



## **Vietnam Veterans of America Wisconsin State Council**

### **Third Quarter Minutes September 23, 2023**

The delegate meeting was called to order by Vice-President Dan Sciuti. Duane Canon, WSC Chaplain, did the invocation including a Moment of Silence for Our POWs, and those serving in our armed forces, which was followed by the delegation opening the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved without objection. [It was mentioned] The agenda should be shown as tentative vs draft on the website.

Roll call of VVA Chapter delegates present: 0005, 0101, 0206, 0224, 0236, 0256, 0351, 0425, 0437, 0448, 0479, 0635, 0767, 0921, 1130. A quorum was called.

John Margowski was appointed as parliamentarian and Richard Lindbeck was appointed timekeeper.

Motion to approve Minutes for June 24, 2023, Quarterly Delegate Meeting was made by John Willman (0479), seconded by Joe Heil (0005), and approved without objection.

#### **President's / Vice-President's Report – Daniel Sciuti** (President Demske's absence was excused.)

Wisconsin had nine VVA (WSC) and four AVVA (WSC) representatives at the National VVA/AVVA Convention. There were far fewer Constitutional amendments and resolutions than presented at previous VVA Conventions.

"Dissolution" of the organization was a major topic of discussion; however, the dates for the next VVA Convention were set for August 5-9, 2025, in New Orleans.

The National Officers can be found on the [VVA website](http://vva.org/who we are/ leadership) (vva.org/who we are/ leadership) which includes the Board Members, especially the At Large Director Richard Lindbeck (0448) and Region 6 Director John Margowski (0425).

To reduce excess paper and printing the WSC Agenda and Minutes (including archived copies) are available for printing, especially before quarterly meetings. Limited copies will be available at the quarterly meetings. (Note: Comfort Suites has a business office with a computer and printer. If you need a copy of the agenda and or minutes you can request a fellow member who is staying over and using their facility to print a copy.)



*"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."*



## **Treasurer's Report – Patrick Craney**

Revenue was once again higher than expenditures. Expenditures included expenses for the Region 6 conference, donations for AVVA Project Friendship, Scholarships (2), and meeting rooms.

## **Secretary's – Report – John Margowski** (Secretary Mullarkey's absence was excused)

John discussed Jim's "Naughty" List from National. Make sure Jim gets a copy of the Election and Financial Reports you submit to National (VVA Constitution Article III Section 9 A and Article IV Section 1 A, respectively.)

John Rybar (0767 ) asked about the "N" shown in the "Election" and the "Financial" columns of the Election and Financial Reports Chart. The "N" indicates that VVA National has received and accepted the VVA Chapters report. If the report only has an N and no dates, the report was received by the National office, but not copied to the WSC Secretary.

Please get in touch with Jim (414-640-6611 or [jmullarkey@mac.com](mailto:jmullarkey@mac.com)) with questions on the Election and Financial Report List.

Bob Shara (1130) requested the dates for the December meeting; the dates for the Christmas Dinner (approximately 6:00 PM) and the White Elephant Gift Exchange (approximately 8:30 PM) are scheduled for Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> (the location(s) to be announced). The WSC Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Par4 Convention Center adjacent to Comfort Suites. Again, the dinner and the White Elephant Gift Exchange will be held in Waupaca. A block of rooms is set aside for VVA WSC at \$99 a night. Dinner is planned as an off-the-menu option and payment is up to the guest. Please refer to the calendar on the WSC website ([vvawi.org](http://vvawi.org)) – Google Calendar – for up-to-date information.

## **National Director's Reports**

### **– Region 6 Director – John Margowski**

The new i.e. amended 2023 VVA Constitution is on the VVA website under Resources – Organizational Documents and Policies and on the VVA WSC website under VVA National Info & Links - [Constitution](#). John encouraged the delegates to download the Constitution for review.

John could not attend the National Convention – his physician barred him from flying due to a medical condition; however, since he ran unopposed for Region 6 Director he was re-elected as Region Director.

### **– At-Large Director – Richard Lindbeck**

Since John Margowski could not attend the National Convention, Richard presented John with the VVA Achievement Medal at the VVA WSC Quarterly Meeting. The Achievement Medal was for John's work on the Strategic Plan. John humbly accepted the award and acknowledged everyone who worked with him on the Strategic Plan and thanked the group for the honor.

Richard provided an update and insights on the Convention:

- 703 attended the Convention – a continuing attendance decline
- Those who attended received a great deal of information – print and oral
- There were some problems with credentials and registration – the Credentials Committee has already been considering improvements (e.g., a barcode or QR code system and more)



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Tom Banner (0767) suggested reducing the time spent standing in line while voting; also, there wasn't anywhere to sit in the waiting area. Tom suggested doing regional voting first and followed by national voting. Richard said, "...an additional 40 minutes will be allotted to the time to vote to allow those with physical limitations enough time to vote.

*Dissolution of VVA must be now. **Only** VVA as a corporation is being dissolved.* Since VVA was incorporated in New York State VVA must follow its regulations in shutting down or New York State will receive ALL organization assets when VVA dissolves. The organization's dissolution will be the main focus of the 2025 VVA National Convention.

