



## Vietnam Veterans of America

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

### **Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors Meeting October 16, 2015 Approved by Board**

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Friday October 16, 2015, at 9:09 am, at the Double Tree by Hilton 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	Dick Southern
Marsha Four, Vice President	Sharon Hobbs *	Dan Stenvold
Bill Meeks, Secretary	Joe Kristek	Kerwin Stone
Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer	Sara McVicker	Craig Tonjes
Dennis Andras	John Miner	Sandie Wilson
Dottie Barickman	Charlie Montgomery	Ted Wilkinson
Tom Burke	Ron Morgan	Jerry Yamamoto
Richard DeLong	Felix Peterson	
Mike Demske	Dave Simmons	

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

Also present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO.

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

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

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

**Preapproved Business**

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

John Rowan, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am the National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA). The purpose of this affidavit is to comply with the requirements of Article I, Section 4.G. of the VVA Constitution which authorizes VVA's President to submit a question to the VVA Board of Directors for a vote in between Board meetings when he determines that the matter requires the Board's immediate attention.

2. On August 7, 2015, the National Board of Directors was presented with the following motions regarding appointments to the Finance Committee and the National Disciplinary Committee. The Board of Directors was asked to submit their vote via the Board of Director's website within a 24 hour period. The motions are as follow:

**Motion 1: To approve the Finance Committee Members: Sara McVicker, Vice Chair, Chair of Budget Oversight sub-committee, Tom Burke, Chair of investment subcommittee, Barry Rice, Dottie Barickman, Dan Stenvold and Jacob Barsottini. Passed.**

**Motion 2: To approve the National Disciplinary Committee Members: Spence Davis, Vice Chair, Allen Manuel, Steve Mulcahy, Rex Moody, Dan Stenvold, Nate Washington, Richard DeLong , Fred Barks and Tom Burke. Passed.**

3. On August 9, 2015, the National Secretary notified me that the vote of each Board member who voted on the motion was as follows:

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Motion #1</u></b>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	Y

Bill Meeks, Jr.	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y
Dennis Andras	Y
Dottie Barickman	Y
Thomas Burke	Y
Richard DeLong	Y
Michael Demske	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y
Joe Kristek	Y
Sara McVicker	Y
John Miner	Y
Charlie Montgomery, Jr.	Y
Ron Morgan	Y
Felix "Pete" Peterson, Jr.	NR
Dave Simmons	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y
Kerwin Stone	Abstention
Craig Tonjes	Y
Ted Wilkinson	Y
Sandie Wilson	N
Jerry Yamamoto	Y


<b><u>Results</u></b>	
Yes	20
No	1
Abstention	1
Non Vote	1
No Response	1

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Motion #2</u></b>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	Y
Bill Meeks, Jr.	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y
Dennis Andras	Y
Dottie Barickman	Y
Thomas Burke	Y
Richard DeLong	Y
Michael Demske	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y
Joe Kristek	Y
Sara McVicker	Y
John Miner	Y
Charlie Montgomery, Jr.	Y

Ron Morgan	Y
Felix "Pete" Peterson, Jr.	NR
Dave Simmons	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y
Kerwin Stone	Abstention
Craig Tonjes	Y
Ted Wilkinson	Y
Sandie Wilson	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

<b><u>Results</u></b>	
Yes	21
No	0
Abstention	1
Non Vote	1
No Response	1

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

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 John Rowan

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

John Rowan, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am the National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA). The purpose of this affidavit is to comply with the requirements of Article I, Section 4.G. of the VVA Constitution which authorizes VVA's President to submit a question to the VVA Board of Directors for a vote in between Board meetings when he determines that the matter requires the Board's immediate attention.

2. On September 4, 2015, the National Board of Directors was presented with the following motions regarding appointments of VVA's Parliamentarian, adding VVA as a party to an amicus brief and the appointment of the Public Affairs Committee Chair. The Board of Directors was asked to submit their vote via the Board of Director's website within a 48 hour period. The motions are as follow:

**Motion 1:** To approve the appointment of Richard Tribble as the VVA Parliamentarian.

**Motion 2:** To allow the law firm, Sidley Austin LLP to add Vietnam Veterans of America at no cost as an interested party in an amicus brief supporting Supreme Court review of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit's decision in Kingdomware Technologies, Inc. v. United States, 754 F.3d 923 (Fed. Cir. 2014).

**Motion 3: To approve the appointment of Dennis Howland as Chair of the Public Affairs Committee.**

3. On September 8, 2015, the National Secretary notified me that the vote of each Board member who voted on the motion was as follows:

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Motion #1</u></b>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	Y
Bill Meeks, Jr.	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y
Dennis Andras	Y
Dottie Barickman	Y
Thomas Burke	Y
Richard DeLong	Y
Michael Demske	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y
Joe Kristek	Y
Sara McVicker	Y
John Miner	Y
Charlie Montgomery, Jr.	Y
Ron Morgan	Y
Felix "Pete" Peterson, Jr.	Y
Dave Simmons	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y
Kerwin Stone	Y
Craig Tonjes	Y
Ted Wilkinson	Y
Sandie Wilson	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

<b><u>Results – Motion #1</u></b>	
Yes	23
No	0
Abstention	0
Non Vote	1
No Response	0

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Motion #2</u></b>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	Y
Bill Meeks, Jr.	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y
Dennis Andras	Y

Dottie Barickman	Y
Thomas Burke	Y
Richard DeLong	Y
Michael Demske	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y
Joe Kristek	Y
Sara McVicker	Y
John Miner	Y
Charlie Montgomery, Jr.	Y
Ron Morgan	Y
Felix "Pete" Peterson, Jr.	Y
Dave Simmons	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y
Kerwin Stone	Y
Craig Tonjes	Y
Ted Wilkinson	Y
Sandie Wilson	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

<b><u>Results – Motion #2</u></b>	
Yes	23
No	0
Abstention	0
Non Vote	1
No Response	0

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Motion #3</u></b>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	Y
Bill Meeks, Jr.	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y
Dennis Andras	Y
Dottie Barickman	Y
Thomas Burke	Y
Richard DeLong	Y
Michael Demske	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y
Joe Kristek	Y
Sara McVicker	Y
John Miner	Y
Charlie Montgomery, Jr.	Y
Ron Morgan	Y
Felix "Pete" Peterson, Jr.	Y
Dave Simmons	Y

Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	Y
Kerwin Stone	Y
Craig Tonjes	Y
Ted Wilkinson	Y
Sandie Wilson	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y
<b><u>Results – Motion #3</u></b>	
Yes	23
No	0
Abstention	0
Non Vote	1
No Response	0

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 a motion to accept the tentative agenda.

**Motion 6**

**To accept the BOD meeting tentative agenda.  
 Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 0**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motions:

**Motion 7**

**To accept the BOD meeting minutes from July 21, 2015.  
 Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 0**

**Motion 8**

**To accept the BOD meeting minutes from July 25, 2015.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**Motion 9**

**To accept the VVA National Convention minutes from July 22-25, 2015.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**Motion 10**

**To rescind motion # 26 of the July 25, 2015 National Board of Directors meeting which stated: “To establish a new committee Veterans in the Justice System.”**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**Motion 11**

**To rescind motion # 27 of the July 25, 2015 National Board of Directors meeting which stated: “To appoint Dominick Yezzo as the Chair of the new committee Veterans in the Justice System.”**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**Motion 12**

**To appoint Dominick Yezzo as the Chair of the Veterans Incarcerated Committee.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**Motion 13**

**To rescind motion # 1 of the National Board of Directors E-Vote on September 8, 2015 “To approve the appointment of Richard Tribble as the VVA Parliamentarian.”**



**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**National President/J. Rowan**

On August 19<sup>th</sup> I attended a NYC Veterans Advisory Board meeting. We are going through a reorganization and I am one of the holdovers. The new Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary are all new veterans.

On August 21<sup>st</sup> I participated in a conference call with VP Four, Vonnie and Tracie to discuss the future of the Membership Department.

August 24-26 I was at the headquarters. I was joined on the first day by Ed Vick, my new Special Advisor to the President, who reviewed all of our communications efforts. The next day the officers met with the owners of M&M one of our biggest and oldest household good buyers. On August 26<sup>th</sup> I testified in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

On August 29<sup>th</sup> Mariann and I attended a community BBQ given by State Senator Joseph Addabbo. He is the ranking member of the NYS Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee.

On August 30<sup>th</sup> Mariann and I attended Chapter 32's annual picnic at the St. Albans VA Hospital.

On September 11<sup>th</sup> Mariann and I joined our neighbors in our annual 9/11 Rememberence Ceremony in our local park which, because it is high ground has a view of Manhattan.

On September 16<sup>th</sup> I attended a site meeting on the proposed Queens Vietnam Memorial with the NYC Parks Department. This proposal was developed by Pat Toro.

On September 19<sup>th</sup> Mariann threw me a great party for my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday (9/18).

On October 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter 32 conducted thier 100<sup>th</sup> burial of an indigent veteran. I presented the VVA Achievement Medal to both the Chapter and the funeral home.

