



Vietnam Veterans of America  
Wisconsin State Council

September 25, 2021

VVA Third Quarter Meeting  
Par4 Comfort Suites Resort & Convention Center  
199 Fox Fire Drive  
Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981

Minutes

### Wisconsin State Council Meeting



President Demske called the State Council Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. on September 26, 2021, in Waupaca, Wisconsin. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was offered to our POW/MIA's and active service members.

Before moving to the regularly scheduled meeting President Demske welcomed our special guest Dr. Jeffrey Whittle, MD, MPH Staff Physician, Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Administration Medical Center, and Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Whittle is presently focusing on Health Research, Peer Support, and Veterans Groups – his research will be on this latest research on PTS. (Note: Dr. Whittle's PowerPoint presentation is attached and will be on the WSC's new website.)

Dr. Whittle's presentation was titled **Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) and Support Research to Vietnam Veterans of America Veterans**. Whittle drove home the *need* for assistance from VVA, WSCVVA, VVA Chapters, and their members and AVVA members to seek:

1. input from Veterans on how to deliver PTS care more generally
  - a. especially interested in how to reach and serve rural Veterans
  - b. interested in individuals willing to meet repeatedly over time
2. ways to refer eligible Veterans for care or benefits
3. support to get Veterans to join Million Veteran Program & All of Us

The presentation began with an overview of Veterans and Research, specifically

- Military service causes unique problems
- Veterans involved in research can ...
  - Identify important questions
  - Advice about how to conduct a study
  - Help interpret results and get the word out
- Veterans can advocate for change

He moved into peer support for health and PTS symptoms, available treatments.

His research is questioning what do people (Veterans, families, and others) think works – information from providers, clinicians, other researchers, etc. Next, he sought information on “What do Veterans with PTS.” Data suggests that “about 20% of [Iraq] Veterans sought help, most Veterans decline therapy and of those who start therapy most do not complete. Whittle is trying to find out why this is.

Dr. Whittle’s VA and MCW research program is seeking assistance from VVA, specifically the WSC primarily in three areas:

1. Education about PTS(D) and its treatment from and to VVA members
2. Veterans experienced with PTS(D) either personally or as a fellow Veteran to
  - a. Develop and deliver educational materials
  - b. Be available to support treatment choices
3. VVA members can support any aspect of identifying Veterans who may need it. Support, are receiving support, need to continue support, etc.

Dr. Whittle concluded by asking for a little more from VVA members, specifically,

1. input from Veterans on how to deliver PTS care more generally
  - a. especially interested in how to reach and serve rural Veterans
  - b. interested in individuals willing to meet repeatedly over time
2. ways to refer eligible Veterans for care or benefits
3. support to get Veterans to join Million Veteran Program & All of Us

NOTE TO WSC DELEGATES:

At the December meeting we will raise the following questions:

1. How does the WSC want to reply to Dr. Whittle’s research program? Are we going to proceed and how?
2. If we respond by assisting will this come in the form of a committee? If so, who elects to take the lead and which members want to follow?
3. Will this committee report back to the body what is requested, how are we going to proceed, and is there a timeline – the timeline should be gathered from Dr. Whittle before Christmas 2021?

Present at the meeting were President Demske, Vice-President Sciuti, Secretary Mullarkey, and Executive Director Lindbeck. The Treasurer was excused. Directors from Regions 2 and 4 were present as well as our At-Large Director – Mike Johnson, Bob Morzenti, and Greg Foye respectfully. VVA Chapters present included VVA Chapters: 0005, 0092, 0206, 0236, 0324, 0351, 0425, 0437, 0448, 0479, 0635, 0731, 0767, and 1130. This is 14 of the WSC’s 25 VVA Chapters. A quorum was called with VVA Chapters and a total of 23 delegates and one (1) at-large delegate. Nine (9) AVVA members from four (4) chapters and (1) at-large member. VVA At-Large Director John Margowski was present, also representing VVA Chapter 0425, and AVVA.

Bob moved to approve the agenda as written and was seconded by John and passed without objection.

President’s Report:

President Demske thanked Dr. Whittle for his continued commitment to Veterans, especially Vietnam Veterans. He reaffirmed Dr. Whittle presentation and how important PTS or PTSD is our fellow Veterans from all conflicts. We will be entertaining ways and means of assisting Dr. Whittle’s research at our December WSC Meeting.

Demske shared that our group (i.e., VVA delegates and AVVA members) planning on attending the VVA National Convention will be rather small for 2021. If you are planning on attending there is still time; however, you have gone beyond the lower rate for registration, travel may be tighter or costlier, and room availability may be questionable. Passing all of these hurdles keep in mind the Convention is the time to review and change, if necessary, the VVA Constitution, report out on resolutions and vote on same, have National Elections, and appointments to various VVA National Committees and special groups.

