



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Wisconsin State Council**

Minutes

VVA WSC Fourth Quarter Minutes

**Par 4 Resort Comfort Suites
Waupaca, WI**

December 2, 2024

Reminder: Beginning in 2025, the VVA WSC will hold two meetings annually – March and September. The meetings for 2025 will be March 15 and September 13, respectively. If the VVA WSC Executive Board determines a Special Meeting, per the Constitution, VVA Chapter Officers and elected delegates will be informed promptly.

9:00 am Time designated for committees was available.

The AVVA Meeting was held at this time.

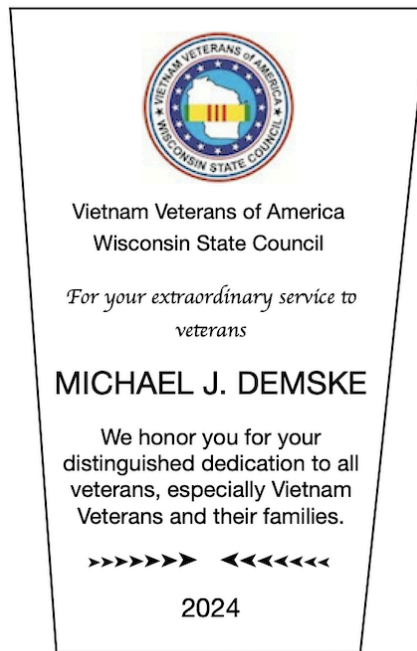
10:00 am President Banner called the WSC meeting to order at 10:09 am. He led the VVA and AVVA WSC members in the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

President Banner directed the Secretary to call the roll. Secretary Mullarkey began the roll (VVA-AVVA): 0005(2-1), 0101(1-0), 0206(1-1), 0224 (1-0), 0236(1-0), 0351(2-2), 0425(2-0), 0437(4-4), 0448(3-0), 0635(1-2), 0731(1-0), 1130(3-0), At-Large(1-1). The Secretary called a quorum.

John Margowski (0425) moved to make President Michael (Mike) Demske an Honorary Member of the Wisconsin State Council (WSC) since Mike no longer resides in Wisconsin but in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; the motion was seconded by Duane Canon (0437) and carried without objection forward to Awards Committee for Certificate).

Several people spoke about Mike's influence on them and the WSC. Richard Lindbeck spoke about Mike being a great mentor to him, personally and professionally, and the many positions he held on the WSC President (twice), Vice-President, Secretary, and Chair of the Orange / Toxic Exposure Committee. Mike also served as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director on his VVA Chapters Board of Directors. John Margowski spoke about Mike's long-time affiliation and dedication to his VVA Chapter, community, and veterans, regardless of when or where they served. And Mike has always maintained his connection with his fellow Swift Boat veterans.

Mike was awarded for his dedication and service to the WSC and received a standing ovation from the VVA and AVVA WSC delegates, family, and friends.



A motion was made by Mike Korger (0005) to accept the September 2024 Minutes as presented, which was followed by a second from Greg Bloch (0635) and passed unanimously. Please refer to the WSC Website for the Approved Minutes (vvawi.org)

President's Report – Thomas “Tom” Banner

President Banner did not have a separate or written report.

Vice-President – Frank Mueller

No Report

Treasurer's Report – Patrick “Pat” Craney, presented by Pat Furno

Treasurer Craney had an excused absence; Pat Furno gave the report and answered questions regarding the report.

Secretary's Report – James “Jim” Mullarkey

The WSC received a gracious letter from President Sam Brick of VVA South Carolina State Council regarding the donation we forwarded following Hurricane Helene. The letter will be posted on the first page of the WSC website; however, an excerpt is quite poignant.

“This storm demonstrated that the Vietnam Vets really are family. You helped brother and sister members of the VVA and two recent AVVA widows who lost electricity for over a week in the Greenville area. On behalf of our Upstate South Carolina chapters who bore the brunt of Helene, thank you for your help and that you cared enough to get us through some very difficult times. You reinforced what the VVA can be for a bunch of old folks who realize they were part of a family that was there for them in a tough time.”

This is a [VVA Convention](#) year; as such, please get your Election and Financial Reports into VVA National, hopefully online. Please note: If you submitted your Election Report in 2024 for two years, you must submit again in 2025 to VVA

National Membership electronically or by USPS mail and a copy to the WSC Secretary – the address is on the VVAWI website and below. Please note that this is a Constitutional requirement. Finally, even if no one from your VVA Chapter is planning on attending the Convention, this should be done because it affords the WSC a better delegate count and, if necessary, the opportunity to allow other members to attend as delegates.

If you have any questions regarding the second-year report of a two-year election or the assigning of your VVA Chapter's delegates to the WSC, please discuss with your Chapter's officers and bring the question up at the next WSC Delegate Meeting on March 15, 2025, in Waupaca. If none of those options are available to you, please contact either the WSC Secretary, the WSC Executive Director, or the WSC President.

Secretary Mullarkey asked if anyone was having problems with the vvawi.org website; no one expressed any. Please send any suggestions or changes (e.g., additions, deletions, new pages, etc.) for the WSC website a) by using the chatbot box - located in the lower right corner of the screen – or email Jim at jmullarkey@mac.com.

On the WSC website there is a page titled "In Memoriam." On this page the Secretary gathers as much information on the passing of a VVA member and writes a brief VVA focused obituary. To do this I need to be informed of the death, chapter details, etc.

VVA Region 6 Director – John Margowski

John is trying to schedule a Region 6 meeting in May or June of 2025. One of the objectives would be to discuss national constitutional and by-law changes. You can stay informed of what is happening on a national level by reading "The Veteran".