On October 9-11 Mariann and I traveled to Owego, NY to attend the VVA NYSC meeting.

On October 13<sup>th</sup> I joined Mokie Porter and Mark McCabe to meet with Ms. Gloria Estafan and he family to present them with information and the medals her father earned in Vietnam. They were very moved.

**National Vice President/M. Four**

It is a privilege to be serving as Vice President for a second term. President Rowan has given many of the same duties I performed in my first term. In part they include:

- Chair of Chairs and again will have a Friday lunch meeting with all the Committee Chairs
- Liaison between VVA members, the Board of Directors and the VVA National staff. I will continue to be present in the national office approximately 4 to 5 days a month in addition to working with staff throughout the month by phone and email
- Liaison to the Strategic Working Group

- Liaison to Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America and the “In Memory Plaque” project.

In August and September I spent five days working in the national office. During these trips I meet individually with staff keeping current on the issues and work with which they are involved. There are also full staff meeting and usually a full Director meeting. Staff meetings provide time to share ideas and update the work they are doing. Some meetings are set aside for staff development. The Director meetings involve discussions on activities, sharing ideas and coordinating and cross referencing information. During August and September the staff had the opportunity to take part in presentations in both financial literacy and the advantages of using a 401K.

In August appointments were set with six companies for interviews in September with all the officers; three from security companies and three from construction companies.

In August I was invited as VVA’s representative, to take part in the sunset ceremony at the Cape May Coast Guard Base. It was exciting to be included in a pass and review ceremony of the new recruits.

All the officers met at the national office the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>. One of our days was filled with the interviews of the security and construction companies for the work that could possibly be done in the national office. I have keep in contact with these individuals in order to have a more complete understanding of the proposals and to clarify some of the costs involved. These proposals were sent to the Board of Directors for consideration and a follow up document was compiled to address a few of their questions.

The first all women veterans honor flight arrived in Washington on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. I represented VVA at a reception held at WIMSA for these women who were from Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.

On Friday, October 16, I will be representing VVA at a reception being held in conjunction with the American Academy of Nursing’s annual conference. This reception is being given to honor nurses who have served in the military. VVA will have an information table at the event.

For the past several weeks I have been working with President Rowan and Tracie Houston of the national staff in coordinating a restructure of the membership department. Elements of this process planning have begun to take shape and will be instituted over the next several months.

As part of the Strategic Working Group activity, Jim Vale, Director of Veteran Benefits Department, and I have been continuing our conversations on the VVA Service Rep Program and the dilemma we face in regard to our limited presence in the VA Regional Offices and the expanding amount of county service officers that hold the VVA POA. Jim will be commenting on this and several items related to our Service Officers during his report. There are some legal questions that have been identified. They will, in time, require an attorney that specializes in non-profit law.

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

**January 2005 BOD Motion # 15:** That the National Secretary following a national board of directors meeting send out in appropriate format, prior to each Board of Directors meeting, an interim synopsis progress report of all motions passed, to include action required, responsible party and date to be completed. All motions will be considered incomplete until the Secretary receives the documentation from the responsible party.

### **July 21, 2015 BOD Meeting Motions**

#### **Motion 2**

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

- **The approved minutes are posted on the VVA web site.**

### 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.

- **The revocation of all of the chapter charters were completed on 8/5/15 by the VVA Membership Department with copies of the Secretary's Notification of BOD Action provided to the Regional Director and State Council President 8/8/15.**

### Motion 4

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

Without objection motion passed.

- **The item is on the 2015 October BOD meeting tentative agenda.**

### Motion 6

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

- **The Statement of Charges (SOC) has been filed and the disciplinary action is being handled by the VVA National Disciplinary Committee.**

## **July 25, 2015 BOD Meeting Motions**

### Motion 2

To have the 2015 VVA Convention Minutes approved at the 2015 October BOD meeting.  
Without objection motion passed.

- **The proposed draft of the VVA National Convention minutes has been distributed and will be voted on at the 2015 October BOD meeting.**

### Motion 3

To have each committee report their goals for the coming next two years at the 2015 October BOD meeting and give update at each BOD meeting until April 2017.

Without objection motion passed.

- **The Memo on the motion was distributed 8/8/15.**

### **Special Questions from President Rowan 8/9/15**

#### **Motion 1**

**To approve the Finance Committee Members: Sara McVicker Vice Chair, Chair of Oversight subcommittee, Tom Burke, Chair of investment subcommittee, Barry Rice, Dottie Barickman, Dan Stenvold and Jacob Barsottini. (Passed)**

#### **Motion 2**

**To approve the National Disciplinary Committee Members: Spence Davis, Vice Chair, Allen Manuel, Steve Mulcahy, Rex Moody, Dan Stenvold, Nate Washington, Richard DeLong, Fred Barks and Tom Burke.**

Without objection motion passed.

- **Motions will be recorded in the 2015 October BOD meeting minutes.**

### **Special Questions from President Rowan 9/8/15**

#### **Motion 1**

**To approve the appointment of Richard Tribble as the VVA Parliamentarian.**

Without objection motion passed.

#### **Motion 2**

**To allow the law firm, Sidley Austin LLP to add Vietnam Veterans of America at no cost to VVA as an interested party in an amicus brief supporting Supreme Court review of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit's decision in Kingdomware Technologies, Inc. v. United States, 754 F.3d 923 (Fed. Cir. 2014).**

Without objection motion passed.

### Motion 3

**To approve the appointment of Dennis Howland as Chair of the Public Affairs Committee.**

Without objection motion passed.

- **Motions will be recorded in the 2015 October BOD meeting minutes.**

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

This has been an incredibly active time since our last BOD Meeting. I have made several trips to the National Office.

I was invited to and attended the Colorado State Council and the Illinois State Council meetings. The National Officers met in Silver Spring for 3 days in August to review plan for the "Security and Construction Project" as directed by the BOD. We also met with Quentin Butcher and representatives for a new Household Goods Program vendor.

The four National Officers have maintained close contact and are working very well together. We are focused on our individual spheres of influence but collaborate frequently to insure a coordinated relationship which focuses on the increased services to the VVA membership. The degree of cooperation and effective pursuit of common objectives has been a source of great satisfaction to me.

Finance Committee Chair Ned Foote and I have maintained frequent communications along with the other members of the Finance Committee. Sara McVicker is Chair of the Subcommittee for Budget Oversight. Barry Rice and I serve with her on this subcommittee. We have been vigilant in reviewing expenditures all cost centers as compared to their budgets.

I attended the Congressional 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War ceremony in Washington, D.C. and was able to visit Senators and Members of Congress in support of our Agent Orange legislation. Jack McManus and I have remained in contact and are still working to move our VVA legislation forward. Plans are being made for VVA to attend both the National Republican Convention and the National Democratic Convention next year.

The Finance Department is working to maintain the records and keep VVA Compliant with VVA policies and sound financial decisions. We have completed a 6 months analysis of VVA revenue (attached). In addition, as VVA Contract Compliance Officer I am submitting the Annual Report of the VVA Contracts (Attached).

I am enjoying serving all of our members as National Treasurer. I make frequent visits to our National Office and coordinate my activities with our staff and with the other National Officers.

Revenue Schedule

<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL @</b>	<b>50% range</b>	<b>difference</b>	
<b>8/31/2015</b>				
CONFERENCE/CONVENTION	115,000	108,324	57,500	(6,676)
CONTRIBUTIONS	1,370,000	574,728	685,000	(110,272)
DUES - ANNUAL	210,000	85,868	105,000	(19,132)
DUES - LIFE MEMBER	110,000	68,301	55,000	13,301
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	4,972,000	2,512,197	2,486,000	26,197
DONATION PROGRAM				
PRIOR YEAR EXCESS (Other)	263,573	131,787	131,787	1
MISCELLANEOUS	20,000	8,202	10,000	(1,798)
ROYALTIES	5,000	1,480	2,500	(1,020)
VSF GRANTS	110,000	82,336	55,000	27,336
VVA CAR PROGRAM	672,500	186,728	336,250	(149,522)
VVA VETERAN	175,200	70,195	87,600	(17,405)
USAA/MOA	110,000	52,934	55,000	(2,066)
WEBSITE MARKETING	15,000	4,996	7,500	(2,504)
	8,148,273	3,888,076	4,074,137	(243,561)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wayne Reynolds

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

The business meeting of AVVA National Convention began Thursday morning; the delegates amended and accepted a complete revision of bylaws. Those are posted on the AVVA website.

The 2015 national elections held during the Convention concluded with only four changes taking place on the AVVA Board. Kathy Andras was elected as National Treasurer and three new Regional Directors joined our Board: Region 5 elected Cecilia Essenmacher (MI); Region 6 elected Diane Nicholson (KS); and Region 7 elected Percilla Newberry (TX). The minutes to the Convention business meeting can be found on the AVVA website. In 2017, AVVA will be adding Deputy Director to our national election ballot.