Please keep in mind that John Margowski our present VVA At-Large Director will be running for VVA Region Six Director (i.e., Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin) and Richard Lindbeck VVA At-Large Director.

### **VVA At-Large Report**

John Margowski, VVA At-Large Director reinforced his role as Chair of the Resolutions [to the Constitution] Committee. Margowski shared that he believes all VVA WSC Delegates should be familiar with the VVA Constitution and the [2021 National Constitution Committee Preliminary](#) and the [2021 Proposed Convention Resolutions](#) both available by clicking reports.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report focused on reimbursement for those attending VVA National Convention in November. The Treasurer reported that the WSC has budgeted \$8,000.00 for the National Convention – VVA Delegates and AVVA Delegates and Representatives. It was estimated, based on previous years that the reimbursement amount could be approximately \$470.58, based on 17, which was suggested to be raised to \$500.00. The \$500.00 amount is for the maximum in attendance (17) and will not be increased with fewer delegates in attendance.

### **Secretary's Report:**

With the difficulty we have had using computer and projector technology at this meeting, the WSC should consider purchasing their own projector. As a point of order it was suggested that this be moved to new business. However, since this looked to be a question of equipment need it was moved the the Secretary explore the purchase of a projector for the WSC. This was seconded and approved without objection. Cost range between \$500 to \$800.

Tentative Calendar for 2022 attached.

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

The complete report will be listed on the website which will be reactivated by the end of the year.

### **Committee Reports:**

Complete reports, POW-MIA and Scholarship will be listed on the website which will be reactivated by the end of the year.

### **VVA Chapter Reports:**

Please note VVA Chapter reports and Newsletters are located on the WSC website which will be reactivated by year's end.

### **President's Information**

Just a reminder, President Demske has appointed [Marvin Decker](#) (President, VVA Chapter 0731) as WSC Membership Chair.

**Old Business:**

Change of WSC By-Law Article V Meetings Sub 2. The new wording was submitted and seconded by the Constitution Committee.

“A quorum shall be the majority of VVA Chapters in good standing that are represented by at least one authorized VVA Chapter representative.” See attachment for corrected WSC By-Laws.

Passed without objection.

An adjournment was moved by Mullarkey and seconded by Banner at 11:45 am. Without objection, the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Mullarkey, Secretary  
VVA Wisconsin State Council

Attachment:

### Article I Name

The name of the corporation is the Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Wisconsin State Council as prescribed by the Articles of Incorporation and hereinafter referred to as the "Council".

### Article II Purpose

The purposes of the Council are those prescribed by the Articles of Incorporation and the Constitution of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

### Article III Members

Each chapter shall be entitled to two delegates for every twenty-five members; a chapter with less than twenty-five members shall be entitled to one delegate. At-large members shall be entitled to one delegate for every twenty-five at-large members.

### Article IV Officers & Directors

- §1 The Officers of the Council shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer, and their duties shall be as prescribed in these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
- §2 Each Council Region, in Appendix 1, of these bylaws, shall elect a Director. The duties of a Director shall be to attend all Council meetings, to coordinate Council activities and policies with the chapters in their region, and to comply with the directives of the President.

### Article V Meetings

- §1 The Council shall meet in March, June, **September** and December.
- §2 A quorum shall be the majority of VVA Chapters in good standing that are represented by at least one authorized VVA Chapter representative.
- §3 Attendance Requirement. Chapters are required to have at least one delegate present at half the Council meetings each calendar year; failure of a Chapter to meet this requirement shall result in the automatic suspension of that Chapter's voting rights at all Council meetings until that Chapter is ~~in compliance with~~ **following** the attendance requirement. **If the Chapter fails the attendance requirement in the following calendar year the Council will invoke Article II Section 3(A)(2) of the VVA Constitution.**

### Article VI Amendments of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Council by two-thirds vote



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**2022 VVA WSC Meeting Schedule**

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Accomodations</b> | <b>Meeting Location</b>           | <b>Start Time<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>Special Event</b> |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| March 18     | Par4 Comfort Suites  |                                   |                               |                      |
| March 19     | Par4 Comfort Suites  | Par 4 Convention Ctr              | 9:00 am                       |                      |
| June 18      | Super8 <sup>2</sup>  |                                   |                               |                      |
| June 19      | Super8 <sup>2</sup>  | Camp Victory                      | 9:00 am                       | Elections/Picnic     |
| September 24 | Par4 Comfort Suites  |                                   |                               |                      |
| September 25 | Par4 Comfort Suites  | Par 4 Convention Ctr              | 9:00 am                       |                      |
| December 3   | Par4 Comfort Suites  | Par 4 Convention Ctr <sup>2</sup> | 5:00 pm                       | Christmas Party      |
| December 4   | Par4 Comfort Suites  | Par 4 Convention Ctr              | 9:00 am                       |                      |

<sup>1</sup> Agenda to proceed meeting

<sup>2</sup> Tentative

Note: Open Time