



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
**WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL**

State Council Meeting  
The HighGround  
Neillsville, Wisconsin

June 17, 2017

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**



**Education Committee Meeting**

The Education Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Joe Eiting, Chair. In attendance at the meeting were Joe Eiting, Richard Lindbeck, Mike Demske, John Margowski, and Jim Mullarkey.

Joe gave a briefing on the September Program for the WSC Meeting in Waupaca on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Drs. Berger and Hall will be the keynote presenters of the Veteran Suicide Prevention Program. The full program will run from Noon to 6:00 pm. Drs. Berger and Hall will do the first part of the program from Noon to 5:00 pm. This will be followed by QPR training from 5:00 – 6:00 pm.

Please invite local politicians, EMTs, doctors and other healthcare providers so they obtain and share the information.

Pre-registration is required so we know how many are planning to attend. The room will be arranged in classroom style and hold 84 with chairs and tables. Extra chairs will be available, but there is a finite amount of space – Mullarkey is guessing no more than 100.

Mullarkey indicated Drs. Berger and Hall are well known and respected in the VVA community. Also, there will be a session on QPR (i.e., Question, Persuade, and Refer) so people can recognize suicidal and other mental health issues. Note: The Suicide Hot Line is not manned all the time. This is a problem and needs to be addressed at the VA National level.

Post fliers in your local libraries – this is an easy and inexpensive way to get the word out. Also, contacting women's groups since they get their spouse to attend.

Program success requires us all to push this program.

Other than lodging and meals for Drs. Berger and Hall there is no cost at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

**Wisconsin State Council Meeting**

President Lindbeck started the WSC Meeting at approximately 10:10 am. After recognizing the presence of three past WSC Presidents at the HighGround Meeting, Mike Demske, John Margowski, and Bob Morzenti, President turned the program over to start of the program over to the HighGround for updates.

- HighGround

Kirk Rodman, the HighGround's Volunteer General Manager is retiring after nearly 19 years. Kirk and his wife Nancy, volunteer gift shop manager, while leaving the HighGround will not be forgotten.

Welcome Center model is available and located in the Education Center. The museum for The Holocaust has been removed from the plans; however, the guard tower and accompanying elevator have been paid for by private donors (value of approximately \$80,000-\$90,000)

On the grounds the Military Working Dog Tribute is underway, the Long Shadow: The Vietnam Series will continue through August followed by Jeffrey Stenbom's Glass Sculptors – "Window to a Veteran's Soul" in September through November.

Following the HighGround update President Lindbeck introduced Jason Church a newly hired representative for Secretary Zimmerman of the Wisconsin DVA.

- VSO Outreach through WDVA

Jason Church ([jason.church@dva.wisconsin.gov](mailto:jason.church@dva.wisconsin.gov)), who basically just started with the WDVA days earlier introduced himself. Jason's indicated his role is to serve as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' liaison to Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and pertinent community service organizations throughout Wisconsin. As the Secretary Zimmerman's direct representative, the VSOFR (Veteran Service Organization Field Representative) attends VSO and other service delivery provider meetings for the purpose of providing training and coordination of materials, updates, and information. The VSOFR promotes the value of WDVA programs to organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders and audiences statewide to encourage broad participation by eligible Veterans.

Jason was warmly welcomed by the Wisconsin State Council and as his knowledge of the needs and vision of Wisconsin's VSO becomes clearer he said he will return to one of quarterly meetings to discuss substantive issues with the WSC.

Although there are no top areas recommended for research as yet, according to Church. Three key research topics for the University should continue to be the areas of PTSD, Toxic Exposure, and Veteran Suicide. Moreover, Church indicated that the Wisconsin State Legislature should demonstrate their support of Wisconsin's Veterans with state legislation in these demonstrated areas and in the future those areas that are identified as areas of need by the Secretary.

Church indicated that while King has obtained a rating of 4.25 on a 5 point scale his initial review of the facility and services appear average at best and a 4.25 rating should be a clue for the need for more funding/services for Veterans and their families, but mostly funding for the improving the aging facility. While Church recognizes there are no General-Purpose funds available for recommended improvements, WDVA will be looking for other ways and means of getting the funding needed for King.