Our Project Friendship was the Spring Street Veterans Renaissance (SSVR), a division of the Fifth Street Renaissance/SARA Center in Springfield, Illinois. SSVR is a 15-bed facility which provides shelter and supportive services for up to 24 months and addresses all barriers to independent living. AVVA and VVA made this another record year with donations exceeding \$10,000.

Since returning home from the National Convention, the Board has conducted business through our online conferencing platform. Our Leadership Development Committee met numerous times online and developed the Orientation agenda for the October meeting as well as developing and scheduling educational sessions for the upcoming year through our online program. AVVA has entered into a two-year MOU with Ideal Images, Inc. for women's apparel. The link to Ideal Images can be found on our website under the icon **AVVA PRODUCTS**.

Diane Nicholson, AVVA Chaplain, continues to work with Father Phil in sending sympathy cards to the families of all reported deceased members of VVA and AVVA. AVVA's IRS 990 filing is completed for 2014 and is posted on the AVVA website.

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 September, Cathy Keister, our Taskforce Chair, J C Cummings and I met once again with the National Park Service. We are confident that the design will be approved and announced very soon.

Don't forget that during the months of November and December 2015, AVVA will offer life membership for \$100. The "special" application can be found on our website. Our dual members are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity as well.

On behalf of AVVA, I congratulate all of the VVA Officers and Board on your election (or reelection) and all of the Committee appointments. The AVVA Board looks forward to working with you this term. We are anticipating a very productive two years.

**Sharon**

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

The CSCP meeting yesterday was attended by 40 out of 48 state council presidents. Utah has the newest state council and Rex Moody is the new Vice Chair for the CSCP. The 2016 Annual/Winter meeting will be held in Lafayette, LA.

#### **Veterans Benefits Program Director's Report/J. Vale**

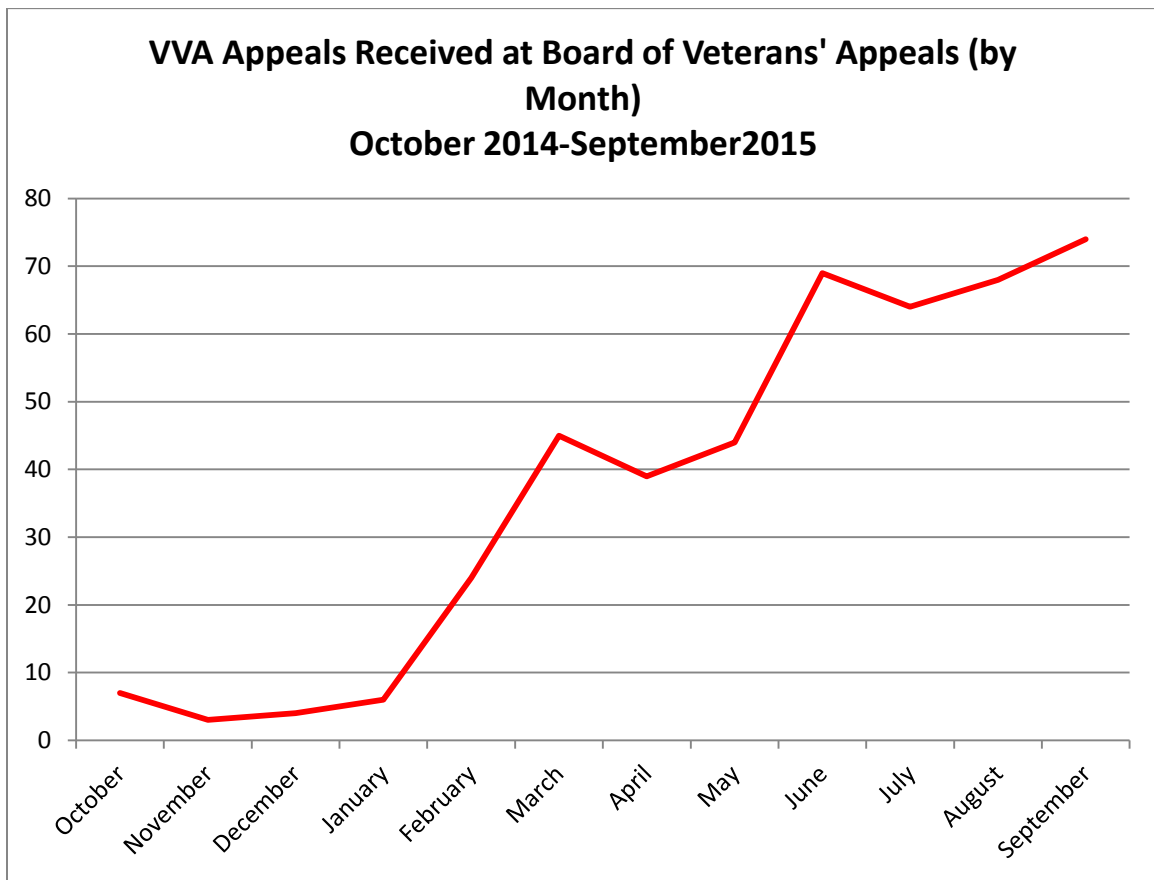
1. Appellate Advocacy Statistics
2. VVA National Claims Statistics & AMC Office Statistics
3. Staff Changes
4. VVA Litigation
5. Service Officer Training
6. VVA Accredited Representatives List

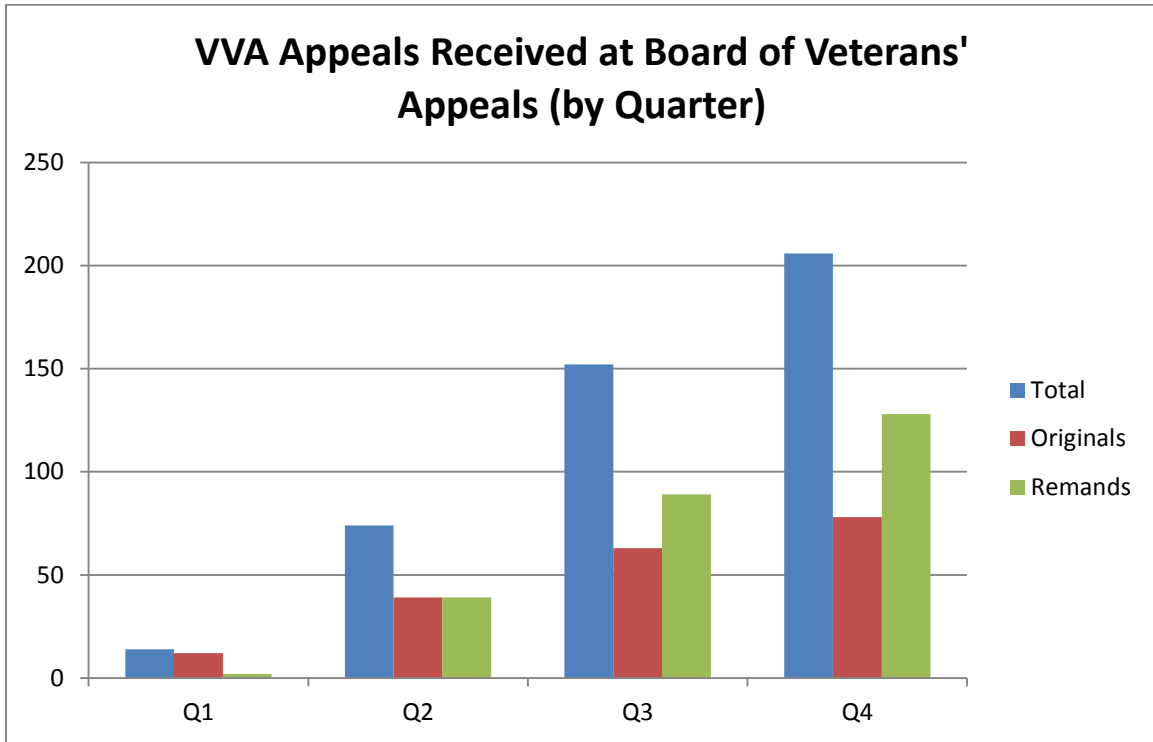
- 7. VetPro Database
- 8. Service Officer Suspensions/Revocations
- 9. VVA Grants
- 10. Site Visits – Chicago, IL RO & Waco, TX RO

**1. Appellate Advocacy Statistics**

*Status of VVA Claims Backlog at BVA*

There has been a noticeable increase in the past half year in the amount of VVA appeals received at the BVA (see charts below). This can be explained, in part, by the VA’s transition to VBMS and its focus on the claims backlog instead of the appeals backlog. Reports from the field and complaints from veterans indicate that there continues to be a long delay between filing an appeal and that appeal being certified to the Board. As of October 5, 2015 we have 304 cases in our inventory at the Board. This number should continue to rise with the impending backlog of appeals making their way to the BVA.





#### **VVA BVA Statistics**

Our approval (grant) rate during this past quarter for appeals was 32.4%, our denial rate was 14.1%. This is the lowest denial rate ever recorded and the highest grant rate. These statistics are based on 142 VVA cases decided in FY'15 Q4.

