

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL

State Council Meeting
September 14, 2013
Waupaca, Wisconsin

President Lindbeck called the State Council Meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on September 14, 2013. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a A Moment of Silence for our POWs/MIAs and active duty service was observed.

There was a Roll Call Of Officers by James Mullarkey, Secretary. All Wisconsin State Council Officers were present as were Directors from Regions 1, 3, and 4. The At-Large and Region 2 Directors were absent.

There was a Roll Call of Chapters by Mullarkey and the following Chapters were present: 005, 206, 236, 351, 425, 448, 479, 529, 635, 731, and 767. AVVA was present. President Lindbeck confirmed a quorum.

There was no reinstatement of suspended Chapters.

There was approval of the Agenda, which was moved, seconded and approved without objection.

The June 22, 2013 Minutes were moved for approval by John Margowski and seconded by James Mullarkey. Following corrections, specifically adding Region 1 and 4 Directors to being in attendance along with Chapters 479, 529, 635, and 767 the Minutes were approved without objection.

President Lindbeck provided the President's Report, which included an update on the Veterans Day Program being planned at the State Capital on November 8, 2013. The goal of the President is to get as many Vietnam Veterans in Madison for this event November 8, 2013. In July, Washington County's Fair celebrated Veterans Day and Chapter 448 has a display on the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War. On July 28th President Lindbeck had the honor of sharing some of his experiences in Vietnam.

In August the President was a guest speaker at the Wisconsin State Fair for their Veterans Day event. August was also the time for the National Convention in Jacksonville, FL. The Wisconsin delegation was the largest of Region 6 with 12 registered delegates.

The election of VVA National Officers resulted in:

Officers

John Rowan, President
Bill Meeks, Secretary

Marsha Four, Vice-President
Wayne Reynolds, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Charlie Hobbs, TN
Linda Blankenship, AL
Joe Jennings, OH
Jerry Yamamoto, CA
Richard DeLong, LA
*At Large

Pastor Toro, NY
Joe Kristek, NC
Felix Peterson, OK
Jim Pace, WA
Dan Stenvold, ND

Region Directors

Region 1 John Miner
Region 2 Herb Worthington
Region 3 Sara McVicker
Region 4 Bob Barry
Region 5 Dennis Cahoon

Region 6 John Margowski
Region 7 Allen Manuel
Region 8 Tom Owen
Region 9 Dick Southern

At the National Convention the dates for the Leadership Conference and the next Convention were announced:

- **Leadership Conference**
August 5 – 10, 2014
Hyatt
Wichita, KA
For information click [here](#) or go to
VVA's site: http://vva.org/leadership_conf.html
- **National Convention**
July 21 – 25, 2015
Hilton
Springfield, IL
National information not posted.

President Lindbeck shared that both the Conference and the Convention are within driving distance and encourages those who want know how VVA operates or is interested in a position at the Chapter, State, or National level these are events you should consider.

Lindbeck shared that Region 6 Director John Margowski has sent out a request to the seven state presidents that he would like to hold a Region 6 meeting in the very near future (e.g., May or June, 2014). President Lindbeck believes Wisconsin should be in the forefront of this movement – if you have an idea as to where or when please let contact [President Lindbeck](#).

August was capped-off in Wisconsin by to salutes to veterans. First, was a Veterans Day salute at House of Harley in Milwaukee with luminaries such as Wisconsin's Medal of Honor recipient Gary Wetzel, Governor Walker, a large number of our active military and veterans, and more generals than I have seen in some time. Second, was the Badger Game against University of Massachusetts – needless to say, "Wisconsin won handily!"

As State Council President I participated in Indian Summer at the Summerfest Grounds in Milwaukee. A number of Chapter 448 members helped hand out literature on Agent Orange, VA Benefits, and Programs. Jim Hackbarth and Jerry Zechmeister and I participated in the Grand Entry on Sunday during the Salute to Veterans. As President, I was proud to have been able to work with our Native Americans at this event.