Recognizing Church is on a fact-finding mission, Margowski raised the issue of Wisconsin Veteran Homelessness and the appearance that this issue is being put on the back burner of issues within WDVA. Additionally, Margowski raised the issue of compressing or reducing the number of CVSOs and TVSOs throughout Wisconsin. Church replied, "...at this time there is no plan within WDVA to regionalize Wisconsin's CVSO program."

President Lindbeck called the full meeting of the State Council Meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. on June 17, 2017, in Neillsville, Wisconsin. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was offered to our POW/MIA's and active duty service members. The roll call of Officers, Directors and Chapters was directed.

President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, WSC Regions 1, 3 and 4 and At-Large Directors were present as were the VVA Region 6 Director Mike Demske and Pat Furno the AVVA State Representative. Eighteen (18) of the 25 Wisconsin VVA Chapters were represented<sup>1</sup>: 005(4)#2, 092(4)#1, 101(2)#2, 206(3)#2, 220(2)#2, 236(2)#2, 256(4)#2, 324(1)#2, 351(3)#2, 409(1)#2, 425(1)#2, 437(3)#2, 448(1)#2, 479(4)#2, 529(4)#2, 635(1)#2, 731(2)#2, 767(1)#2, and At Large (Greg Foye). The President confirmed a quorum.

Again, VVA Chapters as of December 3, 2016 who have attended only one meeting during the 2016 calendar year are VVA Chapters 005 and 115 within VVA Wisconsin State Council until they fulfill their attendance obligation in 2017.

John Margowski was appointed Parliamentarian; Mike Demske was appointed Timekeeper.

Meeting agenda was motioned for approval by Margowski, seconded by Demske and approved without objection.

The March Meeting Minutes were moved for approval by Margowski, seconded by Hoffman and approved without objection.

As part of the **President's Report**, President Lindbeck shared he had attended the Conference of State Council Presidents (CSCP) and the National Board of Directors (BOD) meetings held in April in Silver Spring, MD. The main topic of the Meeting was the VVA National Convention in New Orleans August 8-12, 2017. As part of the discussions were the new candidates for the next two-year period. There are 18 candidates for the At-Large Directors. John Margowski is one of the At-Large candidates and needs our support. Mike Demske is running for Region 6

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<sup>1</sup> As per VVA WSC letter sent (October 6, 2014) to all VV

A WSC Officers, WSC Region Directors, and VVA WSC Chapter Presidents, Officers and their delegates; it was declared that all VVA WSC Chapters must be represented at no less than one-half or 50 percent of the scheduled WSC Meetings – held quarterly during the calendar year. Failure to meet this minimum requirement will result in disciplinary action and VVA WSC suspension – refer to VVA Constitution and National Disciplinary Policy. The ( ) following the VVA Chapters number (e.g., 007 (3)) indicates the WSC Region and the number following the # indicates the number of meetings recorded as attended in the calendar year as per the roll call.

An underline of the VVA WSC Chapter number (e.g., 009 (1)) indicates that they have been suspended in the previous calendar year and have as yet attended the minimum meetings for the present calendar year.

Director. He has one person that may run against him. Mike needs our support for his Region 6 re-election bid.

After VVA Resident Rowan contacted to take the Credential Committee for the National Convention, I accepted.

On April 22, 2017, Team Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Council's Agent Orange/Toxic Exposure Team, was in Appleton for the AO/Toxic Exposure Town Hall Meeting. There was a very good turn-out, with several veterans from Desert Storm to Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans. Thanks to VVA Chapter 351, Appleton, for sponsoring this event.

April 29<sup>th</sup> **Loyalty Day** (*Loyalty Day is on May 1 each year. It is a special day for people to reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and to recognize the heritage of American freedom. It also falls on the same day as Law Day in the USA.*) was celebrated in West Bend and several VVA Chapter 448 attended the parade and the program which followed.

In early May, I met with the Ho-Chunk Nation on the upcoming Car Show in July. The Ho-Chunk will be assisting with the Car Show. This should be a great event and hopefully will take-off for future events. The support of all of our VVA Chapters is imperative to make the Car Show a success.

I had the distinct opportunity to travel to Hayward, WI and meet with Bob Morzenti (WSC Region 4 Director) and sever Vietnam Veterans that want to start a VVA Chapter in Hayward. During our discussions, there was great interest and they should follow through on the necessary steps and become a VVA Chapter in late June or July.

