



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL**

State Council Meeting  
Comfort Suites/Foxfire  
Waupaca, Wisconsin

December 3, 2016

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Toxic Exposure Committee Meeting (Formerly Agent Orange Committee)**



Attendance: Mike Demske, Pat Furno, Joe Eiting, John Margowski, Jim Mullarkey, Tom Heitman

Called to Order by Chairperson - Mike Demske at 9:00 A.M.

April 22, 2017, an Agent Orange/Toxic Exposure Town Hall (Coordinator/Contact: Joe Eiting) 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Bordini Center at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton.

State President to write a letter to VVA National regarding cease and desist on Hep-C “sponsored by” or “Proud Partner” of VVA. Those persons that signed the Hep-C cards are receiving letters about having Hep-C.

The AO/TE minutes and the WSC Minutes will reflect the situation with Hep-C. During the full VVA WSC meeting the WSC Secretary will be directed to draft a letter to VVA President John Rowan with copies to Dr. Thomas Berger, Ms. Mokie Porter, VVA Region 6 Director Michael Demske, AVVA President Sharon Hobbs, all VVA WSC Officers, Region Directors, and State Delegates, and Wisconsin VVA Chapter Presidents. This draft letter will be reviewed, edited, and formalized at the March 2017 meeting of the VVA WSC.

Hook up with Indian Summer to conduct an AO/TE in 2017.

When there is interest in doing AO/TE Town Hall let the one of the Toxic Exposure Committee members know so you can discuss the venue and material needs for example...

Town Hall meeting planners need a room large room, a video projector with connections for a laptop PC or MacBook. This allows the Wisconsin Team to do one or more of the videos (DVD) touching on Agent or Issues. Additionally, there is a need for an audio system with microphones – preferably two microphones: one for the speaker and one for audience participation.

Once the information is discussed a date can be scheduled. While all committee members will discuss the Town Hall the Committee’s Co-Chairperson, Mike Demske, **must** be contacted to

schedule the Town Hall for VVA WSC's Team Wisconsin. Mike can be reached by mobile at (920) 973-3909 or by Email at [Michael.Demske@yahoo.com](mailto:Michael.Demske@yahoo.com).

Once a date has been scheduled **VVA WSC VVA Chapters need to spread the word** in their respective areas to **all** Veteran organizations, not only those affiliated with VVA, when having a Toxic Exposure Town Hall Meeting in your area. The information being shared as well as gathered is important to members of your respective VVA Chapters, surviving spouses, adult children of Vietnam Veterans and the impact on their children (i.e., the grandchildren). Moreover, the Toxic Exposure information being added to the Town Hall Meetings have a direct impact on many of our Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan Wars (OEF/OIF), and those Veterans home from tours elsewhere under GWOT (Global War on Terrorism).

The AO/TE Committee is now the Toxic Exposure Committee. This is to get information out to all veterans, especially the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.

Veterans First Act – [Veterans First Act S.2921](#) encompasses Agent Orange Bill.

Chapter members should be contacting their CVSO and tell them about new veteran issues.

There appears to be a couple of people that are fund raising in Wisconsin for Vets – this is a SCAM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48am.

### Wisconsin State Council Meeting

President Lindbeck called the State Council Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. on December 3, 2016, at the Comfort Suites/Foxfire in Waupaca, Wisconsin. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present and a *moment of silence* was offered to our POWs, MIAs, and our active duty service members. The Secretary took the roll call of Officers, Directors, VVA Chapter delegates, and guests.

The following were present: WSC President Lindbeck, WSC Vice-President Eiting, WSC Secretary Mullarkey, and WSC Treasurer (Excused), WSC Region 1 Director Mueller, WSC Region 3 Director Hoffman, WSC Region 4 Director Morzenti, and WSC At-Large Director Foye. VVA Region 6 Director, Michael Demske, and Wisconsin's AVVA State Representative Pat Furno were Present. The VVA WSC Chapters present<sup>1</sup> included: 101(2)#3, 206(4)#1, 236(4)#1/#1, 331(2)#1, 351(4)#4, 425(4)#3/##1, 437(3)#1/#1, 448(4)#4/##1, 479(4)#1/##1, 529(4)1#, 618(2)#1, 635(2)1#, 1##, 731(4)#2, 767(4)#2, At-Large(4)#1.

