

**WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL  
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**

**STATE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Best Western Grand Seasons Hotel**

**Waupaca, WI**

**MINUTES**

**Saturday, March 7, 2009**

The **Convention Planning Committee Meeting** was held at 10:00 a.m. Karen Seipel called the meeting to Order.

There were over 25 in attendance.

Dr. Berger, from VVA National, will present all day Saturday afternoon. We will attract veterans and others to this event. The presenter should attract younger veterans also.

Topics will include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Traumatic Blast Injury, Traumatic Eye Injury, Suicide ideation and the latest treatment methods. This will be a joint meeting between Wisconsin State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America and the Veterans of Modern Warfare.

The CVSO session will include, how a CVSO does claims, e.g., in the case of PTSD, go to Vet Center and VAMC for counseling.

Items that may be discussed will include troubles now with on-line claims and during demobilization out-processing. We will check with CVSO Panel Chair, Donna Chrzas (Columbia CVSO and CVSOA President), to make sure all is going well with preparations. Manitowoc CVSO Jane Babcock should be invited to participate. The CVSO Panel can discuss "Advocacy and Claims Representation for Veterans", advocacy, networking and what the CVSO office does.

We will include a discussion about relationship between VMW and VVA. VVA National President John Rowan should provide someone from VMW.

Here is the tentative schedule:

0800-0850 Opening Ceremony  
0850-0900 Scholarship Reading  
0900-0950 Legislative Panel  
0950-1000 Break  
1000-1050 CVSO panel "Advocacy and Claims Representation for Veterans"  
1050-1100 Break  
1100-1110 Scholarship Reading  
1110-1200 Dr. Berger  
1200-1250 Lunch (included in registration)  
1250-1300 Scholarship  
1300-1350 Dr. Berger  
1350-1400 Scholarship Reading  
1400-1410 Break  
1410-1500 Dr. Berger  
1500-1510 Scholarship Reading  
1510-1540 VVA and VMW  
1540-1620 VVA Claims and Mental Health Issues and Claims  
1620-1630 Scholarship Reading

The following Assignments were given:

Letters need to be written and sent to:

Dr. Berger (with directions/prospective audience)  
President Rowan  
VMW  
Donna Chrzas  
Senator Sullivan  
Representative Hilgenberg

Discussion was held about publicity and who to invite/audience we will appeal to.

A Color Guard is needed, but Manitowoc will take the assignment for the Opening/Closing ceremonies.

The planning meeting Adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

### **Wisconsin State Council Meeting**

The State Council Meeting was **Called to Order** by Vice President Mayr at 12:10 p.m. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by all followed by a **Moment of Silence**.

Secretary Sorenson took **Roll Call of Chapters and Officers**.

There were no **Reinstatement of Suspended Chapters**.

John Margowski was appointed the **Parliamentarian** and Richard Lindbeck was appointed as **Timekeeper**. There was an **Approval of the Agenda**. There was an **Approval of Minutes** of December 6-7, 2008 meeting

Acting President Mayr gave a brief Report. No **Correspondence** was received.

Clif Sorenson gave the **Legislative Advocacy & Government Affairs Committee Report**.

This is a synopsis of my visits to Representative Obey's and Kind's Legislative Directors in Washington DC on March 3, 2009. We discussed the following items:

- Advance Appropriations for VA Medical Care
- VA Appropriations for FY 2010
- Timely Administration of the Post 9-11 GI Bill
- VA Claims and Adjudication Process Issues
- Global War on Terrorism
- Fully Fund and Increase Size of the Armed Forces
- Quality of Life Issues in the Military

I brought up grant and per diem for homeless veterans and the need for more Vet Centers and/or Vet Center services in Wisconsin – especially NW Wisconsin. I thanked Rep. Kind for his support of Senator Feingold's letter to VA about the need for more Vet Centers in Wisconsin. Now, Senator Feingold and Representative Kind are looking at the possibility of expanding a Vet Center into the Eau Claire area and I again offered by support and advice.

I re-emphasized the need for transferable skills of our discharged Servicemembers (this will also preclude homelessness among of our newly discharged veterans).

We discussed HR 668 (in-patient beds for veterans), HR 1088 (VETS employee training) and HR 929 (veterans training).

There will be a Stakeholders Meeting and Rally at the Capitol on March 31st.

**Convention Program** discussion was held by Karen Seipel (see previous notes). It was suggested that each Chapter sponsor a VMW and family

Pat Craney gave **Finance Committee Report and Presentation of the Budget**. The Financial report was handed out to all members.

Additions to the budget – Veterans Programs & Services, line 605-07 \$500 as an on-going item. A check will be cut for \$1,000.