Memorial Day was a full day during which I had the opportunity to be a guest speaker for the West Bend Memorial Day Program. Following the West Bend ceremonies, I went to Newburg for VVA Chapter 448's Memorial Day Program. It was heartwarming to see such good turnouts at both programs.

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Flag Day Program and a Salute to the USAF 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

President Lindbeck gave a brief update on the sale of the WSC Glasses. For this past quarter, the WSC has around \$3,000 from the sales of these glasses through Steve Pape which brings our annual earnings through Pape's sales of the WSC Glasses to over \$9,000.

Again, individual VVA Chapters can purchase these glasses at a cost of \$84.00 per 24 (case) with a recommended \$5.00 sale price per glass. This calculus will result in a profit of \$36.00 per case. However, keep in mind the profit does not include any shipping and handling charges to get the glasses – for more information click [here](#) or go to <http://vvawi.org/news/fundraising-opportunity.html>. Please note that some VVA Chapters have ordered their glasses and picked them up from the company at a significant savings – no shipping and handling costs. Also, if a couple of VVA Chapters come together and order multiple cases and one person drives down to get the glasses with the mileage being shared by other VVA Chapters this would cut overhead even more. For more ideas on how to keep this project going raise WSC Glasses at the next meeting.

May you all have a great Summer! I look forward to see all of you who will be attending the Convention in New Orleans.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary, Jim Mullarkey, reiterated information about the Veteran Suicide Prevention Program the VVA ESC is offering on September 22, 2017, in Waupaca. Further, he indicated that we are asking for pre-registration and that the easiest way is to go to the [VVA WSC website](http://vva.wsc.org) at [vvawi.org](http://vvawi.org) – the Program will be the first thing you see. Also, if you need to stay overnight the Ramada Waupaca is offering a special rate for the Program and the WSC Quarterly meeting on Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Again, both Annual Election and Financial reports required annually for VVA National are available on National's website: <https://vva.org/docs/> as well as our VVA WSC website <http://vvawi.org/info/forms/index.html>. **Please** keep in mind if your VVA Chapter is doing a two-year election cycle, your VVA Chapter must submit the VVA Election Report every year to both VVA National's Membership Department and the WSC Secretary.

Additionally, if there is a change in officers regardless of reason the VVA Chapter must submit a VVA Change in Election Report found on National's website: <https://vva.org/docs/>. This Report must be submitted to National and the WSC Secretary.

Finally, if your Board of Directors (BOD) changes either due to a new Director or because the BOD is elected on opposite years the VVA Chapter must submit an amended Election Report with the new BOD names. This Report must be submitted to National and the WSC Secretary as an Amended Report. The amended report should be noted on the cover page in the upper right-hand corner and signed by the VVA Chapter's certifying officer.

**Treasurer's Report:** Patrick Craney, Treasurer shared once again that the WSC has allocated a total of \$8,000 for the National Convention with the stipend not to exceed \$400 per voting delegate. This amount would cover 20 delegates. If the voting delegate count exceeded 20 the \$8,000 would be divided among the total delegate count. To address this the Treasurer asked for a motion from the floor to for this action. Greg Foye motioned that the above be moved. Joe Eiting seconded the motion; which was approved without objection.

**VVA Region 6 Director's Report:** Michael (Mike) Demske, VVA Region 6 Director, shared Wisconsin has 40 new members. Also, at National the two panels to discuss and recommendation actions for the future of VVA are in place and are actively working. Please refer to the MAC Report which is posted on the VVA WSC website.

**AAVA State Representative's Report:** Pat Furno (VVA Chapter 635) at present Wisconsin has three delegates; however, there exists a AVVA delegate issue with one of the VVA Chapters which will be resolved prior to the AVVA Convention; which occurs concurrently with VVA Convention in New Orleans. By-Laws and term limits (e.g., ten (10) year terms for Officers and Regional Directors) are key issues for the AVVA Convention.

#### **WSC Region Directors Reports:**

**Region 3:** Tom Hoffman, WSC Region Director, invited all Chapter from Region 3 to attend the VVA National Convention in August. This will be my 9<sup>th</sup> National Convention and each was a unique experience, highly educational and business-like and a lot of comaraderie. Today, things are much quiter not because we are older, but the VVA National Constituion is in place, the organization has matured, and we are considering options for the future.

