



AVVA - At Large Newsletter
Volume 30
March, 2025

Here are my notes from the AVVA and Wisconsin State Council meetings on March 15, 2025. The AVVA meeting was held prior to the Wisconsin State Council meeting.

AVVA Meeting

AVVA members in attendance discussed suggested changes to the AVVA National by-laws to be submitted for the upcoming National Convention in New Orleans (August 5-9), including member and dual member voting. The specifics we discussed were:

- Article III – Members, 3.02, item c: remove “on state and national committees”.
- Article III – Members, 3.07, item c, Voting: remove wording “absentee voting” since it is not applicable. Pat will discuss the difference between proxy and absentee voting with the National Parliamentarian since they are two different things. Pat will add wording to allow proxy voting in state and national elections.
- Article VIII, 8.04, Delegate of Record: change “chapter” to “state”.

Pat will submit the proposed changes to National by the April 1 deadline and will e-mail a copy to AVVA representatives. (I have attached a copy of the changes Pat submitted.)

Pat asked how many AVVA members planned on attending the National Convention; it is 3 (including herself). Pat noted contact/correspondence from National has been inconsistent recently.

Pat asked if any AVVA Chapters in Wisconsin are incorporating; there are currently 9 or 10 nationally. The group discussed that one of the advantages of incorporation is an AVVA Chapter can only receive a VVA Chapter’s “stuff if the AVVA Chapter is incorporated.

Wisconsin State Council Notes

The minutes of the December 2, 2024 minutes were amended as follows: Page 3, VVA Region 6 Director’s report (paragraph 1, regarding a Region 6 meeting): “One of the objectives would be to discuss proposed national ~~constitution~~ constitutional ~~by-laws~~ resolution changes”. Motion passed unanimously.

President’s Report – Tom Banner

- President Banner didn’t have a separate report. He mentioned this is our first year with semi-annual instead of quarterly meetings; our next meeting is 9/13/25.

Vice President’s Report – Frank Mueller

- No Report

Treasurer's Report – Pat Craney

- Secretary Craney reported the WSC had more expenses than income last quarter due to payment of 3 scholarships and meeting expenses; the WSC remains solvent.

Secretary's Report – James Mullarkey

- Secretary Mullarkey reminded everyone that reservations for the September meeting are available for both of Friday (9/12) and Saturday (9/13) nights. Please contact the hotel directly (at 715-942-0500) to get the appropriate rate.
- Jim discussed submitting death notices for the "In Memoriam" section on vvawi.org. The National VVA form includes the veterans name, date of birth, service dates, date of death, etc. Sending Jim a copy of the national form as well as a copy of the obituary (if available) allows him to include as much information as possible on vvawi.org.
- Current election and financial reports must be submitted to National by 7/15. Send a copy of the form to National **and Jim** (he doesn't receive notification from National that reports have been submitted). He also needs a copy of the verification information National sends the Chapter to keep his records updated. No Chapter delegate will be allowed on the Convention floor if reports are not received by 7/15. Reports **must** be submitted each year; you will need to note if it is the second year of a 2-year term when completing the form. Only pages 1 and 2 go to National; Jim needs all 3 pages; page 3 has the names of the delegates and alternates and is only used by the State.
- There was a discussion about the National membership "rebate". As of 2025, physical checks are no longer being issued. Chapters must complete a form for direct deposit of the rebate; if you can't find the form at vva.org, it may be available at vvawi.org.
- Chapter dissolution information can be found at both vva.org and vvawi.org.

Region 6 Director – John Margowski

- Director Margowski suggested all members review the proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions prior to attending the National Convention.
- John has requested Region 6 State Council Presidents meet with him after the next National Board meeting in April. He is trying to schedule a Region 6 meeting in mid-June/early July; he is asking Janesville to host it. John expects a Friday afternoon/evening arrival, a brief Saturday meeting and attendees leaving right after the actual meeting. Someone asked if the meeting could be held virtually. John will ask the Regional State Council Presidents if that can be an option.

National At Large Director Report – Richard Lindbeck

- At Large Director Lindbeck attended the Council of State Council Presidents meeting where the Legacy Chair, Jack Devine, reported the National Archives **may** accept material from Chapters when VVA dissolves; the Library of Congress may also be interested in some materials.
- Richard reported that members were told National's budget is "balanced" at a recent National Board meeting; the budget was initially vetoed. The National Treasurer reminded the Board that no travel reimbursement, etc. can occur, without budget approval; another vote was taken and the budget was approved. The "rebate" program is being discontinued with the \$7 amount moved to a line item. Chapters must have all election and financial reports completed to receive rebate funds.
- Richard had several reminders about the upcoming National Convention (August 5-9). Only delegates should use the registration form; those attending as non-delegates

will still complete forms to attend banquets. The current delegate count is somewhere between 700 and 1,000+. All events are being held in a single hotel this year.

