



AVVA - AT LARGE NEWSLETTER
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My apologies for being so late with sending this information out. Here are my notes from the September 21, 2024 meeting. There was no separate AVVA meeting.

State Council Notes

President's Report – Tom Banner

- Tom reported on the Reno Leadership Conference. He suggested Chapters send a representative to any future Conferences so they can take the information distributed there back to their chapters. Different Chapter members could be sent (possibly on a rotating basis) so as many Chapter members as possible can experience a Conference.
- There was some confusion about attending the Presidents of State Councils (CSCP) meeting and Tom missed the opportunity to personally present Wisconsin State Council information to National.
- The Conference offered over 20 sessions with a copy of the paper safe (provided by AVVA) 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.

Vice President's Report – Frank Miller

- No Report

Secretary's Report – Jim Mullarkey

- Jim discussed what he learned at the Leadership Conference about the appropriate format for State Council minutes. We have been issuing minutes in narrative format but they will be changed to a less detailed one going forward. Minutes should be 1-2 pages with "reports" attached to the minutes as an addendum. The purpose of the addendum is to share what will be (or has been) done and what action will be (or was) taken. A second is not needed to vote on a motion since a motion is automatically seconded when anything about the motion is discussed.
- Election reports are now completed electronically (this is easier for Jim to process) and he uses the reports to update the "chart" on the website (vvawi.org). The 2013 handwritten version of the election report is now obsolete and should not be used.
- Jim reminded everyone that the website is a living document which can, and should be, changed/updated.

Treasurer's Report – Pat Craney

- The State Council remains financially solvent. The current report does not include payment for one of the awarded scholarships.

Region 6 Director – John Margowski

- John explained that Chapters who don't 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 National and with the State (please send forms to the State Council Secretary first).
- Effective in 2026, if a Chapter is suspended, they cannot use the VVA logo or vote at a State or National level. Currently only 1 chapter in Wisconsin is in non-compliance.

National At Large Director Report – Richard Lindbeck

- Richard talked about the Leadership Conference, including how many great sessions there were.
- Richard shared it is important for Chapters to know who their registered agent is and where their Chapter charter is located.
- Did you know your VA ID card has an expiration date? You need to make sure it's renewed in a timely manner.
- When Richard realized Tom wasn't aware of the Council of State Council Presidents (CSCP), meeting he went in Tom's place. A new chair and several new officers were elected to the CSCP. Although there have been some misunderstandings between the CSCP and the VVA Board of Directors, they are being worked through.
- The 2025 National Convention registration is being streamlined and will include using QR codes. If you attend the Convention, make sure you review all the paperwork you receive carefully; only delegates should sign the appropriate paperwork.
- This is an election year so there are some rules we need to remember. VVA is a registered non-profit, so wearing VVA logo items at **ANY** candidate's rallies/events could be seen as "endorsing" that candidate. This is strictly against IRS rules and can result in the loss of an organization's non-profit status. This is also an issue if pictures from those events are used by candidates in their literature or social media.
- The State Council and Chapters should review their by-laws yearly; by-laws should only be 1-2 pages long.

AVVA Report – Pat Furno

- Pat reminded everyone that if a Chapter has an elected AVVA representative, that representative is also a non-voting member of that Chapter's Board of Directors.
- There will be an AVVA meeting 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 to AVVA National by March, 2025.

Scholarship Report – Virginia Nuske

- Two of the three fall scholarships have been processed.
- There will be 3 scholarships (\$1,500 each) available for 2025; the submission deadline is 4/16/25. Submission rules and forms can be found at vvawi.org.

Unfinished (formerly Old Business) Business:

- None

New Motions (formerly New Business):

- Wisconsin State Council meetings for 2025 were set: 3/15/25 and 9/13/25.

General Announcements:

- Bob Morzenti passed away; no details regarding his passing or service are currently available.
- This is an election year. There were 2 bills that didn't make it to the floor in the Legislature for a vote but did pass in committee. One of the bills would have reduced the disability rating percent from 100% to 70% to receive a "rebate" for real estate taxes; the other bill would have formally funded the POW/MIA research project. Make sure to contact your legislators to show your support of these bills.
- The White Elephant gift exchange at the holiday party was discussed. Secretary Mullarkey reminded everyone that the "definition" of a white elephant is something that you (or possibly anyone else) would not want or can't use--the funnier the better. Since this will probably be the last year for this activity, let's make it a memorable one.

Upcoming Events:

December 6, 2024

Wisconsin State Council holiday party; Par 4 Convention Center; 5:00-6:00 PM, cash bar; 6:00 – 7:30 PM (estimated), buffet style dinner; 8:00 PM, white elephant gift exchange.

December 7, 2024

9:00 AM Committee meeting(s); 10:00 AM, State Council meeting; Par 4 Comfort Suites, 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 (please leave your number so I can return your call). Any suggestions on what/how much information to include in this newsletter is always appreciated.



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