



AVVA - AT LARGE NEWSLETTER
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I hope you had a good holiday season and wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous 2025. Here are my notes from the December 7, 2024 AVVA and Wisconsin State Council meetings.

AVVA Meeting Notes

Pat discussed the following at the AVVA meeting held prior to the regular WSC meeting.

- Pat talked about the upcoming 2025 AVVA National Convention in New Orleans. She brought up possible changes to the by-laws for discussion; they are due the first week in April. Pat will write them up (including the wording) with final wording to be discussed at our AVVA meeting at the March WSC meeting. Changes discussed included allowing absentee voting (Section 3.07.C) and releasing delegate votes.
- Pat will explore having an old AVVA button reproduced; the original was something similar to: "The Legacy Lives Through Us AVVA". She will discuss how to get buttons printed with the WSC merchandise committee chair and bring that information back to us.
- There are currently 384 AVVA members, including those in individual chapters and at large.

State Council Notes

John Maragowski (#425) moved to make former President Mike Demske an honorary member of the Wisconsin State Council (WSC); second by Duane Canon (#437); motion passed unanimously. Mike moved to Michigan (and presumably belongs to a Michigan Chapter).

- Several people spoke about Mike's influence on them and the WSC. Richard Lindbeck spoke about Mike mentoring him personally and Mike's positions on the WSC: President (twice), Vice President, Secretary, and Mike's role on the Agent Orange/Toxic Exposure Committee. Mike also served as his Chapter's President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and on the Board of Directors. John Margowski spoke about Mike's long-time affiliation and dedication to the WSC, his Chapter, community and all veterans.
- Mike was presented an award for his dedication and service; he received a standing ovation.

President's Report – Tom Banner

- President Banner didn't have a separate report.

Vice President's Report – Frank Mueller

- No Report

Treasurer's Report – Pat Furno

Treasurer Craney had an excused absence; Pat Furno answered questions about the report.

- For the first time in many years, the WSC had more expenses than income. The WSC remains solvent; with only 2 meetings per year beginning in 2025, future expenses will be reduced. At

some point, the State Council will need to decide how to handle its funds/assets when National VVA dissolves.

Secretary's Report – Jim Mullarkey

- Secretary Mullarkey asked if anyone was having problems with the vvawi.org website; no one expressed any. Please send any suggestions/changes for vvawi.org to Jim by e-mail.

Region 6 Director – John Margowski

- John is trying to schedule a Region 6 meeting in May or June of 2025. One of the objectives would be to discuss any proposed National constitution and/or by-law changes. The best way to stay informed on activities on a national level is to read "The Veteran".
- Every Chapter should make sure they know who their registered agent is (it is listed in the original Chapter charter). John requested each Chapter look up their registered agent and bring that information to the March 2025 meeting. If the original registered agent has passed away, the Chapter needs to update the information (and let the WSC know).
- If a Chapter decides to "close", there is a specific process that must be followed including completing forms--they can be found at vva.org or wivva.org. Sending Secretary Mullarkey an e-mail saying the Chapter has closed (or surrendered their charter), does not fulfill the requirements for closure.

National At Large Director Report – Richard Lindbeck

- There is currently less than \$900K in the National "rebate fund"; if more funds can't be found in the National budget, the rebate funding will go away.
- Chapters must have all information (it must be current) submitted to National by February to be able to vote at the 2025 National Convention. Election reports must be submitted yearly, even if a Chapter has a 2-year election cycle. Richard reminded everyone that if financial reports are not received by National by no later than 7/15/25, they will not be eligible to have a delegate seated at the 2025 National Convention.
- There is a new form for the National Convention registration; a copy of the form will be in the January 2025 issue of "The Veteran". The form is labelled as "for delegate use only". If you are attending as a member only (not as a delegate), do **NOT** use this form. If your Chapter completes a delegate release form, the Chapter delegate(s) is/are assigned to the WSC; do NOT put a name in for the delegate the vote is released to. The delegate release form must be signed by all 4 Chapter officers.
- If you will be part of a "table" at the banquet, do NOT complete a banquet form.

Regional Directors:

- Region 1 – no report
- Region 2 – no report
- Region 3 – no report
- Region 4 – Greg Foye reported he attended Bob Morzenti's memorial service (in Ironwood, MI) as the WSC Region 4 Director.
- At Large – no report

President Banner reminded Regional Directors and Chapter representatives that they need to submit a report to him so he can submit his report to National. Information can be sent to President Banner or Secretary Mullarkey. Pictures of Chapter activities would be greatly appreciated so they can be forwarded to National and can be included in The Veteran.

AVVA Report – Pat Furno

- The AVVA meeting held prior to the regular WSC meeting discussed the 2025 AVVA National Convention in New Orleans. Changes to by-laws were discussed; they must be submitted by the

first week in April. Final wording for potential changes will be discussed at the AVVA meeting at the March WSC meeting.

- Pat will explore having an old AVVA button reproduced. She will discuss it with the WSC merchandise committee chair.
- There are currently 384 AVVA members, including in individual chapters and at large.

Scholarship Report – Virginia Nuske

- Virginia is waiting for grade reports to make scholarship payments.

Unfinished Business:

- Attendees were reminded meeting dates for 2025 are: 3/15/25 and 9/13/25; there will only be 2 meetings per year. Rooms will be available for Friday night at a special rate.
- There were technical issues with the virtual meeting; we'll try again at the March meeting.

New Motions:

- John Margowski (#425) made a motion to have a June picnic; second by Duane Canon (#437); it will not include a formal WSC meeting. The motion passed unanimously. A decision will need to be made on the exact date and location to have the picnic (The Highground was one suggestion). John Margowski will chair a committee to do the necessary research and present their suggestions at the March 2025 meeting.
- Secretary Mullarkey read a letter from Sam Brick thanking the WSC for the \$3,000 donation to South Carolina for Hurricane Helene.

Beginning in 2025, there will only be 2 Wisconsin State Council Meetings per year.

Upcoming Events:

March 15, 2025

Wisconsin State Council meeting; Par 4 Comfort Suites, Waupaca

September 13, 2025

Wisconsin 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.

Joy

Joy L. Foye

Wisconsin AVVA At-Large Representative