



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL

State Council Meeting
June 20, 2015
The HighGround
Neillsville, Wisconsin 54456

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wisconsin State Council Meeting

President Lindbeck Called the State Council Meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. on June 20, 2015. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was offered to our POW/MIA's and active duty service members. The Secretary completed the roll call of Officers, Directors and Chapters. The President confirmed a quorum.

The following officers were present: President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors from Regions 2 and 3. The Chapters represented¹ included: 005(2), 092(2), 101(2), 236(2), 256(1), 324(2), 331(2), 425(2), 437(2), 448(2), 479(1), 529(1), 729(2), 731(2), and At Large (2). VVA Region 6 Director, John Margowski was also present.

There was no reinstatement of suspended Chapters. Chapter 768 (Waupaca) has been suspended by VVA.

Marissa Cepass read her scholarship winning "Account of a United States Veteran," her grandfather. Ms. Cepass' paper is presented on the WSC's website under the tab marked Scholarships.

President Lindbeck asked and appointed John Margowski as Parliamentarian and Mike Demske as Timekeeper.

The Agenda was approved without objection

The March 2015, Minutes, were approved without objection

President's Report, Richard Lindbeck

- Attended the National Board/CSCP meeting in Silver Spring, MD in April. Discussion included the Membership Fire Sale from August 1 through December 31, 2015.
- Attended the VVA Region 6 meeting in Janesville. Six of the seven states in the Region attended. The main discussion focused on candidates running for election at the National Convention in Springfield, IL July 21 - 26, 2015.

¹ As per letter sent (October 6, 2014) to all VVA WSC Officers, WSC Region Directors, and VVA Chapter Presidents and Officers must have representation at half of the State Council's scheduled meetings. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action. The () followed by the VVA Chapter # indicates the number of meetings attended in the calendar year i.e., 2015.

- Honored to be a guest speaker at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King for the Vietnam Veterans day program.
- Attended the Congressional Hearing at Tomah VA.
- As WSC President, I served as guest speaker at Filmore's Salute to Vietnam Veterans on Memorial Day.
- Spoke at Camp American Legion in Lake Tomahawk for the Annual Vietnam Veteran Week at the Camp. The Vietnam Veteran Week in 2016 will be June 8 – 14. *No Cost* to the veteran.

The Secretary reported that VVA National has formally suspended VVA Chapter 768 (Waupaca); however, no formal documents have been received from directly or copied to the WSC Secretary. A telephone discussion with VVA Chapter 768 President included the possibility of increasing membership through Vietnam Veterans residing at King (Note: VVA WSC President will provide additional contact information to VVA Chapter 768), the paperwork that must be submitted, disbursement of any remaining funds were recommended to be donated to VVA WSC Agent Orange Committee, and notification to all VVA Chapter 768 members of the action and their options (i.e., transfer to At-Large or nearby Chapter).

The Secretary indicated that two other VVA Chapters within the state are in distress i.e., decreasing numbers in attendance, moves away from Wisconsin, etc. Each of the VVA Chapters were given information similar to that of VVA Chapter 768. In turn, each of the VVA Chapter officers indicated they would begin to make determinations of dissolution prior to or immediately following Fall 2015.

The Secretary encouraged those all VVA Chapters in the WSC to get their Election and Financial Reports into VVA National, if they have not already done so. Additionally, any VVA Chapters attending the National Convention planning on attending should make room reservations as soon as possible. Those VVA Chapter members attending the National Convention as delegates must submit their paperwork as soon as possible and those VVA Chapters not sending delegates should be submitting the Release of Delegates to VVA WSC President Lindbeck.

The Secretary reviewed Tom Heitman's request to entertain a motion at the September 2015 VVA WSC to make Amend Article 5 of the WSC Bylaws to include September as a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. Thus, the Article would be amended to read. "The Council shall meet March, June, September, and December. Should the Council determine that it would be in the best interest of the Council to hold a State Convention, the Convention shall be held in June or September with the determination to be made at the March meeting for the following year." This motion will be on the September 2015, Agenda.

Treasurer's Report, Patrick Craney

- Following the Treasurer's report it was reiterated that \$400 per VVA and AVVA delegate was approved at the March 2015 VVA WSC Meeting.

There was discussion to amend the \$400 per delegate option; however, Mullarkey moved and Cannon seconded the motion to maintain the \$400 per delegate option. The motion was carried without objection.

AVVA Report, Pat Furno AVVA State Representative

- The membership report indicated Wisconsin has an increase of 108 new VVA members and 10 AVVA members.
- Like VVA National, AVVA is offering a Life Membership \$100 Fire Sale between November 1, 2015, and December 31, 2015.

