



**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Wisconsin State Council**

Approved Minutes  
VVA WSC First Semiannual Minutes  
Waupaca, WI  
March 15, 2025

**VVA WSC Delegates Meeting**

The VVA-WSC Delegate meeting was called to order at 9:52 AM by President Thomas Banner. The meeting commenced with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence to honor our missing in action (MIAs) and the men and women currently serving on active duty. Duane Canon (437), the VVA-WSC Chaplain, delivered the invocation.

During the role call, delegates from the following VVA Chapters were present: 101, 206, 224, 236, 256, 324, 351, 409, 425, 437, 448, 635, 729, 731, 767, 921, 1130, and At-Large. Additionally, AVVA representation included Chapters 5, 206, 351, 437, 635, and At-Large. A quorum was confirmed.

Duane Canon was appointed Parliamentarian, and Greg Foye (At-Large/Region 4 Director) took the role of Timekeeper.

The agenda was amended to remove the June 2025 picnic and move the AVVA Report from WSC Committee Reports to a separate item. Motion by G. Foye; second by Kahn (409); motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes of the December 2, 2024, meeting were amended as follows – Page 3, VVA Region 6 Director's report (paragraph 1, regarding a Region 6 meeting): "One of the objectives would be to discuss proposed national ~~constitution~~ constitutional ~~by-laws~~ resolution changes". Motion by G. Foye; second by Kahn (409) to accept as amended; motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report – Thomas Banner**

President Banner (767) did not present a separate report. He emphasized that this is our first year holding semi-annual meetings instead of quarterly ones, with this being the first, and the next meeting scheduled for September 13, 2025.

### **Vice President's Report – Frank Mueller**

Vice President Mueller (448) did not present a report.

### **Treasurer's Report – Patrick Craney**

Treasurer Craney reported that, due to the disbursement of three scholarships and expenses related to meetings, the WSC incurred more expenses than income in the last quarter. Nevertheless, the organization remains financially solvent.

### **Secretary's Report – James Mullarkey**

Secretary Mullarkey reminded everyone that rooms are available for reservation for Friday, September 12, 2025, and Saturday, September 13, 2025. We are planning on a dinner and White Elephant gift exchange for Friday evening.

Mullarkey discussed the importance of submitting death notices, obituaries, and the VVA/AVVA Deceased Member Notification form, which is available on the VVA website. Providing this information enables the Secretary to prepare a tribute for the "In Memoriam" section of the WSC website (vvawi.org). The National VVA form includes key details such as the veteran's name, date of birth, service dates, and date of death. Once submitted to VVA National, the information is shared with Membership and forwarded for inclusion in the next issue of *The Veteran*.

Current Election and Financial Reports must be submitted to VVA National no later than **July 15**. Be sure to send a copy to both National and Jim, as he does **not** receive confirmation from National when reports are submitted. Additionally, Jim requires a copy of the verification notice that National sends to the Chapter to update his records.

**Important:** No Chapter delegate will be allowed on the Convention floor if these reports are not received by National by the July 15 deadline.

Reports must be submitted **annually**, even if you are in the second year of a two-year term. Please indicate this on the form where applicable.

When submitting:

- Send **only pages 1 and 2** to National.
- Send **all 3 pages** to Jim. (*Page 3 lists the delegates and alternates and is used exclusively at the State level.*)

There was a discussion about the National membership "rebate". As of 2025, physical checks are no longer being issued. **Chapters must complete a form for direct deposit of the rebate.** [See Richard Lindbeck's VVA At Large Director Report, below.] The Secretary will send an email to all VVA Chapter Presidents on the process they have established.

Chapter dissolution information can be found on the VVA website (vva.org) and the WSC website (vvawi.org).

### **VVA Region 6 Director Report – John Margowski**

Director Margowski advised all members to review the proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions before attending the National Convention.

John has asked the VVA Region 6 State Council Presidents to meet with him after the next National Board meeting in April. He is also working on scheduling a Region 6 meeting for mid-June or early July and has asked Janesville to consider hosting. The tentative plan includes arriving on a Friday afternoon or evening, having a brief meeting on Saturday, and leaving right afterward. A question was raised about the possibility of holding the meeting virtually. John will contact the Regional State Council Presidents to see if they are open to that option.

### **VVA At Large Director Report – Richard Lindbeck**

At-Large Director Lindbeck attended the Council of State Council Presidents meeting, where Legacy Chair Jack Devine reported that the National Archives may accept materials from Chapters upon VVA's dissolution. The Library of Congress may also be a potential repository for some of these materials.

Richard also reported that, during a recent National Board meeting, members were informed that the National budget is now considered "balanced." Although the initial budget proposal was vetoed, the National Treasurer reminded the Board that, without an approved budget, reimbursements—including travel—could not be processed. A second vote was held, and the budget was ultimately approved.

Additionally, the current "rebate" program is being discontinued. The \$7 per member allocation will instead be included as a designated line item in the budget. Chapters must have all required paperwork — specifically, election and financial reports — submitted and up to date to receive any funding.

It has been proposed that VVA National eliminate At Large Directors (in 2027), then Regional Directors as part of "transitioning" to dissolution. Depending on how the proposal is worded, the elimination of At Large Directors could take effect in 2025.

Richard will run for National Large Director, and John Margowski will run for National Region 6 Director again this time.

The last in-person National Convention may be in 2027 (possibly in Washington, D.C.); 2029 may be virtual if substantial logistical issues can be overcome.

The National corporation is being shut down, **not** State/local Chapters.

Information is available in the back of today's meeting room to help those in California who were affected by the wildfires, mudslides, etc.

