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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 November 9, 10 & 12, 2022 Tentative Until Approved by Board

President Jack McManus to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 9:03 am, at the Double Tree by Hilton in Silver Spring, MD. NC State Council President Liz Cannon delivered the opening prayer which was followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Jack McManus, President	Ned Foote	John Margowski
Tom Burke, Vice President	Gumersindo Gomez	Charlie Montgomery, Jr.
Bill Meeks, Secretary	Charlie Hobbs	Rossie Nance
Linda Schwartz, Treasurer	Sharon Hobbs*	Pete Peterson, Jr.
Dennis Andras	Skip Hochreich	John Riling III
Dottie Barickman	Dennis Howland	Dick Southern
Sam Brick, Jr.	Francisco Ivarra	Sandie Wilson
Spence Davis	Richard Lindbeck	

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

Absent: Dan Stenvold (excused) and Ted Wilkinson (excused)

Present: Mike Swift (Parliamentarian) & Pat Harris (VVA General Counsel)

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

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

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



Affidavit of Jack McManus, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Jack McManus, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

- 1. I am the National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA). The purpose of this affidavit is to comply with the requirements of Article I, Section 4.G. of the VVA Constitution which authorizes VVA's President to submit a question to the VVA Board of Directors for a vote in between Board meetings when he determines that the matter requires the Board's immediate attention.
- 2. On August 30, 2022, the National Board of Directors was presented with the following motions:

Motion 1: Approval for VVA's Government Affairs Department and Veteran's Benefits Program to jointly prepare an amicus brief in support of Claimants-Appellees, Iraq War veteran Jeremy Beaudette and his wife, Maya Beaudette, in Beaudette v. McDonough.

Motion 2: Approval for the Veterans Benefits Committee to negotiate with Bergmann & Moore to draft an agreement or MOU for screening and legal services to VVA members for tort claims filed against the U.S. Government for exposure to contaminated water in Camp LeJeune, as authorized in the 2022 Pact ACT. The draft will thereafter be submitted to the VVA BOD for approval.

Board Member	Motion 1	Motion 2
Jack McManus	Y	Y
Tom Burke	Y	Y
Bill Meeks	Y	Y
Linda Schwartz	Y	Y
Dennis Andres	Y	Y
Dottie Barickman	Y	Y
Sam Brick	Y	Y
Ned Foote	Y	Y
Spence Davis	Y	Y
Gumersindo Gomez	Y	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y	Y
Skip Hochreich	Y	Y
Dennis Howland	Y	Y
Francisco Ivarra	Y	Y
Richard Lindbeck	Y	Y
John Margowski	Y	Y
Charlie Montgomery	Y	Y
Rossie Nance	Y	Y
Pete Peterson	Y	Y
John Riling	Y	Y
Dick Southern	Y	Y
Dan Stenvold	NR /	NR
Ted Wilkinson	Y	Y
Sandie Wilson	Y	Y
YES	23	23
NO	0	0
NO RESPONSE	1	1
NO VOTE	0	0
ABSTAIN	0	0
TOTAL	23	23

# J. McManus



Affidavit of Jack McManus, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Jack McManus, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

- 1. I am the National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA). The purpose of this affidavit is to comply with the requirements of Article I, Section 4.G. of the VVA Constitution which authorizes VVA's President to submit a question to the VVA Board of Directors for a vote in between Board meetings when he determines that the matter requires the Board's immediate attention.
- 2. On October 3, 2022, the National Board of Directors was presented with the following motions:

Motion 1: To approve the amendment to the VVA National Disciplinary Policy made during the 2019 VVA National Convention and overlooked due to various reasons.

Board Member	Motion
	1
Jack McManus	Y
Tom Burke	Y
Bill Meeks	Y
Linda Schwartz	Y
Dennis Andres	Y
Dottie Barickman	Y
Sam Brick	Y
Ned Foote	Y
Spence Davis	Y
Gumersindo Gomez	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Ý
Skip Hochreich	N
Dennis Howland	Y
Francisco Ivarra /	Y
Richard Lindbeck	Y
John Margowski	Y
Charlie Montgomery	Y
Rossie Nance	Y
Pete Peterson	Y
John Riling	Y
Dick Southern	Y
Dan Stenvold	NR
Ted Wilkinson	Y
Sandie Wilson	Y
YES	22
NO	1
NO RESPONSE	1

NO VOTE	0
ABSTAIN	0
TOTAL	23

### J. McManus

### **Preliminary Business**

Secretary Meeks submitted the following motions with a second from Director Southern:

### **Motion 4**

To seat Alternate Region 2 Director Carlton Rhodes on the BOD:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22 No: 0 Non Vote: 1

Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 1

### Motion 5

To approve the amended agenda:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 22 No: 0

Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 1

### **Motion 6**

To approve the BOD Meeting Minutes from August 9, 2022:

Without objection motion passed.

