



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
April 7, 2017
Approved by Board**

President John Rowan called to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Friday April 7, 2017, at 9:08 am, at the Double Tree by Hilton in Silver Spring, MD. National Treasurer Wayne Reynolds 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 | Dave Simmons |
| Marsha Four, Vice President | Sharon Hobbs * | Dick Southern |
| Bill Meeks, Secretary | Joe Kristek | Dan Stenvold |
| Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer | Sara McVicker | Kerwin Stone |
| Dennis Andras | John Miner | Craig Tonjes |
| Tom Burke | Rex Moody | Ted Wilkinson |
| Richard DeLong | Ron Morgan | Sandie Wilson |
| Mike Demske | Felix Peterson | |

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

Present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO

Excused: Director Dottie Barickman & Director Jerry Yamamoto

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	Present		Oregon	Present
Illinois	Absent		Pennsylvania	Present
Indiana	Present		Puerto Rico	Present
Iowa	Absent		Rhode Island	Present
Kansas	Present		South Carolina	Present
Kentucky	Present		South Dakota	Present
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 the following motions with a second from Treasurer Reynolds:

Motion 1

To accept the 2017 April BOD meeting tentative agenda.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 2

Motion 2

To accept the BOD meeting minutes from January 13, 2017.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 2

National President/J. Rowan

President Rowan presented a written report.

January 30th I attended the grand opening of the Veterans Lounge at my alma mater Queens College. The room is located in the Student Union. I met a number of the student-veterans.

In February I dealt with visits to the VA culminating with my heart surgery on the 15th to replace my aortic valve with a bovine valve. Thankfully the surgery was a great success and I am doing

fine. While in recovery I was able to meet with the new VA Secretary Dr. Shulkin. He was touring the hospital and came by to visit.

On March 2nd and 3rd I was able to call into the office and participate in the Finance Committee's Budget Meeting.

On March 9th I was able to travel to DC to present VVA's Legislative Agenda before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees. I noted my surgery at the Manhattan VAMC and what a great experience it was.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Board meeting in April.

President Rowan presented the following motions with a second from Secretary Meeks:

Motion 3

To appoint Richard Lindbeck as Chair of the Credentials Committee.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 2

Motion 4

To amend Motion # 3 from the January 2017 NBOD meeting which amended Motion # 19 from the October 2016 NBOD: To establish two panels working groups: Panel A Working Group I) 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 Working Group II) 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.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 2

National Vice President/M. Four

Activities for this period included the following:

- Committee Chair Meeting: January 2017 Board Meeting
 - The meeting was opened with a discussion on new committee chair orientation ideas for 2017.

- There was a brief conversation about the use of the committee meeting minute's format.
- Ned Foote, Chair of the Finance Committee, went over the specifics of the format and budget narrative to be used for their respective committee FY18 budget submissions.
- Pete Peterson, Chair of Government Affairs Committee, discussed the importance of attendance at his meeting. Discussion on the responsibility of the committee chairs whose committees deal with legislation in any manner should all be at the GA meeting. This also applies to the Health Care Committee.
- Dr. Tom Hall, Chair of the PTSD/Substance Abuse Committee, provided information and ideas for the de-escalation of conflict and how to work at keeping ourselves balanced. Open discussion ensued.
- Activities
 - Assisted with the organization, coordination and logistics of the two panels that were approved through the vote of the National Board of Directors to address a VVA Strategic plan. Some items involved included:
 - member contact files; Contacting members; establish training arrival/departure dates; coordinating hotel reservations with Wes Guidry; orienting members to national office, the local community; and arrangements for meeting set up and meals. .
 - Traveled to Vietnam (February 1 through February 24) as a member of the Veterans Initiative Program team composed also of Richard DeLong and Grant Coates (Co-Chairs of the VVA National POW/MIA Committee) and Mokie Porter (VVA National Director of Communications and National Protocol Officer). Arriving in and departing from Hanoi we traveled from north to south with meetings along the way to include the Vietnam Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hanoi. Other meetings in Hanoi and at the other meeting locations included: the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations; the Vietnam USA Society (our sponsors); the Veterans Association of Viet Nam; the Peoples Committee; and the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange. Our team completed a full report that will be provided by Richard DeLong and Grant Coates, Co-Chairs of the VVA National POW/MIA Committee.
 - Traveled to National Office for attendance at the National Finance Committee's work on the annual VVA budget for FY18, from March 2 through March 4.
 - Worked with Vonnie Cogdell, Director of personnel and Administration Service, to arrange for the provision of an informational presentation on Medicare for the staff.
 - Met with VVA Director Barickman to discuss the outline of information to be provided as an orientation to new board and committee chairs after the next election. Also provided support and possible input to the development of a VVA National Board of Directors Handbook.

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) and stated the Release of Delegate Form for the convention is posted on the VVA web site.

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.

My wife and I attended the Inauguration of President Trump and the activities associated with the Inauguration. We attended the January 19th VFW Gala Honoring the Medal of Honor Recipients and the Veterans Ball on January 20th. While we were here we visited with a number of Members of Congress on behalf of VVA

I represented VVA at the funeral of Lt. General Hal Moore in Auburn, Alabama and his interment at Ft. Benning Main Post Cemetery on February 18, 2017.

We also met with Quentin Butcher and other at the National Office on February 27th in preparation of FY 17 close out and preparation of the FY 18 Budget. We have also been preparing for the Internal Revenue Service review of VVA. Representatives for one of our Household Goods Program came to our National Office to meet.

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. The National Finance Committee met March 4 and 5 to develop the FY 18 Budget for VVA and I attended as the Special Advisor.

Pursuant to the Motion passed by the BOD in January, I and been working with Rev. Bob Lewis in preparation for the training of the Working Group 1 which “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 membership and approved at a National Convention”. The Training was held April 3-4, 2017.

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.

