



Together Always

**AVVA - AT LARGE NEWSLETTER
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I hope everyone had a safe and Happy 4th of July. Here are my notes from the VVA Wisconsin State Council quarterly meeting on Saturday, June 15th, held at The Highground, Neillsville, WI.

AVVA Notes

AVVA chapter/at large members were invited to a meeting with Pat Furno, our AVVA State Representative, before the regular State Council meeting. We discussed the 13 bylaw changes that will be debated at the upcoming AVVA National Convention on July 16-20 in Spokane, WA (see the attached for details or go to AVVA.org; Convention/Leadership/Awards; select "Convention Information" and scroll to the bottom of the page; click on "Proposed Bylaw Amendments). We discussed each of the changes and reached a group consensus on each of them. We agreed with the Bylaws Committee recommendations except for the following items:

- Article III, Section 3.07 **Voting**: Pat will submit an amendment that this change to apply on a national level only.
- Article VII, Section 7.02 **Incorporated State Associations**: We recommend voting "no" on this change. Wisconsin is an unincorporated state, with unincorporated chapters, so we are automatically governed by the non-profit status of the National organization and are not affected by this change;. Our concern, as a group, is that if this change is allowed, incorporated states/chapters will have to change their status from a non-profit 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3) to match the National status of 501(c)(4). For the most part, both types of non-profits function in a similar way. As a 501(c)(4), AVVA National (and all unincorporated states/chapters) can lobby elected representatives (at all levels of government) but they are **not** considered a tax exempt organization (donors cannot deduct donations on their tax returns). As a 501(c)(3), we would **not** be able to lobby but **would** be considered a tax exempt organization. The discussion centered around the ability of AVVA members to lobby as a member of AVVA (a nationally recognized organization) rather than as an individual versus the advantage of a donor being able to deduct their donation. Both designations allow fund raising activities and/or accepting donations. The other concern discussed by the group was that AVVA National changed the National by-laws regarding the non-profit status without input from the membership (i.e., at a National Convention). Pat will draft a letter stating our position and provide it to AVVA chapter/at large representatives so everyone is "on the same page" when delegates vote at the Convention.
- Article VIII, Section 8.02 **Unincorporated Chapter Associates**: Rick Talford (Chapter 5) recommended we amend the change to leave in "associates" versus changing it to "members". Rick had been told the change was needed since "associates" is an outdated term. The consensus reached by the group was that since the name of our organization is "Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America", "associates" should remain in the by-laws and the Policies and Procedures manual.

Pat's report included the following information:

- AVVA National has chosen Volunteers of America, Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, as their Project Friendship 2019 recipient. Chapter 5 (including AVVA) has already donated \$400 to the organization. A motion was made, and passed, by the Wisconsin State Council to donate \$200.
- The decisions made at the AVVA chapter/at large representative meeting regarding AVVA's proposed by-law changes were shared with all attendees at the State Council meeting.
- We currently have 5 delegates attending the National Convention in Spokane.

State Council Notes

President's Report (Richard Lindbeck):

- I missed the beginning of the meeting as I was still at the AVVA meeting so I have no information on Dick's report. It is my understanding that Richard reminded delegates to make sure they had all the appropriate paperwork with them (including a copy of their DD-214). He also discussed the 2 resolutions submitted by VVA National President John Rowan.

Vice President's Report (Dan Sciuti):

- Dan sat in on several meetings in Washington, DC, particularly when President Lindbeck was needed to fill in for an absent officer of the Council of State Presidents.

Secretary's Report (Jim Mullarkey):

- Please submit as many reports as possible in an electronic format to the Secretary. This allows him to add the reports to the website (vvawi.org) under the appropriate category more quickly, and easily but he Jim will scan and upload reports if they are mailed to him. Newsletters may also be sent to Jim for uploading to the website.
- Chapters can also check the website for their election and financial report status. New information on the website includes: POW/MIA, Scholarship and Minutes. Please contact Jim (by telephone or e-mail) with any suggestions you have to improve the website (i.e., links to a Chapter website, etc.).
- President Lindbeck appointed Jim Mullarkey, Dan Sciuti and Tom Sachs to review the State by-laws (last updated in June, 2012). The committee submitted their recommendations, which were included in the information sent to all chapters for the June meeting. The by-laws were passed as revised.

Treasurer's Report (Pat Craney):

- The Treasurers report was accepted as presented.
- A motion was made, and passed, to set aside a specific amount to reimburse VVA and AVVA certified delegates who attend the National Convention **IF** delegates attend all caucuses, are on the floor daily and vote in the national elections. The total amount will be equally divided among the certified delegates (currently estimated at 20).

At Large Report (Greg Foye):

- No report.

National VVA At-Large Report (John Margowski):

John spoke about several items.

- Agent Orange Birth Defects Registry: John explained that a motion was made, in October 2018, for VVA National to donate to the Registry; another motion was made to donate to the Registry, in April 2019, if matching funds are received. A motion was made, and passed, for the Wisconsin State Council to donate \$1,000 to the Registry.
- This will be an important meeting since it is expected that discussions regarding the future path of VVA will be vigorously debated as well as National elections held.
- The results furnished by the Working Group I (WG1) and Working Group II (WG2) task forces were distributed with the other meeting material. WG1 and WG2 were tasked with researching potential VVA dissolution options. John reminded everyone that the working groups **could not** disclose what they were doing to the general membership until their tasks had been completed (there was a concern that Household Goods might pull their support if they were uncertain as to whether or not VVA would continue to function as an organization). WG1 submitted a very detailed strategic plan for dissolution; the 10-year dissolution plan included multiple areas that would need to be considered, a projected timeline, specific action items and provisions on both a state and chapter level. WG2 submitted a report containing numerous personal observations and affirmed that it is feasible to start a new organization to perpetuate the mission of VVA; no details were given on how this would be accomplished or recommendations on potential organizations to assume VVA's mission.
- The two resolutions submitted by John Rowan (VVA National President) were discussed.
- Proposed Constitutional Amendments 2 (seating the national president of AVVA on the National Board as a non-voting special advisor) and 4 (inserting a new section on dissolution) were discussed; detailed information regarding these amendments was also included in the meeting information sent to all Chapters.

- A motion was made and passed to support the results of WG2 and to approve Constitutional Amendments 2 and 4.

Upcoming Events:

July 16-20, 2019

- AVVA National Convention; Spokane, Washington

September 21, 2019:

- Wisconsin State Council quarterly meeting; Ramada Inn, Waupaca

December 6-7, 2019:

- Wisconsin State Council holiday party (12/6) and quarterly meeting (12/7); Ramada Inn, Waupaca

May I send you this newsletter by e-mail? If so, please contact me at 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
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