



Together Always

**AVVA - AT LARGE NEWSLETTER
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Merry Christmas and a **Happy New Year** to one and all!

AVVA Notes:

Pat's report included the following information:

- As of 10/31/18, there were 9,965 AVVA National members, including 449 dual members.
- The 2019 National Convention in Spokane will be AVVA's 20th anniversary, including a redesign of the AVVA logo. A celebratory event is being considered but no details are currently available.
- The 501(c)(3) conversion has been completed, but only on a national level. The cost of conversion for the 30 incorporated states/chapters is currently estimated to be \$2,000 (if all the incorporated groups agree to convert now); otherwise the cost would be \$600 per group. National is also discussing automatic inclusion in the conversion for states/chapters that incorporate later.
- If you have any suggested changes to the National by-laws, you may either submit your suggestion directly to National or you can contact Pat for assistance with your suggestion.
- A question was asked regarding how AVVA Chapter receiving fundi; any fundraising activities would need to be done through their VVA Chapter. Pizza Ranch and Culver's were mentioned as fundraising sources.

State Council Notes:

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were approved as distributed.

President's Report (Richard Lindbeck):

- President Lindbeck attended the October National Board of Directors and State Council Presidents meeting. John Rowaan spoke about "false sites" that are soliciting funds and/or spoofing VVA information. We need to watch for this as it affects VVA, including potential diverting of funds as well as incorrect perceptions of the organization.
- Four (4) of the original founders of VVA attended the 40th anniversary banquet.
- There will be a number of new faces in Congress in 2019; learn who they are and how to contact them.
- Doctor Tom Berger has resigned from the National Board of Directors.
- Wounded Warriors gave \$100,000 to assist VVA on some items.
- Greensboro (NC), Orlando (FL), Knoxville (TN) and Albuquerque (NM) are potential sites for the 2021 National Convention.
- The children's legislation was passed.
- The Membership Committee did approve the \$50 life membership fee. Members who paid for 3 years (cost was \$50) will automatically become life members; only life membership will be available shortly. There was a discussion regarding whether or not a DD-214 needs to be submitted with renewals. If an annual member renews after their current membership expires, they will need to provide the DD-214 with their life membership application.
- The American Legion passed a resolution to allow all veterans to join but wait for Congressional approval to implement the proposed change.
- According to a local Puerto Rico Chapter, it will be at least 5 years before the infrastructure that was damaged in the hurricane is restored.
- There are still 1,592 POW/MIA's still unaccounted for; more information will be available at the 7/16-7/21 National meeting in Spokane, WA.

- The next Leadership Conference is at Wright-Patterson AFB (in Ohio) in 2020.

Vice President's Report (Dan Sciuti):

- No report; excused absence.

Secretary's Report (Jim Mullarkey):

- Chapter 92 (Chippewa Falls) has been suspended for non-attendance; Chapter 618 (Sheboygan) will be disbanding; Chapters 115, 331 and 529 haven't submitted their election and financial reports to the State (they have been submitted to National).

Treasurer's Report (Pat Furno for Pat Craney):

- An error in the amount for the membership allocation was found and corrected.
- Rebates to the Chapters should continue when only life membership is available.

At Large Report (Greg Foye):

- Greg is back on the Highground Board of Directors. He discussed efforts at The Highground to establish an endowment fund.

National VVA At-Large Report (John Margowski):

John discussed several items.

- John requested everyone contact Wisconsin's Senators by e-mail (there have been technical issues and voicemails weren't working) and urge them to bring HR299 (the Blue Water Navy bill) out of Committee and to the floor. We also need to them to contact other Senators to support this move. Talking points can include that the House unanimously passed HR299. **It is critical we continue doing this until the bill is moved out of Committee.**
- There is a great deal of information at "agentorangezone.blogspot.com/" that can be used for town hall meetings as well as links to numerous websites with additional helpful information on Agent Orange.
- Panel I has received very few comments on a National level. John reminded everyone that the panels are just giving suggestions for establishing a strategic plan (including timelines, where appropriate). Panel I is ready to form their document and will meet again in January and April; they will present their information to the Board of Directors in April.
- John presented the VVA State Council President's Award to Richard Lindbeck.

Committee Reports:

Constitution Committee (Jim Mullarkey):

- The due date for submitting changes to the National Constitution for consideration at the National Convention in Spokane is 3/17/19. If you would like help with your revisions, bring them to the March 2019 quarterly meeting.

Scholarship (Virginia Nuske):

- Ginny had to leave early due to the weather so Joy Foye gave her report.
- The deadline for scholarship submissions is 2/18/19 (applications can be found at vvawi.org).
- If you have questions, please contact Ginny at 715-524-2487.

Old Business

None

New Business

- The suggestion was made to reduce the length of the meeting minutes by only listing the agenda items; meeting details would be posted on vvawi.org. It was also suggested that all presentations that will be given at the meeting be listed on the agenda.
- Support of the Junior ROTC program in Delavan (Northwest Military Academy) was discussed. A medal has been designed to present to outstanding ROTC participants in recognition of their achievement(s); the cost of the medal is minimal. A motion to postpone a decision to award the medal until the March 2019 meeting was passed.

- A Veterans Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS) Chair is needed at Zablocki (unsure if there would be one at Tomah or Madison). The Chair functions as a contact person and needs to be a VVA member who volunteers at the facility. A motion to postpone this item until the March 2019 meeting was passed.

Upcoming Events:

March 16, 2019:

- Wisconsin State Council quarterly meeting; Ramada Inn, Waupaca

June 15, 2019:

- Wisconsin State Council quarterly meeting and annual picnic, The Highground, Neillsville

September 21, 2019:

- Wisconsin State Council quarterly meeting; Ramada Inn, Waupaca

December 6-7, 2019:

- Wisconsin State Council quarterly holiday party (12/6) and meeting (12/7); Ramada Inn, Waupaca

May I send you this newsletter by e-mail? If so, please contact me at 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 please leave your phone number so I can contact you). If you have any suggestions on what (or how much) information to include in the newsletter, please let me know. Thank you!



Joy L. Foye
Wisconsin AVVA At-Large Representative