



Vietnam Veterans of America  
Wisconsin State Council

June 19, 2021

State Council Meeting  
South Park Lower Shelter  
South Park 921 S Main Street  
Waupaca, Wisconsin  
Approved Minutes

### Wisconsin State Council Meeting



President Lindbeck called the State Council Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. on June 19, 2021, in Waupaca, Wisconsin. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was offered to our POW/MIA's and active service members. The roll call of Officers, Directors, and Chapters was completed by the Secretary and a quorum called.

Present at the meeting were President Lindbeck, Vice-President Sciuti, Treasurer Craney, and Secretary Mullarkey. Secretary; Regions 2, 4 and At-Large Directors were present Mike Johnson, Bob Morzenti, and Greg Foye respectfully. VVA Chapters present included VVA Chapters: 0005, 0092, 0101, 0220, 0236, 0256, 0324, 0351, 0425, 0448, 0479, 0529, 0635, 0731, 0767, 0921. A quorum was called with 16 VVA Chapters for a total of 27 delegates and one (1) at-large delegate. Seven (7) AVVA members from three (3) chapters and one(1) at-large associates. VVA At-Large Director John Margowski was present and also representing VVA Chapter 0425.

Larry moved to approve the Agenda as written and was seconded by Frank and passed without objection.

#### President's Report:

President Lindbeck reported how pleased he was that the WSC could finally meet in person and hopes that the SC will be able to do so with the decline of Covid in Wisconsin.

Lindbeck reported that National has met several times virtually during which everyone had a chance to learn what was going on throughout the country and discussions on the pros and cons of a virtual and in-person National Convention. During these meetings we discussed the Constitutionality and legality of a virtual option, date changes, even combining the Convention and Leadership in 2022. The final decision was a 2021 National Convention in Greensboro.

Several items will come up as soon as the Constitutional amendments and the resolutions are posted. As with each Convention, this is an election year for Officers, BOD, and Region Directors. If you are

planning on attending make your hotel and travel arrangements and while attending the Convention **attend the meetings** and learn who is running for office – they will represent you for two years. At this time John Margowski is running for Region 6 Director and I am running for At-Large Director.

If you are planning on attending the Convention make sure your VVA Chapter's Election and Financial Reports have been submitted to National and the WSC and for safety bring a copy with you. Additionally, if your VVA Chapter is not going to be using all of its delegates be sure to send your Release of Delegates form (located on vva.org) to the WSC President so they can be reassigned to another delegate.

In closing, after eleven years as your President, I have decided to step aside and pass the torch to a new State Council President. It has been a real pleasure to represent Wisconsin and will always treasure this time. I feel that together we have been able to keep the Wisconsin State Council at the forefront of VVA, and I have reinforced this effort as an Officer on the CSCP. This experience has been wonderful and I have made many friends at the State and National levels that I can be proud to have met. Without the support from the Wisconsin VVA Chapters, my job as your President would have been difficult. You all made it possible for me to represent Veterans, their families, and our fellow Associates.

### **Special Election**

With the knowledge of President Lindbeck's resignation nearly ninety days before this meeting, the WSC Elections Committee composed of Margowski, Morzenti, and Hoffman had one position WSC President. Margowski indicated that Michael Demske has declared his candidacy for the position. Margowski asked the WSC delegates if there was anyone who wants to run for the office of WSC President. There was no voiced request. Margowski, on behalf of the WSC Election Committee, stated that voting for this single position would be by voice vote. Margowski asked the WSC delegates for their vote for Michael Demske as President of the WSC. The voice vote was unanimous for and Mr. Demske. The Committee declared a unanimous vote and Michael Demske was named WSC President for 2021 to 2022.

The WSC Secretary was directed to submit the new Election Report.

### **VVA At-Large Report**

John Margowski, VVA At-Large Director indicated that the National Convention was a go and reinforced Lindbeck's encouragement to register as soon as possible and make travel arrangements and hotel bookings early.

Margowski shared the Constitutional Amendments and the Resolutions would be provided to all VVA BOD and mailed (USPS) to all SC Presidents once readied by VVA staff. Once the SC Presidents mailing is completed VVA staff will send the same packages to all VVA Chapter Presidents. Furthermore, the Amendments and the Resolutions will be placed on the VVA National website:

- Amendments: [vva.org/national-convention](http://vva.org/national-convention) >Convention >Proposed Constitutional Amendments
- Resolutions: [vva.org/national-convention](http://vva.org/national-convention) >Convention > Proposed Convention Resolutions

Note: These are attached as PDF documents to these Minutes.