Strategic Plan Working Groups/Rev. Bob Lewis

The training for Working Group I and Working Group II has been completed. Both working groups have begun their assigned task.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America/ S. Hobbs

Since returning home from the January VVA Board meeting, the Board has conducted business and communicated through our online conferencing platform. The Officer, Regional, and Committee reports can be read on the AVVA website. (www.avva.org). The Finance Committee, Vice President and I met in January to complete the proposed 2018 budget. The BOD will be asked to accept it during our April board meeting.

AVVA mourned with Diane Kuhn-Nicholson, former Region 6 Director, in the loss of her husband, Harvey on February 28th. Fran Davis, current Region 6 Director, represented AVVA National at the memorial.

IN MEMORY PLAQUE:

AVVA worked with JC Cummings, design architect, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) and the governmental agencies in the repair of the *In Memory Plaque*. Three proposed designs were submitted to the National Park Service (NPS), Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and the National Planning Commission (NPC) for approval. I am happy to finally announce that one of the proposals has been accepted by all three agencies. It has been a long six years! We have known since November 2015 that the repair would not be what we had envisioned; however, the plaque will now have a presence and will no longer be overlooked or stood-on by unsuspecting visitors. Costs are being compiled now; we are into the fundraising stage. I hope to have another update at the VVA Board meeting in April. Without the partnership of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), I believe this project would still be ongoing. Jim Knotts, CEO, has been a true champion for AVVA in this repair. (NOTE: picture is only a mock model. A bronze plaque will sit above the stone)



CONDOLENCE PROGRAM:

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. Jim Knotts, VVMF CEO, has asked AVVA to help get the word out about the *In Memory Registry*. AVVA will now include a small card in each condolence card that will encourage loved ones to submit their veteran's name to the *In Memory Registry* if eligible. VVMF will supply the information cards.

CAREGIVING PEER SUPPORT:

In February, the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America and Military and Veteran Caregiver Network (MVCN) announced a partnership that will provide peer support services for caregiving members. The AVVA and MVCN Team desires to ensure caregivers of wounded, ill, injured veterans and service members are not isolated but have access to the knowledge, skills, and resources that will allow them to support one another in a meaningful way. Together we are helping to ensure that our nation's 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers receive the full range of programs and services they need and deserve. (See handout for details.)

CONVENTION:

AVVA is gearing up for our 9th National Convention in 2017. Award nominations, delegate registration, and the convention registration forms are still being accepted. All information and forms are posted to our website. By the time this report is distributed, the deadlines for both bylaw proposals and candidate declarations will have passed.

PROJECT FRIENDSHIP:

Volunteers of America Homeless Veterans Program (VOA) is this year’s Project Friendship. On Monday before the convention, we will conduct an onsite visit. If you are in New Orleans and would like to accompany AVVA, please let me know in advance. A special “thank you” to Sandy Miller (VVA National Homeless Committee Chair) for her recommendation of VOA. Thanks to the generosity of our VVA and AVVA members, we have had two unprecedented years: over \$10,000 was collected in Springfield and over \$11,000 in Tucson. Help us have another record year in New Orleans! (See handout for details)

LUNCHEON SPEAKER:

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is proud to announce that Debbie Sprague will be our guest speaker at the 2017 Convention Luncheon. She is an Elizabeth Dole Foundation Fellow alumna and an Education and Training Manager for the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network. (See handout for details)



Sharon Hobbs, President

Conference of State Council Presidents/R. Moody

The CSCP had forty (40) Presidents in attendance at the Thursday meeting and the meeting went well with a full agenda of business. The CSCP discussed issues concerning household goods, the room cut-off dates for meetings, the membership report given and the VSO report provided.

Veterans Benefits Program Director’s Report/K. Yoon

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
April 2017

Kelsey Yoon, Esq.
Director, Veterans Benefits Program
Vietnam Veterans of America



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1. Director's Note

Vietnam Veterans of America's Veterans Benefits Program (VBP) had a productive quarter. Some notable updates include:

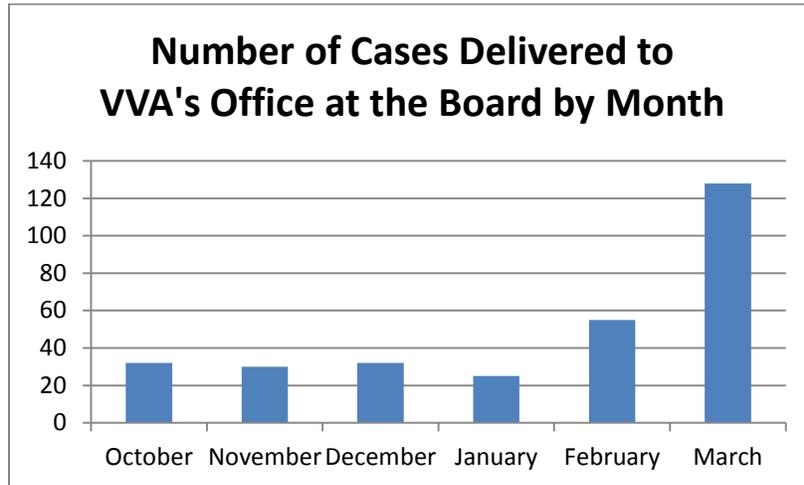
- The VBP represented VVA before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs regarding the National Work Queue's Impact on Claims Processing. The written testimony can be found on VVA's website.
- The VBP represented VVA at a congressional roundtable and several stakeholder meetings to voice its opposition to the Appeals Modernization bill that seeks to reform the disability benefits claims process. The VBP continues to advocate its opposition to the Appeals Modernization bill as it does not address the fundamental flaws with the appeals process.
- The VBP developed several proposed guides for our local service programs across the nation. After review and approval by the Veterans Benefits Committee, the guides will be distributed nation-wide. These guidance papers address the following topics:
 - VVA Paper File, Scanning, and Shredding Procedures
 - VetPro User Guide
 - New Clients with Pending Appeals
- The VBP is now tracking all video, central office, and travel board hearings and contacting the claimant or VSO to ensure that all veterans and family members have representation at Board hearings.

