

## 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 January 20-21, 2023 Approved by Board**

President Jack McManus to order the meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors on Friday January 20, 2023, at 9:10 am, at the Double Tree on 8777 Georgia Ave in Silver Spring, MD. Director Gumersindo Gomez 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	Gumersindo Gomez	Charlie Montgomery
Tom Burke, Vice President	Nina Schloffel*	Felix Peterson
Bill Meeks, Secretary	Skip Hochreich	John Riling
Linda Schwartz, Treasurer	Dennis Howland	Dick Southern
Dottie Barickman	Francisco Ivarra	Sandie Wilson
Sam Brick, Jr.	Richard Lindbeck	
Spence Davis	John Margowski	

*\* AVVA Secretary (sitting in for AVVA President) is a non-voting member of the National Board of Directors*

Absent: Dennis Andras (excused), Dan Stenvold (excused), Charlie Hobbs (excused) & Sharon Hobbs (excused)

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

Alabama	Present		Nebraska	Present
Alaska	Present		Nevada	Present
Arizona	Present		New Hampshire	Absent
Arkansas	Present		New Jersey	Present
California	Present		New Mexico	Absent
Colorado	Present		New York	Present
Connecticut	Absent		North Carolina	Excused
Delaware	Present		North Dakota	Excused
Florida	Present		Ohio	Present
Georgia	Present		Oklahoma	Present

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

### **Preliminary Business**

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

#### **Motion 1**

**To seat the Region 3 Alternate Director George Dahlke  
and the Region 7 Alternate Director Terry Courville:  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 20**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 4**

#### **Motion 2**

**To approve the agenda for the meeting:  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

#### **Motion 3**

**To accept the BOD Meeting Minutes from November 9, 10 & 12, 2022:  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

## **Officer Reports**

President McManus gave a verbal report and spoke about Veterans Day 2022.

Vice President Burke gave a verbal report.

Secretary Meeks gave a verbal report.

Treasurer Schwartz gave a verbal report.

## **AVVA President**

During the month of December, the AVVA Board took two week off during the holidays to be with family and friends. It was a much needed time and was appreciated by everyone. However, during the first week of January the officers went back to work and the Board followed close behind with our first official meeting of 2023. The AVVA Board met virtually the second week in January; although we had a limited agenda, we completed everything on our itinerary and reviewed deadlines for the upcoming convention awards, elections, and bylaw changes.

Our yearly Project Friendship is usually an organization who helps the homeless veteran transition back into society, but this year we decided to focus on our children who have been affected by Agent Orange. In January of 2021, AVVA partnered with the National Birth Defects Registry (BDR). Since 1986 the BDR has been the only organization collecting research data and advocating for veterans who have children with disabilities linked to exposure to Agent Orange or chemicals in the Gulf War. Our Project Friendship in 2023 will be the National Birth Defects Registry located in Orlando, FL. More details will be announced during the April Board of Director's meeting.



During the Leadership Conference last year, I was approached by one of dual members with a suggestion to create a “dual member” lapel pin and we have done so. We will introduce the pin at the 2023 convention. One will be available to every dual member of AVVA and will be free for the asking. It is a very nice pin; I think you will be please with how it looks and I hope you will be proud to wear one either on your collar or cap.

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



**CSCP Chairman** - Chairman Brick gave a verbal report.

**Vietnam War Commemoration Presentation**

President McManus recessed until Saturday morning at 9am

**Saturday, January 21, 2023**

Board meeting reconvenes – Cypress Ballroom, 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	Spence Davis	John Margowski
Tom Burke	Ned Foote	Charlie Montgomery
Bill Meeks	Gumersindo Gomez	Pete Peterson
Linda Schwartz	Skip Hochreich	John Riling III
Dottie Barickman	Nina Schloffel*	Dick Southern
Sam Brick, Jr.	Dennis Howland	Ted Wilkinson
Terry Courville	Francisco Ivarra	Sandie Wilson
George Dahlke	Richard Lindbeck	

*\* AVVA Secretary (sitting in for AVVA President) is a non-voting member of the National Board of Directors*

Absent: Dan Stenvold (excused) & Charlie Hobbs (excused)

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

Alabama	Present		Nebraska	Present
Alaska	Present		Nevada	Present
Arizona	Present		New Hampshire	Absent
Arkansas	Present		New Jersey	Present
California	Present		New Mexico	Absent
Colorado	Present		New York	Present
Connecticut	Absent		North Carolina	Excused
Delaware	Present		North Dakota	Excused
Florida	Present		Ohio	Present
Georgia	Present		Oklahoma	Present

