

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL
FALL CONVENTION
RADISSON HOTEL, PEWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2010
www.vvawi.org**

Saturday, September 11, 2010

President Lindbeck **called the meeting to order** at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 11, 2010. The **pledge of allegiance** and a **moment of silence** were recited by all (50 plus veterans were in attendance).

Oconomowoc Chapter 1 did an emotionally moving Opening Ceremony.

Chuck Russell (Best Work Data) made a presentation to the WI Veterans Foundation worth \$100,000,000.

Dan Vrakas, Waukesha County Executive welcomed everyone to Pewaukee and Waukesha County. He highlighted VN Vets Day in Milwaukee.

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, Secretary Ken Black, spoke to the group. The Secretary reiterated, "Everything we do is about the Veterans."

National VVA President, John Rowan addressed us.

Some of the thoughts he shared were: working with county execs – to promote supportive housing programs; helping Veterans will help the entire county and state; VTC is in their benefit.

Any money that is spent on a Veterans Service Office will come back to them 100 times. He spoke about the Veterans Health Care Council and how it benefits everyone. NAACP will support the National Health Council.

He spoke of the VA Medical System and how 75% of veterans don't go to VA

Legislative Chair Clif Sorenson and Moderator John Margowski led the **Legislative Panel** of Congresswoman Moore and State Representative Hilgenberg. Both presenters provided insight of what went on in the respective legislative bodies last session and how it affected Veterans to the audience. Those in attendance were very receptive and appreciative of their presentations. Q&A followed.

Scholarship winner, Kelly Kallio, Region One, did her scholarship reading.

Claims and Benefits Panel included County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) Chris Jordan (Walworth County) and CVSO Mark Baldwin (Washington County). Moderator was John Margowski.

Ms. Jordan talked about new presumptive illnesses for exposure to Agent Orange, i.e., Parkinson disease, ischemic heart disease, B cell leukemia (in addition to other presumptive illnesses).

Mr. Baldwin spoke about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) stressors being less of a burden on combat veterans.

- Need diagnosis of PTSD
- Need VA psychiatrist to give diagnosis
- Stressor needs to be consistent with the facts of record

ALS is a presumptive illness to any military service.

The panel was well received by the audience. Q&A followed

Beth Ann Smith, Benefits Program manager at Zablocki VA Medical Center added comments on the care at VAMC.

Region 2 scholarship winner, Shaylea Walsh, read a tribute to her dad.

Dryhooch did a fine presentation of their mission in helping Veterans.

After a fine catered lunch, John Margowski announced the next panel, **Veterans Health Care Benefits**. Beth Ann Smith, Benefits Program manager at Zablocki VA Medical Center added comments on the care at VAMC. She explained Priority Groups and those in-country Vietnam War veterans are automatically eligible under Priority 6.

The audience appreciated her presentation and there was time for a Q&A period.

Region 3-scholarship winner, Severina Scott's, father read her essay.

Bo Batty read his winning scholarship, "an interview with Dave Hoskins".

Our website, vvawi.org has all of the scholarships posted.

The **Employment, Education and Career Planning for Veterans Panel** included, Sue Hackbarth, WOW District Director; Sue Peterson, Waukesha Technical College Military Benefits Advisor, and Jeffery Percival, President, Percival Enterprises.

Ms. Hackbarth explained military veterans 24-hour preference. The group explained assessment tools for employment. A Q&A period followed.

A very moving **Closing Ceremony** was held. The meeting was **recessed** until 8:00 a.m., Sunday, September 12 for AVVA members and 9:00 a.m. for the regular VVA State Council Meeting.

The POW/MIA Ceremony preceded a great banquet Saturday night where food and mingling was followed by remarks from Senator Feingold and VVA National President Rowan.

Awards were presented: Excellence in the Arts were given to Wisconsin Public Television, Wisconsin Military Museum and Wisconsin State Historical Society. Other awards were presented.

Sunday, September 12, 2010.

President Lindbeck **called the meeting to order** at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, September 12, 2010. The AVVA Meeting was held at 8:00 a.m. The **pledge of allegiance** and a **moment of silence** were observed.

Officers' Roll call was taken by Secretary Sorenson (all present except Region 2 Director, Region 4 Director and At-Large Director). **Chapter Roll Call** was taken. President Lindbeck said that a quorum was present (Chapters 5, 206, 220, 236, 324, 425, 437, 448, 635, 731 and 767).

There were **no reinstatements** of suspended chapters.

President Lindbeck appointed John Margowski as **Parliamentarian** and Jim Mullarkey as **Timekeeper**.

The **Agenda** was approved. Joe Heil and second by Jim Mullarkey.

