



**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Wisconsin State Council  
Saturday, March 13, 2025**

**VVA WSC Meeting Minutes**

President Thomas Banner called the WSC Meeting to order at 10:00 am. Banner led the VVA and AVVA WSC members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer by Duane Canon, VVA WSC Chaplain, prayer and a moment of silence for our active service members, VVA members who have passed, and our POWs and MIAs.

Banner directed the Secretary James Mullarkey to take the roll. Those VVA Chapters in attendance included: 5, 101, 115, 206, 351, 409, 425, 440, 479, 635, 729, 1130, and At-Large. The Secretary called a quorum.

The minutes of the March 15, 2025, meeting were amended as follows: Page 5, the date for National Vietnam Veterans Day was corrected from Saturday to Sunday, March 29. Motion by Zimmerman (351), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gross (409); passed unanimously.

**President's Report – Thomas Banner**

- President Banner briefly shared VVA dissolution information from the VVA National Convention. The resolution proposed by the VVA Board of Directors (in April, 2025) was discussed at the Convention but did not pass. The issue of dissolution has been delayed once again; any final date is now “to be determined.”
- More communication among the National, the State Councils, and VVA Chapters is needed. The National Board of Directors is not sharing information promptly, if at all, resulting in members feeling that they are being “kept in the dark”.

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

- No Report

**Treasurer's Report – Pat Craney**

- Secretary Craney had an excused absence; copies of the report were distributed. There were no questions; the report was approved as submitted.



*“Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”*



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

- Secretary Mullarkey discussed the annual dinner last night. He sent out a total of 6,000 emails, all of which he confirmed were opened, notifying people about the dinner. The special speaker and the white elephant gift exchange. Unfortunately, only 18 people attended. The speaker was Tammy Servatius, the Commandant at King. She was very dynamic and delivered a wonderful presentation on the facility, including the services King offers (for veterans and their spouses), facility updates, challenges, and entertaining stories about the residents (no resident names were used). The Commandant also provided handouts about King, and extra copies are available at the back of the meeting room.
- Commandant Servatius suggested that they have other King staff members who could attend our meeting(s) and do presentations; they could potentially also help people physically sign up with the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs at the meeting.
- The website (vvawi.org) has seen a 48% increase in activity; Jim isn't able to track where on the website people go (which tab/page, etc.). Jim encouraged everyone to submit any suggestions they have for site improvement.

## **Wisconsin Regional Directors' Reports:**

- Region 1 – Jamil Khan for Tom Banner  
No change from our last meeting.
- Region 2 – Mike Johnson, absent
- Region 3 – Dan Sciuti: Sent out e-mails to Regional VVA Chapters about the dinner and the Saturday WSC Meeting, but received no response.
- Region 4 – Greg Foye: Sent out e-mails to Regional VVA Chapters about the dinner and the Saturday WSC Meeting, but received no response.
- At-Large – Greg Foye: no report

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

- Director Margowski talked about constitutional amendments and resolutions voted on at the National Convention (John did not detail each amendment, but I am providing them as a reminder).

[Amendments: #1 (dissolution in 2027) was rejected; #2 (defines the quorum for the Board of directors) was adopted; #3 (changing number of National Board and Conference of state council president's meetings to 3 per year) was adopted; #4 (to change the minimum number of members from 25 to 15 to form a Chapter or for the Chapter to have a vote at the National Convention) was withdrawn; and #5 (to eliminate the Economic Opportunities Committee since that objective has been completed by state and federal agencies) was adopted. All resolutions were passed as provided.]



- John also discussed several other items from the Convention. The total number of attendees was 752, with 53 from VVA Region 6, including 10 from Wisconsin. The next Convention is scheduled for 2027 in Washington, D.C. (where VVA started).
- No dissolution information has been provided to State Councils or the general membership for 2 years.
- All Convention presentations are available on the VVA Facebook page; it is anticipated that the presentations will eventually be available on YouTube.
- The homeless shelters in Green Bay and Chippewa Falls have been shut down.

### **AVVA Report – Pat Furno**

- Pat reminded the Secretary that AVVA should be listed on the agenda as a stand-alone item, not as a committee.
- Pat shared information from the AVVA National Convention. None of the by-law changes proposed by Wisconsin were passed (including proxy voting and Chapter voting by VVA dual members). When the AVVA President was asked about VVA's dissolution (and how it affects AVVA), she responded that although she had attended 6 of the meetings as an advisor, she didn't have anything to report.
- Pat reminded everyone that AVVA Chapter representative elections must be held in 2026 for Chapters to have a vote at the 2027 National Convention.

### **Committee Assignments and Appointments– Tom Banner**

President Banner asked the membership to discuss our present committees to determine if some should be eliminated, and for Committee chairs to give their reports.