**Yes:** 22 **No:** 0

Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 1

### **Officer Reports**

President McManus gave a verbal report and spoke about upcoming events for November 2022.

Vice President Burke gave a verbal report.

Secretary Meeks gave a verbal report.

Treasurer Schwartz gave a verbal report.

### **AVVA President**

The AVVA Board met face-to-face in August during the Leadership & Education Conference in Greenville, SC. Although we had a limited agenda; we completed

everything on it and focused on our two seminars included in the VVA program agenda. Later that week, we met with our members in our Annual Meeting where a national update was given and a financial report was made available to anyone wishing to see one.

AVVA presented two seminars. The first one, "*The 3-Rs to Recovery*: *Rekindle* \*\* *Refresh* \*\* *Reactivate*", was a resurrection of our already existing programs. Our newest program addition, "*From Heartbreak to Hope*", made its debut. It was well attended and well received. I want to thank Tom Hall Ph.D. for his expertise in helping us develop and introduce this new program to our members.

On Thursday of the Conference, AVVA held its Awards Luncheon. Sharon Hodge, VVA Director of Government Affairs, and Chuck Byers, VVA Chair for Veterans Healthcare, were our luncheon co-speakers on "Caregiving". The Commendation Medal is AVVA's highest honor. This year's only recipient was Ann Rice (TN Chapter 240). Member-of-the-Year was presented to Diana Schaack, (FL Chapter 1048). The Fellowship Award recipient was Wynella Bethards (KY Chapter 454). The member with the most VISTA volunteer hours was Linda Meyer (TN Chapter 1004); second highest was Nancy Briggs (AZ Chapter 1011); and third was Terry

Novak (PA Chapter 542). Region 3 collectively submitted the most volunteer hours. Tennessee walked away as the top state with TN Chapter 1004 receiving recognition for the most chapter hours reported.

AVVA presented a Project Friendship check to Fellow

Countrymen for \$17,000. After returning home, another \$820+ was received. Thank you for helping us achieve an all-time high. All-in-all, AVVA's Conference was a success. I acknowledge VVA for letting us be a part of it.

A special "thank you" to all VVA members who support us with your membership. We value each and every one of you.

Sharon

**CSCP Chairman** – S. Brick - Gave a verbal report on the CSCP.

# 50th Anniversary Commemoration Presentation

President McManus recessed until Thursday morning at 9am

# Thursday, November 10, 2022

Board meeting reconvenes at 9:14am – Pinnacle Grand Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - President Jack McManus calls to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors.

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

Jack McManus, President	Gumersindo Gomez	Rossie Nance
Tom Burke, Vice President	Charlie Hobbs	Carlton Rhodes
Bill Meeks, Secretary	Sharon Hobbs*	John Riling III
Linda Schwartz, Treasurer	Skip Hochreich	Dick Southern
Dennis Andras	Dennis Howland	Sandie Wilson
Dottie Barickman	Francisco Ivarra	
Sam Brick, Jr.	Richard Lindbeck	
Spence Davis	John Margowski /	
Ned Foote	Charlie Montgomery, Jr.	

<sup>\*</sup> AVVA President is a non-voting member of the National Board of Directors

Absent: Dan Stenvold (excused) and Pete Peterson, Jr. (excused)

Present: Mike Swift (Parliamentarian) & Pat Harris (VVA General Counsel)

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

Alabama	Absent	Nevada	Present
Alaska	Present	New Hampshire	Absent
Arizona	Present	New Jersey	Present
Arkansas	Present	New Mexico	Present
California	Present	New York	Present
Colorado	Present	North Carolina	Present
Connecticut	Present	North Dakota	Absent
Delaware	Absent	Ohio	Present
Florida	Present	Oklahoma	Present
Georgia	Present	Oregon	Present
Idaho	Present	Pennsylvania	Present
Illinois	Absent	Puerto Rico	Absent
Indiana	Present	Rhode Island	Present
Iowa	Present	South Carolina	Present
Kansas	Present	South Dakota	Excused

Kentucky	Present	Tennessee	Present
Louisiana	Present	Texas	Present
Maryland	Present	Utah	Present
Massachusetts	Present	Vermont	Present
Michigan	Present	Virginia	Present
Mississippi	Present	Washington	Present
Missouri	Present	West Virginia	Present
Montana	Present	Wisconsin	Present
Nebraska	Present		

President McManus made a Commendation Medal presentation to Bernie Edelman's son Aidan Edelman for his work for VVA.

