



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 21, 2016**

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Friday October 21, 2016, at 9:06 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 | Mike Demske | Felix Peterson |
| Marsha Four, Vice President | Charlie Hobbs | Dave Simmons |
| Bill Meeks, Secretary | Sharon Hobbs * | Dick Southern |
| Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer | Joe Kristek | Dan Stenvold |
| Dennis Andras | Sara McVicker | Kerwin Stone |
| Dottie Barickman | John Miner | Craig Tonjes |
| Tom Burke | Rex Moody | Sandie Wilson |
| Richard DeLong | Ron Morgan | Jerry Yamamoto |

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

Also present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO & Excused: Ted Wilkinson

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

Alabama	Present	Nebraska	Present
Alaska	Absent	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	Present	Ohio	Present
Georgia	Present	Oklahoma	Present
Idaho	Absent	Oregon	Present

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

Preliminary Business

Secretary Meeks submitted a motion to accept the tentative agenda.

Motion 1

To accept the BOD meeting tentative agenda as amended by striking Preserving Our History and Motion to Relieve Reporting Requirements under New Business. Inserting under New Business Reinstatement of the Illinois State Council and Establishing Two Panels.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

Motion 2

To accept the BOD meeting minutes from July 19, 2016.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

National President/J. Rowan

President Rowan presented the President of the UMWA Cecil Roberts with the VVA Commendation Medal and Mr. Roberts spoke briefly on how honored he felt receiving this award.

President Rowan presented the VVA Arizona State Council President Gene Crego with the VVA Achievement Medal for his outstanding work in Arizona for VVA and veterans.

National Vice President/M. Four

Activities for this period included the following:

- National Office Visits: September 6-9 September 26 - 30
- Activities
 - During my office visits I meet one-on-one with office staff for up-dates, problem solving, sharing ideas, and input. Staff/Director general meetings are also held.
 - Since April the national officers scheduled two meetings with Next Generation, our fund raisers to address approaches and use of the new web site. These meetings also involved Department Directors.
 - Continue to accumulating information and suggestions for the agenda of the New Board Orientation Program. *Please send any suggestions to me by email.*
 - Reviewing Employee Handbook for updates
 - Invited to attend and present at the National Rolling Thunder Convention. VVA will again have an information table at this convention held November 5th and 6th.
- Meetings
 - July -----Attended the VVA Leadership Conference and a number of seminars. Additionally I spoke individually with a number of member attendees about their thoughts on the future of VVA and our mission as we move forward. Conversational thoughts were wide and varied. Also for the first time we arranged for committee chairs to be available to conference members at a table in the product sales area for discussions and assistance. Moving forward I would like to see this continued.
 - July 27-28: worked information table at the Democratic National Convention.
 - August 19: Attended a Chapter 955 function at the Wildwood Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
 - Department Director meeting at National Office with President Rowan.
 - Full staff meeting in National Office one item of discussion revolved around a phone call from a veteran who had an urgent problem. The call was handled in an excellent manner by Vonnie Cogdell, Director of Personnel and Administrative Services. I have asked Vonnie to work with Dr. Tom Berger to set date for a mandatory staff meeting to further discuss this incident and staff response as part of the staff in-service program.
 - September 14: Penn State University: spoke with a representative on its 2017 Vietnam Experience Program to be developed around the release of the Ken Burns documentary on Vietnam.
 - September 16, Mechanicsburg, PA, Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs: presented on the topic of Vietnam Women Veterans and the approach of handling claims related to Military Sexual Trauma to 150 PA County Veteran Service Officers.

- September 28: Attended and represented VVA at a Women in Military Service to America reception.
- October 15: Represented VVA at the rededication of one of the oldest Vietnam Veteran Memorials in the country. The monument was dedicated on Nov. 11, 1966, only two years after the Gulf of Tonkin resolution that committed American fighting forces to Vietnam, and four years before the Tet offensive of '68, when about 57,000 of the 58,316 dead were still living. The monument, a cannon on a stone base, was rediscovered four years ago behind a brush in an unused bank parking in Chadds Ford Township, PA. No one seems to know anything about its origin or who made and dedicated it. It remains a mystery.

National Secretary/B. Meeks

I thank the State Councils and Chapters for their work to reduce the VVA suspension list for no reporting (financial & election).

National Treasurer/W. Reynolds

Status Update of iMIS Projects for FY16-17 as of 10/7/2016

Completed Items

□ *New Automated Processes:* Annual Suspension Process • Election and Financial Report Received Acknowledgments • Suspension Lifted letter • AVVA Pending Birth Date Notifications • Dues Payment Acknowledgments • Process For Billing A Group Of Members On A Single Invoice (OH IVIs) • Data Integrity Reports – Missing Join Date, Paid Thru Date, Multiple Member Cards, Missing Regions

□ *Leadership Conference:* Managed all aspects of project to develop a process for online registrations • Performed event setup based on items from hard copy registration form – Added event functions, location and cost information • Initial setup of an online registration system required the following items – Setup and testing system for acceptance of Credit Card payments online; application of a SSL (security) certificate to the website • Created online confirmation letter and made edits to the one sent for hard copy registrations received • Created HTML needed to send the email announcing online registrations and coordinated the sending of the emails along with setting up user login/access information • Documented and ensured completion of custom requirements requested by Finance • Provided support as needed to registration staff related to the new process and questions re: processing refunds, updates to reports, training on using staff site to perform online registrations and user login/password resets

□ *Fundraising/Mailing List Requests and Data analysis Reports:* March 2016 labels • VVA Master List Exchange File • Bumper Sticker mailing • Apogee and Wiland Models for May Acquisition • May 2016 Acquisition/ Suppression File • May 2016 Appeal • Summer Labels 2016 • Calendar Mailing • DIG Campaign Report • Donor Analysis Report

Reports/Queries (New Requests and Modifications to Current Reports): Auditor Reports: Life Mbr Birth Dates/Ages • Life Mbr Payments By Date Range • New 1 Yr Mbrs by Pay Date • New 3 Yr Mbrs By Pay Date • New Life Mbrs By Pay Date

Membership Reports (VVA): Chapters that Retain State Payments • Year-end Growth Awards • Counts of Mbrs in States with No State Councils • Total Number of Life Mbrships for the Last Three Years Prior to the Fire Sale • Total number of 1 & 3 Year Renewals for the Last Three Years • Member Dues Receipt/Invoice Report • New Life Mbrs by Date Entered for Veteran Magazine • Chapters Removed from Suspension Since Jan 1st • VVA Mbr Join Dates • Check Number and Last 4 Digits Credit Card Lookup • Pre-Suspension Report • Missing/Received Election and Financial Reports • Chapters and Mbr Counts By State • Women's Vets Report • Life Mbr Card Adjustments Made to Account for In House Printing on Card Machine

Membership Reports (AVVA): AVVA Mbr Counts by Chapter • AVVA New and Renewing Members • AVVA Mbrs That Paid Full \$250 For Life Mbrship Over the Past 3 Years • AVVA Pending Members Due to Missing Birth Date Verification.

Financial Month-End Processing: (March to September 2016) Processing of Rebates • Refunds • Bank Reconciliation • General Ledger (GL) integration with Great Plains

Documentation: Election and Finance Report Documentation for New Process to Accommodate Email Acknowledgements • How To Run Automated Suspension Process • How to Process Multiple Member Payments At One Time (like OH IVIs) • How To Import Activities For Donor Records

iMIS Upgrade: Upgrade of iMIS system needed to take advantage of new security features and enhancements in functionality to the Staff and Member Web Sites

Misc Projects: Upload NCOA (National Change of Address) file (usually once a year) • AVVA New Dues Setup to accommodate new pricing 60 & over/59 and under

Ongoing Items (Monthly, Quarterly, Annually, As Needed)

Financial Month-End Processing: (October to February 2017) Processing of Rebates • Refunds • Bank Reconciliation • General Ledger (GL) integration with Great Plains