The Region 6 Director, John Margowski, reported on the importance of the upcoming Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting schedule for September 26th. Messrs. Margowski, Lindbeck, and Demske have participated in several of these meetings and underscore the importance of educating all Vietnam veterans as well as all veterans of all branches who served in Southeast Asia, the Korean DMZ, as well numerous bases in mainland U.S.A., Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and elsewhere. As part of VVA national's effort for veterans as well as their immediate family i.e., spouse and child(ren) and grandchildren this effort is being seen as a critical education and learning effort for the *Faces of Agent Orange* initiative. Every VVA-WSC representative should be contacting their VVA Chapter(s) and members they represent. Moreover, this information should be shared with other veteran service organizations and any available media contacts. More on this topic will be discussed by the VVA-WSC Agent Orange Committee below.

Director Margowski reiterated and reinforced President Lindbeck's announcement regarding the upcoming Leadership Conference planned for August 4 – 10, 2014 in Wichita, KS. You can keep abreast of the Leadership Conference by clicking [here](#). If the page is still under construction check either www.vvawi.org or go to www.vva.org/national_events.html go to Events and click on Leadership Conference.

Finally, Director Margowski indicated that he has sent out a request for a Region 6 meeting – i.e., IA, KS, MN, NB, ND, SD, and WI. Margowski is asking for input from Wisconsin Officers, Region Directors, Chapter Presidents, and Wisconsin's VVA members as to when and where this meeting should occur. The only idea thus far is for a date period – May – June 2014.

No Correspondence was reported.

The Legislative Report, reported by Clif Sorenson, Chair of the Legislative Committee, reinforced the need of serving our fellow veterans and many of our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, neighbors and fellow veterans who served in the hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan (OEF/OIF/OND). There are supportive e.g., financial need(s) and living needs – Veterans Homelessness, employment and re-employment needs, education and continuing education needs, mental health needs, law enforcement needs i.e., Veterans Treatment Courts, service(s) for our aging veterans i.e., Veterans Nursing Home services. Moreover, we cannot lose sight of our organization's legislative needs.

As the State's Legislative Chair I've been to Washington, D.C. in February, May, and September of this year. Agent Orange is still a major issue not only for those who had boots on the ground, those who served in the *Blue Water Navy*, and expand Agent Orange list of *presumptive* illnesses and to include more areas in Thailand and Korea.

Mr. Pat Craney, VVA-WSC Treasurer, provided the Treasurer's Report.

Committee Reports included a report by Virginia Nuske, Chair of the Scholarship Committee. Ms. Nuske reported receiving three (3) thank you letters from this year's Scholarship recipients. Nuske also wanted to let the WSC know for 2014-2015 there is a need to budget \$4,500.00 for three (3) scholarships at \$1,500.00 each.

The Agent Orange Town Hall Committee, co-chaired by Mike Demske (VVA) and Pat Furno (AVVA) reported that the planned Town Hall Meeting has been set for October 26, 2013 in Johnson Creek, Wisconsin. Tom Heitman has agreed to do the flier to including the necessary artwork. Mullarkey will work with Heitman on the content and format. Furno is making the arrangements with the county CVSOs near Johnson Creek and arranging for the facility. Additionally, Demske, Furno, and Margowski are working on pulling the panel together. Mullarkey will be charged with the publicity.

Mike Demske presented the Annual Calendar:

- December 6, 2013 Christmas Party (est. \$20.00)
Comfort Suites
Waupaca, WI
- December 7, 2013 Winter VVA-WSC Meeting
Comfort Suites
Waupaca, WI
- March 22, 2014 Spring VVA-WSC Meeting
Comfort Suites
Waupaca, WI
- June 21, 2014 Summer VVA-WSC Meeting & Annual Election
(Tentative)
Highground Veterans Memorial Park
Neillsville, WI
- September 13, 2014 Fall VVA-WSC Meeting
Comfort Suites
Waupaca, WI
- December 6, 2014 Winter VVA-WSC Meeting (10:00 A.M.)
Comfort Suites
Waupaca, WI
- December 6, 2014 Christmas Party (est. \$20.00) (5:00 P.M.)
Comfort Suites
Waupaca, WI

NOTE: This calendar is subject to change. Please monitor both the site and emails from VVA-WSC and notifications from your Chapter representatives to VVA-WSC.

The Pin Committee, represented by Tom Hoffman and Pat Craney, presented two VVA_WSC pin options. The first was the double logo with the VVA circular logo in the background and the VVA-WSC circular logo offset and in the foreground (below left). The second suggestion was VVA-WSC logo as a separate circular pin (below right). Margowski moved that the Pin Committee place an order for 100 pins at \$2.55 each. Sorenson second the motion, which passed unanimously.