**Finance Committee Report** – D. Barickman made two motions:

#### Motion 7

To approve the Contracting Policy, Budget Oversight Policy and the Travel Policy as submitted:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21 No: 0

Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 2

### **Motion 8**

To make available to all cost center managers and Conference of State Council Presidents Annual Budget Training at the Fall Board of Directors' meeting: Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21 No: 0

Non Vote: 1
Not Present: 2

**Committee – MOTIONS ONLY** 

Veterans Against Drugs - no motion

**POW/MIA** – no motion

**Membership Affairs** – D. Southern presented the following motion:

### **Motion 9**

That the Board enter negotiations with Publishing Concepts.Com to produce the VVA Members Album:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21 No: 0

Non Vote: 1

## **Not Present: 2**

**Homeless Veterans** – no motion

**Public Affairs** – no motion

**2023 National Convention Planning Committee** – no motion

**PTSD** and **Substance** Abuse – one motion:

### **Motion 10**

To add Sandy Miller, Allen Pevkal, Tom Brown, Craig Wade, Frederic Gusion and Charlie Stapleton as committee members. To add Terri Rangle as AVVA special advisor:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21 No: 0

Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 2

**Veterans Benefits** – J. Riling made the following motions:

#### **Motion 11**

To authorize the Benefits Committee to negotiate with Clear Trust Claims, LLP to create a partnership with VVA National regarding asbestos trust claims:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21 No: 0

Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 2

#### **Motion 12**

To authorize the National President to sign the MOU negotiated between the VVA Benefits Committee and Bergmann & Moore regarding claims under the Camp LeJeune Justice Act (CLJA), at no cost to National:

Without objection motion passed.

**Yes:** 21 **No:** 0

Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 2

#### **Motion 13**

To recommend that the National Board approve signing on to an Amicus Brief in the case of Frantzis vs McDonough, at no additional cost to National:

Without objection motion passed.

**Yes:** 21 **No:** 0

Non Vote: 1
Not Present: 2

### **Motion 14**

To authorize the National President to sign the MOU negotiated between the VVA Benefits Committee and Veterans Voice of America regarding the continuation & preservation of VVA's Benefits Program, at no additional cost to National:

President McManus asked for a roll call vote.

Board Member	Vote
Jack McManus	Y
Tom Burke	Y
Bill Meeks	Y
Dr. Linda Schwartz	Y
Dennis Andras	Y
Dottie Barickman	Y
Sam Brick, Jr.	Y
Spence Davis	N
Ned Foote	Y
Gumersindo Gomez	Y
Charlie Hobbs	Y
Dennis Howland	Y
Francisco Ivarra	Y
Skip Hochreich	Y
Richard Lindbeck	Y
John Margowski	Y
Charlie Montgomery, Jr.	Y
Rossie Nance	N
Pete Peterson, Jr.	NP
Calton Rhodes	Y
John Riling III	Y
Dick Southern	/ Y
Dan Stenvold	NP
Sandie Wilson	Y

#### Motion passed.

**Yes:** 20 **No:** 2

Non Vote: 0
Not Present: 2

#### **Motion 15**

To recognize that there are several firms and organizations seeking to profit from the Camp LeJeune Act (CLJA) at the expense of our veterans and resolve that no individual from VVA National, State Council or Chapter should associate, in their official capacity, with a firm seeking to solicit VVA members for CLJA cases without the express approval of VVA Board of Directors:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21 No: 0 Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 2

**Women Veterans** – no motion

**Veterans Health Care** – Treasurer Schwartz made a motion:

Motion 16

To add Tony Nickerson, Mike Dolan, William Garcia and Allan Perkal (Vice Chair) to the committee:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21 No: 0 Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 2

**Government Affairs** – no motion

**Agent Orange/Toxic Exposure** – made the following motion:

**Motion 17** 

The Pact Act will be included in the Agent Orange/Toxic Exposure town Hall Meetings: Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21 No: 0 Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 2

**Constitution** – L. DeLong made the following motion:

Motion 18

To move that the Board of Directors adopt the Internet platform meeting E-Standing rules:\*

(Draft in the Appendix)

Without objection motion passed.

