



AVVA - At Large Newsletter
Volume 32
March, 2026

Here are my notes from the Wisconsin State Council meetings held on March 28, 2026. The original meeting

was scheduled for March 14, 2026, but was rescheduled due to the historic snowstorm on the original date.

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

Lindbeck directed the Secretary Mullarkey to take the roll. Those VVA Chapters in attendance included: 101, 206, 236, 256, 324, 351, 409, 425, 437, 448, 729, 731, 921, and At-Large. The Secretary called a quorum.

President pro tem Remarks – Richard Lindbeck

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

- Tom Heitman passed away; services will be on April 18, 2026, in West Bend.

Additional information

can be found under the “In Memoriam” section on the WSC website at 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 from the floor to amend agenda moving the Election Committee under New Business; passed no objection.

The September 13, 2026 minutes were amended to correct the spelling of Jamil Khan's last name.

President pro tem's Report – Richard Lindbeck

- 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 at vwawi.org. He is also working (e.g., on changes to the website directory) – a searchable database)
 - a sick call page will be added; artificial intelligence (AI) for searches is being investigated on the website, may be added; and a “pop-up” requesting the user's name and new email address) when the user changes. Send Jim a separate e-mail if you have other suggestions.

VVA Region 6 Director – John Margowski

- Director Margowski encouraged everyone to read the March/April 2026 issue of The Veteran,

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 state and federal agencies have completed that objective) was adopted. All resolutions were passed as provided.]

John emphasized focusing on President Burke's message regarding "Mission 75". President Burke has proposed that in the VVA Veteran dissolve the recommendation that the VVA Constitution be amended to allow veterans who served after 1975 to join the VVA.

- 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 - At Large Newsletter – Joy Foye

Volume 32

March, 2026

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 National's charter in the State of New York. A

question of why the State of New York is so important was asked. 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

National's 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 individual Chapter(s).

- 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 (originally to be held after the meeting) 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 officers' 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 the position of 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 that number actually attended. Jim requested feedback on having a September social this year. Jamil Khan (#921) recommended that members talk to their Chapters so it can be discussed again at the June meeting.

New Business:

- March 29 is the end of the Vietnam War; some Chapters are having celebrations today (including Chapter 5) and missed this meeting.
- There is no burn pit coverage for Vietnam Veterans; 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.
- The Constitution Committee will meet in September to discuss by-law revisions. The bylaws need to be revised to reflect equity in region-based boundaries, resulting from Chapter membership. The stated goal of boundary changes is to ensure a single Chapter/Region doesn't have an outsize influence due to that Chapter/Region's 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.
- President Thomas Banner called the WSC Meeting to order at 10:00 am. Banner led 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).
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- 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), 2nd by Gross (409); passed unanimously.