Fundraising/Mailing List Requests: (At least 5 more remaining thru February 2017 still waiting on final list of scheduled mailings from NextGen) - Fall Acquisition/Suppression File (Due 10/10/2016) • ExactAsk Test File (Due 10/12/2016) • CYE Appeal File (Due 10/19/2016) • List Exchange File (Due TBD) • Wiland and Apogee Files (Due TBD)

AVVA Mailing Veteran Magazine List Upload: Update Veteran Magazine file with AVVA recipients

Complete Revocation Process: Occurs whenever a motion has passed to revoke Chapters or State Councils

Training and Documentation: As Needed

USAA/Axiom Mailing List Request: Requested annually

General Tech Support/Troubleshooting/System Setup (i.e., checking on backups, resolving errors, adding new fields)

Incomplete (In Progress)

Web Rosters (Phase 1 Due by Dec 2016): Managing all aspects of the project to allow for Chapter/State Council designees to access rosters online – Development and system setup • Documentation of custom requirements • Quality Assurance (QA) Testing and coordination of initial Beta Testing • Making updates based on tester feedback • Developed PowerPoint Presentation on Accessing Web Rosters for Leadership Conference

New Automated Processes: Missing DD214 Letter • Declined Credit Card Letter • Electronic Rosters • List of Chapter Status Changes/Updates to Finance Dept • Finalize Member Temporary Suspension Process

Having Started Yet (Due By Feb 2017)

Online Convention Registration: Development of online convention process

Convention Setup: Enable confirmations letters – automatically generate a hardcopy version to be mailed to those without email addresses • Updates to Election and Financial Report received checkbox logic and other items to reflect change to requiring reports be only current through previous fiscal year • Enable Customer Service Alerts (CSA) and nightly jobs • Run membership numbers and finalize delegate counts

Election Reports Online: Development of an online form for submitting election reports online where the data will automatically be updated in the iMIS Database

New Automated Processes: Suspension Removal process • Address Change Notification • Sending Rebate Reports • Veteran Mag Subscription Renewal Notification • Reprint member cards automatically added when a member changes Chapters/State Councils

Misc Items: Finalize process for handing Financial Report extensions (October 2016) • Create Checkbox for 990N • Separate/resort member card reports by country • Modify Fundraising profile report to include batch numbers for payments

National Chaplain Report/Fr. P. Salois

I had a major problem when my lap-top computer crashed and I lost my Taps file and I attended the New Ministers Conference at the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America/ S. Hobbs

The AVVA Board continues to conduct business and communicate through our online conferencing platform. Officer, Regional, and Committee reports can be read on the AVVA website. (www.avva.org).

LEADERSHIP & EDUCATION CONFERENCE: I must say that the 2016 Conference was one of the best that I have ever attended. AVVA manned the office every day of the Conference. Visitors dropped by to discuss issues, pick up brochures and Paper Safes, introduce themselves, and/or just to visit. We conducted two seminars which were both well attended; and manned our vendor booth everyday which resulted in record sales for the week. A comprehensive report of the Conference can be found on our website.

PROJECT FRIENDSHIP: A total of sixteen members from AVVA and VVA visited *Esperanza En Escalante (EEE)* on Monday afternoon. We met with the staff and toured the grounds. Thanks to all of our AVVA and VVA chapters for another record year. A check for over \$11,000 was presented to *EEE* on Saturday at the Closing Ceremonies. Since returning home, we have received another \$100 donation. I want to acknowledge the following states for their contributions to the 2016 Project Friendship. The number in parenthesis is the total number of checks/donations received:

AR (1)	AZ (3)	CA (2)	GA (2)	KY(1)	MI (2)	NC (2)	NV (1)	OH (1)	PA (4)	SC (1)	TN (13)	VA (2)
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IN MEMORY PLAQUE PROJECT: In August, I met with the National Park Service Management, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and JC Cummings (architect) on site of the Plaque. A consensus was reached and a design was submitted to the Council of Fine Arts for approval. Hopefully, I should have an update by the Board meeting.