- It has been proposed that VVA National eliminate At Large Directors (effective in 2027); Regional Directors would then be eliminated as part of “transitioning” to National’s dissolution. Depending on the proposal wording, eliminating At Large Directors could take effect as early as 2025.
- Richard will run for at National Large Director and John Margowski will run for National Region 6 Director again.
- The last in-person National Convention may be in 2027 (possibly in Washington, D.C.); 2029 may be virtual if substantial logistical issues can be overcome.
- The National corporation is being shut down, **not** State/local Chapters.
- VVA currently has 92,505 members.

AVVA Report – Pat Furno

- AVVA held a meeting prior to this one to discuss the upcoming National AVVA Convention. Wisconsin will propose 3 by-law amendments: 1) dual members should have the right to vote (as a small step); 2) authorizing delegates based on “state” vs “chapter”; and 3) absentee ballots (used in federal, state and local elections only) wording replaced with proxy votes (allowing an elected delegate to designate someone else to vote for them).

Committee Assignments – Tom Banner

President Banner has reviewed Committee assignments. While they are currently in flux, he provided the following update.

- Awards – Duane Canon will serve on the Committee; a Chair is needed.
- Membership – Tom Banner will serve as chair for now; Jamil Kahn will serve on the Committee. Membership rosters are now only available on-line.
- Minority Affairs – Currently suspended; it is considered DEI by the current administration.
- Constitution – Jim Mullarkey will serve as Chair.
- Veterans Benefits – Currently inactive; information is available on-line. Check vvawi.org (PACT Act, links to CVSO’s, Tribal Offices and VSO’s, etc.) for information.
- POW-MIA – Duane Canon will continue to serve as Chair; he currently needs no additional members.
- Women Veterans – Still trying to confirm a Chair.
- Public Affairs – Jim Mullarkey will serve as Chair.
- Council of Veterans programs – Tom Banner will serve as Chair.
- Scholarship – Virginia Nuske will continue to serve as Chair; members of her chapter will continue to complete the remainder of the committee.
- Toxic Exposure – Jamil Kahn will serve as Chair, Pat Furno (AVVA) will serve as a special advisor; information will be shared on vvawi.org.
- Legislative and Government Affairs – Currently no Chair or members. There is an unconfirmed report that a ranking member of the Wisconsin State Legislature told a State VFW Representative that “veterans don’t matter”.

Council of Veterans Programs Report – Tom Banner

- Tom attended a meeting on Thursday, March 13; their next meeting is on June 19 in Chippewa Falls.

- A representative from the Wisconsin Senate has submitted a bill to make Hmong veterans eligible for state veterans programs; the bill is currently out of committee.
- Veterans Day at the Capitol will be held on Tuesday, April 22 including a march from Monona Terrace to the Capitol Rotunda, followed by a rally and meetings with state legislators (contact the legislator's office before then to schedule an appointment). President Banner will work on getting details to distribute to the membership.
- The annual Armed Forces Day Open House at Fort McCoy will be Saturday, May 17 this year; it will celebrate the 250th birthday of the Army.

Scholarship Report – Virginia Nuske

- The Scholarship committee includes Virginia (the Chair), 2 veterans and 1 AVVA member from her Chapter. Scholarships for the 2025-2026 years remain at \$1,500. Virginia received 10 total scholarship applications this year: 2 were non-compliant; 7 applicants were related to Vietnam Veterans (grandchildren and/or great-grandchildren). Virginia asked for veteran to present the awards. She received commitments and will mail everything the volunteers need to make the presentations.

Open to the floor:

- Saturday, March 29 is National Vietnam Veterans Day.
- Secretary Mullarkey will put Chapter events on the Google Calendar if Chapters send him the information.
- Someone asked how a Chapter can reduce website cost. Secretary Mullarkey suggested using the GoDaddy website builder.

Unfinished Business:

- The suggested revision of the by-laws to require 50% attendance at meetings (1 per year) was presented to the group; passed unanimously.
- An update on the June 2025 picnic was provided. No City and County parks in the Waupaca area were available this year. A motion was made to hold the picnic at the same time as the June, 2026 elections. The motion passed unanimously.

New Motions:

- Since there will not be a June picnic or a December holiday party, it was suggested the State Council replace them with a social event on Friday, September 12, 2025 (the evening before the regular meeting). The motion passed unanimously.
- The Wisconsin State Council has been invited to place a wreath at The Wall in Washington, D.C. on April 24, 2025 for the End of the Vietnam War Celebration. The State Council pays for the wreath; VVA National purchases and provides the wreath; the motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events:

September 12, 2025

Wisconsin State Council “social event”; check vvawi.org for future details.

September 13, 2025

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy".

Joy L. Foye

Wisconsin AVVA At-Large Representative