



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL

State Council Meeting

Ramada Waupaca

Waupaca, Wisconsin

December 1, 2018

UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES



Toxic Exposure Committee Meeting (Formerly Agent Orange Committee)

Called to order at 9:00 am by Chair Mike Demske

Attendance: Richard Lindbeck, John Margowski, James Mullarkey, Pat Furno, Greg Bloch, Sharon Bloch, Duane Cannon, Tom Sachs, and Robert Grabinski (Director, VVA Region 6)

Margowski advised that we all need to contact Senator Baldwin and Johnson to encourage passage of H.R. 299 the Blue Water Navy bill. If it does not pass this session it may not get done. If it is reintroduced in the next session of Congress it probably has a slim chance. John shared he had a response from Senator Baldwin, but nothing from Senator Johnson.

One concern is the cost of the bill. A solution was to add \$10 to the VA Loan to cover it.

Demske encouraged everyone to contact the Veterans Committee to get it to a full vote. The Gulf War Toxic Exposure has been added. It covers those from 1990 to a date to be determined.

Betty and Mike Mekdeci founded the *Association of Birth Defect Children* (now **Birth Defect Research for Children, Inc.**) in 1982 to provide birth defect information to parents and to investigate the causes of birth defects that could have been prevented. This organization has been at the forefront of capturing information on the transgenerational effects of the dioxins found in Agent Orange, especially children of Vietnam Veterans. However, the **Birth Defect Research for Children, Inc.**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is running out of funding as they have not received a grant. This has resulted in organization laying-off several people that work on their Registry. We, the Wisconsin State Council, may want to consider donating from the State Council, VVA Chapters, and VVA members in order to maintain the Registry and keeping the organization active.

Shawano is looking to have an Agent Orange Town Hall in April or May. Virginia Nueske is working on a location. It may be on the reservation or in Shawano.

Oconomowoc is also looking for a venue for possibly June or July. This may be in the middle of the week and evening. They are looking at the college in the area.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM

Wisconsin State Council Meeting

The WSC meeting was called to order by President Richard Lindbeck at 10:05 A.M. on December 1, 2018, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and a Moment of Silence. President Lindbeck appointed Tom Heitman as Parliamentarian and Michael Demske as Timekeeper. The Secretary was directed to conduct the Roll Call.

Roll Call:

The following were present President Richard Lindbeck, Vice-President Dan Scuiti, Treasurer Patrick Craney (Excused), Secretary James Mullarkey, Region 1 Director Tom Banner, Region 3 Director Tom Hoffman, Region Four Director Robert Morzenti, WSC At-Large Director Greg Foye, VVA At-Large Director John Margowski, and AVVA Wisconsin Representative Pat Furno. The VVA Elected WSC Delegate or appointed Alternates present¹ included 0005(4²)#4, 0101(3)#2, 0206(3²)#3, 0236(4)#1, 0351(4)#4, 0425(4)#3, 0437(4)#1, 0448(4)#4, 0479(4)#1, 0635(3²)#1, 0731(4)#2, 0767(2²)#1, At-Large (4²).

Approval of Minutes

September 29, 2018, UNApproved Minutes were motioned to be approved as written. Duane Canon seconded the motion which was approved without objection by President Lindbeck.

Tom Heitman, Parliamentarian, raised a point of clarification relative to the format of the Minutes, specifically as to their length and content. Following a review of *Robert's Rules of Order* the suggested format should be "definitive/decisive" and as needed either "action taken or action oriented" rather than the heretofore narrative format.

Since this was a recommendation by the Parliamentarian based on *Robert's Rules of Order* for future Minutes of the WSC no motion was made, although requested no additional discussion was had, and the President agreed. As a result the Secretary will follow the Parliamentarian's recommendation (i.e. If a report does not require action and is informative in nature only and the reporter wants the report recorded it must be submitted to the Secretary either a) in a printed format which will be scanned into a PDF or b) submitted electronically – Word or PDF – and transmitted to the Secretary. The Committee or VVA Chapter number and name, if applicable, or AVVA Associate, the author, date, and content. This

¹ As per VVA WSC letter sent (October 6, 2014) to all VVA 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 parentheses () following the VVA Chapters number (e.g., 007 **(3)**) indicates the number of meetings recorded as attended in the calendar year as of the roll call. The # refers to the VVA Chapters WSC region.

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.

The number following the # sign indicates the number VVA members represented and ## the number of AVVA members.

² AVVA Member at this VVA WSC meeting.

report will be scanned and placed on the VVA WSC website. Examples of these format follow in this set of Minutes.

Approval of Agenda

Tom Heitman, Parliamentarian raised issues of clarification relative to the form and format of the Agenda. The format should be clear, decisive, and action oriented. If Reports contain general information they should be presented in a report format, see Minutes, and will be included on the website.

Action oriented content should be raised; however, action requires a motion from the floor. The content, motion(s), discussion(s); however, only the action will be recorded in Minutes.

The December 1, 2018, Agenda was amended by a motion from John Margowski and seconded by Duane Canon to a) move the JROTC Medal Program to the March meeting as a New Business item which was passed without objection and b) James Mullarkey motioned the VAVS State Chairperson for Wisconsin be held until the March meeting. This was seconded by Margowski and passed without objection. Margowski motioned the Agenda be approved with amendments, Canon seconded; which was approved without objection.

President's Report: Richard Lindbeck

See www.vvawi.org > WSC Info > [WSC Minutes](#).

Treasurer's Report: Patrick Craney

Treasurer Craney was excused, Pat Furno provided the Treasurer's information: a quarterly banking summary and Net Worth as of 11/17/2018.

VVA At-Large Report: John L. Margowski

Provided a very general overview of Panel 1 and Panel 2 – see Veteran for Panel Charges. Report outs are to be made at the [VVA Constitutional Convention](#) in Spokane, WA July 15-20, 2019.

Blue Water Navy HR299 will be ending at the end of this Congress. All here must not only call your call your Senators, but inform every member you represent to do so immediately. The chances of this coming up in the next Congress will be very thin so do this today.

Please check [Agent Orange Zone](#) at <https://agentorangezone.blogspot.com>. Packed full of information.

AVVA State Representative Report: Pat Furno

See www.vvawi.org > Wisconsin State Council > AVVA

Enrollment is 9,965 with 449 dual enrollment.

Furno briefly discussed AVVA activities from the National AVVA.

Please note the At-Large AVVA Newsletter written and submitted by Joy Foye

VVA WSC Region Director Reports:

See www.vvawi.org > WSC Info > Region Reports

- Region 3 Director
- At Large Director/HighGround Liaison

Committee Reports:

See www.vvawi.org > WSC Committees

- POW/MIA Committee (Duane Canon)

VVA Chapter Reports:

See www.vvawi.org > WSC Info > [Chapter Reports](#)

Old Business:**New Business:**

Margowski motioned for adjournment which was seconded by Canon and approved without objection at 12:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Mullarkey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

James E. Mullarkey, Secretary