SECONDARY PTSD (PTSD2) PROGRAM: In September, we began our online facilitator training. Certificates of completion were presented to each person who completed the four-hour course.

CONDOLENCE PROGRAM: AVVA continues to work with Father Phil in sending sympathy cards to the families of all reported deceased members of VVA and AVVA. We average 70/month.

WEB POSTINGS: 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. Our continuing goal is to make our website a source of up-to-date information for our membership.

PAPER SAFE GRANT: AVVA has received a \$10,000 grant from the National Foundation for Veterans & Families (NFVF) for the fourth printing of the Paper Safe. NFVF is a 501(c)(3) foundation and is the fundraising arm of AVVA.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IN KOKOMO, IN: In September, AVVA participated alongside of VVA in a national membership drive at the 34th Annual Howard County Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Kokomo, IN. We gave out over one-hundred applications and walked away with fifteen new members. Elayne Mackey (VP), Cecilia Essenmacher (Membership Chair), Bobbie Morris (Region 2 Deputy Director) and me worked the three-day event.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BROCHURE: Our new membership applications with the correct life membership dues are now available in the AVVA office.

Sharon Hobbs, AVVA President

Conference of State Council Presidents/R. Moody

The CSCP had thirty-eight (38) Presidents in attendance at the Thursday meeting and the meeting went well with a full agenda of business. The CSCP held their elections and the New Officers are as follows: Rex Moody (MS) Chair, Patricia Dumin (CT) 1st Vice Chair, Gumersindo Gomez (MA) 2nd Vice Chair and Steve Mackey (CA) Secretary.

Veterans Benefits Program Director's Report/K. Yoon

It is my pleasure to author my first Director's Report for the Veterans Benefits Program (VBP) this October 2016. Since having the honor of being appointed Director of VVA's Veterans Benefits Program (VBP) in July, the VBP Team has hit the ground running. Although much still needs to be done, I am pleased to report some of the most recent developments:

- As of July 2016, all VVA National service officers are covered by **professional liability insurance**.
- In October 2016, VVA's VBP formally submitted comments to VA's **Proposed Rule** concerning Diseases Associated with Contaminated Water at Camp Lejeune.
- In August 2016, VVA's VBP published a 5-step VVA Accreditation Process for anyone interested in becoming an accredited Service Officer with VVA. *See Appendix*. This has helped to decrease confusion and to standardize accreditation requirements across all states.
- In September 2016, VVA's VBP disseminated policy guidance to all VVA service officers who are conducting decision reviews in VBMS. *See Appendix*. With the assistance of our service officers across the nation, all ROs are theoretically covered by at least one VVA service officer. This is crucial due to VA's use of the NWQ.

I am looking forward to working with all VVA service officers across the country to improve the services and support we are providing veterans and family members. As this is my inaugural report, I would like to devote a significant portion towards providing some insight into the activities of the VBP, and specifically, the work that our VVA National Service Officers, National Support Staff, and National Appellate Attorneys do to make the VBP a success!

Government Affairs, Executive Director’s Report/R. Weidman

Mr. Weidman introduced the VHA Undersecretary of Health Dr. Shulkin who had a power point slide presentation which covered twenty-five (25) items the VA is working on nationwide.

HGDP Report/O. Butcher

The current revenue picture shows that HGDP is down 30% from last year and there is a new store in Columbus, Ohio.

Membership Department/T. Houston

T. Houston introduced Anissa Ellis as the new Membership Coordinator and Frankie Pressley who is the iMIS Specialist. She gave a status update (written handout) on the iMIS project that have been completed, are ongoing, or are incomplete/in progress.

Meeting recesses: 11:20 am – President Rowan stated that 15 minutes would be added to the each committee meeting due to the overrun of the agenda.

Saturday, October 22, 2016

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 9:08 am on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Silver Spring, MD.

