

Minutes of the State Council Presidents, Washington D.C., April 11, 2019

Call to Order by Acting President Richard Lindbeck.

Devotion and Moment of Silence.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of State Council Presidents in Attendance:

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

Adoption of the Agenda:

A motion was moved by Eugene Crego to Adopt the Agenda. A second was made by Kerwin Stone.

Minutes of the prior Meeting:

With no objection, approved.

Announcements - Wes Guidry:

Reference was made to the brochure about Spokane, WA, that was handed out. Wes noted that the VVA does not fund the State Council Presidents for the National Conventions. Everyone must make their own travel and hotel arrangements. In reference to a question about the location of the Convention Center, Wes noted that the Center is between the two hotels.

Wes warned that there would be children at the hotel thus the need to be careful. Handbags for the Convention will be a replication of the long bags given out at a previous Convention. There may be a few extra bags for sale.

There was discussion about the room rate and travel from and to the airport by hotel vans.

President John Rowen:

Reminder of Air Force Base tour our while in Spokane, WA. All interested should contact John as early as possible.

The Spokane Convention will be one of the most important events in our history as an organization. The focus will be on where we will be going as an organization in the future years – our Legacy.

There are two Resolutions submitted for action by the Board of Directors: one on how we as a veteran organization will fade out, and the other on who will carry on our Legacy into the future years.

John noted that we have accomplished much over the past 40 years – that we have successes in our mission and goals in areas such as PTSD, Agent Orange, the GI Bill, where 37% of new veterans have a college degree or better.

Corporations are reaching out to these new veterans to hire them, often fighting over these veterans due to their skills sets, maturity, confidence, leadership knowledge, discipline and education. Corporations are willing to help these veterans with startup ventures and businesses.

These new veterans, like us, will have to deal with toxic exposure, PTSD, etc., and how it impacts their family. The most recent veterans are the children of Desert Storm veterans. They are community oriented where we were self-directed. While the VA is the same institution, these new veterans are proactive, self-assured, educated and community oriented. We need to be involved with them, visiting colleges and universities with veteran program (such as Student Veterans of America) to dialog with these vets and to learn from them as they learn from us. Yale has helped us with legal matters over the years, but we now need to attract other colleges and universities that can assist us with issues around health and other areas that will assist us to care for ourselves in the coming years ahead. We will need to be involved in partnership with Hospice and extended care such that these vital services will be available to us as we further age.

The VVA is a non-partisan organization and has always been as such. We have always been able to work with both sides of the isle over the years with changes that occur in Congress and the Presidency.

Dan Stenvold (Sgt-at-Arms):

Question was brought forward as to why we cannot register on-line for the Validation Application. Reasons given such as not all Vietnam Veterans have computers was noted.

Joe Davis brought forth Motion 92 where two signatures are required on the Application Form for validation. Charlie Montgomery noted that abuse in registering occurred in the past, which required more vigilance in assuring applications were from actual Delegates. It is now required that one Chapter Office and the State Council President or two officers of the Chapter sign the Application.

Butch suggested a motion should be made and presented to the Board of Directors to change Motion 92 where only one signature of an Officer is required for validation of the Application.

CSCP Bylaws;

Richard Lindback noted that only one change was made to the Welcome Guide that pertained to the room section (pages 4-5) where Delegates do not have to share a room any longer.

Further discussion ensued regarding Motion 92 where Richard called for a motion based on Beverly Steward and Butch's suggestion that only one signature on the Validation Application be required. No motion called.

Dr. Tom Hall:

Tom gave an overview of the study pertaining to the Veteran Centers. He received a good number of responses from VVA Chapter members following the request that State Council Presidents ask their membership to respond to the survey letter from the VVA office.

VA Deputy Secretary Willkie:

The VVA cannot let the flame of passion we created over the years be extinguished. He spoke about his father who served in the 82nd Airborne during the Vietnam War, where his father was also in Cambodia. Secretary Willkie stated he was not appealing the Blue War Navy Bill. He is on the President's Task Force on the issue of Suicide, an area of great concern for him. Secretary Willkie strongly suggested that more effort by the VVA and other veteran groups is needed to reach out and find these Vietnam veterans who are not in the system thus not receiving services that that could prevent further suicides. The VA Mission Act of 2018 was mentioned as a non-libertarian program, but an option to allow veterans to go outside the VA Hospital system for services either not provided at the local VA or when the veteran lives a long distance from a VA Hospital. He suggested we can expect a variety of improvements to community care.

Lastly, Secretary Willkie presented President Rowen with an Award (plaque).

