



## 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](http://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 July 21, 2015 Approved by Board**

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Tuesday July 21, 2015, at 4:03 pm at the Ambassador (Hilton) -- Prayer; 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	Sharon Hobbs *	Tom Owen
Marsha Four, Vice President	Ken Holybee	Jim Pace
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	
Charlie Hobbs	Dottie Barickman *	

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

\* CSCP Representative designated by Charlie Montgomery

Also present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO and Charlie Montgomery was excused.

#### **Preliminary Business**

Secretary Meeks submitted a motion to accept the amended agenda.

#### **Motion 1**

**To accept the BOD meeting amended agenda by striking Reinstatement of VA VVA Chapter 682 under Unfinished Business and adding Honorary Life Membership under New Business.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 0**

Secretary Meeks submitted a motion to accept the BOD meeting minutes:

**Motion 2**

**To accept the BOD meeting minutes from April 15-16, 2015 in Silver Spring, MD.  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**National President/J. Rowan**

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

April 14 I traveled to DC to testify about the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 (TERA 2015).

April 17-19 I attended the Texas State Council meeting. It was a great program as always.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> I attended a House Veterans Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Health to testify on TERA 2015 and other bills.

April 24-26 I Attended the Region 5 meeting in Springfield, IL. It was well attended.

May 16<sup>th</sup> I attended a Region 1 meeting, which was followed by attending a meeting of the Grand Post of the masonic War Veterans of the Grand Lodge of NY where I was elected Treasurer General.

May 20<sup>th</sup> I presented VVA's annual testimony before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. Again, I focused on TERA 2015.

Memorial Day May 25 I was one of the Grand Marshalls for the Little Neck-Douglaston Memorial Day Parade, which was attended by Mayor DeBlasio and other NYC dignitaries.

On June 12<sup>th</sup> I flew to DC to meet with VA Secretary Bob Mc Donald. I was joined by our Director of Government Affairs Rick Weidman. He is a very affable person and we talked very frankly about several issues. This has opened up a line of direct communication with Secretary McDonald.

June 20<sup>th</sup> I attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner for the Sons and Daughters in Touch. It was a gala event.

June 24<sup>th</sup> I testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee about TERA 2015. This bill was supported by several Senators.

June 25-28 I attended the Region 8/9 meeting in Reno, NV. It was very well attended.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> I spoke at the opening of the Moving Wall in Dover, DE, at the invitation of the DE State Council. Their local memorial includes a Huey decked out as a “Dustoff” on a stand about 40 feet in the air coming in for a landing. The cockpit lights up at night.

July 7-9 I traveled to DC to attend a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War hosted by the leadership of the House and Senate in the Capital Visitors Center. Over 400 people were in attendance mostly Vietnam vets and military leaders. Among the guest speakers were former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and the present Secretary Ash Carter. Ten Vietnam Vets were given Commemorative pins by a senior officer and NCO from each branch of service.

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

AVVA President Hobbs provided written and a verbal report.

Since returning home from the April Board meeting, the Board has conducted Convention readiness through our online conferencing platform.

AVVA continues to work with Father Phil in sending sympathy cards to the families of all reported deceased members of VVA and AVVA. Unfortunately, a small percentage of cards are returned as “unable to forward” or “undeliverable” due to the timeframe between the date of death and the date reported to the National Office.

This year’s Project Friendship is the Spring Street Veterans Renaissance (SSVR), a division of the Fifth Street Renaissance/SARA Center in Springfield, Illinois. Veteran Renaissance is a transitional housing program for veterans who are homeless and/or disabled. SSVR is a 15-bed facility which provides shelter and supportive services for up to 24 months and addresses all barriers to independent living. We are accepting donation; we anticipate another record year.

The *In Memory Plaque* Task Force continues to work with JC Cummings, design architect, and the governmental agencies in the repair of the Plaque. The Taskforce is made up of AVVA and VVA members; all dedicated to the repair and restoration of this Plaque so that it is once again an honorable tribute.

In May, AVVA learned that “Together Always” is now a registered trademark with AVVA. We have been in the process since 2012, and we are pleased to finally have it belong to us.

During the months of November and December 2015, AVVA will offer life membership for \$100. We have established the following criteria:

- November 1 - December 31: Any annual or new member may sign up for \$100 life membership with no proof of age required
- If on time payments, and the member paid \$100 or more by November 1, their payments will automatically stop, and they will receive their life membership
- If on time payments; and the member has not paid the minimum of \$100 on time payments the member may pay a one-time payment of the difference and receive a life membership
- There will be no time payments offered on this \$100.00 life membership

- Any member who is a 3 year member, regardless of their due date can sign up, but must pay \$100 for the life membership
- NO life member appreciation gifts will be given for this time period
- Dual members are included, following the above criteria.

I have enjoyed working with and being a part of the VVA National Board. I look forward to our next term.

Sharon Hobbs, President  
 Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America

**Consent Calendar**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion to approve the Consent Calendar:

**Motion 3**

**To accept the Consent Calendar.**

- 1. Move to retire the Disaster Relief Fund Policy.**
- 2. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 799 (OR) and VVA Chapter 867 (OR) as the OR State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.**
- 3. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 691 (CA) and VVA Chapter 781 (CA) as the CA State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.**
- 4. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 897 (ID) as the ID State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.**
- 5. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 68 (MI), VVA Chapter 589 (MI), VVA Chapter 640 (MI), VVA Chapter 692 (MI), VVA Chapter 736 (MI), and VVA Chapter 760 (MI) as the MI State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.**
- 6. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 338 (MA) as the MA State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.**
- 7. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 359 (PA) as the PA State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**Announcements**

President Rowan spoke about a book called McNamara’s Foley. VVA has donated \$3,000 to the **American Academy of Nursing (AAN)** who is a professional organization that generates, synthesizes, and disseminates nursing knowledge to contribute to health policy and practice for the benefit of the public and the nursing profession.

**Unfinished Business**

No business items noted.

**New Business**

**Honorary Life Membership:** Secretary Meeks noted the requests were sent out by e-mail and Director DeLong questioned one of the nominated. Treasurer Reynolds made a motion with a second from Director Cohoon:

**Motion 4**

**To postpone consideration of submitted honorary life membership until October BOD meeting.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**VVA Convention Minutes:** Secretary Meeks stated that NY corp laws state that there should be a written record of all of the meetings and the conventions had been taped in the past. There will be convention minutes prepared for BOD approval.

**VVA Confidential Policy:** Director Manuel with second from Director Southern submitted the following motion:

**Motion 5**

**For the National Board of Directors to go into Executive Session.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

President Rowan announced at 5:16 pm that the National Board of Directors would go into Executive Session.

President Rowan called for the executive session to end and the meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 5:52 pm. Secretary Meeks was to record the total vote tally and whether the motion passed or failed during the Executive Session in the meeting minutes.

Director McVicker submitted the following motion with a second from Director Manuel:

**Motion 6**

**For the National Board of Directors to bring disciplinary charges against member # 065670 for misconduct under the provisions of the VVA National Disciplinary Policy.**

**Motion passed.**

**Yes: 19**

**No: 2**

**Non Vote: 3**

**Not Present: 0**

After the vote tally was tabulated and announced Director Sara McVicker asked President John Rowan who would act as the complainant. After consultation with the National Secretary, President Rowan designated Director Sara McVicker to act as the complainant since she brought the motion before the Board of Directors.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Meeks, Jr.  
National Secretary  
Approved: October 16, 2015