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

John Rowan, President	Mike Demske	Felix Peterson
Marsha Four, Vice President	Charlie Hobbs	Dave Simmons
Bill Meeks, Secretary	Sharon Hobbs *	Dick Southern
Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer	Joe Kristek	Dan Stenvold
Dennis Andras	Sara McVicker	Kerwin Stone
Dottie Barickman	John Miner	Craig Tonjes
Tom Burke	Rex Moody	Sandie Wilson
Richard DeLong	Ron Morgan	Jerry Yamamoto

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

Also present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO & Excused: Ted Wilkinson

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

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

WV High School ROTC

The Greenbrier East High School JROTC from Lewisburg, WV performed the POW/MIA Ceremony which was presented at the VVA Region 3 Conference. President Rowan presented each member of the Greenbrier East High School JROTC with a VVA Achievement Medal for their outstanding presentation.

Communication Department/M. Porter

Mokie Porter spoke about the web, social media, news and publications.

Veterans Health Council/Dr. T. Berger

-spent my allotted time explaining a research grant proposal with Harvard University and M.I.T. researchers re: a new smartphone app that would quickly and confidentially connect veterans in crisis with mental health resources. As part of this proposed research, Harvard researchers would like feedback about whether this app would be of interest to our membership. After explaining the proposal, Dr. Berger asked those interested in participating in a brief (5 – 10 minutes) telephone survey with their feedback to provide him with their names and contact information, which will then be forwarded to the Harvard researchers for follow up. Participants are to receive a \$10 Amazon gift card for their time and effort.

National Meetings and Special Events/W. Guidry

Mr. Guidry noted that National Board Members and Committee Chairs should not send in registration forms for the 2017 National Convention until after the 2017 April National Board meeting.

Director Stenvold presented the following motion:

Motion 3

To authorize Wes Guidry to do final negotiations for the 2020 Leadership Conference with the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque, NM and the Crowne-Plaza Dayton, Ohio. Also to have contract signed with the property that offers the best proposal.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair Ned Foote submitted the following motions:

Motion 4

Move to amend the President's approved budget by adding \$10,000 to the Travel & Expense line to fund necessary travel for the remainder of the VVA fiscal year.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 5

Move to amend the Region 9 Director's approved budget by adding \$2,500 to the Travel & Expense line to fund necessary travel for the remainder of the VVA fiscal year.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 6

Move to amend the POW/MIA approved budget by adding \$55,000 to the Travel & Expense line to fund a proposed trip for four to Vietnam in February 2017.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 7

Move to increase Per Diem from the current \$45.00 per day to \$50.00 per day effective January 1, 2017.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Consent Calendar

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motion:

Motion 8

- 1. To rescind the January 2016 - Motion # 4 - To approve the appointment of Dan Jackson as the VVA Parliamentarian;**
- 2. To appoint Pete Peterson, Terry Courville and Dennis Andras as members of the 2017 VVA Convention Planning Committee; and Sharon Hobbs as a AVVA special advisor; and Wes Guidry as staff advisor;**
- 3. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 549 (WI) as they have voluntarily dissolved their operation and the WI State Council has confirmed the request;**
- 4. To add Cecilia Essenmacher as a AVVA Special Advisor to the Membership Affairs Committee at no cost to National;**
- 5. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 1001 (LA) as requested by the LA State Council since every effort to rejuvenate the chapter has failed; and**
- 6. To add Elayne Mackey as a AVVA Special Advisor to the Homeless Veterans Committee at no cost to National.**

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Committee – Motion Only

Veterans Benefits – T. Burke – No motions

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

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

Veterans Health Care – S. Wilson – No motions

Government Affairs – P. Peterson – No motions

Agent Orange/Dioxin – M. Kaderlik – Made a motion which was ruled out-of-order by the Chairman;

Director Wilson challenged the ruling of the Chairman and that challenge died for lack of a second. -

No further motions

Constitution – L. DeLong made the following motion:

