



Together Always

**AVVA - AT LARGE NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 2  
JULY, 2018**

I hope everyone is having a good summer. It's hard to believe the 4<sup>th</sup> of July just a few days away. It's amazing how time is simply flying by!

Here is the information that I thought would be of interest, or helpful, to you from the June 16, 2018 quarterly Wisconsin State Council meeting at The Highground in Neillsville.

**AVVA Notes:**

Eight (8) AVVA Chapter and At Large delegates voted on the State AVVA Representative for the next 2 years. As indicated in my last newsletter, Pat Furno and Rick Talford ran for the position. Pat and Rick each spoke to the delegates about their qualifications and reasons for running for the office, as well as what they see as the role of the position. Both candidates conveyed their passion for the position and for continuing to support the mission of AVVA. Pat was re-elected to the position.

Pat spoke at the general meeting, giving her AVVA report.

- Jake Barsottini contacted Pat by e-mail by on 4/24/18 on behalf of AVVA National regarding changing AVVA from a 501(c)4 to a 501(c)3 for tax purposes. Jake requested that Pat sign a letter agreeing to participate in a group exemption and that she would follow AVVA Supervision and Rules. Pat contacted the Region VI AVVA Representation, and other National AVVA contacts, to obtain additional insight on the e-mail. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to obtain any additional information. Pat also contacted Chapter and At Large representatives and made the decision not to sign the letter after those discussions. Pat replied (via e-mail) to Jake that she would not be able to sign the letter until she met with Wisconsin Chapter and At Large representatives at the June quarterly meeting.
- Pat explained to the membership that the AVVA Board of Directors met in closed session during the 10/17/17 Board meeting and then announced they would explore changing from a 504(c)4 to a 501(c)3.
- Pat later was able to later determine that the intent of the IRS change was to allow AVVA to receive funds if VVA dissolves and decides to distribute those funds to AVVA. Pat also shared that the change in status would only affect incorporated Chapters (Wisconsin currently has no incorporated Chapters).

**State Council Notes:**

Guest Speakers:

- Two of the scholarship winners, Heather Greenburg (Stratford) and Addison Watkins (Grafton). Read their essays. Both of those students interviewed their Vietnam veteran grandfathers. The interviewees were at the meeting and were recognized and welcomed home.

President's Report (Richard Lindbeck):

- The Blue Water Navy bill has been passed by the U.S. House of Representatives; a \$5.00 home loan surcharge to fund the program has been suggested. At the time of this newsletter, a companion bill has been proposed in the Senate.
- A new Junior ROTC medal has been established; it is for high school and younger students; the form for the medal will be posted on the website when it is available.

- There is new lifetime membership pricing. For those who currently have a 3-year membership, life membership is free; for those who renew annually, they can become a life member for \$30; for new members, life membership is \$50. VVA currently has over 83,000 members.

Secretary's Report (Jim Mullarkey):

- The new version of the website (vvawi.org) is active and the old one is gone. Jim is requesting people provide suggestions for the site. He expects the website to include an "active" calendar (e-mail Jim with items to be included) and a Chapter directory (with a listing of Chapter Presidents, Chapter website and designated delegates).

Treasurer's Report (Pat Craney):

- All Chapters have signed and returned the forms allowing the State Council to receive any Household Good Program funds from National. The forms were submitted to National about 6 weeks ago but no updates been received yet. Chapter delegates would determine how any funds received would be used.
- The State Council is still receiving money from the sale of the VVA logo glasses. Putting an Agent Orange/Toxic Exposure logo on the other side of the glass was discussed.

National VVA At-Large Report (John Margowski):

- John does not recommend being tested for Agent Orange due to the potential for results being used for other than what the veteran intended (i.e., being used in determining disability eligibility, etc.).
- John discussed presentations regarding the panels on the direction VVA will go in the future; these presentations will be given at this year's Leadership Conference. The panels will take questions but will not provide any answers at the Conference. After the Conference, information will be provided that explains what transpired at the Conference; this process may enable a vote on the panel options at the 2019 National Convention.
- A Region IV meeting on 8/24-8/25 in Ames, Iowa was discussed.

Elections:

State Council elections were held with the following results:

- President: Richard Lindbeck
- Vice President: Dan Sciuti (defeated Joe Eiting, incumbent)
- Secretary: Jim Mullarkey
- Treasurer: Pat Craney

Upcoming Events:

September 22, 2018;

- 30th Anniversary of the dedication of Fragments at The Highground

September 29, 2018:

- Wisconsin State Council quarterly meeting; Ramada Inn, Waupaca

November 30-December 1, 2018:

- Wisconsin State Council quarterly holiday party (11/30) and meeting (12/1); Ramada Inn, Waupaca

May I send you this newsletter by e-mail? If so, please contact me at [jlfoye@frontier.com](mailto:jlfoye@frontier.com) with a subject line of "AVVA At-Large Newsletter" or by phone at 715-842-9197 (we don't have caller ID so please leave your phone number so I can contact you). If you have any suggestions on what (or how much) information to include in the newsletter, please let me know. Thank you!



Joy L. Foye  
Wisconsin AVVA At-Large Representative