The VBP continues to achieve a "win rate" above 74%, with 23.1% of its cases granted and 51.6% of its cases remanded this past quarter at the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board).¹ Unfortunately, yet again, we have not been fully staffed as National Appeals Attorney Jordan Hansbrough left VVA in February 2017 to pursue other career opportunities. I am optimistic, however, for the Finance Committees' overwhelming support it afforded the VBP Budget Proposal for FY 2017-2018.

Currently, 50% of VVA attorneys have worked for VVA for less than 6 months and only two VVA attorneys have worked with VVA for more than 1 year. The high attorney turn-over rate is unsustainable, especially since we are expecting a more than 300% increase in cases added to our backlog at the Board this year. Moreover, VVA remains *behind* the Board in processing appeals; VVA cases are still being held up by our office, not VA.

¹ VVA recorded a denial rate of 16.5% and 8.8% of the cases recorded a disposition of "other".

As the data will show below, beginning in February, we have already experienced a significant increase in VVA cases requiring representation at the Board. In October, November, and December of 2016, VVA received between 30-33 cases each month. However, beginning in 2017, the number of cases delivered monthly has significantly increased; VVA received 55 cases in February and 128 cases in March. We anticipate these numbers to continue to increase each month.



The number of cases in our backlog at the Board has climbed to 1,558 cases. Since January 2017, we have approximately 184 *more* cases in our backlog at the Board.

TOTAL APPEALS BACKLOG AT BOARD

LOCATION	Number of cases (Jan '17)	Number of cases (Apr '17)
Pending Attorney Review	569	728
Pending Travel Board Hearing	227	205
Pending Videoconference Hearing	563	610
Pending Central Office Hearings	Data N/A	15
TOTAL VVA BACKLOG AT BOARD	1,359	1,558

Source: VACOLS; Board of Veterans' Appeals

VA estimates still indicate that we have over 9,000 active pending original claims and over 6,000 active pending appeals across the country and in Washington, DC. Additionally, we continue to record over 100 claims pending at the Appeals Management Office (AMO).

AMO Remands Pending by Month (Dec 2016-Feb 2017)	
Dec	136
Jan	122
Feb	111

Source: VBA (4/1/2017)

As shown in the table below, VVA is filing over 100 NODs and nearly 100 Form 9s each month. Most of these claims will eventually make their way up to the Board.

VVA Appeals Filed Nationwide (Oct 2016-Feb 2017)		
	NODs Filed	Form 9s Filed
Oct	129	116
Nov	145	69
Dec	143	99
Jan	123	84
Feb	111	154

Source: Veterans Benefits Administration (4/4/2017)

The VBP Office at the AMO and Board continues to be a high-volume office as we experience an increased workload on almost all aspects.

Correspondence & Visitors Report (2016-2017)									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Phone Calls	325	358	265	200	236	258	239	310	325
Voice Messages	146	178	86	116	99	66	109	104	105
Emails	376	374	237	310	319	367	421	433	556
Appointment/Walk-In	3	11	4	7	3	6	3	5	0
Mail/Faxes	91	116	61	59	67	44	38	44	76

Source: VetPro (4/4/2017)

Number of Tracked Appealed Claims by E-VSO (2016-2017)								
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
117	173	94	106	153	169	98	111	131

We continue to methodically track substantive appeals nation-wide. For the months of January,

February, and March, our E-VSO tracked, on-average, over 100 claims each month. Additionally, thanks to our E-VSO, the VBP ensured that 20, 36, and 44 claims were timely appealed for the months of January, February, and March, respectively.

Rating Decisions Reviewed (VSO Queue)								
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
50	92	91	74	73	134	69	100	92

Similarly, the number of Rating Decision reviews continue to generally increase in volume and fluctuate significantly from

month to month. Due to the NWQ, we are currently responsible for the following eleven (11) stations: DC RO (372), AMC (397), Baltimore (313), Roanoke (314), St. Louis (331), Honolulu (459) Manila (351), Sioux Falls (438), VACO (101), Wichita (452), and Columbia (319).

Although there is still much that needs to be done, the VBP is extremely thankful for the Finance Committee's support of its proposed budget for this upcoming fiscal year. With the support of the Veterans Benefits Committee and the Board of Directors, I am confident that we can continue to improve the support we provide veterans, family members, and our service officers across the country.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Yoon, Esq.
Director, Veterans Benefits Program

2. Notable Achievements

The VBP Team is busy zealously advocating for the veterans we serve. Some notable accomplishments for this quarter of the VBP Team are highlighted below:

- In February 2017, Administrative Assistant Janelle Hardy began helping a Veteran who reached out to our office after VA reduced his disability ratings from 70% to 10%. Even though VVA did not represent this Veteran and the Veteran lived in Arkansas, Janelle **connected this homeless Veteran with Meals on Wheels and public transportation financial assistance**. Janelle also connected this Veteran with a Veteran Service Officer in his area, who was able to quickly help him get his benefits reinstated.
- In March 2017, E-VSO Christina Manning disputed a rating decision from the Wichita Regional Office (RO), arguing a Veteran's PTSD rated at 10% should have been at least 70%. **Christina convinced the Wichita RO to revise the rating decision so that it reflected a 70% rating**. This step saved this Veteran – who was suffering from extreme PTSD – from the stress of seeing a rating decision with an insultingly low rating.
- National Appeals Attorney Amanda Bedford has become the VBP's point person for Veterans seeking VVA's assistance with **discharge upgrades**. Because the VBP does not have resources to directly assist Veterans with discharge upgrades, Amanda has nonetheless assisted in connecting Veterans with important resources. Amanda's efforts directly led to an Active Duty Airman **obtaining representation to help stop his illegal personality disorder discharge** and a struggling female Veteran finding pro-bono representation from a licensed attorney. The female Veteran had been looking for help for over a year.
- In March 2017, VSO Counsel Homer Richards **convinced the Columbia Regional Office (RO) to order a new C&P Exam for a Veteran's mental health condition, saving the Veteran several years of waiting and needless appeals**. While reviewing VA's denial letter, Homer spotted several important errors, which he highlighted in an email to the Columbia RO. The Columbia RO agreed with Homer's

concerns, stopped the process of sending the denial letter to the Veteran, and ordered a new medical evaluation.