The National **VVA President made a report** to the group. National VVA President Rowan expressed his appreciation for his visit here. President Lindbeck outlined his visit to LZ Lambeau, the Orlando Leadership conference and a memorial dedication at Sauk Prairie.

The President needs addresses and names of officers of all VVA chapters.

President Rowan added that we need to create a state agenda and have the legislators sign off on the agenda. He reminded us that we are nonpartisan, but go to all parties.

There was no correspondence.

The Legislative Chair, Clif Sorenson, gave his **Legislative Report**. He will address the issue of developing a Legislative Agenda.

MOTION: A state Legislative Agenda needs to be established.
Mullarkey/Margowski/Passed

Kent Beeman handed about the **Treasurer's Report**. Accepted without objection. The Treasurer's Report was given; needs only to be reported and not accepted by motion. Once a year audit. Cannot be approved subject to audit.

John Margowski gave his **Service Officer Report**. WDVA Board member Dan Naylor and the WDVA Secretary were approached to reinstate VVA as a POA.

Jeannie gave a written **Report on Scholarship** recipients

Region reports:

Region 1 Newburg chapter, LZ Lambeau, needs chapter information updates

Region 3 Hoffman appreciated all of the turnouts.

MOTION - President will establish ad hoc committee to look at funding sources for the Wisconsin State Council. Mullarkey/Demske/Passed

MOTION Form an ad hoc communication committee; structure e-mails/addresses. Margowski/Heil/Passed

Discussion included: Need contact people, officers list, etc. Need a database. Financial report and election report needs to go to national and council

Chapter reports:

Chapter 448, Newburg Memorial, will have a dedication on October 2, 1:00 p.m. Bring color guard October 2, 1:00 p.m.

Chapter 767 had a spaghetti dinner to finance trip to LZ Lambeau; honors for many funerals were provided.

Chapter 236 Janesville – 25-year anniversary 2-19-11. Chapter provided support for Oshkosh parade; 4th of July concession table with AMVETS; raised money for Old Glory Honor Flight. Donated to the Learning Center for a bronze sculpture. Purchased 3 bricks at the Museum

Chapter 635 does honors for funerals for any veterans. Also, they are, in addition to the honors, revenue sources. Need to make sure that all are aware if they served during the Vietnam period, they are eligible for VVA.

Karen gave a **Convention Report**. There were 43 registrations and 6 walk-ins.

An **Agenda** item for December - For holding our fall conference meetings every other year.

June is the Annual Meeting.

Pat Furno gave the **AVVA Report**. The **agenda** for December will have **AVVA** meet following the **VVA** meeting. October we will pass policies and procedures for bylaws changes and elections. Elected Chapter representatives will have a meeting in 2013 (the next bi-annual meeting). AVVA will hold National Meetings at same time as VVA. They want better attendance at the meetings. Need e-mail addresses of all AVVA members. AVVA is negotiating the price of the Veteran magazine. It is on the VVA website.

Jim Mullarkey, PR Chair, gave the **Public Relations Report**. www.vvawi.org is our website. The Badger Veteran will be on-line.

George Gottier gave the Membership Report. We now have 1928 members; up 48 members; AVVA has 257, down 4. National growth is 5% we are a little below that. Honorary life membership should be considered.

VVA does not have an honorary life membership category, but at the last convention it passed to have an honorary life membership. National President can designate that membership rank. Chapter or state council can identify an MIA listed on the DOD list; written request goes to corporation.

No dues no rebates, no office, no vetoing, no delegate can be given to honorary members; honorary member has to meet VVA membership criteria.

There was no **unfinished business** to come before the body.

Under **new business**, the President asked for all appointees remain on this list. Disciplinary comes out of Regional or National. Chapter members cannot bring charges against one another.

Agent Orange diseases. If there are any children or grandchildren with illnesses – pass that information onto Mike Demske. ADHD is possibly related.

Elena Oakes has 7,000 surveys on AO and related to AO.

President reported Operation Flyswatter; quinine – Mr. Spey enemy of AO-related.

Secretary Black said that there is recognition of POW/MIA on Sep 17 at noon at the Veterans Museum first floor. See WDVA website.

AVVA POW/MIA vigil and march in downtown Oconomowoc

Thanks to Chapter 635 for its ceremony and thanks to the great sound guy.

Kent Beeman – regarding State Council finances – states no income source. This will be on the December **agenda** as we are gong out of funds; scholarships will run out.

Next meeting will be on Saturday, December 11, at Best Western Grand Seasons Hotel, Waupaca 715-258-9212 – Christmas Party -- bring White Elephant; buffet for meal.

Motion to adjourn. Margowski/Hoffman/Passed