VVA Region 6 Report, John L Margowski, Director

- Margowski briefly reviewed suggested changes to VVA Bylaws.

POW/MIA Report

- 1,019 still MIA from Vietnam; 26 POW/MIA from Wisconsin

WSC Regional Director Reports

- Region 4: Robert Morzenti

Chapter Reports

- #005 – Sending electronic copies of newsletter; membership goal is 100, currently at 75

- #437 – The Chapter's Annual (Post) Christmas Party was very well attended.

In April Chapter elections are coming up both for VVA and AVVA members.

The Chapter will be represented at the retirement party of our Winnebago CVSO, Robert Stone at the end of March. The Chapter will be presenting Stone with a *Certificate of Appreciation* for his 38 years of service with seven (7) in Winnebago County.

As part of the Oshkosh Patriotic Council, which includes five (5) other VSOs, 1157th and 1158th Transportation Companies of the National Guard, and our CVSO we are planning a special memorial for five (5) sets of unclaimed cremated remains of veterans – one (1) from World War I. The event will be held on Memorial Day with a complete military funeral procession and interment with full military honors at the Veterans' Cemetery within the Riverside Cemetery in Oshkosh.

- #351 – Agent Orange town hall on 04/18/2015
- #101 – The Chapter's *After the Holidays* dinner party had a large turnout with both old and new members.

Chapter President Tom Sachs received *Citizen of the Year* from the City of Wisconsin Rapids – "He doesn't know how to say "No."

New Chapter members were given Vietnam Veteran baseball caps with the Chapter 101 sewn on the back.

Members voted to send two (2) members to the VVA Region 6 Conference and VVA National Convention.

Upcoming events include, but will not be limited to speaking to history students at Assumption and Lincoln High Schools as part of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, Highway Cleanup in May, eight (8) Brat Fries planned for summer when we will also raffle an Eagle wood carving,

Orange Blossom distribution in June, and our Color Guard will be active in ceremonies throughout the summer.

- #425 – In November 2014, the Chapter approved helping four (4) Veterans with monetary issues as well as rent, food, and fuel issues. The Chapter had members attend the VVA Region 6 Conference in Clinton IA, plans on attending the VVA Region 6 Conference in Janesville, WI in preparation for National, and anticipates at least four (4) Chapter members and guests attending VVA National in Springfield.

As this will be my last report as President of Chapter 425, I thank my Chapter officers for their support.

- #256 – Christmas gifts for under privileged children.
- #767 – Continuing with Color Guard (Special Note: Presented at Bucks and Brewers games), Battlefield Cross, and POW/MIA Empty Table ceremonies. Working hard food pantry fundraising and donations.

Preparing for Traveling Wall will be in Racine from 08/27/2015 through 08/31/2015. We could use some additional Color Support. Contact <http://www.racineveterans.org> for more information.

- #206 – The Chapter's Spring Fling, February 28, 2015, had nearly 40 people in attendance with Michael Demske as guest speaker – discussing Agent Orange and its impact on Veterans, their families, children, grandchildren, and further generations.

The Chapter will present the Colors at the Annual American Cancer Walk held at the Shawano High School. Starting Memorial Day and throughout summer the Chapter will be sponsoring Brat Fries – a major fundraising activity.

The Chapter has provided a number of scholarships, has donated to the Wisconsin State Council and is honored to present WSC Agent Orange Team with \$200 to insure their work continues.

- #224 – 35 Veterans' in need received food baskets and gas cards for Christmas. The Scholarship Committee received many applications and are in the process of evaluation. Each recipient will receive \$1,000.00. The Chapter is also in the planning mode for July 11th – "Harley Rally and Raffle and Golf Outing." The Color Guard took part in 14 events throughout 2014 and has been invited to present the Colors at the Timber Rattlers game in Appleton on June 30th.

The Chapter will be conducting Memorial Services at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Green Bay, followed by marching in the De Pere Parade, and taking part in the United Patriotic Memorial Service all on Memorial Day.

The Chapter has their Annual Bingo scheduled at King Veterans Home in mid-June.

- #529 – Steak feed on 04/25/2015.