**Region 4:** Bob Morzenti, Director, reported a new VVA Chapter is in the process of forming in Hayward, WI.

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

**VVA Chapter 005:** Julia McBee, AVVA Chapter Representative reported since the last VVAWI State Council meeting in March 18th, Chapter 5 has been involved with two Vietnam Veteran Day observations, the first being at The Eagles Club on March 25th which we co-sponsored, and were Color Guard for, which had an attendance of over 125. Keynote speakers were LTC Al Kochen-derfer, US Army (Ret) and Dr. Ron Bach, PhD, VA Medical Researcher, who gave a talk on Gulf War Illness. The following day we were the Color Guard for the Rusk County Vietnam Veterans Day program in Ladysmith, which saw upwards of 75 attendees, their most yet to date.

Our Chapter awarded two high school scholarships in the amount of \$500 each and a \$750 nursing scholarship in April. Our Veterans in the Classroom program completed another successful year at the end of May. Also, in May our Color Guard marched in the Eau Claire Memorial Day parade. The Chapter donated \$100 to the WIDVA's Women's Veteran Retreat which was held at Trinity Equestrian Center in Eau Claire the middle of May. We also donated to Trinity's Veterans Wellness Program with a \$250 sponsorship for their June 24th Wellness Ride for Veterans.

As some of our membership lives in the Colby area, and that community as a whole has been very supportive of our Chapter's many fundraising events, we donated \$250 to their Library building project, which was matched by members for a total donation of \$500.

Our fundraising efforts got kicked off with Chapter members attending the Eleva Broiler Festival where we had a booth set-up to sell our October 1<sup>st</sup> Fall Harvest Raffle tickets; grand prize is a John Deere X350 lawn mower, with other prizes being a 49" and 32" LG LED TV's, a Henry 009 30-30 and a 004 Golden Boy Rifles, a military themed quilt, a large deer print and two cash prizes. This is our main fundraising event for the Chapter every year and we will be at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Dunn, Buffalo and Clark County fairs, and the Big Rig Show in Chippewa Falls this summer selling raffle tickets for this event.

We continue to have input and work to see the new Veterans Tribute Park in Eau Claire come to fruition. The Veterans Tribute Foundation has been established and we will be working along with other veteran service organizations to raise funds for the project's completion and then the Foundation established to insure it is cared for once opened.

The Eau Claire County DAV van is up and running; our Chapter donated \$5,000 to this endeavor to see that veterans from the Eau Claire area are able to be transported to the VA Minneapolis for their medical appointments. Chapter members are registered drivers as well and are making their scheduled runs. Other Chapter members donate multiple hours in service to The Highground. We continue to update our Chapter's website; all newsletters are archived there for anyone to view.

Sadly, our Chapter Secretary, Roger Schuh, passed away on June 7th. Our Chapter members attended Roger as Honor Guard during his wake and as the Color Guard for his funeral service with the American Legion Post performing the Gun Salute with two members from the Army Reserve presenting the flag to the family.

**VVA Chapter 101:** Tom Sachs, President, reported that the VVA Chapter finalized their

budget for the coming year and have already made donations to various local organizations and charities.

The VVA Chapter has completed its 50<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Partner Program – several members went to Assumption High School and Lincoln High School to speak about the Vietnam War and their experiences serving in the military and in Vietnam.

President Sachs took part, as speaker, in the Laos Veterans Ceremony at the Highground in Neillsville.

VVA Chapter 101 worked with VFW Post 2534 in hosting the Spring Picnic for local VVA and WFW members as well as promoting one another's organizations.

Conducted several successful Brat Fries for VVA Chapter 101.

Our Annual Orange Blossom Distribution resulted in contributions that will be donated to Tomah and King Homes as well as other area organizations and charities.

The VVA Chapter held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Car/Motorcycle Show in conjunction with the Wisconsin Rapids Cranberry Blossom Festival – our civic project.

Our VVA Chapter participated in Memorial Day ceremonies at Port Edwards Wisconsin and Wisconsin Rapids.

VVA Chapter 101 was proud to be able to participate in the legacy stone ceremony at the Wood County Veterans Memorial at the Wood County Court House in Wisconsin Rapids.