Motion 9

**To add John Weiss as a member to the Constitution Committee at no cost to National.
Without objection motion passed.**

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Economic Opportunities – F. Barry – No motions
Veterans Incarcerated – D. Yezzo – No motions
Minority Affairs - J. Yamamoto made the following motion:

Motion 10

**To add Fran Davis as a AVVA special advisor to the Minority Affairs Committee at no cost to
National.**

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons – No motions
POW/MIA – R. DeLong/G. Coates made the following motions:

Motion 11

**For the VVA National Board of Directors to approve international travel for POW/MIA
Committee Co-Chairs R. Delong and G. Coates, VVA Vice President M. Four and VVA
Communications Director M. Porter to Vietnam.**

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 12

**To add Larry Matika as a member to the POW/MIA Committee at no cost to National.
Without objection motion passed.**

Yes: 23

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 0

Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs – No motions

Homeless Veterans - S. Miller – No motions
 Public Affairs – D. Howland – No motions
 2017 National Convention Planning – No motions

Director John Miner with second from Director Kristek made the following motion:

Motion 13

To write a letter of support to the Helicopter Association for their request for a Medvac Monument at the Arlington National Cemetery.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Unfinished Business

VVA National Disciplinary Policy: Secretary Meeks presented a written report and made the following motion:

Motion 14

To appoint Joe Kristek to the National Disciplinary Policy Work Group.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

New Business

Honorary Life Membership: Secretary Meeks made the following motion:

Motion 16

Motion to approve the requests that the individuals listed below be given honorary life member.

Honorary Life Membership Requests

Name	Requested by
Sheryl Jones	Chapter 704 (NY)
Tom McCormick	Chapter 704 (NY)
Burt Deferio	Chapter 704 (NY)
Karen Wood	Chapter 704 (NY)
Theresa Leonardi	Chapter 704 (NY)
Dr. Linda Townsend	Chapter 704 (NY)
Warden Darrel Vannoy	National Secretary Bill Meeks
Timothy Floyd Burchett	TN State Council President

Jennifer O'Neill	TN State Council President
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Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Region V Disciplinary Hearing Panel Determination: Secretary Meeks made the following motion:

Motion 17

A motion to revoke the VVA membership of member #000601 as a result of a disciplinary determination rendered by the VVA Region V Disciplinary Hearing Panel.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 23

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 0

VVA Suspension Reinstatement: Treasurer Reynolds with a second from Vice President Four made the following motion:

Motion 18

To allow the Illinois State Council to be reinstated until 1/17/2017 based on the IRS Extension of their filing requirement.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Panel Formation: President Rowan made the following motion:

Motion 19

To establish two panels: Panel A) will formulate a strategic plan to “Transition” at a time certain in the future to be determined by the working group and communicated to the general membership for approval at a convention; and Panel B) will determine the feasibility of forming, chartering, funding and/or empowerment of a new veterans’ organization to perpetuate our legacy and assure the tomorrow of all veterans which will be communicated to the general membership for approval at a convention. The proposed membership on these panels will be presented to the NBOD in January 2017 for approval and the chairs will be determined by their respective panels.

Without objection motion passed.

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

Report: Strategic Working Group Summary

In 2014, President Rowan established a Strategic Working Group in an effort to begin to identify areas that need attention or require increased information in order to evaluate the direction of any future plans VVA would need to make as we move toward that time when decisions on our final days would be necessary.

The following were appointed to this working group: Marsha Four, VVA Vice President; Dan Stenvold and Joe Kristek, VVA Board Directors; and Sandy Miller, VVA Committee Chair and a non-profit director.

The group was to be a repository and data source of collective thoughts, information and considerations. This was to provide assistance to the decision making process of the corporation's Board of Directors with regard to the future of Vietnam Veterans of America: its structure; its staff; its assets, both physical and financial; its contracts; its liabilities; and time lines.

The group began with an estimated time line of ten years. At that point (2024) many of us will be nearing eighty years old. If we close in on that date and need to readjust...then so be it.

