



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Wisconsin State Council**

Unapproved Minutes
VVA WSC Third Quarter Minutes
September 21, 2024
Waupaca, WI

President Thomas “Tom” Banner called the Third Quarter Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed for our troops, POWs, and MIAs. The WSC president directed the secretary to take the Roll.

Secretary Mullarkey called the roll VVA Chapter 101, 206, 224, 324, 351, 409, 425, 437, 448, 479, 731, 767, 1130, and At-Large. AVVA members 206, 351, 437, 635, 767, and AVVA At-Large. The Secretary called a quorum.

The minutes were amended to correct the misspelling of several names; the June Minutes were approved.

President’s Report – Thomas Banner

President Banner reported on the VVA Leadership and Education Conference in Reno, NV. Tom encouraged VVA Chapters to send a representative to future Conferences so they can return to their VVA Chapters with the wealth of information shared by VVA, VA, and other professional presenters and their backup information in binder format. VVA Chapters could send members on a rotating basis so as many VVA members as possible can attend a Conference.

The Leadership and Education Conference offered over 20 sessions; a copy of the Paper Safe (provided by AVVA) was included in one of the packets distributed at the Conference. The Conference included sessions on parliamentary procedures, by-laws for National and State Constitutions, elder law, the VVA Legacy Task Force, and aging veterans.

There was some confusion about attending the Council of State Council Presidents (CSCP) meeting. As a result, I missed the opportunity to be a part of the meeting and share what we are doing in Wisconsin. Fortunately, our Executive Director, Richard Lindbeck, attended the CSCP meeting and stepped in for the WSC.

Vice President’s Report – Frank Mueller

No Report

Executive Director/VVA National At Large Director – Richard Lindbeck

Richard talked about the VVA Leadership and Education Conference, including how many great sessions there were. Richard learned it is important each VVA Chapter knows the name of their Registered Agent – located on the cover sheet of your Articles of Incorporation for Wisconsin.

Also, did you know your VA ID card has an expiration date? You need to make sure it is renewed promptly. Don't wait until it is expired!

As Tom's representative at the CSCP, a new chair and several new officers were elected to the CSCP. Misunderstandings and tension between the CSCP and the VVA Board of Directors are working through them.

Registration for the 2025 National Convention is being streamlined, including using QR codes. If you attend the Convention, review all the paperwork carefully; only delegates should sign the card on the appropriate paperwork.

This is an election year, so there are some rules we need to remember. VVA is a registered non-profit. This is strictly against IRS rules and can result in the loss of the non-profit status.

- Wearing VVA logo items (e.g., hats, pins, patches, etc.) at ANY candidate's rallies/events could be seen as "endorsing" that candidate.
- Pictures from those rallies/events cannot be used by candidates in their literature or social media.

The Wisconsin State Council and VVA Chapters should review their by-laws yearly; by-laws should only be 1-2 pages long. The National website under Resources (State Council and Chapter) has suggested templates. Keep in mind that the VVA Constitution is the primary document, and the by-laws are secondary to it (i.e., you cannot restrict that which is required in the Constitution.).

Region 6 Director – John Margowski

John explained that Chapters who do not submit their required reports will lose their charter (possibly beginning in 2026. Report forms have been simplified; financial and election reports must be filed regularly with both the National and the State Council – forms should be sent to the State Council Secretary first.

If a VVA Chapter is suspended, effective in 2026, the VVA Chapter **cannot** use the VVA logo or vote (at a State Council or National level). Currently, only 1 chapter in Wisconsin is in non-compliance

Treasurer's Report – Pat Craney

The State Council remains financially solvent. The current financial report does not include payment to one of the scholarship awards.



Secretary's Report – Jim Mullarkey

Jim discussed what he learned about the *appropriate format* for State Council minutes at the Leadership Conference. We have been issuing minutes in narrative format (such as these minutes are written). However, it is suggested they be changed to a less detailed format going forward. Minutes should be 1-2 pages with “reports” attached to the minutes as addenda. The purpose of the addendum is to share what will be done or has been done, and what action was taken.

A second is not needed to vote on a motion; a motion is automatically seconded when anything about the motion is discussed.

