



AT-LARGE DIRECTOR REPORT

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

The 2024 Leadership Conference in Reno, NV, is in the history books. It was a good conference attended by 377 members. Some interesting seminars were presented during the week. I found the seminars on the constitution and by-laws very interesting.

There were several items that, as a State Council and Chapters, must address so we can continue once the National Corporation shuts down. At this time, we are under New York Corporation law – that is where the articles of incorporation are.

I represented Wisconsin at the CSCP meeting, where the main order of business was the election of the new officers. Chuck Odam, Mississippi, is the new Chair; Dennis Howland, Utah, is 2nd vice, Charlie Stapelton, Missouri 1st vice; and Michael Dolan, Indiana, is the secretary. The main issue of CSCP is to work with the BOD and National Office.

At the BOD meeting, it was decided that the Board Meeting, beginning in 2025, will be moving to a new location. This is closer to Reagan Airport and a 10-minute ride to the hotel. The National Office will be moving to the hotel during the BOD/CSCP meetings.

I met with Scot DeArmin, Election Chair, and Nicole Kennedy, Membership to discuss the 2025 National Convention in New Orleans. We are looking at ways to make the registration and voting procedure simple. There are several options on the table to work on. One is using the 'Q' Code system to speed up the registration. At this time, I encourage you to keep an open mind on this process. More information will be coming.

All chapters make sure that they have their election report and finance reports to the National Membership and State Council Secretary. These are required, and National is in the process of suspending State Councils and Chapters not in compliance.

Another item of interest that may impact State Councils and Chapters is the Rebate Program. At this time, there is around \$900,000 left in the account. The Finance Department is looking at ways to continue the program. As it is now, 2024 is the last time the rebates may be going out.

In June, I attended the Michigan State Council meeting in Marquette, Michigan, and found it to be very interesting. The only Medal of Honor, recipient from Vietnam and Michigan was the keynote speaker and a very interesting individual. Also, an LTG Marine helicopter pilot and U.S. Representative attended. Michigan did an outstanding job with this program.

John Margowski, Region 6 Director, and I attended the Appleton Chapter 351's 35th Anniversary Program in mid-June. VVA Chapter 351 did a great program, and they are to be commended for their work at the chapter.

On a sad note, we lost Vern Larson, Oconomowoc. John Margowski and I attended the service. Vern was the State Council Representative to the WDVA Veterans Program and will be missed.