Bruce Witt, Chair of the Membership Committee once again has asked for assistance from VVA-WSC Officers, Region Directors, Chapter Presidents, and members to join with him on the expanding Wisconsin's overall VVA membership. Based on WDVA data there are 135,991 Vietnam veterans in Wisconsin – with an estimated 50,316 who served *in country*. According to membership information recently received from VVA Membership, VVA in Wisconsin has 1,666 members (i.e., one, three, and lifetime) not including incarcerated.

Witt suggested that VVA-WSC's Membership Committee discuss avenues to increase awareness of VVA, especially VVA-WSC and how the organization serves as a conduit to keeping Vietnam veterans (i.e., those who served 1961 – 1975) informed on issues and potential benefits. One such avenue, working with Mullarkey who is the Chair of the Publicity and Marketing Committee, is to explore is a statewide marketing campaign employing 1) print, electronic, and social media, 2) mailings, and 3) PSAs. These ideas should be discussed further at the December Meeting.

The Region 3 Report presented by Tom Hoffman, Director, reported on the National Convention, especially the more lively and interesting caucuses and the number of booths available to help veterans. Hoffman indicated the Chapter 731 (Manitowoc) is planning another bus trip Spring 2014 – after having such a successful trip Spring 2013. The 2014 trip is being planned for Branson, MO the weekend of March 28th – 30th – Branson's *Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans* weekend.

Chapter Reports

Chapter 425's President Joe Deloria reported: a) three major fundraising events held in June, July, and August; b) participation in the 4th of July Parade; c) representation at the Waukesha County Fair; d) the Chapter was represented by four (4) VVA and two (2) AVVA members; and in September members of the Chapter's Color Guard participated in a Civil War Re-Enactment. Of special note was the work done by Carly Eichner, a college student, who interviewed members regarding their Vietnam experiences for a class paper. Not only during and following her research, we maintained close contact with her. In fact, at the Dousman Derby Day Parade in July we awarded Carly a check for \$1,000 to be applied to her education. Carly has since joined AVVA as a life member.

Chapter 448's President Frank Mueller reported: a) on two major fundraisers; b) the Second Annual Memorial Day Program at Veterans Park in Newburg – the Chapter dedicated the Legacy Stones with additional Legacy Stones to be dedicated on Veterans Day; c) Chapter members marched in several parades accompanied by two Vietnam era jeeps i.e., an M-38 and a M151 – owned Chapter members; d) as indicated in President Lindbeck's report, several Chapter 448 members participated in Indian Summer at Milwaukee's Summerfest grounds; and e) the Chapter sent four delegates to the National Convention, this was the first time for two members and a true learning experience, especially the breakout sessions.

Chapter 479's Treasurer Gary Moll reported: a) that their business meeting was held in July; b) in August the Chapter had its Annual Picnic for VVA and AVVA members, family and friends followed by a co-sponsored Brat Fry with DAV Chapter 31; c) Chapter members participated in the Athens Fair Parade; and d) signed up two (2) new VVA members and one (1) AVVA member. At the time of Moll's report Chapter 479 was attending and placing a wreath and plaque at the Highground Vietnam Veterans Memorial (Fragments).

Chapter 731's representative Mike Demske reported: a) that the Chapter's Honor Guard Fired at a Veterans funeral in Two Rivers; b) the Chapter's Color Guard presented Colors at the Manitowoc Bandits Baseball game and the Colors, Military, and POW/MIA flags at the Barge performance in Manitowoc and led the Moose Parade in Osman, WI; c) in August the Chapter held their Annual Picnic and maintained a food and beer tent at the Manitowoc County Fair – the second biggest fund raiser of the year; and d) the Chapter held its first meeting at their new home at the Amvets Club House in Manitowoc.

Chapter 767's Director Paul Pankoff reported: a) the Chapter's Honor Guard presided at the funeral of a Vietnam veteran; b) in conjunction with the traveling WWII memorial, the Honor Guard presented the Colors, Service Flags, and the Battlefield Cross at the Union Grove Veterans Home; c) the Chapter's Color Guard and Honor Guard helped with ceremonies in Kenosha for the Moving Wall; and d) the *Veterans Café* held inside the Piggly Wiggly on Washington Street in Racine on Thursdays from 8:00 – 11:00 A.M. offers free coffee and donuts to veterans – a big success.