Election and Financial Reports are now completed electronically and, for the most part, meet the needs of VVA National and the State Council. However, the new Election Report form does not include the VVA Chapters' BOD, Delegates, or Alternates. Because VVA National does not need that information, they will not include that in the electronic format. For the WSC to get the list of elected VVA Chapter BOD and the elected delegates and alternates, a list must be attached to the Election Report – available on the WSC website as “page 3.”

SPECIAL NOTE: If a VVA Chapter has submitted a two-year Election Report, they are responsible for resubmitting year two to both VVA National and the WSC Secretary.

Jim reminded everyone that the website is a living document that can and should be changed/updated as needed. Any VVA or AVVA member can suggest an edition, correction, or other means of presentation.

Information sent out by the WSC Secretary is electronic, i.e., e-mail. Therefore, your *correct e-mail* address is essential for communication. Presently, if no e-mail address is listed on the Election Report, the WSC Secretary will check the VVA National Roster for the address. The final try will be a telephone call. If no e-mail is found for a VVA Chapter officer, the WSC Secretary will use the person's name and the e-mail address of the next officer on the list. While any VVA/AVVA member can request to be added to the e-mail list, correct information is needed, specifically your name and e-mail address.

Finally, please do not use a fictitious e-mail address – this is a waste of the WSC Secretary's time adding the e-mail to the list, reading the return report as to why the e-mail did not go through, and removing the e-mail from the list.

Regional Directors:

Region 1 – no report
Region 2 – no report
Region 3 – no report
Region 4 – no report
At Large – no report



AVVA Report – Pat Furno

Pat reminded everyone that if a Chapter has an elected AVVA representative, that representative is a non-voting member of that Chapter's Board of Directors.

An AVVA meeting is scheduled at the December quarterly meeting to discuss any potential AVVA constitution by-law changes. Pat asked AVVA members to bring ideas/suggestions to the December meeting; any suggested changes must be submitted by March 2025.

POW-MIA Report – Dan Sciuti

Duane had an excused absence, so Dan Sciuti gave the report.

The remains of two Air Force members have been recovered. Of the 2,641 MIA/POWs from Vietnam, 1,066 have been found, and 1,575 are still missing.

Scholarship Report – Virginia Nuske

Two of the three fall scholarships have been processed.

Three scholarships, \$1,500 each, will be available for 2025; the submission deadline is 4/16/2025. Submission rules and forms can be found on the WSC website at vvawi.org.

Chapter Reports:

Chapter reports to be included on the website must be submitted to the Secretary.

Chapter 409 provided a calendar of events; they have 193 members.

Chapter 635: Vern Larson passed away.

Chapter 351: It is the 35th anniversary of the Reflections of Vietnam.

Chapter 731: We are holding a raffle; tickets are available for sale. VVA Chapter lost a Chapter member in July.

Unfinished (formerly Old) Business:

None

New Motions (formerly New Business):

The meeting dates for 2025 were set: 3/15/2025 and 9/13/2025. These are designated regular meetings, RONR (12th ed).



General Announcements:

Bob Morzenti passed away; no details regarding his passing or service are currently available.

This is an election year. Two bills didn't make it to the floor in the Legislature for a vote; they passed in committee but did not go to the floor. One bill would have reduced the disability rating percentage from 100% to 70% to receive a "rebate" for real estate taxes; the second bill would have formally funded the POW/MIA research project. Make sure to contact your legislators to show your support for these bills.

The December Meeting will also be available virtually using ZOOM. This will be open to VVA Chapter officers, delegates, alternates, and VVA and AVVA members. If you want to receive an invitation and directions to participate virtually, contact the WSC Secretary at jmullarkey@mac.com.

The White Elephant gift exchange at the holiday party was discussed. Secretary Mullarkey reminded everyone about the "definition" of a white elephant. It is something that you (or possibly anyone else) would want or can use; the funnier, the better. Since this will be our last year for a planned December Meeting and Christmas Dinner and Party, *let's make it a memorable one.*

WSC Meeting adjourned at 11:47 am.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Mullarkey

James E. Mullarkey
VVA WSC Secretary

Joy L. Foye

Joy L. Foye
AVVA At Large/VVA WSC Associate Secretary