Every Chapter should make sure they know who their registered agent is (it can be found on your original charter) [or by calling up your VVA Chapter on the Wisconsin Department of Finance's website]. John requested that each Chapter look up their registered agent and bring that information to the March 2025 meeting. If the original registered agent has passed away, the Chapter needs to update the information; please let the WSC know if the information has changed.

If a Chapter decides to "close", there is a specific process that must be followed, including forms that must be completed; they can be found at vva.org or vvawi.org. Sending Secretary Mullarkey an e-mail saying the Chapter has closed (or surrendered its charter) does not fulfill the National requirements for closure. [Nor just saying you are closed does not satisfy the Wisconsin Department of Finance or the Internal Revenue (IRS).]

VVA At-Large Director – Richard Lindbeck

From submitted Report

I attended the National Board Meeting and the CSCP Meeting in Silver Spring, MD in October. At the CSCP meeting we were given a presentation on the current list of Chapters that were suspended for not sending in their finance and election reports on time. Some had not submitted them for over two or more years. As a result, those Chapters will be revoked and their Charters pulled. This was the result of an audit of all chapters by the **National Officers**.

At the BOD Meeting this same information was presented and the BOD voted to revoke those delinquent chapters. It was also reported that all finance

and election reports must be in by the July 15 deadline. If the reports are not submitted by July 15 those state councils and chapters will not be able to bring them to the convention and will not be **seated as delegates**.

President McManus reported that at the January 2025 BOD meeting there **will be** a report on how the State Councils and Chapters can continue once the VVA Corporation shuts down. There will be more information coming in January 2025.

The National Convention will be in New Orleans August 5-9, 2025. This convention could be where the membership decides on the future of VVA. I suggest that if you are planning on attending make sure your Finance and Election Reports are submitted on time. The fiscal year ends February 28, 2025 and the reports must be in by July 15, 2025. This means even if you are on a two year cycle you are required to report to National each years

In November I traveled to Silver Spring, MD for a meeting with the Membership Department to finalize the National Convention Registration Forms. One thing you need to make sure is that this form is for DELEGATE REGISTRATION. If you are not going as a Delegate you do not need to pay the registration fee. If you are going to any of the luncheons, breakfasts, entertainment, or banquets you need to pay for those. **MAKE SURE YOU READ THE REGISTRATION FORM: IT IS FOR DELEGATE REGISTRATION.**

I will be receiving the delegate counts sometime in January for the State Council and Chapters. This information will be sent to Jim to put on the web site so each chapter will **know the strength of the delegates permitted**.

From Discussion

There is currently less than \$900K in the National "rebate fund"; if more funds can't be found in the National budget, the funds will go away.

There is a new form for National Convention registration. The form is labelled as "for delegate use only"; if you are attending as a member only (not as a delegate), do NOT use this form. A copy of the form will be in the January 2025 issue of "The Veteran". If your Chapter completes a delegate release form, those Chapter delegates are assigned to the WSC so you will NOT put a name in for the delegate. The delegate release form must be signed by the four VVA Chapter officers.

If you will be part of a "table" at the banquet, do NOT complete a banquet form.

WSC Regional Directors:

Region 1 – Thomas Banner – no report

Region 2 – Mike Johnson – no report

Region 3 – Dan Sciuti – no report\

Region 4 – Greg Foye reported he attended Bob Morzenti's memorial service (in Ironwood, MI) as the WSC Region 4 Director.

At Large – no report

President Banner reminded WSC Regional Directors and VVA Chapter representatives that they need to submit a report so he can submit his report to National on the activities occurring in Wisconsin. Information can be sent to President Banner or Secretary Mullarkey. Recent germane pictures of VVA

Chapter activities would be greatly appreciated so they can be [added to the WSC website] forwarded to National and can be included in ***The Veteran***.

AVVA Report – Pat Furno

The AVVA meeting held prior to the regular WSC meeting discussed the 2025 AVVA National Convention in New Orleans. Suggested changes to the by-laws were discussed and are due the first week in April. Final suggestions will be discussed at the AVVA meeting at the March WSC meeting. Changes regarding allowing absentee voting and releasing delegate votes are potential areas for changes.

Pat will explore having an old AVVA button reproduced; it would read: “**The Legacy Lives Through Us AVVA**” (or something similar). She will discuss it with the WSC merchandise committee chair.

There are currently 384 AVVA members, including those in individual VVA Chapters and At Large.

POW-MIA Report – Duane Canon

Based on time constraints, Duane gave an abbreviated report.

Scholarship Report – Virginia Nuske

Virginia is waiting for grade reports to make scholarship payments.

Chapter Reports:

Chapter reports were given by Chapters 5, 101, 130, 224, 351, 448, 635, and 767; written reports were also submitted to the Secretary.

Unfinished Business:

Attendees were reminded meeting dates for 2025 are: 3/15/25 and 9/13/25. Rooms will be available for Friday night at a special rate.

There were technical issues with the virtual meeting format so we'll try again at the March meeting.

New Motions:

John Margowski (0425) made a motion to have a June picnic; there would be no formal WSC meeting in conjunction with the picnic. A decision will need to be made regarding when/where to have the meeting (The Highground was one suggestion). The motion was second by Duane Canon (0437). The motion passed unanimously. John Margowski will chair a group to do the necessary research and present their suggestions at the March meeting.

Secretary Mullarkey read a letter from Sam Brick thanking the WSC for the \$3,000 donation to South Carolina for Hurricane Helene.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Mullarkey

James E. Mullarkey
VVA WSC Secretary

Joy L. Foye

Joy L. Foye
AVVA At Large/VVA WSC Associate Secretary