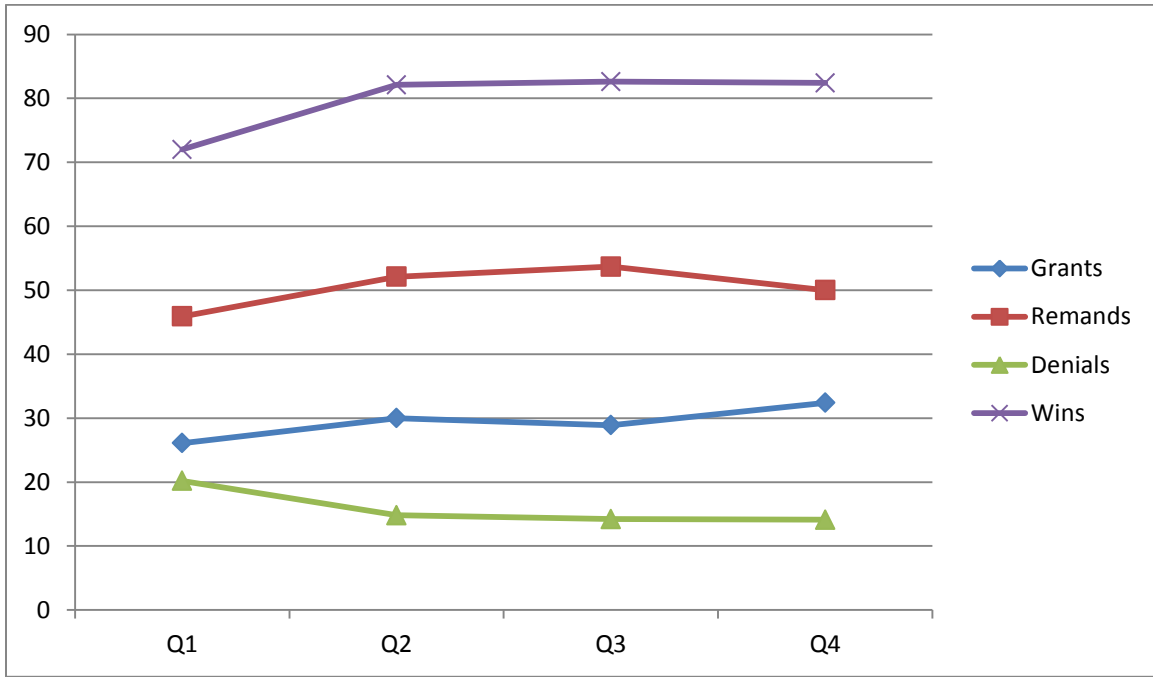
The average date of receipt at the Board for our appeals as of October 14, 2015 is July 2015 with a median docket date of May 2012. This late median docket date is explained by the recent influx of post-remand appeals. For Q3 FY 2015, VVA received a total of 152 appeals at the BVA; 63 originals and 89 post-remands. In Q4 FY 2015, VVA received a total of 206 appeals at the BVA; 78 originals and 128 post-remands. Over the past half year, VVA has received a total of 358 appeals at the BVA. VVA's performance at the BVA has continued to improve throughout FY 2015.

#### **VVA Appeal Dispositions FY 2015 (Oct 1, 2014 – Sep 30, 2015)<sup>1</sup>**

	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Remands</b>	<b>Denials</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Q1</b>	67 (26.1%)	123 (45.9%)	52 (20.2%)	15 (5.8%)
<b>Q2</b>	77 (30.0%)	134 (52.1%)	38 (14.8%)	8 (3.1%)
<b>Q3</b>	63 (28.9%)	117 (53.7%)	31 (14.2%)	7 (3.2%)
<b>Q4</b>	46 (32.4%)	71 (50.0%)	20 (14.1%)	5 (3.5%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	254 (29.0%)	446 (50.9%)	141 (16.1%)	35 (4.0%)

<sup>1</sup> Note that Q1 = Oct 1 - Dec 31; Q2 = Jan 1 - Mar 30; Q3 = Apr 1 - Jun 30; Q4 = Jul 1 - Sep 30





**VVA CONTINUES TO WIN 70%-75% OF ITS CASES AT THE BVA AND IN Q4 FY15 WON 82.4% OF ITS CASES!**

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

For FY2015 veterans and dependent with VVA POA received a total of **\$791.6 Million** in compensation, pension, & DIC benefits, of which **\$502.0 Million** (63.4%) was from states with VVA Service Programs who are receiving VVA grant funding. These amounts do not include retro awards.

#	GRANTEE	TOTAL FY '15
1	WA	\$77.8M
2	MI	\$70.9M
3	MN	\$46.9M
4	IA	\$43.3M
5	NY	\$42.7M
6	CA	\$41.4M
7	FL (Now Chap. 25)	\$38.3M
8	MA	\$34.7M
9	NJ	\$30.4M
10	CH 317	\$24.9M
11	BUCKEYE	\$18.6M
12	IN	\$18.1M
13	VT	\$6.5M

14	CT	\$4.8M
15	AK	\$2.9M
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$502.0M</b>

SOURCE: Veterans Benefits Administration, 10/14/2015

### **AMC OFFICE STATISTICS**

#### **AMC Awards Stats for Q3 FY15**

Total Retroactive Awards<sup>2</sup>: \$2,402,404.73  
Ongoing Monthly Increase<sup>3</sup>: \$41,272.42  
Rating Decisions and SSOCs Reviewed: Total = 187

#### **Visitors/ Phone Calls Report**

	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
<b>Incoming Calls</b>	277	108	301
<b>Outgoing Calls</b>	135	110	259
<b>Appointments</b>	32	9	6
<b>Walk-Ins</b>	11	6	7

*\*These stats are based on VetPro Visitors/Phone Calls section*

#### **Submissions**

	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
<b>21-22</b>	2	0	8
<b>646</b>	3	0	3

SOURCE: Veterans Benefits Administration, 7/1/2015

#### **AMC Awards Stats for Q4 FY15**

Total Retroactive Awards: \$2,946,267.60  
Ongoing Monthly Increase: \$44,392.48  
Rating Decisions and SSOCs Reviewed: Total = 206

#### **Visitors/ Phone Calls Report**

	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
<b>Incoming Calls</b>	180	276	228
<b>Outgoing Calls</b>	203	190	284
<b>Appointments</b>	35	15	17
<b>Walk-Ins</b>	35	14	17

*\*These stats are based on VetPro Visitors/Phone Calls section*

#### **Submissions**

<sup>2</sup> This figure reflects retroactive payments awarded in VVA claims reviewed by AMC office.

<sup>3</sup> This figure records the actual *increase* in monthly payment that the new rating decision grants, as compared to the veterans old compensation payment. (e.g. Vet currently gets \$1000 a month. The new decision grants him a new total monthly payment of \$1200. Therefore, the ongoing *increase* is \$200.)

	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
<b>21-22</b>	23	9	5
<b>646</b>	11	11	16

SOURCE: Veterans Benefits Administration, 7/1/2015

### **3. Staff Changes**

**Jamie Rudert**, Deputy Director, Veterans Benefits Program left VVA in September 2015 to work for PVA. We wish him well in his endeavors.

**Micah Lemons** was promoted to Deputy Director, Veterans Benefits Program and replaced Jamie Rudert.

**Kelsey Yoon (née March)** was promoted to Senior Appellate Attorney at the Board and replaced Micah Lemons.

**Stephanie Vang** was promoted to National Appellate Attorney at the Board and replaced Kelsey Yoon.

**Col. Lillian Pitts** (US Army retired) was hired as Senior National Service Officer/AMC and replaced Stephanie Vang.

**Amanda Radke**, National Appellate Attorney at the Board, left VVA June 2015 to work for the VA. We wish her well in her endeavors.

**Katherine Ebbesson** was hired as National Appellate Attorney the Board and replaced Amanda Radke.

We are pleased to welcome Lillian Pitts and Katherine Ebbesson to our team and congratulate the rest on their promotions.

### **4. VVA Litigation**

#### **1) CIA Case**

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

**UPDATE:** On June 30, 2015, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed in part and reversed in part the district court's judgment and injunction entered in an action brought by veterans organizations and individuals who were subjects in chemical and biological weapons experiments conducted by the United States military. On September 4, 2015, the CIA disagreed with the June 30, 2015 decision and filed a petition for rehearing and rehearing en bac.

**BACKGROUND:** 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.

Most recently, on June 30, 2015, a panel of judges agreed with the district court that the U.S. Army

had an ongoing duty to provide former test subjects with newly available information relating to their health, and that his duty was judicially enforceable. The panel of judges also agreed with the district court that the Army had an ongoing duty to provide medical care. The Court, however, vacated and remanded the district court's denial of relief on the ground that the Department of Veterans Affairs provided medical care that to some degree duplicated the care the Army was obligated to provide.

