



Together Always

**AVVA - AT LARGE NEWSLETTER  
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I hope you and everyone you know remains safe and healthy. With the continued increase in the number of COVID cases statewide, our December meeting including the holiday party has been cancelled.

I recently received an e-mail from State Council Secretary Jim Mullarkey. The e-mail included a letter from Mary Kolar, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, regarding COVID-19 and how it affects our veterans, their families, those who care for them, and their communities. She points out that “while initially rural areas were not affected by the virus, now EVERY county in the state is experiencing HIGH levels of COVID-19 activity”. She goes on to say that “the data and information we have about where COVID-19 is prevalent and spreading quickly coincides directly with the information we have about where veterans live.” She reminds everyone that we should stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out in public, maintain social distancing and wash our hands frequently. She closes by asking for our assistance: “I hope you will help me spread this message. We need everyone to understand that COVID-19 is affecting and hurting real people...people like you and me who took an oath to serve our country, stand up for it and fight if necessary. Today, I ask you to join me in this fight. These are our brothers and sisters and this is our battlefield. We need to have their backs.”

The e-mail also included the following message from Richard Lindbeck, Wisconsin State Council President:

Fellow VVA Wisconsin State Council Members,

I am forwarding Secretary Kolar’s message to you because we are in a serious health crisis in this country and Wisconsin. Many of you are experiencing the effects of the coronavirus in your community while others in your family.

Please protect yourself and your loved ones.

Kind regards,

Dick  
VVA Wisconsin State Council

The WHO, NIH, FDA, scientists, physicians and health workers all agree on the one thing we can do to reduce our chance of contracting or spreading COVID-19 is wearing a mask. The three things we can do to stay safe is:

1. Wear a mask.
2. Wash your hands.
3. Keep your distance, 6 feet is good, more is better.

I’ve received the quarterly meeting dates for 2021 and have listed them below. Of course, the dates are subject to what happens with the current rate of infection. I encourage you to continue following the

guidelines recommended by the CDC. Wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your face, social distance (whenever possible) and wear a mask (especially when you can't social distance).

The other important current topic I want to address is voting. If you haven't already done so, please make sure you vote. The right to have your voice heard shouldn't be taken for granted. Make sure you understand what your voting options are (absentee, early, drive-through (if available) and in-person). The requirements for each method varies, so please be make you know what is needed in order to exercise your right to vote and to have it be counted.

Upcoming Events:

November 14, 2020 (postponed until Spring 2021):

Toxic Exposure Town Hall meeting, Milwaukee County War Memorial

December 4-5, 2020 (**cancelled**):

Wisconsin State Council holiday party (12/5) and quarterly meeting (12/6); Ramada Inn, Waupaca  
March 13, 2021

Wisconsin State Council quarterly meeting; Ramada Inn, Waupaca

June 19, 2021

Wisconsin State Council quarterly meeting and annual picnic; Camp Victory, 9839 Sterling Avenue, Willard, WI

September 18, 2021

Wisconsin State Council quarterly meeting; Ramada Inn, Waupaca

December 3-4, 2021

Wisconsin State Council holiday gathering and quarterly meeting; Ramada Inn, Waupaca

May I send you this newsletter by e-mail? If so, please contact me at [jlfoye@frontier.com](mailto:jlfoye@frontier.com) with a subject line of "AVVA At-Large Newsletter" or by phone at 715-842-9197 (we don't have caller ID so you'll need to leave your phone number in order for me to return your call). Any suggestions on what (or how much) information to include in the newsletter is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Take care and be safe.



Joy L. Foye  
Wisconsin AVVA At-Large Representative