Sever of our VVA Chapter members participated in the "Welcome Home" ceremony for the Central Wisconsin Never Forgotten Honor Flights in both April and May.

**VVA Chapter 206:** Marshal Giese reported Since the last State Council Meeting, Chapter 206 participated in the cancer walk at the Shawano Middle School. This event draws more and more people every year.

Memorial Day was another beautiful day. Our VVA Chapter took part in the annual Memorial Day Parade. Even though the route is the same every year, it seems like it gets longer each year. Maybe it's age – no!

We gave a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior. Back in May, this senior also applied for our State Council Scholarship, but missed out by a few points. I still thought she was the number one as she is my granddaughter.

We held a brat fry over a three-day period just before Memorial Day. We had good weather and it was very well attended. We have another brat fry coming up next week, June 22, 23 and 24.

**VVA Chapter 324:** Pat Ciofani, President of VVA Chapter 324 reported that they continue to take part in parades, specifically the Milwaukee Memorial Day Parade with others planned in Wauwatosa and South Milwaukee.

Our VVA Chapter donated \$300 to the February Stand Down, \$250 to the Milwaukee County Veterans Treatment Initiative Court, and \$500 to the Library of Vietnam Project sponsored by Chuck Theusch.

In August, the VVA Chapter has two fund raisers planned at Miller Park.

**VVA Chapter 351:** Larry Cavanaugh reported for the VVA Chapter that they have had multiple missions with their Education Artifact Display, specifically to include St. Norbert's College, King Veterans Home, nine (9) different high schools in the Fox Valley, and Humana in De Pere. Humana is also considering transporting our display to their headquarters in Louisville, KY. This fall we are looking to get the display to Kaukauna High School and Rawhide Boys Ranch.

Our VVA Chapter had vehicles (i.e., a Jeep Ambulance and a people hauler trailer) in two (2) parades, specifically Memorial Day and Flag Day. VVA Chapter 351 had more than 20 Veterans in the parades either riding or walking along the vehicles.

Our Orange Blossom Fundraiser was our largest ever with more than 56 participants including members and widows of former members resulting in \$19,300 in collections. Of the proceeds collected \$1,200 went to the Boy Scout Troop 57. Additionally, we donated \$20,000 to a number of Veterans causes in the Fox Valley area, including three \$2,000 scholarships.

VVA Chapter 351's Valentine's Day Dinner was attended by more than 80 Veterans and their spouses as well as five Gold Star Parents/Families. An old friend and a Vietnam Veteran now a Minister did the invocation and a local high school student sang the National Anthem and several patriotic songs before the festivities – she did a phenomenal job.

This VVA Chapter has nearly doubled its membership over the last two years. We believe this is due in part by are continued linkages with the community, getting the VVA message out through the media, our Education Display, and our work with students and faculty in the schools.

As VVA Chapter President I am continually amazed at the ideas that are brought forward by our Board of Directors and members and the ongoing commitment of our members.

**VVA Chapter 409:** Steve Swader reported that the VVA Chapter is 85 members strong and has been bust throughout the year. In March, the VVA Chapter create four standing committees: Membership, Honor Guard, Scholarship, and Fundraising.

In May a Quilt of Valor was presented to James "Max" Groehler. Three \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to two Fort Atkinson High School students and one Johnson Creek High School senior.

The Tour de Forte is coming up and is one of our VVA Chapter's major fundraising periods along with Orange Blossom Sales and later in the year the Lake Mills Fall Festival. We are also using the WSC glasses, military medallions, challenge coins, and other memorabilia in our fundraising activities.

**VVA Chapter 425:** President Joseph Deloria, Sr. reported they held VVA Chapter elections in April.

The VVA Chapter has engaged in fund raising events in May and June and a Memorial Day event.

Our VVA Chapter still continues to prepare and send packages to active service members.

Presently, VVA Chapter members are involved in preparing for the upcoming Waukesha County Fair in July.

We are pleased to announce our VVA Chapter is sending members as voting delegates to the VVA National Convention in New Orleans.

**VVA Chapter 448:** Frank Mueller reported that it has been good year. The VVA Chapter's annual raffle was a success and we were able to continue our scholarships at Concordia College in Mequon, Wisconsin.