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<sup>1</sup> As per VVA WSC letter sent (October 6, 2014) to all VVA WSC Officers, WSC Region Directors, and VVA WSC Chapter Presidents, Officers and their delegates; it was declared that all VVA WSC Chapters must be represented at no less than one-half or 50 percent of the scheduled WSC Meetings – held quarterly during the calendar year. Failure to meet this minimum requirement will result in disciplinary action and VVA WSC suspension – refer to VVA Constitution and National Disciplinary Policy. The ( ) following the VVA Chapters number (e.g., 007 (3)) indicates the number of meetings recorded as attended in the calendar year as of the roll call.

An underline of the VVA WSC Chapter number (e.g., 009 (1)) indicates that they have been suspended in the previous calendar year and have as yet attended the minimum meetings for the present calendar year. The number following the # sign indicates the number VVA members represented and ## the number of AVVA members.

VVA Chapters as of December 3, 2016 who have attended only one meeting during the 2016 calendar year are VVA Chapters 005, 115, and 256. The WSC Secretary reiterated the October 2014 process to follow for those VVA Chapters who were not represented at a minimum of two or 50 percent of the WSC Meetings during a calendar year (please see footnote 1 on page 2 above). Mike Demske moved the WSC Secretary should send letters of suspension as per the WSC directive. This was approved without objection.

President Lindbeck appointed John L. Margorski as Parliamentarian, and Mike Demske as Timekeeper.

There was a motion by Duane Cannon and seconded by Thomas Hoffman to approve the Agenda. This motion was carried without objection.

John Margowski moved the VVA WSC Unapproved Minutes of the September 2016 be approved with the suggested changes. Thomas Hoffman seconded the motion; which was approved without objection.

**President's Report:** President Lindbeck and Mike Demske, VVA Region 6 Director, were in Silver Spring, MD in October. During CSCP/BOD meeting new officers were elected. While Lindbeck ran for Chairperson of the CSCP, Rex Moody was voted into the position with Pat Dumin 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair, Gumisindo Gomez 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair, and Steve Mackey Secretary.

While in Silver Spring Lindbeck and Demske were assigned to a disciplinary panel. John Margowski was assigned to VVA National Panel A – To look at potential dissolution policies and procedures for the organization if the membership at a National Convention votes to do so. Panel B is looking at how VVA National might continue.

In November Lindbeck along with Mike Demske and John Margowski traveled to Branson, MO to assist a VVA Chapter to get “back on track” or become in compliance with VVA Constitution and By-Laws.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> along with other VSO dignitaries, as President of VVA WSC I attended Governor Walker's residence in Madison, WI. Governor Walker was presented with an award for the Camp American Legion land that was returned to the Camp.

I was advised that Secretary Scocus had resigned November 10<sup>th</sup> and that the Wisconsin VSOs would be called to the Governor's office to discuss the appointment of a new Secretary of WDVA. The meeting has been scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup>. At this time I have no other information.

On Veterans Day I had the honor of attending the Newburg (VVA Chapter 448) Veterans Day Program; which turned out to be a great event.

Also, Steve Pape is still selling the VVA logo glasses with Wisconsin State Council under the logo. While information about the glasses is on our VVA WSC website under the News Tab/Fundraising Opportunity (<http://vvawi.org/news/fundraising-opportunity.html>) or by clicking [here](#) if receiving this electronically.