Topics of discussion were broad in the beginning and included:

- Our organization: What form will it take into the future? Will it exist at all? Will it morph into another form altogether?
 - o Considerations of the past have been:
 - AVVA guardian organization
 - Lineage type organization (i.e. DAR)
 - Non-profit foundation with a VVA ancestral line of board directors providing educational and advocacy grants
- Our mission: What was it? Did we accomplish it? What did we contribute to it? How was it accomplished? What historic impact has it made?
- Our legacy: Will we have one? How will it be determined and by whom? Should VVA develop a written document/book that brings life to who we were and why we were established?
- Support and Guidance: How will this be provided by National to the Chapters and State Councils? What are the legal aspects of dissolving a non-profit organization or VSO? Will these change over time? What effect will decisions at the national level have on Chapters and State Councils?

- Some legal questions, in time, will require an attorney that specializes in non-profit law.

The group was aware this was going to be a long process and while setting up some excel files for tracking purposes it also recognized that at the national level we have several departments that work directly with veterans and their benefits. One of these, the Veterans Benefits Department/Program, was identified as worrisome because without a defined long term strategy it could become a liability concern for VVA. From the onset the group determined that the early efforts should be placed in this area as they needed the most immediate attention. As a member of the group and being in the national office on regular basis I was able to work with the Benefits Department Director, Jim Vale and the Veterans Benefits Chairs (John Margowski and Tom Burke.) We had lengthy conversations weighing options and approaches in an effort life up to our responsibilities and duties in protecting the veterans we represented and the liability VVA could incur. Items of particular concern were:

- Enlistment of new Veteran Service Officers
- Retention of existing Veteran Service Officers
- Limited presence of VVA Veteran Service Officers in the VA Regional Offices
- The number of County Veteran Service Officers who hold VVA POAs with no VVA Regional Office Veteran Service Officers to pick up the claims
- The handling of claims cases with the VVA Veteran Service Officers retires or dies
- The closing of a VVA State Veteran Service Officer Program
- The liability of the claims and long term appeals

Last spring VVA was contacted by Reverend Bob Lewis, a member of the VVA New Your Sate Council. He offered his assistance and requested to work with the Strategic Working Group. President Rowan asked that I have a conversation with him to determine a fit. Reverend Bob and I spoke for over 90 minutes after which time I spoke with President Rowan and suggested that we bring Reverend Bob to the national office to meet with all the officers. This meeting did occur in late spring.

Reverend Bob is an accomplished strategic planner and has work professionally in this arena. He spent four to five hours presenting his approach, laying the groundwork for a viable action plan. This plan is able to provide VVA with the ability to reach a future organizational outcome as determined by our membership.

Reverend Bob is scheduled to present his thoughts at a joint meeting of the Board and the State Council Presidents at the October meeting.

President Rowan with a second from Director DeLong made the following motion:

Motion 20

To retire the Strategic Working Group (April 2014 – Motion # 16) and thank the members (Dan Stenvold, Sandy Miller and Joe Kristek) for their service.

Without objection motion passed.

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

Committee – Reports Only

Public Affairs – D. Howland – Verbal
Veterans Benefits – T. Burke – Verbal
PTSD and Substance Abuse – Dr. T. Hall – Verbal
Women Veterans – K. O’Hare-Palmer – Verbal
Veterans Health Care – S. Wilson – Verbal
Government Affairs – P. Peterson – Verbal & written
Agent Orange/Dioxin – M. Kaderlik – Verbal & written
Constitution – L. DeLong – Verbal & written
Economic Opportunities – F. Barry – Verbal & written
Veterans Incarcerated - D. Simmons – Verbal

Meeting recesses for lunch: 12:00 pm

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 1:07 pm

Committee – Reports Only

Minority Affairs - J. Yamamoto – Verbal
Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons - Verbal
POW/MIA – R. DeLong/G. Coates - Verbal & written
Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs – Verbal & written
Homeless Veterans - S. Miller – Verbal
2016 Leadership & Education Conference Planning Committee – D. Stenvold - Verbal

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Meeks, Jr.
National Secretary
Approved: January 13, 2017