John indicated that there was no planned Region 6 meeting to discuss the Amendments or Resolutions; however, he will take a block of time to review the contents and seek input at the September WSC meeting to be held at the Par4 Convention Center held adjacent to the Comfort Suites in Waupaca.

Margowski shared that the Minnesota SC will be shutting down. MNSC presently has a Service Representative which means MN will have to close down that service. There are a plethora of issues in shutting down an SC. Margowski will continue to report through the Convention and information will come from the directors, the WSC President, or printed in WebWeekly or The Veteran.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report focused on reimbursement for those attending VVA National Convention in November. The Treasurer reported that the WSC has budgeted \$8,000.00 for the National Convention – VVA Delegates and AVVA Delegates and Representatives. It was estimated, based on previous years that the reimbursement amount could be approximately \$470.58, based on 17, which was suggested to be raised to \$500.00. The \$500.00 amount is for the maximum in attendance (17) and will not be increased with fewer delegates in attendance.

Given there is one meeting prior to the National Convention if this can be raised by the WSC.

### **Secretary's Report:**

The Secretary thanked President Lindbeck for his eleven (11) years of service as President of the WSC. Following are his remarks...

Richard, as you step down as President of the State Council, you do so *following* 11 years of guiding veterans in Wisconsin. You have made yourself accessible to Wisconsin's VVA Regions and Chapters. You have joined with other State Council Presidents to learn how to better Wisconsin's SC and bring a little of Wisconsin to other states. You have made the WSC and VVA members stronger by working with Wisconsin's Department of Veterans Administration while educating other VSOs about Vietnam Veterans of America and Associates of VVA.

While you are stepping down as President, you have already made the first move in stepping up as a candidate for At Large Director. Again, you are seeking more for your fellow veterans in Wisconsin and Nationally.

I know we all support you in seeking this position as well as recognize the awesome responsibilities that come with this role.

As State Council President, you have always lived up to your veteran values, especially your commitment to veterans and their families. Repeatedly, you have touched veterans in need. You assist in finding their inner strength. What I have seen and others have shared is your ability to connect with a veteran – you make the veteran's day a little bit better and his or her future that much brighter.

Richard, since I have had the privilege of knowing and working with you, you have always epitomized true leadership. As you represent and serve fellow veterans, your understanding and compassion for veterans' needs are truly heartfelt. Further, I know your commitment to strengthening veterans' voices will be reflected in all of your future endeavors.

Not long ago you shared something with me, I would like to share it with the group, today. *Like my brother before me, I am proud to step into history as a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America. I will walk with pride with my head held high, my heart and attitude will show my allegiance to God, country, and comrades. When unable to walk another step, I will walk another mile. With freedom my goal, I will step into destiny with pride.*

Richard, as you take that step, please accept this small token of appreciation on behalf of your fellow veterans on the Wisconsin State Council.

Thank you.

The Secretary shared that several VVA Chapters have not submitted their Election and or Financial Reports to National and or the WSC Secretary. These must be submitted and the WSC President will receive confirmation for each and share results with the WSC Secretary. Failure to submit may result in disciplinary action from VVA National. More importantly, this year's failure to submit may impact your attendance to the National Convention and or Delegates for the Convention regardless of planned attendance.

#### **VVA WSC Region Director Reports:**

The complete report will be listed on the website which will be reactivated NLT on October 31, 2021.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Complete reports will be listed on the website which will be reactivated NLT on October 31, 2021.

#### **VVA Chapter Reports:**

Please note VVA Chapter reports and Newsletters are located on the WSC website which will be reactivated NLT on October 31, 2021.

#### **President's Information**

President Demske has appointed [Marvin Decker](#) (President, VVA Chapter 0731) as WSC Membership Chair.

#### **Old Business:**

Change of WSC By-Law Article V Meetings Sub 2. The new wording was submitted and seconded by the Constitution Committee.

"A quorum shall be the majority of VVA Chapters in good standing that are represented by at least one authorized VVA Chapter representative."

Passed without objection.

#### **New Business:**

Position of Executive Director of the WSC (Michael Demske, WSC President) with description and responsibilities (attached to Minutes).

An adjournment was moved by Mullarkey and seconded by Banner at 11:45 am. Without objection, the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Mullarkey, Secretary

See identified attachments.

- [Constitutional Amendments](#)
- [Convention Resolutions](#)
- Quorum amendment
- Executive Director