Scholarship Committee

- Received seven (7) scholarships this year, four (4) direct descendants of a Vietnam Veteran, two (2) a relative of a Vietnam Veteran, and one an interviewer of a Vietnam Veteran. The Scholarship Committee from VVA Chapter 206 included Virginia Nuske (AVVA), Terry Radtke (VVA), and Helen Waalkens (AVVA). The three (3) graduating high school seniors who were selected to receive \$1,500.00 for the 2015-2016 academic year were all grandchildren of a Vietnam Veteran.
 - Marissa Cepress – GPA 4.00
Grandfather – Vietnam Veteran
Stratford High School
UW-Madison
Major: Biology/Pre-Med
 - Mathew Wald – GPA 3.87
Grandfather – Vietnam Veteran
Pardeeville High School
Carroll Univ. or UWLC
Major: Pre-Med/Physical Therapy
 - Jessiqua Busch – GPA 4.0
Grandfather – Vietnam Veteran
Carroll University
Major: Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Request volunteers to present scholarships please contact Virginia (Ginny) Nuske at 715-524-2487 if you can assist

Old Business

- Jim Mullarkey advised everyone how much he appreciates the electronic and written information he receives from Chapters to include more content in the Minutes and post to WSC website – truly amazing things are always being done by VVA Members in Wisconsin.

- Membership:

VVA	74,705
AVVA	8,474
Region 6	7,905
WI VVA	2,044
WI AVVA	262

New Business

- Camp American Legion Vietnam Veteran Week (06/08/2015-06/14/2015) - can also go for a single day.
- June 21, 2015, State Council Quarterly Meeting is being held at The HighGround. Let Mike know if you are attending and other VVA and AVVA members and guests, so he can purchase enough meat and buns. Please bring a dish to pass.

This meeting will include a min-Agent Orange Town Hall meeting.
- VVA Region 6 Conference scheduled is May 16, 2015, with an evening of entertainment on Friday, May 15th. Please check the WSC website at www.vvawi.org as well as emails to WSC delegates and officers.
- Lao Hmong Veterans organization in the Wausau area is building a memorial tribute and is soliciting letter of endorsement for the memorial.

- Greg Foye (At Large) moved the Wisconsin State Council write a letter of endorsement for the Lao Hmong Memorial, which was 2nd by Tom Sachs (Chapter 101) and passed without objection.
 - VVA WSC Secretary should send letter to:
Mr. Mort McBain
4802 Augustine
Weston, WI 54476
- Fund Raising – Bob Piaro will look into what is involved in setting up a new 501(c)3 for the Wisconsin State Council

Morzenti moved to adjourn; 2nd by Tom (101)

A motion for Adjournment was made by Morzenti (Chapter 529), 2nd by Tom Sachs (Chapter 101) and accepted without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Mullarkey

James E. Mullarkey
Secretary

Addendum:

The notes on the WSC Meeting in their entirety would not be possible without the assistance from Ms. Joy Foye. At a time when the Secretary was unable to hold a pen, let alone punch keys on a keyboard, Joy without hesitation took on the role of Secretary during the WSC's March 2015 meeting. For Joy's unwavering commitment and kindness I am truly grateful.

Thank you,

Jim

Agent Orange Committee



Called to order by Richard Lindbeck at 9:00 A.M.

Members present: Richard Lindbeck, John Margowski, Jim Mullarkey, Tom Heitman, Robert Piaro, Pat Craney, Pat Furno, Bob Morzenti, and Joseph Diting.

There was discussion on developing and publishing a booklet on how to establishing and present Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings. Suggestions for revisions will be discussed on a telephone conference call to be arranged by Jim Mullarkey after a DRAFT is developed.

There will be a Town Hall Meeting April 18, 2015, in Appleton at the Fox Valley Technical College. A flier has been provided with all necessary information.

The committee discussed that VVA Chapters who have not attended a Town Hall Meeting should have the opportunity to attend a mini Agent Orange Town Hall. This mini will provide the opportunity to see the content and how a meeting is conducted.

Those interested in holding a Town Hall were advised of the costs for printing the material. Printing is the major cost associated with a Town Hall Meeting. Several individuals who participated in the AO Committee meeting indicated they had contacts to do printing as well as places to hold the meetings.

Minoqua advised that they had the American Legion Hall and could access it for a possible Town Hall in the summer of 2015. Others were interested in having a Town Hall in the future.

VVA Chapters interested in hosting an Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting in their area should put a small planning group together including their CVSIO, other Veteran Service Organizations, allied veterans groups or societies in the area. Once an agreement to have a Town Hall Meeting is made, the VVA Chapter or committee/group representative should contact a member of Team Wisconsin: Michael Demske (VVA), Pat Furno (AVVA), Richard Lindbeck (VVA), or John Margowski (VVA Region 6). One of the team will work with you relative to basic organization, establishing the presentation team, and identifying material resources needed (e.g., fliers, folders, printed materials)

Jim Mullarkey will provide the local Chapter or VSO group working with Team Wisconsin with a DVD (i.e., videos produced by VVA and AVVA), CD or thumb drive with all printed materials.

The Committee will do a mini Town Hall Meeting at The HighGround in Neillsville on June 20, 2015, at the June WSC Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Richard Lindbeck