- In January 2017, Senior National Appellate Attorney Katherine Ebbesson submitted written arguments to support a Veteran's PTSD claim. The Board fully granted the Veteran's claim, which resulted in a 70% rating for PTSD. This new rating helped the Veteran obtain **a combined rating of 100% dating back to April 2014, providing this Veteran with \$63,130 in retroactive benefits.**
- Administrative Assistant Elaine Chaney has been instrumental **in implementing the VBP's new procedures of sending closing letters to all VVA-represented Veterans after a final Board decision is issued.** These closing letters explain the Board decision results and provide contact information if any questions arise. Because of Elaine's assistance with this new procedure, VVA-represented Veterans are receiving additional support through the entire appeals process at the Board.
- In January 2017, VVA Contract Attorney Michael Garza assisted a Veteran in obtaining Total Disability for Individual Unemployability (TDIU), effective July 2003. Michael argued that the symptoms of the Veterans PTSD, combined with the physical effects from his Agent Orange-related illnesses, made it so this Veteran could no longer maintain a substantially gainful occupation. This Veteran will receive **over \$200,000 in retroactive benefits that accrued during the fourteen year appeal period.**
- Senior National Veteran Service Officer Dee Wallace observed that a Veteran's examination for colon cancer did not comply with the Board's remand instructions. Dee raised the issue several times with the Appeals Management Office (AMO), arguing that the Veteran should not be required to go back to the Board prior to receiving an adequate examination. The **AMO eventually agreed with Dee and ordered a new exam, which provided VA with the evidence it needed to grant the Veteran's claim.**

3. People & Staff Changes

In February 2017, National Appellate Attorney Jordan Hansbrough, Esq. left VVA to pursue other career opportunities. We wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

On April 3, 2017, Amy Borgersen, Esq. (right) started as a National Appellate Attorney at VVA's Office at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Prior to accepting a position with VVA, Amy worked as an attorney with the Legal Aid Justice Center, where she provided legal representation on matters involving housing and consumer law. Amy attended Western Michigan University Law School where she was the *Editor-in-Chief* of the Law Journal of Practical & Clinical Law. We welcome Amy to the VVA Benefits team!



4. Awards

For the months of December, January, and February, VVA assisted claimants in receiving a combined total of \$252,499 in new awards for compensation, pension, and DIC claims.² The number of new awards issued for the months of December, January, and February total 227, 223, and 194, respectively. New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania consistently reported the highest number of new awards issued for the months of December, January, and February. Please see the next three pages for a detailed breakdown of awards issued by state.

AWARDS FOR DECEMBER 2016 WHERE VVA IS THE REPRESENTATIVE

State	TOTAL AWARDS ISSUED	TOTAL BENEFITS	NEW AWARDS ISSUED	NEW BENEFITS PAID
VVA Total	53,583	\$78,048,859.00	227	\$194,376.00
AK	340	\$409,962.00	6	\$10,050.00
AL	138	\$231,771.00	0	\$0.00
AR	125	\$256,454.00	0	\$0.00
AZ	1569	\$2,018,755.00	10	\$7,335.00
CA	2164	\$4,317,603.00	8	\$8,945.00
CO	246	\$421,087.00	2	\$2,678.00
CT	351	\$496,811.00	1	\$1,452.00
DC	38	\$51,382.00	0	\$0.00
DE	393	\$706,302.00	3	\$3,588.00
FL	1458	\$2,455,656.00	4	\$3,577.00
GA	198	\$352,759.00	0	\$0.00
HI	111	\$188,092.00	2	\$2,427.00
IA	3351	\$3,935,465.00	15	\$12,817.00
ID	216	\$299,560.00	0	\$0.00
IL	2353	\$3,756,790.00	9	\$14,030.00
IN	1297	\$1,680,624.00	4	\$2,869.00
KS	280	\$520,290.00	1	\$409.00
KY	348	\$499,715.00	0	\$0.00
LA	208	\$313,679.00	3	\$1,426.00
MA	1433	\$2,405,046.00	15	\$10,577.00
MD	317	\$520,739.00	1	\$1,556.00
ME	39	\$72,047.00	1	\$654.00
MI	3717	\$6,180,104.00	13	\$11,228.00
MN	4696	\$5,695,502.00	15	\$9,822.00
MO	1132	\$1,811,136.00	7	\$5,612.00

² All data does not include retro awards issued.

State	TOTAL AWARDS ISSUED	TOTAL BENEFITS	NEW AWARDS ISSUED	NEW BENEFITS PAID
MS	175	\$296,528.00	0	\$0.00
MT	125	\$183,057.00	0	\$0.00
NC	369	\$617,838.00	1	\$839.00
ND	35	\$39,116.00	0	\$0.00
NE	929	\$1,060,844.00	5	\$1,384.00
NH	133	\$223,303.00	0	\$0.00
NJ	1407	\$2,701,972.00	2	\$1,196.00
NM	42	\$71,670.00	0	\$0.00
NV	191	\$403,741.00	1	\$1.00
NY	3000	\$4,479,845.00	28	\$20,570.00
OH	1396	\$1,663,541.00	9	\$3,913.00
OK	172	\$326,861.00	1	\$1,694.00
OR	271	\$484,739.00	2	\$543.00
PA	4245	\$5,671,425.00	16	\$18,413.00
RI	439	\$761,938.00	0	\$0.00
SC	58	\$109,608.00	0	\$0.00
SD	26	\$42,130.00	0	\$0.00
TN	803	\$1,412,504.00	4	\$3,009.00
TX	2840	\$4,210,814.00	4	\$3,959.00
UT	86	\$112,935.00	0	\$0.00
VA	327	\$508,770.00	0	\$0.00
VT	208	\$354,599.00	0	\$0.00
WA	5981	\$7,419,769.00	27	\$19,321.00
WI	2414	\$2,819,336.00	2	\$2,258.00
WV	1192	\$1,925,196.00	6	\$5,673.00
WY	14	\$25,343.00	0	\$0.00
Puerto Rico	281	\$674,156.00	0	\$0.00
Manila	24	\$58,275.00	0	\$0.00
TOTAL	20,632	\$30,179,360.00	94	\$77,335.00