As President of the VVA WSC I want to express my deepest appreciation for all who have worked so hard to make the Wisconsin State Council such a success in 2016. Your efforts ensure Vietnam Veterans across Wisconsin learn more about the benefits and services available to them and their families. Moreover, your efforts in your communities, your schools, and other groups ensure that individuals will never forget our generation and those who come after us.

May you and your loved ones have a Merry Christmas and a very good New Year! Lest not forget those serving our Country around the world and wish and prayer for them and their loved ones.

**VVA Region 6 Report:** Mike Deske, VVA Region 6 Director, shared that VVA National is in the process of creating two panels to consider the future of VVA. As reported in the November/December 2016 *The VVA Veteran* President Rowan stated, "At the October Board of Directors meeting a motion was passed that will create two panels" 'Panel A will formulate a strategic plan to *transition* at a certain time in the future to be determined by the working group and communicated to the general membership for approval at a Convention. Panel B will determine the feasibility of forming, chartering, funding, and/or empowering a new veterans organization to perpetuate our legacy and assure the tomorrow of all veterans, which will be communicated to the membership for approval at a convention." Further details are available in *The Veteran* which is also available online at <https://vva.org/category/the-vva-veteran/>.

Mike shared that the 2019 VVA National Convention has been planned for Spokane, WA.

Mike, as a member of VVA WSC, shared that those who are attending the VVA National Convention in New Orleans, LA (NOLA) August 8-12, 2016, who are interested in going by train the cost for a double occupancy sleeper with meals is approximately \$1,000 with a change in Chicago to NOLA. There is additional transportation cost from the train station to the hotel. Those interested in going by train should contact Mike Demske at (920) 973-3909 or by Email at [Michael.Demske@yahoo.com](mailto:Michael.Demske@yahoo.com) for further information.

**Secretary's Report:** As indicated during the Toxic Exposure Committee (formerly the Agent Orange Committee) the WSC Secretary has been directed to draft a letter to VVA President John Rowan regarding Hep-C intrusion into Town Hall meetings and the use of the VVA logo and suggestion that the companies presenting are in "*Partnership*" with VVA.

The VVA WSC Secretary will send suspension letters to the Wisconsin VVA Chapters who failed to attend at least two meetings during the 2016 calendar year.

The VVA WSC Secretary wants all Wisconsin VVA Chapters to know that 2017 is a Convention year, please see you're the *Veteran* or go online at [vva.org](http://vva.org) to explore more about the Convention.

At the core VVA National is a member driven organization (i.e., each and every VVA member's voice and vote can be heard in directing VVA). To accomplish this each VVA Chapter in Wisconsin must get their Annual Election and Financial Reports into VVA National and to the VVA WSC Secretary. Forms for both are located on the VVA National website ([vva.org](http://vva.org)) or click

[here](#) if receiving this electronically. These forms are also available on the VVA WSC website (vvawi.org/info/forms/) or click [here](#) if receiving this electronically.

Your forms are **time sensitive!** As your forms are received and validated by VVA National and VVA WSC delegates from your VVA Chapters are assigned based on membership. In turn your VVA Chapter may inform VVA WSC President Lindbeck of your VVA Chapter's intent to either send a specific person as a delegate or allow President Lindbeck to assign other Wisconsin VVA members to be a delegate using one of your VVA Chapter's unused delegate positions. Doing all of this requires all annual forms be submitted as early as possible both to VVA National, as directed on the form, and to VVA WSC Secretary either electronically using:

[Secretary@vvawi.org](mailto:Secretary@vvawi.org)

If submitting your Annual forms to the VVA WSC Secretary via the USPS mail to:

Mr. James Mullarkey, Secretary  
VVA Wisconsin State Council  
8541 W Red Wing Drive  
Franklin, WI 53132-8592

**Treasurer's Report:** Patrick Craney, VVA WSC Treasurer, (excused) provided VVA WSC Financial Report for the Quarter.

**AVVA State Representative Report:** Pat Furno, reported due to illnesses in their families AVVA Regional Director and her Deputy resigned. In turn, the AVVA BOD appointed Fran Davis from MO as AVVA Region 6 Director.

