

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL MEETING
BEST WESTERN GRAND SEASONS HOTEL
WAUPACA, WI
DECEMBER 11/12, 2010
www.vvawi.org

Saturday, December 11, 2010

Karen Seipel called the **Convention Planning Meeting** to order. **Motion** to not have a Fall Convention in 2011. John Margowski/Demske Discussion followed. Passed unanimously.

(This motion will be presented out-of-committee to the VVA body for a vote at the regular meeting today.)

Only 48 people attended the Fall Convention 2010 (and some walk-ins), which was a “terrible” showing with the National President in attendance. No one was put in for awards.

The March meeting is for budget purposes; the June meeting is traditionally at the HighGround; December is the Christmas Party. The September meeting may still be held, but not the Fall Convention in 2011.

Without further discussion and no need for Fall Convention planning, the meeting was **adjourned** at 10:47 a.m.

President Lindbeck called an **Executive Meeting** at 10:50 a.m.

1. Item one on list (see above motion) will be presented out-of-committee to the body today.
2. Regional Directors need to contact all of their respective Chapters about non-attendance at state meetings, get them to attend and report back to the President.
3. A funding committee is needed due to our stressed finances.

4. The President appointed Clif Sorenson as back up to Bob Piaro (new VVA representative on the Council on Veterans Programs).

The meeting was **adjourned** at 11:15 a.m.

President Lindbeck **Called to Order** the meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America at 12:00 p.m.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited, followed by a **Moment of Silence**.

Secretary Sorenson took **Roll Call of Officers**; all were in attendance except Region Directors 2, 3 and At Large. **Roll Call of Chapters** was done by Secretary Sorenson: Chapters 5, 236, 425, 437, 448, 479, 529, 635, 731, 767, 768 (President said regular attendees were excused if they did not attend due to weather – Chapters 206, 220, 324, 351).

The **Minutes** were accepted with Oconomowoc Chapter number changed; there were 26 in attendance.

Per the President, any **Reinstatement of Suspended Chapters or Suspension of Chapters** will be deferred to our March 2011 meeting with the President directing Regional Directors to work on the possible suspension of more Chapters and better attendance at all State Council meetings.

The President made the appointment of **Parliamentarian**, John Margowski and **Timekeeper**, Jim Mullarkey.

Approval of **Agenda**, with amendment, Passed without objection.

The **President's Report** was given. He attended the National Board and Council in Silver Springs in October. File a form 990N for those under \$25,000 (can do it electronically). IRIS.gov charities and non-profits are affected. You must pay \$850 to reinstate a tax-exempt organization; e-mail will follow. If you are able, while in the D.C. area, go to Walter Reed as a highlight of your trip there (many amputees there). President went to Commander's Meeting at Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). He appointed Bob Piaro to represent us on the Council of Veterans Programs, Clif will be back up. The President will attend a VVA meeting in San Francisco in January.

Our scheduled speaker on Vietnam Veteran Grave Locations – Steve Condo – cancelled due to weather conditions.

Karen Seipel gave the **Fall Convention Planning Report**.

Karen presented a **Motion** out of Committee; We won't have a September Fall Convention in 2011. Passed without objection.

Meetings Schedule (please put these dates on your calendar):

March 5, 2011 – Waupaca, Annual Budget Meeting

June 18, 2011 – HighGround, Annual Meeting

September 2011 Waupaca, Fall Meeting is still not scheduled

December 3, 2011 Waupaca, Meeting and Christmas Party

April 13, 2011 Madison, Veterans Salute to the Legislature to be held in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Zeitlin Education Center at 10:30 a.m.

Pat Furno wants further work on the effects of Agent Orange/Vietnam on children and grandchildren.

One of the Veterans shared that the National Academy of Science refers any such linkage to VA Secretary Shinseki and Congress.

Correspondence from the State Historical Society reported by Mike Demske. She was sorry she did not attend LZ Lambeau, but we can get 10% off LZ Lambeau books.

Sara sent a thank you for her award; Butch (who took video of interviews) sent a thank you for his award.

Under **Committee Reports** – John Margowski reported on Council of Veterans Program activities. He said that VVA is trying to re-establish claims relationship with WDVA. They may have to do something legislatively – other small Veterans Service Offices are affected, too

Clif Sorenson gave the **Legislative Advocacy and Government Affairs Report**.

The President reiterated for everyone to attend the **Salute to the Legislators April 13, 2011**.

Treasurer's Report was given by Kent Beeman; accepted without objection; John/second

The President and John went to Milwaukee's U.S. Grant School on December 7. WWII and Afghanistan Veterans were there. The teacher's son was in Afghanistan. There were Vietnam Veterans and a Persian Gulf Veteran. The students were really interested.

Other Committee Reports were presented.

Region Reports were given. Region 1 had a good showing at the Milwaukee parade; Jim Mayr is now Director of Region 3; Region 4 Director contacted chapters about the 990n report and why they won't make meetings, etc. He will continue his efforts.

Oshkosh gave a **Chapter Report**. The chapter is very active; six members in October went to the Appleton airport for a Glory Honor Flight; they're making up business cards to hand out.

Chapter 5 helped to establish Honor Flights out of the Twin Ports.

Newburg Chapter is very active.

Chapter 236 Janesville will be 25 years old next year.

Chapter 767 does salutes at funerals and other events; color guard was at a Brewers game; presentations at schools; been getting new members.

Chapter 529 is doing scholarships and playing Santa Claus will give gifts to kids.

Chapter 731 attended Justin's Memorial Ceremony and other events; members are ringing bells today.

Chapter 635 numbers are up; did POW/MIA program; have an in-school program.

Others spoke about Honor Flights and how we can support them.

Karen Seipel gave her **Convention Report**.

Pat Furno gave her **AVVA Report**. They voted to have their convention at same time as VVA; 2013 is the next convention (Florida); voting has opened up now and more people should attend; 257 members were in attendance; she spoke of their support for IAVA.

Jim Mullarkey gave the **Public Relations Report**. He reported on three things – website, database and marketing activities; www.vvawi.org is up and running. News and media section on-line. There is an email click on the website pages. Badger Veteran will be on-line. Blog format will be on-line. Links to other chapters in the state will begin. There are other links.

He spoke of his e-mailings to the media and individuals. Convention photos and banner were developed.

Kent gave George Gottier's **Membership Report**.

There was no **Unfinished Business** to come before the body.

Under **New Business** the President made a report from the Executive Board meeting. Regional Directors will **determine** why members are not coming to state council meetings; Directors will check with their members as to why they are not coming to meetings. John made a **Motion**/Mike to get word back within 45 days. They should have the President send out letter to the respective chapters. Without objection, so approved.

The President will appoint an ad hoc committee as to how to get back in the black; House, Mullarkey and Zechmeister were appointed.

The **Next Meeting** was set for March 5, 2011 in Waupaca.

The President called for **Adjournment**, without objection at 3:10 p.m. (Without any further business, there will be no Business Meeting on December 12, 2010.)

Following the Business Meeting, all of the VVA, AVVA members and guests enjoyed the VVA's Annual Christmas Party's Social Hour, Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clifton Sorenson, Secretary

Vietnam Veterans of America

Wisconsin State Council