AWARDS FOR JANUARY 2017 WHERE VVA IS THE REPRESENTATIVE

State	TOTAL AWARDS ISSUED	TOTAL BENEFITS	NEW AWARDS ISSUED	NEW BENEFITS PAID
VVA Total	53714	\$78,249,412.00	223	\$194,415.00

State	TOTAL AWARDS ISSUED	TOTAL BENEFITS	NEW AWARDS ISSUED	NEW BENEFITS PAID
AK	353	\$425,828.00	7	\$6,868.00
AL	139	\$233,253.00	0	\$0.00
AR	125	\$256,101.00	1	\$1,062.00
AZ	1581	\$2,038,782.00	9	\$11,995.00
CA	2171	\$4,344,036.00	12	\$19,464.00
CO	252	\$427,991.00	2	\$2,124.00
CT	352	\$495,128.00	0	\$0.00
DC	39	\$52,824.00	0	\$0.00
DE	392	\$709,061.00	2	\$4,140.00
FL	1456	\$2,444,381.00	3	\$1,606.00
GA	197	\$350,219.00	1	\$1,339.00
HI	109	\$185,025.00	1	\$3,263.00
IA	3359	\$3,942,622.00	18	\$16,048.00
ID	216	\$300,121.00	1	\$457.00
IL	2351	\$3,773,876.00	14	\$19,190.00
IN	1308	\$1,701,220.00	7	\$7,668.00
KS	276	\$511,905.00	0	\$0.00
KY	345	\$495,525.00	0	\$0.00
LA	208	\$317,467.00	1	\$3,381.00
MA	1452	\$2,422,055.00	13	\$6,791.00
MD	315	\$517,354.00	0	\$0.00
ME	39	\$68,988.00	0	\$0.00
MI	3712	\$6,159,781.00	8	\$1,718.00
MN	4706	\$5,707,204.00	12	\$5,888.00
MO	1128	\$1,802,789.00	3	\$807.00
MS	174	\$296,148.00	0	\$0.00
MT	125	\$183,076.00	0	\$0.00
NC	367	\$622,185.00	1	\$1,062.00
ND	35	\$39,391.00	0	\$0.00
NE	927	\$1,060,754.00	0	\$0.00
NH	133	\$224,479.00	0	\$0.00
NJ	1411	\$2,716,124.00	8	\$6,899.00
NM	41	\$69,321.00	0	\$0.00

State	TOTAL AWARDS ISSUED	TOTAL BENEFITS	NEW AWARDS ISSUED	NEW BENEFITS PAID
NV	192	\$412,412.00	0	\$0.00
NY	3029	\$4,544,464.00	29	\$26,449.00
OH	1397	\$1,677,986.00	6	\$3,898.00
OK	173	\$327,034.00	0	\$0.00
OR	278	\$494,464.00	0	\$0.00
PA	4295	\$5,714,555.00	20	\$11,653.00
RI	432	\$751,909.00	0	\$0.00
SC	58	\$109,436.00	0	\$0.00
SD	29	\$52,002.00	0	\$0.00
TN	797	\$1,404,357.00	3	\$807.00
TX	2838	\$4,222,565.00	7	\$7,458.00
UT	87	\$115,138.00	0	\$0.00
VA	328	\$508,842.00	1	\$2,916.00
VT	205	\$348,368.00	0	\$0.00
WA	5979	\$7,411,705.00	23	\$14,294.00
WI	2302	\$2,731,951.00	2	\$1,078.00
WV	1198	\$1,932,805.00	9	\$5,156.00
WY	14	\$22,515.00	0	\$0.00
Puerto Rico	273	\$651,001.00	0	\$0.00
Manila	24	\$58,541.00	0	\$0.00
TOTAL	20699	\$30,277,914.00	93	\$79,569.00

AWARDS FOR FEBRUARY 2017 WHERE VVA IS THE REPRESENTATIVE

State	TOTAL AWARDS ISSUED	TOTAL BENEFITS	NEW AWARDS ISSUED	NEW BENEFITS PAID
VVA Total	53844	\$78,457,863.00	194	\$159,135.00
AK	363	\$432,376.00	9	\$9,373.00
AL	137	\$232,264.00	0	\$0.00

State	TOTAL AWARDS ISSUED	TOTAL BENEFITS	NEW AWARDS ISSUED	NEW BENEFITS PAID
AR	125	\$257,779.00	0	\$0.00
AZ	1597	\$2,048,861.00	11	\$12,317.00
CA	2171	\$4,341,393.00	4	\$4,499.00
CO	254	\$433,904.00	0	\$0.00
CT	353	\$494,599.00	3	\$1,980.00
DC	39	\$52,824.00	0	\$0.00
DE	396	\$724,443.00	1	\$134.00
FL	1445	\$2,431,545.00	2	\$3,128.00
GA	201	\$357,532.00	0	\$0.00
HI	111	\$188,552.00	1	\$134.00
IA	3360	\$3,948,335.00	12	\$8,750.00
ID	219	\$306,922.00	1	\$3,019.00
IL	2349	\$3,788,102.00	6	\$6,076.00
IN	1305	\$1,707,710.00	4	\$2,914.00
KS	276	\$514,665.00	0	\$0.00
KY	345	\$501,842.00	1	\$3,426.00
LA	210	\$311,726.00	1	\$104.00
MA	1455	\$2,416,511.00	8	\$4,362.00
MD	311	\$515,224.00	0	\$0.00
ME	39	\$68,988.00	0	\$0.00
MI	3712	\$6,161,279.00	11	\$12,327.00
MN	4705	\$5,705,498.00	13	\$8,924.00
MO	1137	\$1,808,706.00	5	\$3,804.00
MS	172	\$299,157.00	0	\$0.00
MT	125	\$183,011.00	0	\$0.00
NC	367	\$616,700.00	2	\$543.00
ND	34	\$38,982.00	0	\$0.00
NE	925	\$1,070,681.00	4	\$3,712.00
NH	134	\$225,926.00	0	\$0.00
NJ	1412	\$2,719,797.00	6	\$9,511.00
NM	41	\$69,321.00	0	\$0.00
NV	198	\$409,826.00	0	\$0.00
NY	3062	\$4,582,421.00	21	\$15,921.00
OH	1395	\$1,677,313.00	3	\$2,187.00
OK	174	\$324,556.00	2	\$543.00
OR	282	\$496,760.00	0	\$0.00
PA	4348	\$5,787,403.00	22	\$17,600.00