#### **VVA WSC Region Director Reports:**

**Region 1 Director,** Frank Mueller, requested that those individuals he represents (i.e., 324, 409, 425, 448, 635, 767, and 921) interested in being a delegate to the 2017 VVA Convention being held in NOLA to let their intentions known within their VVA Chapter and to contact Frank (262) 353-6591.

**Region 2 Director:** Absent

**Region 3 Director,** Tom Hoffman, at the time of this report Veterans Day has gone by by three weeks – a belated happy Veterans Day to all. With that said, I want to mention a quote that I once read, I feel really fits all Veterans – some of you may have read this before.

**“Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they ever made a difference in the world, but Veterans don't have that problem.”**

I don't know about everybody, but I am darn proud to have served my Country.

I also want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful healthy New Year, as we all know how lonely it can be far from home during the Holidays, let's remember all our Service Men and Women who are serving our Country all over the world and pray they are safe and return soon to their families.

**Region 4 Director,** Robert Morzenti: No Report

**At Large Director**, Greg Foye, shared information on the dedication of the Hmong-Lao Vietnam Veterans War Memorial unveiled in Wausau, WI – this was a great opportunity and trully deserved memorial. Tha Wausau Daily Hearld, in part, reported:

The United States pulled out of Vietnam in 1973, and many of the Hmong soldiers who fought for the Americans in the Secret War have since resettled across the U.S. and become legalized citizens. But their war-time contributions are often a footnote in history books.

In the early 1960s, the Vietnam War raged and the threat of communism spread across southeast Asia. A 1962 peace conference in Geneva had declared the Kingdom of Laos — a neighboring country of Vietnam — neutral, but communist North Vietnam's continued presence in the country prompted the U.S. to become more involved.

The U.S. increased its military aid to the area and the CIA became engaged in the Secret War.

The CIA began recruiting ethnic peoples in Laos, and the Hmong were among the new recruits. Thousands of Hmong men and boys were armed and trained to form a special guerrilla unit that was tasked with rescuing fallen U.S. pilots and blocking the dangerous Ho Chi Minh Trail — North Vietnam's supply route to their allies, the Viet Cong in South Vietnam.

### **Committee Reports:**

**VVA WSC Planning Committee** composed of John Margowski (Chair), Mike Demske, Pat Furno, Joe Eiting, Tom Hoffman Richard Lindbeck (Advisor), and James Mullarkey again raised the issue of a convention, extended meeting, etc. at the September 2017 VVA WSC Meeting. The proposed topic, especially meaningful to Veterans is Veteran Suicide Prevention.

As Veterans know from all print and electronic media today an average of 22 Veterans commit suicide every day with nearly two-thirds or 67 percent over the age of 60 years. Knowing that Lindbeck, Demske, and Margowski had the opportunity to be present at an abbreviated forum facilitated by Drs. Berger and Hall from VVA National. Recognizing a full version would benefit all Veterans in Wisconsin John, on behalf of the Committee, reached out to the doctors who agreed they would make themselves available for a training.

Margowski, et. al. will have a teleconference to discuss this issue and move it forward for the agenda at the March 2017 VVA WSC meeting.

**Scholarship Committee:** No Report

**POW/MIA Committee:** Duane Canon indicated that he had a full POW/MIA Accounting Agency report dated November 10, 2016. Due to the extensive nature of the report it has been placed on the VVA WSC website under the Meetings/Reports/POWMIA tab.

### **VVA Chapter Reports:**

**VVA Chapter 351**, reported by President Larry Cavanaugh shared that 2016 was a very busy and successful year for VVA Chapter 351 in the areas of fundraising, participating in parades, and expanding Life Memberships by pay half the cost with VVA Life Membership of \$100 and providing a free cap.