On September 4, 2015, the CIA filed a petition for rehearing and rehearing en banc. The CIA argues that the panel 1) erred in holding that the plaintiffs are entitled to an injunction requiring the army to provide medical care in addition to the care available from the VA and the panel 2) erred in holding that plaintiffs are entitled to an injunction requiring the army to provide additional notice to plaintiffs of any newly-acquired information that could potentially affect their health beyond the notice already provided.

## **2) FOIA Cases**

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

**UPDATE:** VVA plans to continue to push the Departments to comply with its promise to disclose the information.

**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 31,000 service members on the basis of so-called "Personality Disorder," preventing disabled veterans from receiving the disability compensation and other benefits they have earned. With the assistance of the Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services Clinic, VVA litigated two FOIA lawsuits to obtain records regarding these practices:

*Vietnam Veterans of America v. U.S. Dept. of Defense*, \_\_\_ F. Supp. 2d \_\_\_, 2014 WL 1284970 (D. Conn. Mar. 31, 2014) (granting in part and denying in part DoD motion for summary judgment in FOIA action)

*Vietnam Veterans of America v. US. Dept. of Defense*, \_\_\_ F. Supp. 2d \_\_\_, 2014 WL 1281725 (D. Conn. Mar. 28, 2014) (denying government motion to dismiss FOIA action).

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

**UPDATE:** No updates to report at this time.

**BACKGROUND:** On November 14, 2014, Judge Warren Eginton remanded the claims of the five individual plaintiffs to the Boards for Correction of Military Records so that the named plaintiffs' discharge upgrade applications could be reconsidered in light of the new guidelines issued to the boards by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel in September 2014 (see below). The Court ordered the boards to decide each resubmitted application of a named plaintiff within 120 days. In the same order, Judge Eginton dismissed without prejudice the claims brought by Vietnam Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America Connecticut State Council, and the National Veterans Council for Legal Redress. This means that the Judge did not make any ruling on the merits of the organizations' claims, and that the organizations may refile the case in the future. The

Judge dispensed with all other pending motions in the case, including plaintiffs' motion for class certification.

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. For more than 40 years, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, the Board for Correction of Naval Records, and the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records, have virtually ignored the claims of Plaintiffs and tens of thousands of similarly situated veterans by categorically refusing to recognize undiagnosed Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder ("PTSD") as the underlying cause of behavior that led to their other-than-honorable discharges.

#### **4) SWAN & VVA, Petition to initiate rulemaking (2013).**

**UPDATES:** The Court will begin hearing oral arguments this Monday, Oct. 19, 2015. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has filed an Amicus Brief in support of our case.

**BACKGROUND:** VVA and Yale Law School (YLS) submitted a petition for rule-making to the VA seeking to reform regulations regarding disability claims filed each year by thousands of veterans suffering from PTSD related to rape, sexual harassment, or sexual assault (collectively "military sexual trauma" or "MST"). Filed in June 2013, the petition requested that VA adopt evidentiary accommodations for MST claims, as VA has done for numerous other disabilities that are difficult to prove and that disproportionately affect male service members. When VA ignored the rulemaking petition, the clinic filed suit in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit to compel the agency to respond to the petition. In July 2014, VA denied the rulemaking petition. VVA and YLS filed a second suit in the Federal Circuit challenging VA's rejection of the petition and its refusal to end discrimination against MST survivors.

#### **5) McKinney v. McDonald**

**UPDATES:** On August 11, 2015, the Federal Circuit denied the petition to review a regulation's effective date that provides a presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in or near the Korean demilitarized zone during the Vietnam era. The Court held that the VA's decision to assign the 2011 regulation a prospective effective date, instead of a retroactive effective date, was not arbitrary, capricious, or contrary to law.

**BACKGROUND:** Parties to the case are NVLSP, VVA, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and American Legion. At issue is the effective date of a 2011 regulation that applied a presumption to Korean DMZ claims. *See* 3.307(a)(6)(iv). In 2003, Congress passed the Veterans Benefits Act, which authorized benefits for AO exposure, but only applied a presumption for Korean DMV vets who served from 4/1/68 to 7/1/69 (16 month window). Veterans who served from 9/1/67-3/31/68 and from 8/1/69-8/31/71 did not get the presumption and had to prove exposure on a factual, case-by-case basis. This was later changed in 2011, when the 16 month window of exposure was expanded to 41 months. This means that the presumption only applied for those who filed after 2011.

The litigation claims that potentially hundreds or thousands of veterans who filed for claims after 2003 but before 2011 were denied AO related compensation because of the regulation's February 24, 2011 effective date.

McKinney is the veteran that is the plaintiff in VVA's current case. However, the litigation is a direct result of a Korean DMV veteran by the name of Brian Mallory. Mallory took his case to the CAVC, seeking benefits for diabetes dating back to December 2006. Shortly before oral argument, the VA decided to settle the claim. In the settlement, the VA anticipated that it would similarly treat claims appealed to the CAVC that were similar to Mallory case. VVA's lawsuit seeks to change the 2011 effective date to 2003, so that all veterans would receive the same treatment afforded to Mallory.

The lawsuit was filed on October 24, 2014. The VA responded on December 8, 2014 arguing that there is no legal basis for applying an earlier effective date.

VVA filed a reply brief on January 12, 2015. Oral argument was heard on April 8, 2015. The Federal Circuit denied the petition to review the 2011 regulation on August 11, 2015.

## 6) "C-123" Case

UPDATES: In April 2015, Yale Law School Veterans Clinic prepared a memorandum on behalf of the C-123 Veterans Association and VVA explaining that reservists who were exposed to herbicides aboard contaminated C-123s are immediately eligible for service-connected disability compensation because these reservists were injured during their training. After receiving a report from the Institute of Medicine (January 9, 2015), VA decided to acknowledge exposure to Agent Orange for personnel whose military service involved regular contact with the contaminated C-123 aircraft. This includes individuals who performed service in the Air Force or Air Force Reserve who regularly operated, maintained, or served onboard C-123 aircraft known to have been used to spray herbicides during the Vietnam era. In August 2015, VA reported that it began awarding compensation for C-123 Agent Orange claims.

## 7) The American Legion vs. McDonald

**UPDATES:** There have been no substantive developments to report at this time.

BACKGROUND: The case was filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on March 20, 2015. The American Legion, AMVETS, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the National Veterans Legal Services Program, and the Vietnam Veterans of America joined forces to file the lawsuit together against Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert A. McDonald seeking to stop the implementation of a new VA rule RIN 2900—AO82 eliminating most informal VA claims and limiting the types of claims VA will adjudicate.

The lawsuit seeks to have VA's new rule eliminating the most important part of the informal VA claims process, and limiting the types of inferred claims VA adjudicates, declared unlawful.

Injured veterans will suffer under a new rule implemented by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that went into effect on March 24, 2015. Under VA's longstanding informal adjudication process, benefits awarded to veterans are paid retroactively starting on the date on which the VA received a notice from the veteran (usually a letter) signaling an intent to file. Under the new rule, the clock for an effective date for benefits starts only when a veteran files standardized VA paperwork.

Additionally, under the final rule, VA severely limits the types of benefits that the agency will adjudicate when presented with a disability benefits claim by a veteran. If a veteran files a disability claim based on post-traumatic stress disorder but fails to mention in the application that he or she lost both legs in combat, VA is purportedly no longer obligated to develop or adjudicate any benefits related to the veteran's amputations—even if the service treatment record documents the amputations. This policy change stands to hurt countless veterans, but especially those returning from combat, who often have multiple injuries and disabilities.

## 8) Kingdomware Technologies, Inc. v. United States

SEE: Oyez, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2015/14-916> (last visited Oct 15, 2015).

**UPDATES:** Oral argument to be heard at the U.S. Supreme Ct. on Nov. 9, 2015

**BACKGROUND:** Various policies, regulations, and statutes of the federal government are intended to promote small businesses, especially those run by veterans. Although agencies generally have wide discretion to decide what method of contracting to use, a 2003 amendment to the Small Business Act established a goal of awarding three percent of government contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, and the Veterans Act of 2006 expanded the reach of the relevant provisions.

Kingdomware Technologies is a small business owned and controlled by a service-disabled veteran and has been certified as such by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). In 2012, Kingdomware filed a bid for a project, but the VA awarded the contract to a company that was not a veteran-owned business. Kingdomware filed a bid protest with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and argued that the contract award was illegal. The GAO issued a recommendation that the VA cancel the contract and re-solicit bids. The VA refused to accept the recommendation, and Kingdomware sued in U.S. Court of Federal Claims, which held that there was sufficient ambiguity in the relevant statute and that the VA's interpretation was reasonable, so therefore the contract award should stand. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit affirmed.

Legal question in this case:

Did the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit err in holding that the Veterans Act of 2006 allows the Department of Veterans Affairs discretion in deciding whether to award a contract to a veteran-owned business?

## **5. Service Officer Training**

We have continued to add training videos to the Service Officer Online Resource Center, accessible at [www.benefitsforum.org](http://www.benefitsforum.org). Additional training videos will also be added soon. NVLSP will be conducting

two training videos at VVA National on 10/26/2016- The topics are Service Officer Ethics and New VA Forms.