<u>Yes:</u> 21 <u>No:</u> 0 <u>Non Vote:</u> 1 Not Present: 2

**Resolutions** – J. Margowski made the following motion:

**Motion 19** 

To add to the Resolutions Committee, Barry Rice, Greg Paulune, Bob Seal and Beverly Stewart as members. Special Advisors Sharon Hodge and Patricia Harris at no cost to National:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21 No: 0

Non Vote: 1
Not Present: 2

## **Economic Opportunities** –no motion

## Veterans Incarcerated and In The Justice System -no motion

**Minority Affairs** – made one motion.

### **Motion 20**

To add Fred Gusior, President of Chapter 126 (NY) as a committee member at no cost to National:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21 No: 0

Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 2

#### **Unfinished Business**

**2022 National Leadership & Education Conference** – Treasurer Schwartz made the following motion with a second by Vice President Burke:

#### **Motion 21**

President McManus appoint Committee/Work Group to review Leadership Conference expenses and content, formulate recommendations for BOD action on Jan. 2023 BOD Meeting:

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21
No: 0

Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 2

### **New Business**

**Honorary Life Memberships** – Secretary Meeks made the following motions:

### **Motion 22**

To approve Honorary Life Memberships: Rebecca Gallion Chapter 240 (TN); Fred O. Berry Chapter 1078 (TN); Patrice Collins Chapter 1078 (TN); Michael T. Crawford Chapter 1078 (TN); Mary M. Kolar Chapter 448 (WI); Steve Hamby Chapter 942 (TN); & Barry Higgins Chapter 942 (TN):

Without objection motion passed.

Yes: 21 No: 0

Non Vote: 1 Not Present: 2

**VVA Employee Handbook** – Vice President Burke made a motion with a second by Secretary Meeks:

#### **Motion 23**

To approve the VVA Employee Handbook:

Without objection motion failed.

Yes: 21 No: 0

Non Vote: 1

### **Not Present: 2**

President McManus recessed until Saturday morning at 9am

## Saturday, November 12, 2022

Board meeting reconvenes at 9:14am – Pinnacle Grand Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - President Jack McManus calls to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors.

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

Jack McManus, President	Sharon Hobbs*	
Tom Burke, Vice President	Skip Hochreich	/
Bill Meeks, Secretary	Richard Lindbeck	/
Linda Schwartz, Treasurer	Rossie Nance	
Dennis Andras	Carlton Rhodes	
Sam Brick, Jr.	John Riling III	
Spence Davis	Dick Southern	
Gumersindo Gomez	Sandie Wilson	
Charlie Hobbs	/	

<sup>\*</sup> AVVA President is a non-voting member of the National Board of Directors

Absent: Dan Stenvold (excused), Pete Peterson, Jr. (excused), Dottie Barickman (unexcused), Ned Foote (unexcused), Francisco Ivarra (unexcused), John Margowski (excused), Dennis Howland (excused) & Charlie Montgomery, Jr. (excused).

Present: Mike Swift (Parliamentarian)

Secretary Meeks stated that there was a quorum (16 board members) present and President McManus identified those board members absent.

### **Committee Reports Only**

Minority Affairs – verbal report

Veterans Against Drugs – verbal report

POW/MIA – verbal report

Membership Affairs – verbal report

Homeless Veterans – no report

Public Affairs – no report

2022 National Convention Planning Committee – no report

PTSD and Substance Abuse – no report

Veterans Benefits – verbal report

Secretary Meeks announced that since Director Riling departed the Board no longer had a quorum (only 15 board members) and there would be no voting on any motion.

Women Veterans – verbal report
Veterans Health Care – verbal report
Government Affairs – verbal report
Agent Orange/Dioxin – verbal report
Constitution – verbal report
Resolutions – verbal report
Economic Opportunities – no report
Veterans Incarcerated and In The Justice System – verbal report

Adjourn 10:20AM

# **Appendix:**

Vietnam Veterans of America

Marsha Four, Special Advisor to the President

Report to the National Board of Directors November 8, 2022

#### **Ranch Handers**

Currently the collected specimens are housed in massive freezers at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. It is determined they are still viable. There have been years of discussion on the "warehousing" of the human specimens and where they would be best located because the Air Force can no longer maintain them at this current location.