VVA Chapter 351's biggest project by far has been our Traveling Vietnam Educational Artifact Display; the display has been to eight high schools in the Fox Valley area, Rawhide Boys Ranch in New London and at the Carson Park in Eau Claire where we shared space with the Moving Wall and the Canadian Traveling Wall. Our display was also at Lawrence University, UW Green Bay, and King Veterans Home.

We sponsored our second Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting which was well attended by Vietnam Veterans and their wives. Some heart wrenching testimonials were heard.

Our donations throughout the year were extensive and included King Veterans Home, The Highground, school scholarships, Boy Scouts of America, and Veteran causes such as Fox Valley Veteran Council (FVVC) – purchased a two apartment home for Veterans and their families that needed to stay until they can make it on their own. The FVVC has helped needy Veterans to the tune of \$100,000 – all due to the generosity of the local populace in the Fox Cities – Vets Helping Vets.

**VVA Chapter 425**, reported by President Joseph Deloria, Sr. shared the last quarter of the year has been very busy with fundraising as well fund sharing. During this quarter we donated to Camp Home Town Heroes, mailed packages to deployed troops, purchased a flag pole for the establishment, Canyon City Grille, that welcomes our VVA Chapter to hold our monthly meetings at no cost.

Both VVA and AVVA Chapter members participating in a Project 22 at Waukesha County Technical College – a video sharing project discussing the 22 Veteran suicides that occur daily in this country.

In November VVA Chapter members participated in 1) Operation Honor and served as the Color Guard for the event and 2) marched in the Christmas Day Parade.

**VVA Chapter 437**, reported by Duane Canon activities in the third and fourth quarter including preparation for Memorial Day events, especially at the Lakeview Memorial Cemetery during which President Canon was asked to be Master of Ceremonies.

Summer brought our Fourth of July events with parades and pageantry followed by a concession shared with AMVETS Post 7, hence.

one of our fundraising activities. During this time we also get donations for the Appleton "Old Glory Honor Flight" – this year we raised \$4,600, up from last year.

Col. Brian Cundif (U.S. Army, Ret.) was our speaker at our POW/MIA Ceremony held the Third Saturday in September. An excellent experience.

October was not only our Orange Blossom fundraising activities for Christmas projects, we were able to reflect on the Vietnam Traveling Wall from the American Legion Post 70. Aiding in set-up our VVA Chapter members were active throughout its stay, including the Closing Program when VVA Chapter President Canon was Master of Ceremony with a number of other distinguished speakers. Our VVA Chapter was honored to be in the Closing Ceremony and the Retiring of the Colors.

Our December Christmas Projects are aimed at helping Veterans and Veteran families in need through our local CVSO. Christine Anne Abuse Center, Bella Medical Clinic, two Food Pantries, Day by Day Warming Shelter – serving six veterans, homeless Vets at King, VA Voluntary Services at Tomah, and the Salvation Army.



As we celebrate the Christmas Season and coming New Year let us not forget those still in service to our country and pray for their safe and healthy return.

**VVA Chapter 448**, reported by Frank Mueller indicated a successful fundraising year with Brat Fries and Orange Blossom sales. Our Meat Raffle was another success which allowed us to continue our scholarship program with Concordia University.

Our successes have been tempered by the loss of three of our members who will be long remembered and Tom Heitman's medical problems for which he is undergoing chemo treatments. Please think of Tom and keep him in your prayers.

Our VVA Chapter was asked to be Color Guard for the Moving Wall in Germantown in September. The American Legion Post 1 did an outstanding job in the presentation of the Wall for Vietnam Veterans. The Post also had a super display in the Legion Hall that included a walk through the jungle along with various booby traps and insects from Vietnam. We were also given the opportunity to lead the parade on the the weekend.

Huey 369 was brought in from Indiana – this is the helicopter that flew in Vietnam and they gave rides the entire week the Wall was in Germantown. Several of our VVA Chapter members took advantage of the rides, but this time they had to be strapped in instead of letting their legs hang outside.

