



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Wisconsin State Council**

Approved Minutes
VVA WSC First Semiannual Minutes
Waupaca, WI
March 28, 2026

Meeting was called to order on March 28, 2026, at 10:00 AM

Pledge of allegiance.

Roll call; there was a quorum.

President Banner and Vice President Mueller were absent; former President Lindbeck conducted the meeting.

Opening remarks by Mr. Lindbeck provided information on several members.

- Tom Heitman passed away; services will be held on April 18, 2026, in West Bend. Additional information can be found under the “In Memoriam” section on the WSC website, vvawi.org.
- Vice President Frank Mueller suffered second- and third-degree burns in an accident at his home. Frank was in a medically induced coma, is still in the burn unit, and faces a lengthy recovery. A card was passed around for attendees to sign. If you, or your Chapter, would like to send Frank a card, the address is: Mr. Frank Mueller, N963 State Highway 28, Adell, WI. 53001-1347.
- Treasurer Pat Craney has also recently experienced a health issue.

Motion by Mullarkey to amend agenda to add the Election Committee to the agenda under New Business. Motion by Kahn (#921); seconded by Margowski (#425) to accept agenda as amended; passed unanimously.

The minutes of the September 13, 2026 meeting were amended to correct the spelling of Jamil Khan's last name. Motion by Margowski (#425); seconded by Khan (#921); passed unanimously.

President's Report – Tom Banner

- Excused absence; no report.

Vice President's Report – Frank Mueller

- Excused absence; no report.

Treasurer's Report – Pat Craney

- Excused absence; no report.

Secretary's Report – James Mullarkey

- Secretary Mullarkey advised that an update has been made to several pages on vvawi.org. He is also working on changes to the website directory: a sick call page will be added; artificial intelligence (AI) for searches on the website may be added; and a “pop-up” (requesting the user's name and e-mail address) may be added that will appear when accessing the website. Send Jim a separate e-mail if you have other suggestions.

Region 6 Director – John Margowski

- Director Margowski encouraged everyone to read the March/April 2026 issue of The Veteran, particularly President Burke's message regarding “Mission 75”. President Burke has proposed VVA not dissolve; instead, he recommends the constitution be amended to allow veterans who served after 1975 to join the organization. President Burke is confident other veterans are eager to join VVA; some National Board members are skeptical of that viewpoint. Stafford (#729) asked if Mission 75 would do away with AVVA; John responded it wouldn't necessarily since AVVA continues to be an important part of VVA.
- At the January 2026 National Board of Directors meeting, motions were passed that VVA Inc. consolidate with AVVA, Inc. The VVA President will appoint a chair of a 5 board member committee; the chair will then appoint 4 additional VVA board members; the committee will work with a 5-member AVVA Inc. Board committee. Other proposals included a new corporation comprised of veterans and non-veterans be established; 7 potential proposals regarding options were discussed. Cancelling the 2026 Leadership Conference was also discussed.
- John read a 6/17/2002 VVA declaration regarding VVA's charter in the State of New York (the Wisconsin State Council was chartered in 1982). A question of why the State of New York is so important to VVA was asked. The reason is since New York is where VVA National is chartered, National must follow New York incorporation laws. As a result, National must submit any dissolution paperwork to the State of New York. If New York does not accept the paperwork, **all** VVA assets are “lost”. John shared there was a plan to discuss potential dissolution with New York; nothing has been followed through with yet. New York has no control over Wisconsin Chapter assets; Chapter assets belong to the Chapter.
- National has only about 18 months of financial reserves; funding for the organization is below 40%.
- John was tasked with finding a location for the June election meeting and picnic. Based on a poor response, the picnic has been cancelled.

Regional Director Reports:

- Region 1 – Jamil Khan; discussed VVA membership increases
- Region 2 – Mike Johnson, no report
- Region 3 – Dan Sciuti; no report
- Region 4 – Greg Foye; he will be stepping down as Region 4 representative when elections occur in June
- At Large – Greg Foye; no report

Chapter Reports:

- Donald Gross, Chapter 409, gave a verbal report. A permanent wall in Jefferson County will be dedicated on Memorial Day.

State Council elections will be held on June 13, 2026; all positions are open.

- If you are interested in one of the positions, a letter of intent, biography, and DD-214 must be submitted to the election committee. Jamal Khan (#921) and Richard Lindbeck (#448) have expressed interest in running for Vice President.

Old Business:

- Jim Mullarkey (#425) talked about the dinner at the September 2025 meeting (which replaced the December meeting). Originally, 50 people signed up for the dinner but only half of them attended. Jim requested feedback on having a September social this year. Jamil Khan (#921) recommended members talk to their Chapter members; we will discuss this again at the June meeting.
- March 29 is the end of the Vietnam War; some Chapters are having celebrations today (including Chapter 5) and did not attend this meeting.
- There is no burn pit coverage for Vietnam Veterans since no chemicals, only human excrement, were burned.
- There will be a memorial service for Tom Heitman on Saturday, April 18, 2026 in West Bend. The visitation will be from 1:00 – 1:45 PM; the memorial service will begin at 2:00 PM and military honors will be performed at 2:30 PM.

New Business:

- The Constitution Committee will meet in September to discuss by-law revisions. The by-laws need to change to reflect a change in state Regional boundaries, which could change the region a Chapter belongs to. The goal of the boundary change is to make sure a single Chapter/Region doesn't have an outsize influence in the Region/State due to their membership size. The State by-laws also need to reflect changes in the National by-laws.
- The pros and cons of the State Council being a 501(c)(3), 501(c)4, and 501(c)(19) were discussed.
- A metal sign (2-1/2' X 3') with the veteran's name, unit and when/where they served was shown; the estimated cost would be \$125-\$150.
- Election Committee: send a letter of interest to Dan Sciuti (scouterdan1@att.net) or Greg Foye (gsfoye6872@gmail.com) by June 5, 2026. Include your name, the office you are interested in running for, why you are running, your e-mail, your phone number, and a copy of your DD-214.
- Jamil Khan (#931) shared there will be a gathering at Mission Barbeque tomorrow.
- Christine Van Ryzin (AVVA, #409) provided handouts on Agent Orange/Toxic Exposure birth defect updates; additional information can also be found online at: birthdefects.org.
- It was recommended that everyone review the dissolution and Mission 75 information in the January/February and March/April 2026 issues of The Veteran and take it to their Chapters to discuss.
- Secretary Mullarkey reminded Regional Directors that instead of hearing "no report", he would like to hear that the Regional Directors have contacted Chapters in their region to discuss important issues (i.e., Mission 75, etc.).

The motion to adjourn by Khan (#932); seconded by Foye (At Large); motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM.