

PRESIDENT'S JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026 MESSAGE

Hope everyone has survived the freezing rain, ice storm, and cold weather in the last couple of weeks that hit the majority of South Carolina. We are all looking forward to warmer weather. Due to the weather conditions and road closures in the Upstate (Greenville/Spartanburg area), I could not attend the January National VVA Leadership Conference. But talking to a few State Council Presidents who were able to fly into Arlington, VA, not a lot was accomplished due to the lack of attendance. Though the National VVA Budget was passed and put in place for 2026/2027. Our State Council held Our First Meeting of the Year on February 8, 2026, at the American Legion Post 130 in Cayce, SC. We continue to move forward as Your State Council by adding Willard (Mike) Field being sworn in as the new 2nd Vice President of the Council!! Mike will hold this position until June 2026, filling this vacant position. Welcome aboard Mike and thanks for stepping up!! We also welcomed a new Chapter President, Janet Chisolm Richard for Chapter 780 and gave Her the Oath of Office, after Mike Hadbavny stepped down as of December 31, 2025, as Chapter 780's President. Mike was awarded the National VVA Achievement Award and a Letter of Appreciation from the SC State Council for his years of Service not only to the South Carolina State Council, but to His Chapter 780 (Charleston). Mike the South Carolina State Council, thank you for your dedicated service to the State and your Chapter. The Council approved three Member Election Committee to hold formal Council Leadership Election of Officers at our June 14, 2026, Meeting. All Senior Leadership of Your Council are up for Election for the next two Years. Any VVA Member in good standing from any of the 10 Chapters that are interested in running for a Council seat, please send a letter intent to the Chairman of the Election Committee: David Eisenhower, President of Chapter 303, email davidike44@gmail.com on or before June 1, 2026, providing your name, address, Chapter #, email address and position interested in. Please also include the Council Secretary, Zeke Cervantez, email plough71@gmail.com. I am also proud to inform You that Your State Council has adopted its first line-item Budget for 2026. A great achievement by the Council!! Chapter Presidents and Chapter Secretaries and Treasurers are reminded that all your reports are due by July 15, 2025, not only to the IRS, National VVA, but the SC State Council by regulation, ie: election report, financial report. If your Chapter does Raffles, remember that you need to register with South Carolina at charities@sos.sc.gov. A special note to all Chapter Members; at the October 2025 Leadership Conference, all State Council Presidents received an eight (8) page document from the National VVA Attorney titled "VVA CHAPTER TRANSITION STRATEGY". I have provided a copy to every Chapter President, if you have not seen it or read it, I suggest that you contact your Chapter Presidents and request a copy be presented to you. Your Chapter should keep this document in your files for the future. Every Chapter Member needs to be aware of this document. The next National VVA Leadership Conference that I will be attending in Arlington VA will be April 9th through April 13, 2026.

Your State Council is working extremely hard to represent Our Chapters and State in all matters concerning the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Semper Fi

Larry Miller

President

South Carolina State Council