- Awards – Jon Rybar is now the Chair.
- Chaplain – Duane Canon (Appointment)
- Constitution – Jim Mullarkey is the Chair. The Committee met today prior to this meeting to discuss the future of the Wisconsin State Council and Wisconsin Chapters. This is still in the planning stages; the Committee determined it would be beneficial to have a corporate attorney knowledgeable in VSOs and specializes in non-profits and not-for-profits in Wisconsin, to educate the committee in a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(19) to determine the best choice for our organization. Finding an attorney to provide that information on a pro-bono basis would be ideal.
- Council of Veterans Programs – Tom Banner is the Chair.
- ~~Convention Planning~~ – eliminated since we no longer hold state conventions.
- Council on Veterans Affairs – Tom Banner is the Chair.



- Educate veterans on topics that will benefit veterans and their families, especially Vietnam veterans.
- Finance – Pat Craney is the chair.
- ~~Health Care~~ – eliminated.
- Highground – currently no Chair.
- National Home – eliminated
- ~~Incarcerated Veterans~~ – eliminated; we no longer have the ability to establish chapters in the prison system.
- Legislative and Government Affairs – No Chair or members.
- Membership – Jamil Khan is the Chair; he reported that Region 6 is #3 in national recruitment.
- Minority Affairs/Native Americans – No Chair.
- ~~Newsletter~~/Website – Renamed to Website; Jim Mullarkey is Chair.
- POW-MIA – Duane Canon will continue to serve as Chair; he gave a shortened report, including that 7 Vietnam veterans have been identified this year.
- PTSD, Substance Abuse, and Suicide Prevention – Jamil is Chair.
- Public Affairs – Jim Mullarkey is Chair.
- Scholarship – Virginia Nuske will continue to serve as Chair. There were 3 awards processed for fall at \$1,500 each. Information for the 2026-2027 school year is available on the website. The application deadline is mid-February. Virginia read a thank you card for the scholarship award John Margowski presented; the other 2 scholarship recipients also sent thank you letters.
- Sargeant-At-Arms – no Appointment
- ~~Service~~ – eliminated.
- Special Advisor to Finance – Pat Furno.
- Toxic Exposure – Jamil Khan is Chair, Pat Furno (AVVA) is a special advisor.
- Women Veterans – Still trying to confirm a Chair

Next Council Meeting (WSC) Saturday, September 12, with dinner on Friday, 9/11, to include the annual gift exchange. Motion by Mueller (448); seconded by Margowski (425) to accept dates as presented; motion passed.

Members to serve on the WSC Election Committee were requested; committee members CANNOT run for office. Sciuti (437) and Mueller (448) volunteered.

#### **Old Business:**

- None

#### **Chapter Reports:**

- Chapter 5 gave a verbal report; a written report will be submitted as well.

#### **Open to the Floor:**

- The 2026 meeting calendar was discussed; meeting dates are:  
Saturday, March 14  
Saturday, June 13: discussion regarding why a meeting was scheduled (the state constitution requires the meeting in election years). The date was debated due to



*"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."*



Flag Day celebrations; a motion was made by Mullarkey (425) to change the date to 6/20, seconded by Kahn (409); the motion was withdrawn after further discussion. Including a picnic (catered by an outside vendor) the June meeting was discussed; motion by Mullarkey (425), seconded by Graff (5), motion passed.

### **New Business:**

- Tom Banner provided a handout from the UXO (unexploded ordinance) organization. The cost of clearing a football field-sized area is \$50,000. A motion was made to donate \$ ; motion by \_\_\_\_; second by Khan (9); p21assed.
- Bob Schara (1130) shared that a Marine attending the University of Minnesota-Duluth committed suicide. The family received a \$3,500 bill from the school for cleanup expenses; it is uncertain whether the family is legally responsible for payment. Bob will contact Secretary Mullarkey when that part of the issue is settled. A motion was made by Margowski (425), seconded by Graff (5), to donate \$500 contingent on the family being held responsible for the clean-up costs.
- Secretary Mullarkey received a letter from the Recovery and Identification Project at UW-Madison. They have lost all the funding to continue their research on recovering the remains of the 1,500 Wisconsin MIA's for all conflicts. The organization is having a fundraiser at VFW 7891 in Madison on 9/19 from 6:00-9:00 PM, which includes a meal and a bottle of specialty bourbon(?) for \$100 or a bottle and 2 meals at \$150.
- Duane Canon (437) needs a new contact for orange blossoms since their supplier is no longer making them.
- A new style of "white elephant" was discussed for the September dinner. An idea was presented to change the gift exchange to a Halloween- or fall-themed one and call it "**Vet-o-ween**".

### **Benefit of the Order**

- A member suggested a tab be set up on vvawi.org for "sick call" so members can be alerted to illnesses, etc.

### **Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn by Canon (437); second by Lindbeck (448); motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*James E. Mullarkey*

James E. Mullarkey  
Secretary  
VVA WSC (VVA Chapter 448)

*Joy L. Foye*

Joy L. Foye  
Associate Secretary  
WSC AVVA At Large

JEM/JLF VVAWSC091325 Minutes



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