State	TOTAL AWARDS ISSUED	TOTAL BENEFITS	NEW AWARDS ISSUED	NEW BENEFITS PAID
RI	437	\$760,353.00	2	\$1,509.00
SC	61	\$112,632.00	1	\$264.00
SD	29	\$52,002.00	0	\$0.00
TN	791	\$1,398,565.00	4	\$2,253.00
TX	2848	\$4,240,812.00	8	\$4,571.00
UT	88	\$119,717.00	0	\$0.00
VA	324	\$503,732.00	0	\$0.00
VT	201	\$342,929.00	0	\$0.00
WA	5986	\$7,415,711.00	20	\$11,669.00
WI	2417	\$2,819,432.00	2	\$3,050.00
WV	1205	\$1,943,130.00	4	\$534.00
WY	14	\$23,699.00	0	\$0.00
Puerto Rico	270	\$644,091.00	0	\$0.00
Manila	23	\$55,745.00	0	\$0.00
TOTAL	20724	\$30,288,891.00	80	\$74,230.00

HGDP Report/O. Butcher

The current revenue picture shows that HGDP is down; the program in/around Washington, DC is going good and the expansion in Ohio has been successful.

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

Mr. Weidman introduced Christine Hill and Samantha Gonzalez who were presented awards for VVA House Staffer for the Year. Both are staffers with the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

VVA National VAVS Deputy Representative/Ken Rose

Mr. Rose gave a brief report on the VVA and AVVA members who volunteer to work at the VA Hospitals.

Meeting recesses: 11:00 am

Saturday, April 8, 2017

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 9:09 am on Saturday, April 8, 2017 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
 Marsha Four, Vice President
 Bill Meeks, Secretary
 Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer
 Dennis Andras
 Dottie Barickman
 Tom Burke
 Richard DeLong

Mike Demske
 Charlie Hobbs
 Sharon Hobbs *
 Joe Kristek
 Sara McVicker
 John Miner
 Rex Moody
 Ron Morgan

Felix Peterson
 Dave Simmons
 Dick Southern
 Dan Stenvold
 Kerwin Stone
 Craig Tonjes
 Ted Wilkinson
 Sandie Wilson

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

Present: Joseph A. Sternburg, CFO
 Excused: Jerry Yamamoto, Director

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

Alabama	Present	Nebraska	Absent
Alaska	Absent	Nevada	Present
Arizona	Present	New Hampshire	Absent
Arkansas	Absent	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	Present	Oregon	Present
Illinois	Absent	Pennsylvania	Present
Indiana	Present	Puerto Rico	Present
Iowa	Absent	Rhode Island	Present
Kansas	Present	South Carolina	Present
Kentucky	Present	South Dakota	Present
Louisiana	Present	Tennessee	Present
Maryland	Present	Texas	Present
Massachusetts	Present	Utah	Present
Michigan	Present	Vermont	Present
Minnesota	Present	Virginia	Excused*
Mississippi	Present	Washington	Absent
Missouri	Present	West Virginia	Present
Montana	Present	Wisconsin	Present

* Virginia joined the meeting after lunch break.

Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair Ned Foote submitted the following motions:

Motion 5

Move to approve the National Leadership & Education Conference proposed FYE 2-28-18 budget as presented.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 6

Move to approve the Veterans Health Council proposed FYE 2-28-18 budget as presented.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 7

Move to approve the VVA proposed FYE 2-28-18 budget as presented.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motions:

Motion 8

Consent Calendar

1. To retire the following motions as the actions stated in the motions have been completed and policy motions have been replaced by other motions pertaining to the policy;

BOD of Directors

August 2005

Motion #3 – To approve as policy the Board Confidentiality Policy.

October 2015

Motion 29- To approve Tyco’s proposal to provide security system to the National office.

April 2016

Motion # 26 - To approve Honorary Life Membership for the following.

Name	Requested By
Colonel Tim Moore	Chapter 1051 (KY)
Melissa Hall	Chapter 1051 (KY)

Dr. Scott Garrett	Chapter 196 (VA)
Kaye Gardner	Chapter 304 (MD)
Janna Hoehn	Chapter 858 (HI)
Cameron Smith	Chapter 271 (OR)
Nerle (Jack) Strickler	Chapter 820 (OR)

Motion # 27 - To postpone until July 2016 meeting the motion to send a start-up kit to form a new chapter in Watertown, SD.

Motion # 28 - To approve the amended VVA National Disciplinary Policy.

Motion # 29 - To appoint a Disciplinary Work Group of Butch Huber, Tom Burke, Sara McVicker and Bill Meeks for more revisions to the VVA National Disciplinary Policy.

July 2016

Motion # 1 - To seat Rex Moody as the designated representative of the CSCP and Barry Rice as the designated Alternate Region 3 Director.

October 2016

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

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.

Chapter Charter Revocations (National Secretary)

April 2016

Motion # 6 (Consent Calendar item # 1) - To revoke the charter for Chapter # 348 (TX) and Chapter # 379 (TX) as the membership notified the TX State Council they were voluntarily closing the chapters down.