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

**Communication Department** – M. Porter gave a verbal report.

**VAVS Report** – K. Rose gave a verbal report.

**Finance Committee Report** – D. Barickman gave a verbal report.

**Committee – Motions Only**

Minority Affairs – no motions

Veterans Against Drugs – no motions

POW/MIA – G. Coates made the following motions;

**Motion 4**

**To authorize international travel for Veterans Initiative Mission to Vietnam, Grant Coates & Mokie Porter, mission date projected for September through October;**

**2023 time Frame:**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 5**

**To authorize a Veterans Initiative Mission to Vietnam for September/October 2023 time frame. Team members will be POW/MIA Committee Chair Grant Coates & Mokie Porter, VVA Communications Director and Protocol Office:**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 6**

**To add Phil Pesand to the POW/MIA Committee at no cost to National:**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 7**

**To proceed with the renewal of the MOU between the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and the Vietnam Veterans of America at no cost to National:**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

Membership Affairs – No motions

Homeless Veterans – No motions

Public Affairs – D. Howland made the following motion;

**Motion 8**

**That the final Dissolution Plan include a section created by the Communications Director on dealing with media and answering the multitude of questions from other VSOs, the News Media, Members and the Public:**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

2023 National Convention Planning Committee – No motions;

PTSD and Substance Abuse – Dr. Tom Hall made a motion;

**Motion 9**

**To add Ken Harbert to the PTSD/SA Committee at no cost to National:  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

Veterans Benefits – J. Riling made the following motions;

**Motion 10**

**To authorize the National President to sign on MOU with Clear Trust Claims, as  
negotiated by the VVA Benefits Committee:  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

**Motion 11**

**To remove from the Committee Joe Jennings, John Weiss & Randy Schriver. Add State  
Presidents Michael Dolan, Richard Arthur and Vice President Bill Beecher.  
At no cost to National:**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

Women Veterans – No motions;

Veterans Health Care – Committee made a motion;

**Motion 12**

**President VVA request update on status of Vietnam Veterans Mortality Study and if  
results exist when Study results will be made public. If now results exist  
when will the study be completed:**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

Government Affairs – P. Peterson made a motion;

### **Motion 13**

**To accept the White Paper on Aging  
at no cost to National:**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

Agent Orange/Dioxin - No motions;  
Constitution – No motions;  
Resolutions – John Margowski made a motion;

### **Motion 14**

**To add Chuck Renevier to the Resolutions Committee  
at no cost to National:**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

Economic Opportunities – No motions;  
Veterans Incarcerated and In The Justice System – No motions.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Leadership Conference** – VVA Officers made the following motion with a second from Director Brick:

### **Motion 15**

**Continue Leadership Conference with a future case by case consideration. Such  
Conference to have plenary sessions and some breakout sessions:  
Without objection motion passed.**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

### **New Business**

**Chapter Charter Revocation Chapter 654 (NC)** – Secretary Meeks submitted a motion with a second from Vice President Burke:



**Motion 16**

**To revoke the charter of Chapter 654 (NC) as a voluntary closure:**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Alternate Regional Director** – Secretary Meeks submitted a motion with a second from Vice President Burke:

**Motion 17**

**To approve the appointment Fred Banks as Region 5 Alternate Regional Director:**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

**Without objection motion passed.**

**Honorary Life Memberships** – Secretary Meeks made a motion with a second from Director Southern:

**Motion 18**

**To approve the HLM requests: Mary Newan-Keyes 805 (OR), Van Thanhbui-Thompson 1036 (FL), Albert “Jay” Henley 304 (MD), Charles Michael White 668 (GU), David Repass 1105 (DE), Jody Repass 1105 (DE), Priscilla Wiley 1105 (DE) & Bounchone Nhouibandith 1049 (SC):**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**

**Not Present: 2**

**Without objection motion passed.**

Treasurer Schwartz made a motion for the Veterans Health Care committee:

**Motion 19**

**That President of VVA to contact SECVA expressing VVA’s concern about reports from the Lung Care Alliance that VA is no longer conducting preventive screening for Lung Cancer X-rays and Exams for Veterans:**

**Yes: 22**

**No: 0**

**Non Vote: 0**  
**Not Present: 2**

**Committee Reports Only**

Minority Affairs – no report  
Veterans Against Drugs – no report  
POW/MIA – G. Coates verbal and written report  
Membership Affairs – verbal report  
Homeless Veterans – no report  
Public Affairs – verbal report  
2023 National Convention Planning Committee – no report  
PTSD and Substance Abuse – verbal report  
Veterans Benefits – J. Riling verbal report  
Women Veterans – verbal report  
Veterans Health Care – verbal report  
Government Affairs – verbal report  
Agent Orange/Dioxin – verbal report  
Resolutions – J. Margowski verbal report  
Veterans Incarcerated and In The Justice System – D. Yezzo verbal report

Adjourn 1:20PM

