by the VVA Membership Department.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion passed.

Committee Reports Only

POW/MIA – R. DeLong – verbal report

Public Affairs – T. Burke – verbal report & written report

Agent Orange/Dioxin – H. Worthington – verbal report

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Meeks, Jr." in a cursive style.

Bill Meeks, Jr.
National Secretary
Approved: October 10, 2014