We have started our summer brat fries and we have had a great turn out each time – even in the cold rain in early May. People want brats!

Our VVA Chapter participated in multiple parades, specifically the Loyalty Parade in West Bend in April, the Boltonville Fire Department Parade in May, Memorial Day Parades in West Bend and Newburg – what great turn outs.

The first weekend in June our VVA Chapter assisted the Newburg Fire Department with their annual Fireman's Picnic. The fire department gives us our meeting space and we reciprocate by helping out at the picnic. We also present the Colors at the parade.

On a different note, Tom Heitman, the VVA Chapter Secretary, became ill during the past Winter and has taken some off to recuperate. We keep him in our thoughts and prayers that he gets well and can return.

**VVA Chapter 479:** John Willman reported, that the VVA Chapter joined in with the Wausau Denny's 'Cup-of-Coffee Vet meetings eight times this quarter; we also had two successful Brat Fry fundraisers.

We attended The Agent Orange / Toxic Exposure Town Hall held at Fox Valley Technical College in April and sent report a report of the Town Hall to over 100 area veterans (see Report of Town Hall below this VVA Chapter Report / also referenced under News on the WSC website).

Met Honor Flight #28 return to Central Wisconsin Airport (CWA) and welcomed home our veterans, especially VVA Chapter 479's President Roger Bartnik and his two brothers on the flight.

The VVA Chapter supervised the Memorial Day cemetery cleanup with the Stetsonville Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

The VVA Chapter led the Wausau Memorial Day Parade with vehicles, motorcycles, and flags. Gary Moll gave an onsite interview to WSAU TV Served at and/ or attended Memorial Day observances throughout the area. Our VVA Chapter's Secretary, John Willman gave an interview with WSAU radio on the Honor Flight and Vietnam service.

Rode motorcycles with VVA shirts & logos in the Edgar Fireman's parade.

The VVA Chapter created a Facebook (FB) page for Northcentral Wisconsin Veterans, including VVA Chapter #479 & WSC (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vva#479>) or click [here](#).

The VVA Chapter made a donation of \$250 for the Wisconsin VVA display booth travel expenses for the coming VVA National Convention.

Our VVA Chapter donated \$500 to the Stratford VFW local veteran crisis loan fund.

SPECIAL REPORT:

WSC – VVA — Appleton

Agent Orange Toxic Exposure Town Hall

## Report by VVA Chapter 479

Main Theme: **'You didn't do it – Not your fault! The government did it.'**

It was announced that this meeting will NOT discuss VA issues, keeping a focus on the health of our adult children and our grandchildren.

Video of one daughter of a Vietnam Veteran was played. Issues of endless problems since birth were detailed.

VVA WSC wants to hear about all of our medical issues from families of exposed veterans.

Posters, Power-Point presentations, films (DVDs), pamphlets were made available.

VVA WSC leaders each testified as to the medical histories of their own children and grandchildren.

Audience members passed around a wireless microphone and spoke of their own tragic situations.

Tears were shed as the list of uncanny similar diseases unfolded, and members were shocked how many other people were experiencing the lack of diagnosis, lack of care, and lack of cures.

When appropriate, VVA WSC leaders directed Veterans to specific assistance.

We listened to Vietnam Veterans, Desert Storm Veterans, wives, surviving adult children, daughters who were dealing with second and third generation medical issues and learning problems. Desert Storm Veterans spoke of spraying, depleted uranium exposure, burn pits, vaporized WMDs and winds stirring up choking contaminated dust.

Everyone was advised to compile any and all medical histories for family members, get doctor reports, and file a claim with the VA on behalf of their children and grandchildren – even recognizing that at this time it will be denied. We were urged to use University hospitals and doctors when possible, as they never delete records. Specialist reports such as toxicology were necessary for presumptive dioxin exposure. Avoid saying “Agent Orange” as all toxic exposures are critical; however, among medical people it is best to use the terms “dioxin exposure” or “toxic exposure” while serving in the military.

Copies of records must be kept by the families as they can expect to be denied and have to be addressed through appeals. Use CVSO's to start any claims, even recognizing you may be denied. Studies are showing five (5) to seven (7) generations may be affected by toxic or dioxin exposure.