July 2016

Motion # 4 (Consent Calendar) - 2. To revoke the charter of Chapter 568 by the IA State Council; and
3. Revoke the Charter of the Maine State Council by the ME State Council; and
4. Revoke the Charter of Chapter 478 (ME) by voluntary closure request from Chapter.

Motion # 5 - To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 225 as recommended by the determination of the Chair of the VVA National Disciplinary Committee.

October 2016

Motion # 8 - To accept the Consent Calendar Motions:

- 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;**
- 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;**

January 2017

Motion # 15 - To accept the Consent Calendar Motions:

- 1. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 681 (NY) as they have voluntarily dissolved their operation and the NY State Council has confirmed the request;**

Conference of State Council Presidents

April 2015

Motion #5 - The CSCP request that the BOD insert into the National Disciplinary Policy under Section II Temporary Suspension Part A, item # 3: “Any and all temporary suspensions imposed by a State Council President, Regional Director, or National Officer may not be reversed prior to the completion of the appropriate disciplinary action other than by a majority vote of the National Board of Directors.”

- 2. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 657 (MI) and the MI State Council has completed the steps for dissolution and proper notification has been completed to the members;
- 3. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 118 (NY) as the NY State Council has made every effort to rejuvenate the chapter without success;
- 4. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 699 (MT) and the MT State Council has completed the steps for dissolution;
- 5. To revoke the charter of VVA Chapter 277 (OK) and VVA Chapter 846 (OK) as voluntary closures determined by their membership and then voted on by the OK State Council.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 9

Honorary Life Member Requests

Name	Requested By
Joseph L. Galloway	KY State Council
Thomas Bickel	KY State Council
Billy Wayne Bailey	WV State Council
Timothy Von Bon	UT State Council
Jill Von Bon	UT State Council

Howard Schlutter	UT State Council
William (Bill) Protzmann	VVA Region 9 Director
Ted Lieu	Chapter 53 (CA)
John Becker	Chapter 1078 (TN)
Martin J. Grohman	Chapter 1044 (ME)

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

The Convention Planning Chair Dan Stenvold made the following motion:

Motion 10

To not show the movie “The Human Cost of War” at the convention.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Veterans Health Council/Dr. T. Berger

-latest on HEROeS project: The Vietnam Era Health Retrospective Observational Study... Approximately 54,000 scientifically randomized selected individuals, including in-country and Vietnam-era Veterans and a comparison group of similarly aged Americans without military experience, were invited to participate. As of Mar 27, 46.3 percent of Veterans and 68.0 percent of the general U.S. population have returned their surveys. That response rate exceeded our goals. *We strongly encourage invited women Veterans and civilians to participate if you have not already responded!*

-in early February Dr. Hall and I presented our latest version of PTSD-101 at a VVA-sponsored town hall in Phoenix. Dave Simmons and his Vets against Drugs program were also part of the show.

-in early March I participated in three AO town halls in Oregon organized by Tom Owen. Two of the three meetings were sponsored by Good Samaritan Hospital Group and Chapt 441 and the third sponsored by Chapt 392 at the Portland VA. One of the results is that the Portland VA wants the PTSD and Suicide Risk & Prevention program for the clinical staff. Dr. Hall and I are also on the program for Region 3 in KY for several presentations...

-attended a conference earlier this week on the dangers of imported drugs...

Also if the State Council Presidents from North Carolina and Virginia want to host a hep-C seminar...

-VHC personnel announcements: the current Interim temp Magery is the recipient of a very prestigious academic scholarship, the JET = Japan Exchange and Teaching fellowship for minimum one year and up to five. It's a great stepping stone for a future career in translation or international relations, so she'll be leaving soon. However, I'm also very proud to announce that Maureen Elias is joining the VHC as

a Research Assistant for a couple days a week. Some of you may remember her from the January BOD meeting where she was introduced as a Higher Ground Fellow. Maureen is a veteran and military spouse and recently was named the Fort Meade Base Spouse of the Year as a result of her mental health advocacy efforts. She's currently a graduate student at Bowie State University and is completing her clinical practicum in mental health counseling at Johns Hopkins.

Next Generation Fundraising Report

CEO Timothy Oieary spoke about the past years' fundraising and what they had planned for the future.

National Meetings and Special Events/W. Guidry

Mr. Guidry noted that National Board Members and Committee Chairs could now send in registration forms for the 2017 National Convention.

Membership Department/T. Houston

T. Houston gave a status update on the web roster project and the VVA Membership Dept. staff has training once a week.

Committee – Motion Only

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

Veterans Health Care – S. Wilson – No motions

Government Affairs – P. Peterson had the following motions out of Committee:

Motion 11

That VVA join as a plaintiff in a lawsuit at No Cost to VVA, represented by Clinical Legal Education Program at Buffalo School of Law against DoD in order to enforce privacy limits on DoD website that currently allows public access to private information on Veterans.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 12

Authorize VVA Officers to enter this suit as plaintiff's to enforce FOIA at VA Regional Offices.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Motion 13

To approve the VVA 2017-2018 Legislative Agenda & Policy Initiatives.

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1
Not Present: 1

Motion 14

**To support draft legislation on Education Post 911 GI Bill. The Bill makes permanent several beneficial changes to support educational benefits for active duty & Veterans at No Cost to VVA.
Without objection motion passed.**

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

Agent Orange/Dioxin – M. Kaderlik – No motions
Constitution – L. DeLong – No motions
Economic Opportunities – F. Barry – No motions
Veterans Incarcerated – D. Yezzo – No motions
Minority Affairs – Vice Chair D. Simmons – No motions
Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons – No motions
POW/MIA – R. DeLong/G. Coates – No motions
Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs – No motions
Homeless Veterans - S. Miller – No motions
Public Affairs – D. Howland – No motions
2017 National Convention Planning Committee – D. Stenvold – No motions
Resolutions – D. Southern – No motions
Rules – J. Jennings – No motions
PTSD and Substance Abuse – Dr. T. Berger – No motions
Veterans Benefits – T. Burke – No motions
Election – S. De Arman – No motions

Unfinished Business

VVA National Board of Directors Handbook: Director Barickman made the following motion with a second from Treasurer Reynolds:

Motion 15

**To approve the VVA National Board of Directors Handbook as revised on 4-8-2017.
Without objection motion passed.**

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

New Business

VVA & AVVA MOU: Treasurer Reynolds made the following motion with a second from Secretary Meeks:

Motion 16

To approve the revised VVA & AVVA MOU.



