

## UNAPPROVED

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### VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL

State Council Meeting  
Western Grand Seasons Hotel, Waupaca, Wisconsin  
December 8, 2012  
[www.vvawi.org](http://www.vvawi.org)

The State Council Meeting was Called to Order by President Lindbeck at 12:00 P.M. on December 8, 2012. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence for our POWs/MIAs and active duty service members was observed.

There was a Roll Call of Officers and Chapters by Secretary Mullarkey. President Lindbeck, Secretary Mullarkey, Treasurer Craney were present. Vice-President Mayr was excused. Sergeant At Arms Hueller was present. Region 1, 2, and 3 Directors were present. Region 4 Director was excused. There was a Roll Call of Chapters by Secretary Mullarkey and the following were present: Chapters 005, 206, 236, 324, 351, 425, 437, 438, 635, 731, 767, and At-Large. AVVA representation included: 206, 437, 479, 635, and 767.

There was sufficient Chapter representation for a quorum. There was no Reinstatement of Chapters.

John Margowski was selected as Parliamentarian and Clif Sorenson was selected as Timekeeper.

The December 8, 2012 Agenda was approved without objection.

The June 23, 2012 (The Highground) Minutes were moved to be accepted by Clif S. and seconded by Bruce W. and approved without objection. The September 22, 2012 Minutes were moved to be accepted by Greg F. and seconded by Tom H. and approved without objection. (The approved Minutes are available online at [www.vvawi.org](http://www.vvawi.org).)

President Lindbeck provided highlights of the President's Report, which is located online the State Council's website ([www.vvawi.org//meetings/reports/presidents-report.html](http://www.vvawi.org//meetings/reports/presidents-report.html)).

Secretary John A. Scocos, Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA), provided an generalized update on the activities of the WDVA ranging from providing "greater latitude in providing services," the Trust Fund, and the restoration of the Wisconsin GI Bill. Secretary Scocos also provided information on finance and employment. More specific information can be found online at <http://dva.state.wi.us/AboutWDVA.asp>.

There was no Correspondence reported.

Lora Elizabeth Hein one of the 2012-2013 Scholarship Winners read her essay on Vietnam Veteran Michael Weaver. Ms. Hein's essay can be found on the State Council website (<http://vvawi.org/scholarships/scholarship-winners.html>).

Clif Sorenson provided the State Council with an in-depth Legislative and Homeless Veterans Report. Mr. Sorenson's complete report is available on the State Council's website (<http://vvawi.org/meetings/reports/legislative-homeless.html>) while highlights of his report follows:

- The current focus continues to be on ***all veterans and their families***, especially those veterans from Vietnam through the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.
- Employment efforts need to be renewed for Wisconsin veterans – getting veterans to their DWD specialists and encouraging more work with their DVOPS and LVERS
- ***Vigilance*** must be the State Council's watchword for **mental health** services for veterans regardless of era served – areas of concern include but should not be limited to TBI, PTSD, and the growing number of **suicides** after service.
- Wisconsin needs to continue the *development* and *expansion* of **Veteran Treatment Courts**.
- All of Wisconsin's veterans must be made aware of their **benefits**, especially those Wisconsin veterans who have and are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- During my legislative meetings in Washington, D.C. in June 2012 and October 2012, on behalf of *Veterans and their Families*, I reiterated in each Congressional office visited the **need** for solid support of our fellow Veterans and the need to eradicate homelessness among our fellow Veterans.
- **Agent Orange** continues to be an issue, especially with the VA Secretary adding three medical conditions that can be presumptively linked to exposure of Agent Orange: **B Cell leukemia**, such as hairy cell leukemia; **Parkinson's disease**; and **ischemic heart disease**. NOTE: The **Blue Water Navy** exposure issue remains unresolved.
- **Camp Lejeune** Veterans have to be aware of the time periods when the water at that military facility was contaminated.
- Our Veterans' benefits on a state-level **have not changed for the better!**

Again, please see Mr. Sorenson's full reports online (<http://vvawi.org/meetings/reports/legislative-homeless.html>).

Treasurer Craney provided the Treasurer's Report.

AVVA Report, given by Pat Furno, who was clearly inspired by the first formal AVVA meeting held in Jacksonville, FL and of those AVVA Chapter Representatives also in attendance. Furno also indicated that June 10, 2013, is the deadline for the nomination of AVVA Officers.

Rebecca D. Fox one of the 2012-2013 Scholarship Winners read her winning essay on Vietnam Veteran Colonel William Fox. Ms. Fox's essay can be found on the State Council website (<http://vvawi.org/scholarships/scholarship-winners.html>).

Region 3 Director's Report was presented and submitted by Tom Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman reported that since the September 2012 meeting the region "lost two of our all time great AVVA members – Christine Meidam from Chapter 351 in Appleton and Karen Seiple from Chapter 731 in Manitowoc. These two ladies were so special, for all the love and kindness they had for all of us Vietnam Veterans, and all the things they did for our Chapters and State Council. What they did for education of our students throughout the Region was unbelievable; they brought so much to the table for our Education Programs. All will miss them; our thoughts and prayers are with their families, and may God welcome them into his home. God Bless you Christine and Karen."

Hoffman added, Chapter 731 Manitowoc has put together a bus tour to the Wall and Washington, D.C., leaving April 18<sup>th</sup> and returning April 24<sup>th</sup>. Those interested in joining them please contact Tom Hoffman at (920) 682-5073 or by email at [thseabee@tm.net](mailto:thseabee@tm.net) for more information.

Chapter Reports were provided by Chapter 437 – Duane Canon, Chapter 351 – Michael Weaver, Chapter 425 – Joe DeLoria, Sr., and Chapter 448 – Frank Mueller. Each of these Chapter Reports will be available on the State Council’s website ([www.vvawi.org](http://www.vvawi.org)).

Taylor A. Bednar one of the 2012-2013 Scholarship Winners read his winning essay on Vietnam Veteran Michael John Bednar. Mr. Bednar’s essay can be found on the State Council website (<http://vvawi.org/scholarships/scholarship-winners.html>).

There was no Unfinished Business.

Under the topic of New Business Bob Piaro ([piarousmc@gmail.com](mailto:piarousmc@gmail.com)) gave an overview of the VVA Homeless Program in Wisconsin; Mike Weaver shared information on the Gulf War Groundbreaking Ceremony which is further detailed on The Highground website ([www.thehighground.org/](http://www.thehighground.org/)); and John Margowski shared information on the “predatory nature” of many *for profit* post-secondary schools and the negative impact they have on veterans’ GI Bill for education.

Mike Demske shared that for 2013, Waupaca State Council Meetings will be held at Comfort Suites (information located on <http://vvawi.org/meetings/lodging.html>). Demske also shared the 2013 calendar:

- March 16, 2013 – Waupaca
- June 22, 2013 – The Highground
- September 14, 2013 – Waupaca

Adjournment was moved by Mike D. seconded by Clif S., and without objection approved.