VVA has a new Operations Manager.

Bob Shara (1130) asked about the change of address for VVA National. Richard explained the new address is only for the drop box location, not the organization's physical location.

### **Veterans Affairs Committee/Council on Veterans Programs – Vern Larson**

The meeting at King was canceled – no report.

Vern thanked everyone for their calls and support of Assembly Bills [AB102](#) and [AB26](#). AB102 is currently stalled based on financing concerns. AB26 remains active. As Vern shared, part of the bill process is for legislators to look at the number of calls received from constituents about the bills and then the cost of the measures is reviewed. Vern noted that no legislators who are veterans have supported either bill.

Margowski (0425) will call his legislators and specifically ask why the Legislature can find funding for the Green Bay Packers draft and the National Republican Party convention, but they can't find funding for these two bills. Tom Banner (0767) said he has found that many non-veterans are not aware of the bill(s) and that we need to be proactive in educating them so they have a reason to contact their legislators and support the bills.

### **AVVA Report – Pat Furno**

Pat reported on four outcomes of the National AVVA Convention:

1. Dual membership for VVA members was not changed, one of the reasons given was to save money. Pat will bring it up again at the 2025 Convention.
2. Although AVVA now has 10,000 members, increasing membership is still important – many current AVVA members are also VVA members or are spouses of VVA members. AVVA needs to recruit younger members to ensure keeping the organization viable.
3. Tom Banner (0767) said he thought there seemed to be a lot of changes to the AVVA Constitution. Pat responded that most of the proposed changes were to "clean up wording" and not many of the changes were instituted.
4. There was a change regarding how by-laws may be amended. The change, suggested by Wisconsin, was that by-laws can "**only**" be changed by delegates voting on those changes; it previously read "**should**"

There will be an AVVA meeting following the WSC Meeting today.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Scholarship Report – Virginia Nuske**

Virginia needs to receive registration information for scholarship recipients for the Fall semester to issue their scholarship funds.



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## **– POW/MIA Report – Duane Canon**

Duane provided updated information on MIA/KIA numbers for WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. He also discussed the underwater recovery mission.

Tom Banner (0767) shared that he received a beautifully printed poster for the National POW/MIA Day and was wondering if anyone knew why he received it. Richard Lindbeck (0448) replied that it was probably part of the information for the 50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Commemoration and that Tom received it since he is the person designated to receive VVA Chapter mailings.

## **– Legislative Report – Dan Sciuti**

Dan reviewed items all VVA members should review and act on, items will also be posted on the website:

- There are 17 bills relevant to veterans on both the State and Federal levels.
- There are new Toxic Exposure and PACT Act scams targeting veterans. Attorneys contact a veteran and offer to “help” them receive benefits. DO NOT be fooled, contact your County or Tribal Veteran Service Officer (CVSO/TVSO) to assist you in receiving the benefits you have earned. AARP and some veteran service organizations (VSOs) are sharing resources to educate veterans about the PACT Act and potential scams. Be very cautious of anyone “guaranteeing” benefits. AARP will be in LaCrosse on October 24<sup>th</sup> for a Veteran Scam Jam and on November 4<sup>th</sup> for the annual Veterans Bonanza. Check [AARP.org/WI](https://www.aarp.org/WI) or [AARP.org](https://www.aarp.org) – search for “veterans” for additional information.
- The VA now has flu shots until April 2024. Drive-through locations are available in Green Bay, Appleton, Cleveland, and Milwaukee. John Margowski (0425) added Iron Mountain and Escanaba, MI also have drive-throughs.

## **Chapter Reports**

No verbal reports were given emailed reports can be found on the website.

## **Old Business**

- Tom Banner (0767) advised that, as directed, he purchased a speaker system for use at WSC meetings. The system includes two (2) speakers and two (2) microphones. Tom will submit the appropriate paperwork for reimbursement.
- Greg Bloch (0635) has items for sale in the “Goody Store”. Please see him if there is something you would like to purchase.

## **New Business**

- The Executive Committee tasked Duane Canon (0437) with checking on potential meeting venues in the Oshkosh area for future WSC Quarterly meetings. Duane reported the Hilton Hotel at the intersection of Hyws 41 and 44 can offer blocks of hotel rooms at the same rate received at comfort suites (i.e., \$99); however, a continental breakfast is not included in the room rate. John Brandenburg (0256) asked, “Why did the location change?” It was explained that it was a request by delegates for locations other than the Highground or Camp Victory – a new location should provide members and guests with more choices for activities, restaurants, etc. Tom Banner (0767) suggested the American Inn in New London as a possible location; the meeting room is small, but it has a large banquet room that could be used for meetings. Greg Bloch (0635) asked if the reason for moving was the cost. The response was, “Cost is not a factor at this time.”



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## 50/50 Raffle

The 50/50 raffle was held, and the winner received \$82.00.

Motion by Richard Lindbeck (0448) to adjourn; motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Margowski (0425); motion approved.  
The meeting adjourned at 11:24 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*James E. Mullarkey*

James E. Mullarkey, Secretary  
VVA Wisconsin State Council

*Joy Foye*

Joy Foye, Associate Secretary  
WSC AVVA At-Large Member

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