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.
ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF
AMERICA, INC.



This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA) and Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (AVVA) to document their agreement concerning the respective responsibilities between the parties.

WHEREAS, many AVVA members were originally associates of VVA;

WHEREAS, AVVA is now a separate corporation, which is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code;

WHEREAS, VVA and AVVA are considered affiliated organizations, one of the other;

WHEREAS, AVVA, as an independent membership organization with a Board of Directors, Officers, committees, and several thousand members, needs the administrative support and financial services required by comparable organizations;

WHEREAS, VVA has provided some administrative support and financial services to AVVA in the past, at no cost to AVVA, and demonstrated that it can provide the support and services AVVA needs;

WHEREAS, the administrative support and financial services needed, make it impractical for one person to provide the full range of necessary services for AVVA; and

WHEREAS, VVA and AVVA wish to fashion a more effective means of meeting AVVA's growing need for increased services;

THEREFORE, VVA and AVVA agree as follows:

VVA's RESPONSIBILITIES:

- VVA will provide AVVA with bookkeeping and accounting services, membership maintenance and renewal, member services (responding to phone calls), administrative support for forming state associations, record keeping services and other VVA staff services and needed.
- VVA will provide national staff to assist AVVA in planning AVVA meetings (board meetings, conventions, and conferences, etc.)
- VVA will use VVA national office staff in the Finance Department, the Membership Department and other departments as required to provide these services.
- VVA may hire a part time employee (20 hours/week) to assist in the performance of these duties, to offset similar duties, and to assist AVVA.

AVVA'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- AVVA will be responsible for the cost of any external audits of AVVA's books, records, and finances.
- AVVA will be responsible for the cost of any interest or charges imposed on AVVA by banks or financial institutions.
- AVVA will be responsible for the cost of printing and mailing AVVA membership materials.

- AVVA will be responsible for the cost of any advertising for AVVA membership purposes, except that VVA shall not charge AVVA for the publication of any reasonable notices or membership-related articles in VVA's newspaper, *THE VETERAN*.
- AVVA is responsible for all other direct or indirect costs attributable to AVVA and its operation. Direct costs for which AVVA is responsible include, but not limited to:
 - Salaries, benefits, or compensation for any AVVA employees, temporary help, or consultants;
 - Any AVVA employment related taxes;
 - Any AVVA sales, personal property, or other taxes, including any unrelated business income taxes (UBIT)\any AVVA travel expenses, including transportation, food and lodging;
 - Any long distance phone or fax charges attributable to AVVA;
 - Any messenger or delivery service attributable to AVVA;
 - Any furniture, office equipment, or other equipment purchases by or for AVVA;
 - Any publications purchased by or for AVVA including the purchase of the VVA *VETERAN*, for their members;
 - Any office supplies purchased by or for AVVA
 - Any insurance (i.e. D&O, general liability, property/casualty, orders' compensation, etc.);
 - Any bonds or surety costs;
 - Any other direct costs attributable to AVVA or necessary for AVVA.

EFFECTIVE DATE, TERM, AND TERMINATION:

- The effective date of the agreement will be the latter of the signatories signing date. The goal of the MOU is to establish communications and financial guidelines for a relationship between the VVA and the AVVA.
- This agreement cancels all previous Agreements concerning these topics between the parties.
- This agreement shall have an initial term of five (5) years and shall be automatically renewed, at the option of AVVA, for successive two (2) year terms provided that:
 - AVVA gives the VVA Board of Directors ninety (90) days prior notice of intent to renew
 - AVVA shall have no right of renewal if the VVA Board of Director give AVVA notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the term that renewal is denied.
- VVA shall have the right and privilege to terminate this agreement upon a thirty (30) day notice given by the VVA Board of Directors that AVVA is in breach of any term of the agreement. In the event that either party alleges a breach by the other, it shall be obligated to give at least a thirty (30) day notice in writing to afford the other party the opportunity to remedy the alleged breach.
- Notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement, either party may cancel this agreement, with or without cause and without penalty, upon sixty (60) day written notice to the other party.

- VVA and AVVA agree that any amendment to this MOU must be in writing and must be signed by the parties.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC

ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC

John Rowan, National President

Sharon Hobbs, National President

Date: _____

Date: _____

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22

No: 0

Non Vote: 1

Not Present: 1

Chapter 1062 (NM) Request

Director Southern presented a request from Chapter 1062 (NM) and there was lengthy discussion on the matter by board members.

Communication Department/M. Porter

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

President Rowan presented the VVA Commendation Medal to Barry Rice and Grant Coates.

Committee – Reports Only

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. Yezzo – Verbal
 Minority Affairs – Vice Chair D. Simmons – Verbal
 Rules – J. Jennings – Verbal
 Veterans Against Drugs – D. Simmons – Verbal

Meeting recesses for lunch: 12:00 pm

The meeting of VVA National Board of Directors reconvened at 1:25 pm

Committee – Reports Only

POW/MIA – R. DeLong/G. Coates - Verbal & written
 Membership Affairs – C. Hobbs – Verbal & written
 Homeless Veterans - S. Miller – Verbal

Public Affairs – D. Howland – Verbal
2017 National Convention Planning Committee – D. Stenvold - Verbal
Resolutions – D. Southern – Verbal
PTSD and Substance Abuse – Dr. T. Berger – Verbal
Veterans Benefits – T. Burke – Verbal
Election – S. De Arman - Verbal

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Meeks, Jr.", written in black ink.

Bill Meeks, Jr.
National Secretary
Approved: 8/8/2017