I took copious disheartening notes on the diseases each presented, but they seemed to fall into groups: babies with deformed legs and tongue-tied, hearing problems (including total deafness), vision problems (including blindness), skin rashes and skin cracks lasting years, respiratory illnesses including lung transplants, prostate ADHD, ADD, virus attacks, digestive issues, seizures, thyroid problems, diabetes, leukemia, and a number of cancers. Girls reaching puberty was a typical onset age for myriad severe on-going “female” troubles such as abnormal or missed periods, uterus removals, hysterectomies, miscarriages, breast cancers. Sadly, in most cases the doctors have no answers despite intensive testing.

The news has made the toxic situation at Camp Lu June public, but now there are over 400 bases listed. US Navy Vietnam veterans (Blue Water Navy) serving in the Tonkin Gulf are again working to get a bill passed for addition to the presumptive exposure list taken away by the VA. Thousands with cancers!

**VVA Chapter 731:** The VVA Chapter reported that the Educational team shared their experiences at Mishicot High School and at Washington Jr. High and Wilson Jr. High in Manitowoc.

Color Guard put on, our Program at the Jr. High Schools, where we Honor the American Flag, all the Armed Forces, POW/MIA's, and the 35 KIA's in Vietnam from Manitowoc County, and the five KIA's from the War on Terrorism. It is a 50-minute program with Professional Sound and lighting crews that we provide at no-charge to the schools.

Color Guard participated in the Manitowoc Memorial Day Parade, and participated in the Memorial Day Program, by the County Memorial's. Held our annual Program at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Two Rivers.

Color Guard participated in the Elks Club Flag Day Ceremony.

The Chapter put out 2,700 American Flags at Ever Green Cemetery, for Memorial Day.

The Chapter gave out three \$1,000 Scholarships. The VVA Chapter made many donations to local Charities.

Our VVA Chapter had a fun and enjoyable bus trip to New York City May 10-14.

Honor Guard fired at several funerals.

**VVA Chapter 767:** Jon Rybar reported the VVA Chapter hosted three bingo parties for residents of Boland Hall at Union Grove. Moreover, several members participated in the annual "Salute to Veterans" hosted by the Sophomore Class of Harborside Academy in Kenosha. Personal interviews of veterans of all wars occurred by the students followed by a dinner and the presentation of the "Battlefield Cross" ceremony by VVA Chapter members (pictures are on the WSC website under News).

The VVA Chapter's Scholarship Chair and Committee Members presented Nathan Tappan from Marian Central Catholic High School was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to assist him as he starts his education at St. Ambrose College in Davenport, IA (pictures are on the WSC website under News).

VVA Chapter 767 held a six (6) hour "Moving Wall – 2019" fund raiser at Malicki's Piggly Wiggly in Racine raising over \$500 (pictures are on the WSC website under News).

AVVA Chapter 767 member Ellen Myers has recently organized, cataloged, and is managing a Military Information Resource library covering all wars and is being housed at the Racine Veteran's Center (formerly the VFW Building).

Memorial Day ceremonies at the Union Grove Veterans Home was attended by several VVA Chapter members who presented the "Battlefield Cross" to residents and guests including Governor Walker, Senator Baldwin, and numerous local government and veterans' officials (pictures are on the WSC website under News).

Ralph Maliki continues to host the weekly “Vet’s Café” aty his Racine Piggly Wiggly Foods on Washington Avenue IA (pictures are on the WSC website under News).

Jim Michel, Chair of the VVA Chapter’s Toxic Exposure Town Hall meeting to be presented by Mike Demske’s Team Wisconsin Group and looking forward to a Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 Town Hall.

Several of our VVA Chapter members prepared and walked along side three VVA Chapter floats for the Annual Racine 4<sup>th</sup> Fest Parade. The route is 2.5 miles through Racine’s north side, downtown and south side areas (pictures are on the WSC website under News).

Also, check out Chapter News under the News tab of the WSC website at [vwawi.org](http://vwawi.org) or click [here](#).

**Old Business:**

**VVA WSC Car Show** – President Lindbeck reminded individuals of the First Annual Car Show being held at Ho-Chunk Casino and Hotel in Wisconsin Dells on July 14-16, 2017 (the Ho-Chunk designed Car Show flier is an image and PDF attached if receiving Minutes via email, available on the [VVA WSC website](#), and fliers will be made available at The HighGround in June.

**New Business:**