

National Board Meeting November 2022 Report

John L. Margowski, Region 6 Director

Jack McManus discussed VVA's Future/Legacy. He felt that our legacy truly is what it means to be an American, with no political divisions. We need to get back into the schools, not to just tell veterans' stories but to tell what it means to us to be American. This should become a nationwide effort.

Dottier Barickman, Finance Chair, reported that we are ok financially.

The new rules for Internet Platform passed.

Veterans Benefits Committee brought to the board an MOU between VVA and Veterans Voice of America. It was sent back to the committee which had an open discussion on the MOU. After the guest's questions were answered, it was brought back to the board and passed. This MOU is the start of the planning for the future representation of VVA claims down the road when VVA will no longer be representing veterans on their claims.

Another MOU between VVA and Bergmann & Moore, LLC was presented to the board It passed. Bergmann & Moore LLC is setting up a landing page dedicated to VVA members seeking information about filing a CLJA claim, and a separate page for friends and family members of VVA members seeking information. If a VVA member satisfies the criteria for a CLJA claim, with the consent Of the individual, they will assist further.

By a motion out of the Veterans Benefits Committee, no individual from VVA National, State Council, or Chapter should associate in their official capacity, with a firm asking to solicit VVA members for CLJA cases without the express approval of VVA's Board of Directors, effective 11/11/22.

At the April Board meeting, I made a motion to discuss the Leadership Conference at the November board meeting. At the November Board meeting, several Board members raised concerns about the Leadership conference, attendance, cost, and no post update about the event, although we were informed that the Committee chair was undergoing surgery.

President McManus said he would appoint a committee to evaluate and bring to the board in January, recommendations.

I missed most of the Saturday board meeting because I had to go to the Hospital. Richard Lindbeck provided me with his notes from that meeting, so I will summarize them.

Under the Agent Orange report, it was reported that Town Hall meetings were to continue. It was suggested that a Service Officer be in attendance to explain the PACT Act.

Leslie Delong, Constitution Chair, stated that State Councils and Chapters should make sure that all delegates read all the Proposed Constitutional Amendments and Proposed Resolutions before coming to the Convention.

Sharon Hodge, the staff advisor to the Resolutions Committee, read my report which said the same things that Leslie stated, but I added that delegates should attend the Committee hearings at the Convention to resolve issues they may have regarding Proposed Resolutions before coming onto the Convention floor. Lastly, the Event Honoring the 40th Anniversary of the Wall was emotional, fantastic, and moving. We had color guards for 33 state councils massing their flags. Wreaths from many different organizations were placed at the Wall.