



## 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 July 24, 2018 Approved by Board**

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Tuesday July 24, 2018, at 4:06 pm, at the Renaissance Hotel in Palm Springs, CA. Director Gumersindo Gomez gave the opening prayer which was followed by a moment of silence.

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

John Rowan, President	Skip Hochreich	Dave Simmons
Marsha Four, Vice President	Sharon Hobbs *	Dick Southern
Bill Meeks, Secretary	Francisco Ivarra	Dan Stenvold
Dottie Barickman	Allen Manuel	Kerwin Stone
Tom Burke	John Margowski	Ted Wilkinson
Spence Davis	Sara McVicker	Sandie Wilson
Richard DeLong	Charlie Montgomery	
Gumersindo Gomez	Rex Moody	
Bob Grabinski	Felix Peterson	

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

Present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO

Absent (excused): Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer

#### **Preliminary Business**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motions with a second from Vice President Four:

#### **Motion 1**

**To accept the 2018 July BOD meeting tentative agenda as amended.**

- 1) Remove the Minority Affairs Committee Membership Card item from Unfinished Business; and 2) Add under New Business Chapters on IRS Reinstatement List.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

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

**Motion 2**

**To approve the 2018 April 13-14 BOD meeting minutes.  
Without objection motion passed.**

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

**National President/J. Rowan**

President Rowan gave a brief verbal report on upcoming business and a written report.

April 18<sup>th</sup> I attended the dedication of the Helicopter Pilots and Crew Memorial in Arlington Cemetery. There were over 3,000 people in attendance covering all the services. It was a great event.

April 28<sup>th</sup> Mariann and I attended the NYSC meeting in Tioga Downs.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> I was the keynote speaker at the Iowa Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day ceremony at their VN Memorial adjacent to the State Capital in Des Moines. We were joined by Gov. Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Gregg as well as several state legislators. At a reception afterwards they distributed their special Iowa Vietnam War Commemoration book to all VN vets.

On May 8<sup>th</sup> I attended the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of New York with the Masonic War Veterans.

May 17-19<sup>th</sup> I attended the 70<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Masonic War Veterans of New York State where I was made the Commanding General for 2018-19.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> Mariann and I attended a Fleet Week Reception on the USS Arlington hosted by Rear Admiral John Meier. It was attended by NYC Mayor De Blasio, NYC Dept. of Veterans Services Commissioner Loree Sutton, Brig. Gen. USA (ret.), and American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan.

May 24<sup>th</sup> I was the keynote speaker at the Queens Borough Hall Memorial Day ceremony in the Queens Veterans Memorial Garden in front of Borough Hall.

May 28<sup>th</sup> Mariann and I attended the Little Neck-Douglaston Memorial Day Parade. There Chapter 32 arranged for members of the Jr. ROTC from Francis Lewis H.S. to carry 125 flags of the deceased veterans that were given full military burial honors at Calverton, LI, NY VA Cemetery due to Chapter 32's intervention.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> I attended the Homecoming Ball of Outgoing Grand Master Jeffrey Williamson FAAM, GLNY, as the new Commanding General of the Masonic War Veterans of NY.

June 6-7<sup>th</sup> I was at VVA HQs to take care of some personnel issues. While there on 5/7 I attended Pres. Trump's signing of the VA Mission Act in the WH Rose Garden.

June 8-10<sup>th</sup> I attended the VVA MI SC Convention in Dearborn.

June 12<sup>th</sup> I attended a meeting of the NYC Veterans Advisory Board and met veteran children of Vietnam Vets who had not filed a claim for their AO illnesses.

June 29-30<sup>th</sup> Mariann and I traveled to Nicholls, NY to attend a NYSC meeting where Ned Foote was reelected NYSC President.

July 13<sup>th</sup> I traveled to Salt Lake City, UT to dedicate a new VN Memorial Wall that 83% of the size of the Wall in DC. UT SC President Dennis Howland did a great job honchoing the development of this memorial and it was a great event.

**National Vice President/M. Four**

Vice President Four gave a brief verbal report.

**National Secretary/B. Meeks**

Secretary Meeks gave a brief verbal report on the upcoming VVA suspension list.

**National Treasurer/W. Reynolds**

President Rowan noted that Treasurer Reynolds was excused from attending the conference as he is recovering from surgery.

**National AVVA President/S. Hobbs**

AVVA President Hobbs had a written report.

The AVVA Board continues to conduct business and communicate through our online conferencing platform.

The AVVA Leadership Development Committee has been meeting online to plan our portion of the 2018 Leadership and Education Conference. "Secondary PTSD" seminar will be offered during the Conference. Barbara Miller, our National Parliamentarian, has been funded by VVA to present a seminar of elementary parliamentary procedure. We will also hold our Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday afternoon.

Our office will be open daily; brochures and other information material will be available during the Conference. Please stop by and take some with you. Brochures include Toxic Exposure, PTSD'2, Spousal benefits, and legislative priorities.

Fran Davis, AVVA Chaplain, continues to work with Father Phil in sending sympathy cards to the families of all reported deceased members of VVA and AVVA. We are averaging 80 sympathy cards per month.

The latest edition of our online newsletter, **UPDATES**, is posted on the AVVA website along with our governing documents, events, Toxic Exposure updates, and the latest legislative information.

All state-level and chapter-level elections are complete. Those elected this year will be delegates to the National Convention in 2019.

Award winners for 2018 have been chosen. Awards will be presented to the recipients during the AVVA Luncheon on Thursday.

Our *PROJECT FRIENDSHIP* this year is **Lighthouse Social Service Centers, LSSC** is a non-profit organization (501c3) located in Colton, CA. They are committed to working with our veteran heroes to secure permanent, stable housing. We are now collecting and will continue collecting donations until Friday of the Conference. Our goal is once again \$12,000. Let's make this another record year.

*Sharon Hobbs, AVVA President*

**Conference of State Council Presidents/R. Moody**

CSCP President Moody gave a brief verbal report on CSCP activities.

**Unfinished Business**

**Motion on Life Membership Dues Status:** President Rowan discussed the membership analysis, there was a lengthy discussion and President Rowan asked for more detail information from the VVA Membership Dept.

Director Hochreich made the following motion with a second from Director Gomez:

**Motion 3**

**To move the Life Membership question to the 2018 October BOD meeting.**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 1**

**Not Present: 1**

**New Business**

**Honorary Life Membership:** Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion with a second from Director Southern:

**Motion 4**

**To approve the honorary life membership requests.**

**Honorary Life Member Requests**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Requested By</b>
Reagan Taylor	Chapter 1066 (KY)
Bill Byers	Chapter 669 (IL)

**Without objection motion passed.**

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

**Chapter 842 (MS) & Chapter 807 (NY) Charter Revocations:** Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion with a second from Director Stenvold:

**Motion 5**

**To revoke the chapter charters' for Chapter 842 (MS) & Chapter 807 (NY) upon written requests from the MS State Council and the NY State Council.  
Without objection motion passed.**

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

**Chapters on IRS Reinstatement List:** CFO Sternburg noted that pending Chapters have done what they should do and are awaiting for the IRS system to respond. He doesn't think that a Chapter in this situation should be considered Suspended and there was discussion.

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

**Motion 6**

**To approve the IRS submission of 990N "pending" annual reports be accepted as accepted annual financial reports and not be considered as suspended chapters or state councils.  
Without objection motion passed.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Meeks, Jr.  
National Secretary  
Approved October 19, 2018