Officer's Report:

Richard Lindbeck – Informed the Floor that the new Wisconsin Secretary of Veterans Affairs had nothing to say when asked what she will be doing for the veterans. She is a retired Naval Officer.

Charlie Stapleton – Expense Reports are due by tomorrow morning.

Constitution Amendments/Proposed Resolution:

Sam Bricks gave an overview of his proposal for the dissolution of the VVA. A handout entitled "The Turmoil: A Plan to Dissolve in House" was distributed to the CSCP members. A major point Sam alluded to was the Articles of Incorporation that require a dissolution to an organization only as described in IRS 501(C)(3) and 501(C)(19). Sam referred to the different culture and agenda that the younger veterans have acquired. He suggested that the new veterans can and will care and provide for us as we age. We may need to address the question of incorporation of

the Regions to protect the Legacy and to care for the veterans and their families – Hospice, long term-care, where Chapters choose to participate in this process. The Corporate Regions would be 501 (C)(3).

CSCP Bylaws:

A copy of the CSCP Bylaws had been placed in the SCP packet. The Candidate form was removed from the Bylaws. A motion was made by Charlie Montgomery to accept the CSCP Bylaws with the revisions. Chair Richard Lindback affirmed, “with no objections, done”.

Just Ask: David Simmons:

Jay Pinsky spoke about the work to eradicate drug and Human Trafficking where Human Trafficking is only second to drug abuse, but may surpass drug abuse within a few years. He noted that the typical age of victims is 14-16. Low esteem appears to be a major factor that must be overcome in young people to decrease the possibility of being victimized.

CSCP Reports:

Gene Crego submitted his written Legislative Chair Report, which will be attached to the Conference Meeting Minutes. The report addressed areas such as the Mission Act of 2018, The Modernization Act of 2017, the Blue Water Navy Bill, combating opioids, Suicide Prevention the new GI Bill, CSCP shortage of \$40,000, VAMC Phoenix 10-year Plan.

Post-Vietnam Outreach Report:

Ken Holybee stated that their survey was designed to see where VVA members outreach to their veteran communities. Over 164 responses were received from across the country. Of those respondents, 127 said they perform outreach to Post Vietnam Veterans.

The issue of the \$40,000 reduction to the VVA National budget affecting the CSCP Conference was brought to the floor. It was noted that this reduction could limit the number of State Council Presidents attending the January CSCP meeting in Silver Springs, MD. Prior to discussion, the members of the Finance Committee were asked to leave the conference room. Butch provided a historical view of the budget process where the third yearly meeting of the CSCP was held away from Silver Springs and the Board of Directors to encourage more dialog. Rooms were shared. The third meeting is now held at Silver Spring with no sharing of rooms. George Dahike suggested that the CSCP members need to be more involved in the activities than they have been in the past.

A motion was moved to request that the Financial Committee reinstate the \$40,000 to the CSCP budget. Lew Broughton seconded the motion. The suggestion that CSCP

members walk out of the Board meeting, if the motion before the Board for the restoration of the \$40,000 failed, was removed.

Roundtable Discussion:

Red Cross Opportunity:

Working Group I:

Bob Seals stated the a proposed merger with the VFW was not in the scope of the working group because the option is for dissolution. Some programs such as Agent Orange and toxic exposure, Legislative Affairs, and VSO could be transferred to a newly formed corporation to preserve the work being performed. The Board of Directors, with input from the chapters and State Councils, could identify the VVA advocacy programs to be preserved. These VA advocacy programs would possibly be transferred to a newly formed 501(C)(3) Corporation.

Each State council and chapters, if wanting to exist beyond the dissolution of VVA National will have to file for their own Federal tax-exemptions under 501 (C)(3) or 501 (C)(19) or other applicable sections of the IRS Code. The States will have to consider the advantages and disadvantages of these IRS codes in regards to what they hope to accomplish with their own missions and goals.

Work Group II:

Francisco Muniz spoke to the need to keep the programs of the VA functioning beyond the capability of the Vietnam Veteran membership. The action plan will be to attract these new and highly skilled veterans to work side by side with us Vietnam Veterans with the outcome these new veterans will make the programs we have started and nurtured over the years their own. As Vietnam Veterans fade from the involvement of the newly formed veteran organization, the new veterans will address their interest to merge with what we have accomplished.

The New Veterans are very aware that their warm acceptance as warriors and heroes came on the back of Vietnam Veterans who were mistreated upon returning home, had to fight for any veteran benefits earned and shun by other veteran group. Vietnam Veterans are honored by the new veterans knowing we have paved the way for them and we continue to do so.

The CSCP dismissed at 5:00 p.m. and were reminded that they are in recess until the National Board meeting is over, Friday/Saturday until adjournment.