We are planning our Advanced Service Officer Training to be held at the VVA Leadership & Training Conference July 2016. If you have requests for topics not covered by any of the training videos, please contact Micah Lemons or Jim Vale.

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

Currently there are **1,043** VVA accredited representatives nationwide listed on the “VA OGC Accreditation Search” database. We are continuing to update our list.

## **7. VETPRO Database**

Upon our last review we have **115** users on VetPro, and are continuing webinar training so we can add more service officers.

**If you are a VVA Service Officer and would like training on VetPro, please contact Jim Vale or Micah Lemons.**

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

None at this time.

## **9. VVA GRANTS**

The 12-Month Report from the current grantees was due yesterday, Oct. 15, 2015. As of 10:30PM last night we have received 12-Month Reports from BUCKEYE, CA, CT, Chapter 317, MI, MN, NJ, NY, & WA.

The remaining grantees, **AK, IA, IN, MA, & VT** are requested to attend the VBM Meeting at 11:00 AM today to discuss the status of their reports.

Those grantees who fail to comply with the terms of the MOU will be subject to loss of grant funding. All grant recipients have been warned.

## **10. Site Visits – Chicago RO & Waco RO**

In July 2015, VVA National sent staff to the Chicago, IL RO for a site visit. The goal of the Chicago RO site visit was to visit service officers and provide necessary support in addition to tracking, identifying, and taking action as necessary on all pending paper appeals at the Chicago RO.

An additional site visit was conducted by VVA National staff in Waco, TX in September 2015. The goal of the Waco RO site visit was also to visit our local service officers, provide necessary support, and to track, identify, and take action on all pending paper appeals at the RO.



### **Government Affairs, Executive Director's Report/R. Weidman**

Discussed how VVA could best increase the number of co-sponsors assigned to the Toxic Exposurer Legislation and how the grassroots of VVA should keep the pressure on for support. Mr. Weidman introduced Carl Tuvin who engaged directly with the Republican National Committee and Democratic National Committee to get the key contacts in each Presidential Campaign. Questions were submitted to each entity during this time frame and VVA is awaiting the responses.

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

I continue to work with AVVA in sending sympathy cards to the families of all reported deceased members of VVA and AVVA and was in Vermont for the Wall that Heals event.

### **HGDP Report/Q. Butcher**

The revenue is stable, there is a new buyer in WA State and there are pod moveable storage in IL and VA.

### **Committee Member Motions**

Secretary Meeks presented the following motion:

#### **Motion 14**

#### **To approve the individual Committee Membership as shown below:**

**Minority Affairs Committee Members:** Francisco Ivarra, Vice Chair – Jorge Pedroza, Vice Chair - Gumersindo Gomez, Vice Chair for Hispanic Affairs – Steven Bowers, Vice Chair for Native Americans – James Maddox – Connie Steers – Joe Jennings – Linda Blankenship – Henry Urioste – Dave Simmons – Paul Washington – Pete Peterson – Anthony Molina – Virgie Hibbler – Manuel Pedraza – Wayne Reynolds - Joanna Henshaw; **AVVA Special Liaison** and Bernie Edelman, **VVA Staff Liaison**

**VVA Conference/Convention Planning Committee Members:** Pete Peterson – Dick Southern – Gene Crego – (2017 Convention – State Council President & Regional Director) – Sharon Hobbs; **AVVA Special Liaison** – Wes Guidry - Marc Leepson and Mike Najarian; **VVA Staff Liaisons**

**Resolutions Committee:** Sharon Hodge, **VVA Staff Liaison.**

**Veterans Against Drugs Committee Members:** Pattie Dumin, Vice-Chair – Dennis Andras – Ray Bates – Billie Culin – Richard DeLong – Allen Manuel – Adolph Gardner – Ted Wilkinson – John Weiss – Herb Worthington – Charlie Montgomery – Henry Urioste – Paul Crowell – Carlton Rhodes – Terry Courville – Ron Farley – Ivan Freeland – **AVVA Special Liaison** - Kathy Andras – John Birch – Elaine Simmons – Diane Nicholson – Margaret Wojcoechowicz – Patsy Varnell – **Special Advisors** - Mara Boggs and US Senator Joe Manchin – **Staff Liaison** – Deborah King-Williams

**POW/MIA Committee Members:** Lawrence Carter – Tom Corey – Terry Courville – Pattie Dumin – Allen Harvey – Charlie Hobbs – Steve Mackey – Ted Wilkinson – Ron Zink – Ray Autenrieb - **VVA Staff Liaison** – Sharon Hodge – **VVA Staff Advisor (VI Program)** – Mokie Porter – **AVVA Special Liaison** – Jeri Wallis – **Special Advisors** – Gary Jones – Bill Duker – Susie Stephens-Harvey – Kaye Gardner

**Election Committee Members:** Adolph Gardner – Terry Nolan – Jill Mishkel – Ben Humphries

**Veterans Benefits Committee Members:** Joe Jennings, Vice Chair – Richard Carman – Gene Crego – Ned Foote – Joe Kristek – Perry Melvin – Felix “Pete” Peterson – John Riling – Dick Southern – John

Weiss – Herb Worthington - **AVVA Special Liaison** – Pam Bossardet – **Special Advisor** – Nancy Switzer – **Staff Liaison** – Jim Vale

**Public Affairs Committee Members:** Awards Sub-Committee – Dan Stenvold, Chair – Members – Richard DeLong – Grant Coates – Charles Stapleton – Ron Zink – Education Sub-Committee – Tom Hall, Chair – **VVA Staff Liaisons** – Mokie Porter – Michael Keating – Wes Guidry

**Economic Opportunities Committee Members:** Dennis Andras, Vice-Chair – Ted Daywalt, Vice-Chair – Larry Carter – Mark Goldschmitt – Dave Johnston – Keith King – Pete Peterson – Linda Blankenship – **AVVA Special Liaison** – Nancy Rekowski – **Special Advisors** – Jeri Wallis – Sharon Hobbs – Rick Weidman – Joe Wynn

**Membership Affairs Committee Members:** Steve Mackey, Vice Chair – Ray Autenrieb – Richard DeLong – Larry Frazee – Joe Kristek – Richard Lindbeck – Charlie Montgomery – Jerry Pounds – Dick Southern – John Weiss – Ted Wilkinson – Barry Rice – Rex Moody – **AVVA Special Liaison** – Cathy Keister – **VVA Staff Liaison** – Tracie Houston – **Special Advisor** – Bill Meeks, Jr.

**PTSD & Substance Abuse Committee Members:** Fr. Phil Salois, Vice Chair – Dennis Andras – Sandy Miller – Joseph Jennings – Allan M. Perkal – Edward J. Ryan Ph.D. – Charlie Stapleton – Jerry Yamamoto – Jerry Pounds – Kate O’Hare Palmer – **Special Advisors** – Sandra Lopez – Elayne Mackey – Jeri Wallis – **VVA Staff Liaison** – Tom Berger Ph.D.

**Government Affairs Committee Members:** Sandy Miller – Dennis Howland – Tom Burke – Kate O’Hare-Palmer – Dominick Yezzo – Jerry Yamamoto – Charlie Montgomery – Frank Barry – Richard DeLong – Maynard Kaderlik – Pat Bessigano – Dr. Tom Hall – Dave Simmons – Charlie Hobbs – Gene Crego – Sandie Wilson – Dennis Cohoon – Marsha Four – **AVVA Special Liaison** – Sarah Maddox – **Special Advisors** – Sharon Hobbs – Carl Tuvlin – Jim Kuhn – Joe Wynn – **VVA Staff Liaisons** – Rick Weidman – Bernie Edelman – Sharon Hodge – Dr. Tom Berger

**Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee Members:** Jack McManus, Vice Chair – Robert (Bob) Behrens, Vice Chair – Sandie Wilson – George Claxton – Marc McCabe – Mike Demske – Dennis Andras – Bruce Dobson – Steve Bowers – Nat Washington – Rossie Nance – Luther Newberry – **Special Advisors** – John Weiss – Tom Owen – Paul Sutton – Jim Doyle – Steve House – John Rossie – Wes Carter – Robert Cummings – Ken Holybee – John Wells – Billee Cullin – Betty Mekdici – Sandra Morgan - Elizabeth Bowers – Herb Worthington - **AVVA Special Liaisons** – Kathy Andras – Pricilla Newberry – Nancy Switzer – **VVA Staff Liaison** – Mokie Porter – Bernie Edelman – Rick Weidman

**Women Veterans Committee Members:** Pattie Dumin, Vice Chair – Sandy Miller – Dottie Barickman – Pat Bessigano – John Wallace – Dr. Tom Berger – Dr. Tom Hall – Sara McVicker – Patti Ehline – **AVVA Special Liaison** – Cecilia Essenmacher – **Special Advisor** – Elayne Mackey – Linda Blankenship – Billee Culin – Lee Jackson – Jennifer Wilson – Beverly Stewart - **VVA Staff Liaison** – Sharon Hodge