The Air Force, US Department of Veterans Affairs and Vietnam Veterans of America continue working as a team to investigate and consider a variety of locations that are viable options for the relocation of the Ranch Hand specimens along with the related data. As his Special Advisor, President McManus requested my participation with the project.

This multi-disciplinary group is divided into four components: Assets Transition; Data; Biospecimens; Advocacy and Education. Each has specific input to the overall project and the ultimate outcome of this powerful project. VVA has at least one member on each. The meetings are virtual with the entire group meeting monthly and the subgroups every two weeks.

The first draft of the project report is currently being compiled and reviewed. We will be submitting our edits and reviews of the overall document as compilied VA.

Be assured, research is a top priority for VVA and all Vietnam Veterans, and we look forward to the use of the technical advancements and achievements lacking from the research of the original study.

#### Veterans Day 2022

VVA is the 2022 host of the Veterans Day Ceremony in the amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. As such, VVA is responsible for hosting a reception with luncheon after the ceremony at Arlington.

- The reception will be held at the Military Women's Memorial upon the conclusion of the Arlington National Cemetery ceremony.
- National VVA with and through the assistance of the VVA State Council Presidents is working to provide color guards for "The Massing" of the colors in coordination with the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Wall.
- A National Office Reception after the Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Wall.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the energy of so many that worked overtime to make all this come together down to the endless details surrounding is success of each element. Many were behind the scenes, and you may never know how much they contributed but all were invaluable. Thank you all.

Respectfully submitted: Marsha Four

#### Internet Platform Meetings E-Standing Rules

- 1 Login information. The secretary shall send by e-mail to every member of the [State Council, Chapter, Board, Committee], at least [insert time] before each meeting,
  - A. the time of the meeting, the link to the site, the codes necessary to connect to the Internet meeting, the phone number and access code to participate by telephone, and
  - B. a copy of these rules.
- 2 Login time. Members shall have access to the Internet meeting at least 15 minutes before the call to order.
- 3 Signing in and out. Members shall identify themselves as required to join the meeting; shall maintain access throughout the meeting; and shall click leave the meeting upon departure.
- 4 Technical Support Personnel.
  - A A staff member shall be a co-host
    - 1) monitors the chat box
    - 2) shares screen
  - B The chair shall appoint a monitor who shall be a co-host
    - 1) monitors the participants list
    - 2) launches polls as the teller
- 5 Quorum. The quorum shall be determined by the participants list and reported to the chair by the monitor.
- 6 Technical requirements and malfunctions.
  - A Each member is responsible for their connection; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's connection prevented participation in the meeting.
  - B For assistance call the hot line number [insert number].
- 7 Forced disconnections. The chair may direct the disconnection or muting of a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting. The chair's decision to do so is subject to an undebatable appeal.
- 8 Assignment of the floor.
  - A To seek recognition
    - 1) a member shall click on the raise hand icon and wait to be recognized
    - 2) the monitor shall identify the member at the top of the queue to the chair and lower the hand icon
    - 3) the chair shall recognize the member
  - B To seek recognition by smartphone
    - call out to the monitor who shall note the member's position in the queue with raised hands

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#### Internet Platform Meetings E-Standing Rules

- the monitor shall identify the member, when at the top of the queue, to the chair
- 3) the chair shall recognize the member
- C To raise a point of order
  - 1) a member shall call out "Point of Order"
  - 2) the monitor shall identify the indicated member to the chair
  - 3) the chair shall recognize the member

#### 9 Motions.

- A Main motions and amendments shall be submitted to the secretary or monitor by email.
- B Procedural motions shall be made orally.
- 10 **Display of motions.** The secretary shall display the pending main motion and amendment using the share screen function.
- 11 Voting. The chair shall take votes in the following order.
  - 1st By unanimous consent if there is no objection.
  - $2^{\rm nd}$  By raising hand icons which the monitor after counting shall lower in gross and give the count to the chair.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> By anonymous Internet poll.
- 12 **Video display.** If there are too many participants for all to be displayed simultaneously the monitor shall cause a video of the chair to be displayed throughout the meeting and shall also cause display of the video of the member currently recognized to speak or report.

Michael L. Swift PRP, CPP-T 443-463-9148

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