VVA currently has 92,505 members.

## **VVA-WSC Region Director and At Large Reports**

Region 1 – Thomas Banner

No Report

Region 2 – Mike Johnson

No Report

Region 3 – Dan Sciuiti

Excused

Region 4 – Greg Foye

No Report

At Large – Greg Foye

No Report

## **AVVA Report – Pat Furno**

AVVA held a meeting prior to this one to discuss preparations for the upcoming National Convention. Wisconsin plans to propose three by-law amendments:

1. Granting dual members the right to vote—as an initial step toward broader inclusion.
2. Changing delegate authorization from a "chapter-based" system to a "state-based" one.
3. Replacing the term "absentee ballots" (which currently refers to use in federal, state, and local elections only) with "proxy votes," allowing an elected delegate to designate another individual to vote on their behalf.

## **Committee Assignments – President Banner**

President Banner has reviewed Committee assignments. While they are currently in flux, he provided the following update on them.

- **Awards** – Duane Canon will serve on the Committee, but a Chairperson is needed.
- **Constitution** – Jim Mullarkey will serve as Chairperson.
- **Council of Veterans Programs** – Tom Banner will serve as Chairperson.
- **Legislative and Government Affairs** – Currently no Chairperson or members. There is an unconfirmed report that a ranking member of the Wisconsin State Legislature told a VFW State Representative that “**veterans don’t matter**”.
- **Membership** – Tom Banner will serve as chairperson for now; Jamil Kahn will serve on the Committee. Membership rosters are now only available online.
- **Minority Affairs** is being suspended for now, as it is considered a DEI initiative.
- **POW-MIA** – Duane Canon will continue to serve as Chairperson; he has said no additional members are currently needed. Duane will send information to the VVA-WSC Secretary to include on our WSC website, [vvawi.org](http://vvawi.org)
- **Public Affairs** – Jim Mullarkey will serve as Chairperson.

- **Scholarship** – Virginia Nuske will continue to serve as Chairperson; members of her chapter will continue to complete the remainder of the committee.
- **Toxic Exposure** – Jamil Kahn will serve as Chairperson, Pat Furno (AVVA) will serve as a special advisor; information will be shared on the WSC website, [vvawi.org](http://vvawi.org)
- **Women Veterans** – Still seeking a Chairperson.

### **POW-MIA Report – Duane Canon**

Duane provided a detailed report on the status of recovered POW-MIA remains.

### **Council of Veterans Programs Report – Tom Banner**

Tom attended a meeting on Thursday, March 13; their next meeting is on June 19 in Chippewa Falls.

The Representative from the Wisconsin Senate has submitted a bill to include Hmong veterans in state veterans programs; the bill is currently out of committee.

Veterans Day at the Capitol will be held on Tuesday, April 22; the theme is the anniversary of the service branches. There will be a march from Monona Terrace to the Capitol Rotunda, followed by a rally and meetings with state legislators (it's best to contact the legislator's office before then to schedule an appointment with them). President Banner will work on getting details (registration may be required) and distribute them to the membership.

The annual Armed Forces Day Open House at Fort McCoy will be on Saturday, May 17, this year, and will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Army.

### **Scholarship Report – Virginia**

Virginia chairs the Scholarship Committee, which is composed of two veterans and one AVVA member from her Chapter. Scholarships for the 2025–2026 academic year will once again be awarded \$1,500.

This year, Virginia received a total of 10 scholarship applications. Two were disqualified for non-compliance, while seven of the remaining applicants were descendants, either grandchildren or great-grandchildren, of Vietnam Veterans.

Virginia requested veteran volunteers to help present the awards and successfully secured all necessary commitments. She will mail each volunteer the materials needed to carry out the presentations.

### **Chapter Reports**

All reports were submitted to the e WSC Secretary and are available on the WSC website. Chapter reports can be emailed to WSC Secretary ([jmullarkey@mac.com](mailto:jmullarkey@mac.com)) in advance of the WSC Meeting – please use Word or send as PDF. Reports can be provided at the WSC Meeting, but please have them typed or printed (Word or other word processor or PDF).

### **Open to the floor:**

Saturday, March 29, is National Vietnam Veterans Day.

If Chapters send calendar events to Secretary Mullarkey, he can put them on the WSC Google Calendar.

A question was asked about how a Chapter can reduce its website cost. Secretary Mullarkey suggested using the GoDaddy website builder; it was suggested that he meet with the specific Chapter after the meeting to discuss this further.

### **Unfinished Business**

The suggested revision of the by-laws to require 50% attendance at meetings (i.e., one per year) was presented to the group. Tom Hoffman (731) made a motion; John Brandenburg (256) seconded; passed unanimously.

A report on a June 2025 picnic was provided. All City and County parks in the Waupaca area were booked for this year. It was suggested that the picnic be planned for June 2026 (at the same time as the elections). The motion passed unanimously.

### **New Motions**

Since there will not be a June picnic or a December holiday party, it was suggested that the State Council replace them with a social event on Friday, September 12, 2025 (the evening before the September 13 meeting). Jim Mullarkey made the motion; seconded by Duane Canon (0437); the motion passed unanimously.

The Wisconsin State Council has been invited to place a wreath at The Wall in Washington, D.C., on April 24, 2025, for the End of the Vietnam War Celebration. The State Council will pay for the wreath; the wreath will be purchased and provided by VVA National. Foye (At Large) made the motion; seconded by Mike Johnson (0236); passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*James E. Mullarkey*

James E. Mullarkey  
VVA WSC Secretary

*Joy L. Foye*

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