**Homeless Veterans Committee Members:** Dr. Tom Hall, Vice Chair – Dave Johnson – Joe McIntyre – Kate O’Hare-Palmer – Jerry Yamamoto – **AVVA Special Liaisons** – Joanna Henshaw – Cathy Keister – Nancy Switzer - **VVA Staff Liaison** – Sharon Hodge

**Constitution Committee Members:** Ken Holybee, Vice Chair – Grant Coates – Barry Rice – Beverly Stewart – Tom George – Craig Tonjes

**Veterans Incarcerated Committee Members:** Allen Manuel, Vice Chair – Larry Frazee – Ben Humphries – Ave Simmons – Buster Newberry – Linda Blankenship – Jeff White – Horace Brown – **Special Advisor** – Sgt. Roberts

**Health Care Committee Members:** Sandie Wilson, Vice Chair – Dr. Tom Hall – Sara McVicker – John Margowski – Kate O’Hare- Palmer – **Staff Liaisons** - Rick Weidman – Bernie Edelman – Dr. Tom Berger

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

**Vietnam War Commemoration**

Major General James T. Jackson, U.S. Army (Retired), serves as the Director of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. MG Jackson initially joined the Commemoration staff in 2012 as a senior advisor. In this capacity, the General helped develop partnerships with federal, state and local communities, veterans' groups and other nongovernmental organizations. Since MG Jackson began his 32 year military career in 1971 President Rowan gave MG Jackson a life membership in VVA.

**Meeting recesses: 11:09 am**

**Saturday, October 17, 2015**

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 9:10 am on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Silver Spring, MD. 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	Charlie Hobbs	Dick Southern
Marsha Four, Vice President	Sharon Hobbs *	Dan Stenvold
Bill Meeks, Secretary	Joe Kristek	Kerwin Stone
Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer	Sara McVicker	Craig Tonjes
Dennis Andras	John Miner	Sandie Wilson
Dottie Barickman	Charlie Montgomery	Ted Wilkinson
Tom Burke	Ron Morgan	Jerry Yamamoto
Richard DeLong	Felix Peterson	
Mike Demske	Dave Simmons	

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

Also present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO.

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

Alabama	Present	Nebraska	Present
Alaska	Present	Nevada	Present
Arizona	Present	New Hampshire	Absent
Arkansas	Present	New Jersey	Present

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

**Announcement**

MN Chapter 290 made a presentation to President Rowan.

**Finance Committee Report**

Committee Chair Ned Foote submitted the following motions:

**Motion 15**

**Move to approve the Use of Restricted / Designated Revenue (RR/DR) Policy as amended.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**Motion 16**

**Move to retire Motion 9 of October 2014 to wit: To approve the Disaster Relief Fund Policy as amended and to retire the Disaster Relief Fund.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

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

Since the VVA national convention, here are some examples of VHC activities –

-traveled to Spokane, WA where I presented PTSD and TBI information as part of the National Institutes of Corrections-sponsored three-hour live webcast on Veterans Treatment Courts

-attended various professional meetings including the Health Leadership Conference in DC; the national Patient Advocacy Leadership series (PALs) meetings in DC; the national BIO Summit in DC; as well as participated in various national webinars such as “Mental Health for Vets”, “Preventing Suicide: A Comprehensive Public Health Approach”

-presented at PA Chapter 415 AO town hall as a panelist along with VVA colleagues Paul Sutton, Mike Epstein and a local community college professor

-joined the Medicare Advantage Task Force which offers an opportunity to collaborate with 20 other organizations to identify and advance proven care coordination policies and practices that can improve the health and lives of Medicare beneficiaries while lowering costs. The Task Force will also be releasing unique data based on surveys and research, resources for Medicare beneficiaries to better understand the value of coordinated care, and tools for families to help their loved ones live healthier lives. Just as one example of our work, we’ll be launching a mini campaign focusing on specific diseases as part of the broader “Care Coordination Saves Lives” campaign. Within this campaign, we’ll be releasing a care coordination pocket guide, best practice compendium, several informational blogs, and many more valuable resources that will contribute to the conversation on keeping our seniors healthy. REMEMBER: Medicare enrollment closes December 7th

-launched the national VHC/VVA Hep-C educational program and as part of that, traveled to Dallas to attend the face-to-face meeting of the VVA Team members involved in the project

-attended the first face-to-face meeting of the HEROe-S steering committee

-since June the VHC has received \$46,020.00 in gifts and donations

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

Discussion on site locations for the 2019 VVA National Convention and Director Stenvold presented the following motion from the Planning Committee:

**Motion 17**

**To authorize Wes Guidry to negotiate a final contract with Spokane, WA for the 2019 National Convention.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**Membership Department/T. Houston**

Have been working closely with VVA’s Vice President to accomplish basic necessities that are needed moving forth.

The following items were addressed:

- The rebuilding of the Membership Department
- Documenting processes for day-to-day responsibilities and operational procedures of the Membership Staff
- Working on developing a department manual to be used as Standard Office Procedures (SOP)
- The month of September has been closed out and rosters have been distributed
- Web rosters will be coming soon
- Working on trying to resolve issues as they are made aware of
- Fire Sale was briefly discussed
- Under the Plan of Action given to the Board, updates will be sent to the board as the task is near ending or with information of the progress

**Committee – Motion Only**

Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs – No motions

Public Affairs – D. Howland – No motions

Veterans Benefits – T. Burke – No motions

PTSD and Substance Abuse – Dr. T. Hall – No motions

Women Veterans – S. Miller for K. O’Hare-Palmer – No motions

Homeless Veterans - S. Miller – No motions

Veterans Health Care - P. Bessigano – made the following motion:

**Motion 18**

**To appoint Jerry Yamamoto, George Claxton, Sandy Miller and Dennis Howland as members and to appoint Beverly Pounds and Diane Nicholson as AVVA Special Advisors of the Veterans Health Care Committee at no cost to VVA.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

Government Affairs – P. Peterson made the following motion:

**Motion 19**

**To add Pattie Dumin as a member of the Government Affairs Committee at no cost to VVA.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

Agent Orange/Dioxin – M. Kaderlik made the following motion:

**Motion 20**

**To add Charlie Montgomery, Frank Arminio, Carlton Rhodes, Ronald Morgan and Gerald Ney as Special Advisors of the Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee at no cost to VVA.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

Constitution – L. DeLong – made the following motion:

**Motion 21**

**To add Mary Miller as a Special Advisor, Cecilia Essenmacher as the AVVA Special Liaison and Tracie Houston as the VVA Staff Liaison to the Constitution Committee at no cost to VVA.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

Economic Opportunities – F. Barry made the following motion:

**Motion 22**

**To change member Keith King to Special Advisor of the Economic Opportunities Committee at no cost to VVA.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

Veterans Incarcerated – A. Manuel – No motions

Minority Affairs - J. Yamamoto – made the following motion:

**Motion 23**

**To add Gerry Ney and Chris Franklin as Special Advisors and Kerwin Stone as a member of the Minority Affairs Committee at no cost to VVA.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 0**

Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons made the following motion:

**Motion 24**

**Move the following individuals Ray Bates, Billie Culin, Herb Worthington, Paul Crowell, Rod Farley and Ivan Freeland to Special Advisors of the Veterans Against Drugs Committee at no cost to VVA.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 0**

POW/MIA – R. DeLong/G. Coates made the following motion:

**Motion 25**

**To appoint the following individuals Dan Carr and James Deister as Special Advisors of the POW/MIA Committee at no cost to VVA.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**  
**No: 0**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 0**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

**Motion 26**

**To approve the Consent Calendar:**

- 1.** To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 903 (AK) as the AK State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.
- 2.** To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 185 (ME) as the ME State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.
- 3.** To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 318 (NM) as the NM State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.
- 4.** Move to accept Mullins PC as the VVA auditors for FYE 2-28-16.
- 5.** Move to approve the updated VVA Annual Financial Report Form.
- 6.** Move to retire the following motions as having been completed or overcome by time or subsequent motions.

**October 11, 2014**



Motion # 8 To retire the Contingency Fund Policy.

Motion # 10 To approve the expenditure by the Agent Orange Committee of \$8,000 in current year donations for posters and temporary help. Funds to be taken from current year donations.

Motion # 11 To approve request from the Agent Orange Committee for additional funds in the amount of \$20,656 for photocopying (\$8899), office supplies (\$2757), shipping (\$5000), and travel (\$4000). Funds to be taken from unexpended funds in other budget lines.

Motion # 12 To approve the request of the POW/MIA Committee for additional funds in the amount of \$30,000 to fund 3 people to travel to Vietnam. If the trip cannot be arranged prior to the end of FYE 2015, funds will be considered designated revenue and carried over to FYE 2016. Funds not used for this trip will be returned to the general fund. Funds to be taken from unexpended funds in other budget lines.