**VVA Chapter 479**, reported by John Willman

**VVA Chapter 731**, Tom Hoffman reported on the last quarter of activities which included the VVA Chapter being Color Guard for more than a dozen funerals.

As a result of the VVA Chapters fundraising activities, including a successful raffle, we were able to donate toward new Little League Baseball Dimands in Manitowoc, as well as supporting Badgers Boys State, the Haven Homeless Shelter, Friends of Red Arrow Memorial Park, and other small donations.

The VVA Chapter will be ringing Bells for the Salvation Army again during the Christmas Season.

Our members have a bus tripped planned to New York in May 2017, which is already full. This will be our VVA Chapter's fifth annual bus trip.

*The VVA VETERAN* (p. 6) carried a picture and brief statement on VVA Chapter 731's Color Guard services to members in the VVA Chapter who have passed as well as other veterans in the area. The VVA Chapter Color Guard is active in other presentations throughout the year. The VVA Chapter is also proud of their commitement to education through presentations on the Vietnam War and scholarships to high school seniors based on applications and interviews with veterans.

#### **Old Business:**

Reminder of the availability of the Libby glasses with VVA Logo and the Wisconsin State Council imprint. Information is available on the VVA WSC website at the News tab and then Fundraising Opportunity (<http://vvawi.org/news/fundraising-opportunity.html>).

#### **New Business:**

Mike Demske provided the new calendar for VVA WSC, including meeting locations. This calendar is available on the VVA WSC website under the State Council/Calendar tab or by clicking [here](#) if viewing this electronically.



## 2017 Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

- March 17<sup>th</sup> Rooms – Ramada Waupaca, 110 Grand Seasons Dr. Waupaca, WI 54981  
Telephone: 715-258-9212
- March 18<sup>th</sup> VVA Wisconsin State Council Meeting  
9:00 am Committee Meeting  
10:00 am VVA WSC Meeting  
Ramada Waupaca, 110 Grand Seasons Dr. Waupaca, WI 54981  
Telephone: 715-258-9212
- June 16<sup>th</sup> Rooms – Super 8, Hwy 10, 1000 E Division Stret, Neillsville, WI 54456  
Telephone: 715-743-8080
- June 17<sup>th</sup> VVA Wisconsin State Council Meeting  
9:00 am Committee Meeting  
10:00 am VVA WSC Meeting  
12:00 pm Annual Picnic  
***The Highground***  
W7031, Ridge Rd, Neillsville, WI 54456  
**This meeting is the VVA WSC meeting during which elections are held. Additionally, this is VVA WSC's ANNUAL PICNIC. Please bring a dish to pass and what you wish to drink (The Highground is an alcohol free zone.). The WSC will provide the meat, buns, etc. CONTACT Mike Demske by telephone at 920-684-1624 or Email Mike at [Michael.Demske@yahoo.com](mailto:Michael.Demske@yahoo.com) so he has an accurate count for the meat, buns, etc. Thank you.**
- Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> Rooms – Ramada Waupaca, 110 Grand Seasons Dr. Waupaca, WI 54981  
Telephone: 715-258-9212
- Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> VVA Wisconsin State Council Meeting  
9:00 am Committee Meeting  
10:00 am VVA WSC Meeting  
Ramada Waupaca, 110 Grand Seasons Dr. Waupaca, WI 54981  
Telephone: 715-258-9212
- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Social, Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange\*  
Rooms – Ramada Waupaca, 110 Grand Seasons Dr. Waupaca, WI 54981  
Telephone: 715-258-9212
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> VVA Wisconsin State Council Meeting  
9:00 am Committee Meeting  
10:00 am VVA WSC Meeting  
Ramada Waupaca, 110 Grand Seasons Dr. Waupaca, WI 54981  
Telephone: 715-258-9212

\*Find and bring your best White Elephant Gift wrapped for fun and sharing.  
Cost and menu is coming.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Mullarkey, Secretary