There was a **Motion** to have \$1,000 given to HighGround as on-going line item – Greg/2<sup>nd</sup>/Passed

There was a **Motion** to give \$1,000 to Reaching Out Being There – Margowski/2<sup>nd</sup>/Passed

There was a **Motion** to accept 2009-2010 Budget as amended – Margowski/2<sup>nd</sup>/Passed

If any committee has any additional expenses, they need to be submitted to the Finance committee

Pat Furno gave the **AVVA Report**. The National AVVA Budget was done previously – the slick magazine was previously given \$65,000 (cost to get *The VVA Veteran* to over 7,000 members). They will cancel the mailing. May work on dues rebate. AVVA wants to become a VSO. This will enhance AVVA (in addition to their scholarship programs). National is keeping too large a balance. Associates Reps elections are next month; one year or two year. State Associate rep position (Pat's slot) will be open this summer.

There will be Seminars at the **National Convention** in Louisville this year. July 29-Aug 2. Pat needs names of associate representatives. AVVA – VMW can be members. VVA eligible members can join AVVA, but have no vote. A C3 foundation was formed by AVVA to get grant money for their programs

After the break, other **Committee Reports** were given.

John Margowski gave the **Council on Veterans Programs Report**. He explained his testimony about what the Council does. At the Council meeting, their protocol was finally approved. Veterans Highway signs are being repaired. Vision quest trip to the HighGround was discussed. Priority 6 veterans were encouraged to enroll. Also, veterans need to write letters about payday and title loan companies and other predatory lending practices.

Judith gave the **Reaching Out – Being There** report. Wisconsin is the only state that has a Gold Star Family Day. We are different from Gold Star families – you don't need to have a family member who died in action. Green Bay Chapter gave \$2,000 at the Shawn Novak Golf Outing. Newburg Chapter gave a donation, too.

Joe Campbell gave a report. on the **Dryhooch**. Vision quest trip to the HighGround in June. Counselors are available to all veterans of all eras. Joe gave a handout to everyone.

Ginnie gave a report on **Scholarships**. Ten inquiries from schools. Thirty-six applications have been received. They have been distributed to the committee members. A selection will be made

Steve House gave a report on the VVA Vietnam Project. Discussion followed.

Kent made a **Motion** to open scholarships to all applicant-students who interview a Vietnam War veteran. Beeman/2nd/Passed. A draft letter is to be done by the Secretary to have the President sign.

Kent Beeman gave the **Treasurer's Report**. He handed out the balance sheet to everyone.

George Gottier gave **Membership Report**. All regions have gone up except Region One. Total membership is at 1890, up 8 members; 255 AVVA members (up 5 from last year). Region 4 trying to get Chapter 256 back

#### Under **Chapter Reports**:

- Chapter 5 (Eau Claire) has moved to VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St.
- Chapter 101 donated to Fountain of Tears at HighGround and bicycle tour dinner. Trying to get the Moving Wall to WI Rapids.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the HighGround Ride.
- Kenosha will do the table ceremonies at the convention – need more hats for the table.
- Oshkosh donates money for Salvation Army and helps Domestic Violence. Donated to Tomah veteran home for shampoo and coffee.

#### Under **Unfinished Business**:

- Steve working on Veterans Court in Waupaca County – almost up and running.
- Updated us on the Wheelchair Project in Vietnam.

#### Under **New Business**:

- AVVA Support Money Discussion/Action - \$1,000 is on-going for AVVA Rep; registration and luncheon - \$65 and \$25.
- Louisville VVA Convention Stipend Discussion/Action - Same as two years ago, \$9,000 not to exceed \$450 per delegate – Moved/2<sup>nd</sup>/passed - out of fund balance.
- Louisville VVA Convention Table Discussion/Action; do not sign up for banquet (you'll sit with us at the table – let Mike know). June meeting everything will be clarified. Moved/2<sup>nd</sup>/Passed.
- Endorsement of Steve House for Region 6 Director Discussion/Action – Moved/2<sup>nd</sup>/Passed.

- Endorsement of John Margowski for At-Large Director Discussion/Action - Moved/2<sup>nd</sup>/Passed.
- Acting President Mayr made a **Motion** (after discussion with President Demske) to request \$4,000 from Foundation to cover expenses to have Blue Eyed Soul to appear at the Green Bay LZ Lambeau Welcome Home in May 2010. After discussion, motion was tabled.
- Chapters that are no longer legal and action that will be taken per National Directive; discussion followed. Here is number for chapters to call. 608-261-7577 – Y0N4 WI Non-stock Corporation Annual Report needs to be sent in.

Under **Miscellaneous Items**:

- Reminder that there will be a laying of the memorial stone at HighGround on April 18<sup>th</sup> for Tom Davies.
- Tom Hoffman – let Mike know if your chapter is not sending a delegate to National.
- Food drive in Wausau during State Convention.
- Motion to send Mike a fruit basket.
- Stevens Point Ramada wants our business

**Next meeting is at HighGround in Neillsville on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Call for **Motion to Adjourn**. Motion/2<sup>nd</sup>/Passed. Acting President Mayr Adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Clif*

Clif Sorenson

Secretary

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WI State Council

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