Motion # 13 To approve international travel to Vietnam in 2015 for Richard DeLong, Grant Coates, Marsha Four and Mokie Pratt-Porter to be in compliance with amended motion # 38 of October 11, 2013 of the VVA Travel Policy.

Motion # 29 To accept the Consent Calendar Motions:

1. To approve Councilor, Buchanan & Mitchell as the independent certified public accounting firm to perform the VVA audit for FYE 2-28-15 in accordance with the VVA Constitution, Article IV, General Provisions, Section 1 – Finance, paragraph D.

5. Move to retire the following Finance related motions as having been completed, amended or addressed in subsequent motions or policies.

10. Move to retire the Use of Restricted Donations Policy from the VVA Finance Committee.

### **April 11, 2014**

Motion # 5 To approve the FYE 2-28-15 VVA Budget as presented.

Motion # 6 To approve the VVA 2015 National Convention Budget (FYE 2-28-16) as presented.

Motion # 7 To approve the VHC Budget FYE 2-28-15 as presented.

### **October 11, 2013**

Motion # 29 (Consent Calendar #15) To retire numerous financially related motions which had been completed or amended by subsequent motions.

Motion # 29 (Consent Calendar # 18) To approve Sara McVicker as chair of the Budget Oversight Sub-Committee and Tom Burke as Chair of the Investment Sub-Committee and

further to approve Allen Manuel and Wayne Reynolds as members of the Budget Oversight Sub-Committee and Jim Pace as a member of the Investment Sub-Committee.

Motion # 30 To add Barry Rice as a member of the VVA Finance Committee and as a member of the Investment sub-committee.

Motion # 32 To approve hiring Mary Stout as the part time Director of Membership Affairs to be funded from the current Salary line in the Membership Department budget.

Motion # 49 To phase out the Membership Time Payment Plan on all VVA applications.

### **September 10, 2013**

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

### **August 13, 2013**

Motion # 6 To approve MS&K (Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp (LLP)) Client Engagement Agreement regarding legal work for VVA.

Motion # 7 To approve the Officers Salary Policy as amended.

### **April 21, 2007**

Motion # 5 To accept the Deceased Member Protocol.

### **April 29, 2000**

Motion # 9 To accept the Cash Reserve Policy.

### **October 29-30, 1999**

Motion # 7 To authorize Vietnam Veterans of America to accept funds to be accounted for separately and to authorize VVA to make expenditures charged against said account for operational purpose for all ordinary business transition for the Veterans and Disabled Veterans' Entrepreneurship Task Force.

7. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 616 (OH) as the OH State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.

8. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 877 (OK) as the OK State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.

9. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 768 (WI) as the WI State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.

10. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 956 (IN) as the IN State Council has done everything necessary for this voluntary closure.

11. To change Lee Jackson, Billie Culin and Linda Blankenship to special advisors and add Jennifer Wilson and Beverly Stewart as special advisors to the Women Veterans Committee at no cost to National.

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**Mr. George W. Owings III, Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs**

Secretary Owings extended a welcome from the Governor and Lt. Governor of Maryland. He served in U.S. Marine Corps, 1964-68 (sergeant); Vietnam, 1965-68 and is a VVA member.

Government Affairs – P. Peterson gave a verbal report.

**Unfinished Business**

Committee Reports on Goals – Secretary Meeks noted that all reports were received except for Veterans Health Care and Constitution Committees. Those reports will be provided during their committee reports.

**New Business**

**Honorary Life Membership Nominations:** Secretary Meeks submitted a list of requests for honorary life membership and a motion to remove two individuals after discussion:

**Motion 27**

**Motion to remove the requests for Honorary Life Membership (HLM) that are listed below:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Requested By</b>
Mac Thornberry	Chapter 404 (TX)
Alice Dexter	Chapter 1036 (FL)

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

**Motion 28**

**Motion to approve the requests for Honorary Life Membership (HLM) that are listed below:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Requested By</b>
John Bartkowiak	MD State Council
Mark Epley	Chapter 110 (MI)
Tan Quach	Chapter 641 (MD)
Steve Lavagnino	Chapter 982 (CA)
Michael B. Clayton	Chapter 982 (CA)

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**VVA Office Security Project:** After lengthy discussion Vice President Four with a second from Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

**Motion 29**

**To approve Tyco's proposal to provide security system to the National office.**

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Motion #26</u></b>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	Y
Bill Meeks, Jr.	Y
Wayne Reynolds	Y
Dennis Andras	Y
Dottie Barickman	Y
Thomas Burke	Y
Richard DeLong	Y
Michael Demske	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y
Joe Kristek	Y
Sara McVicker	N
John Miner	N
Charlie Montgomery, Jr.	N
Ron Morgan	Y
Felix "Pete" Peterson, Jr.	Y
Dave Simmons	N
Dick Southern	N
Dan Stenvold	Y
Kerwin Stone	Y
Craig Tonjes	Y
Ted Wilkinson	Y
Sandie Wilson	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	Y

**Yes: 19**  
**No: 5**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 0**  
**Motion passed.**

After lengthy discussion Vice President Four with a second from Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

**Motion 30**

**To accept the proposal of Renaissance for construction in the National office reception area.**

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Motion #27</u></b>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	Y
Bill Meeks, Jr.	Y
Wayne Reynolds	N
Dennis Andras	N
Dottie Barickman	N
Thomas Burke	N
Richard DeLong	N
Michael Demske	N
Charlie Hobbs	N
Joe Kristek	N
Sara McVicker	N
John Miner	N
Charlie Montgomery, Jr.	N
Ron Morgan	N
Felix "Pete" Peterson, Jr.	N
Dave Simmons	N
Dick Southern	N
Dan Stenvold	N
Kerwin Stone	N
Craig Tonjes	N
Ted Wilkinson	Y
Sandie Wilson	Y
Jerry Yamamoto	N

**Yes: 4**  
**No: 19**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 0**  
**Motion failed.**

**Review of VVA Policies & Motions:** Director McVicker with second from Director Barickman submitted the following motions:

**Motion 31**

**That: 1) within two weeks following the October 2015 VVA Board of Directors meeting, all current motions and policies be assigned as determined by the VVA Secretary to a VVA committee or department for review, updating/amendment , or retirement as appropriate;**  
**2) that the responsible parties as assigned above will present a report at the January 2016 VVA Board of Directors meeting for each motion and policy with either a motion to retire, a motion continue as written, or recommendation for revision;**  
**3) Drafts of all revised motions or policies will be submitted to the BoD for review no later than 3 weeks prior to the April 2016 BoD meeting.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**Motion 32**

**That all departments and committees will conduct a review of all current policies and motions pertinent to their areas of operation at least every 2 years and recommend to the BoD continuation as written, retirement, or revision as appropriate. When continued, the review date will be noted on the policy.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 23**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 0**

**Selection/Retention Process for the Various VVA Committee:** Director Stone submitted the following motion:

**Motion 33**

**To appoint Vice President Four to chair a task force of Board members, to be selected by her, to investigate the need for a Board Policy to draft one if needed, addressing the size, composition, membership, and Board participation in Committees appointed by their Chairs under the VVA Constitution.**

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Motion #27</u></b>
John Rowan	No Vote
Marsha Four	N

Bill Meeks, Jr.	N
Wayne Reynolds	N
Dennis Andras	Y
Dottie Barickman	Y
Thomas Burke	N
Richard DeLong	N
Michael Demske	N
Charlie Hobbs	N
Joe Kristek	N
Sara McVicker	Y
John Miner	N
Charlie Montgomery, Jr.	Y
Ron Morgan	N
Felix "Pete" Peterson, Jr.	N
Dave Simmons	N
Dick Southern	N
Dan Stenvold	N
Kerwin Stone	Y
Craig Tonjes	Y
Ted Wilkinson	N
Sandie Wilson	N
Jerry Yamamoto	N

**Yes: 6**  
**No: 17**  
**Non Vote: 1**  
**Not Present: 0**  
**Motion failed.**

**Meeting recesses for lunch: 12:05 pm**

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 1:10 pm.

**Communication Department/M. Porter**

Mokie Porter showed a video of the VVA National Convention.

**Committee – Reports Only**

- Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs – Verbal & written
- Public Affairs – D. Howland – Verbal
- Veterans Benefits – T. Burke – Verbal
- PTSD and Substance Abuse – Dr. T. Hall – Verbal
- Women Veterans – S. Miller for K. O’Hare-Palmer – Verbal
- Homeless Veterans - S. Miller – Verbal
- Veterans Health Care - P. Bessigano – Verbal
- Government Affairs – P. Peterson - Verbal
- Agent Orange/Dioxin – M. Kaderlik - Verbal

Constitution – L. DeLong – Verbal & written  
Economic Opportunities – F. Barry - Verbal  
Veterans Incarcerated – A. Manuel – Verbal  
Minority Affairs - J. Yamamoto – Verbal  
Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons - Verbal  
POW/MIA – R. DeLong/G. Coates - Verbal & written  
Resolutions – D. Southern - Verbal

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Meeks, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bill Meeks, Jr.  
National Secretary