

MESSAGE FROM THE SC STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Your South Carolina State Council had its second meeting for the year on June 14, 2026, at American Legion Post 130, in Cayce, SC (near Columbia). Seeing that we do not meet as a Council in April, we held Our next 2 Year Cycle 2026-2028 for State Council Election at Our June Meeting. As is the case in most Chapter/State Council Elections, most of your Leadership stays the same as follows?

Larry Miller	State Council President
Charlie Davies	1 st Vice President
Forrest Stegelin	2 nd Vice President (New to State Council)
Willard (Mike) Field	Secretary (moved from 2 nd Vice President)
Jay Reynolds	Treasurer
Adam (Davy) Hare	Chaplain

The State Council welcomes Forrest Stegelin to the Board and looks forward to working with him for the next two years.

On a sad note, Zeke Cervantez, who was Our Secretary until the Election of June 14, 2026, decided not to run again and has decided to travel more ending a very long career in several Leadership Positions not only in his Home VVA Chapter 303, but the SC State Council as well. Zeke was Secretary of the State Council for over 6 years, serving under Sam Brick, then under the current State Council. Zeke was a valuable Member of Our Council and will be missed by all. Though he will be around for a couple more months helping Willard get set up in his new position.

On another sad note, Bill Rogers from VVA Chapter 960 informed the State Council that after 21 years, his Chapter Leadership has decided to dissolve their Chapter due to non-participation by elderly Membership. Bill stated that He has tried several different options to increase participation at meetings. The State Council reluctantly approved President Rogers request after He turned in the Chapter 960 Charter. Members will be able to transfer to Chapters close to them or they will be placed in the "At-Large" Membership assigned to the State Council.

Some of the highlights from my attending the April 7th thru 12th, 2026 Conference held in Arlington, VA are as follows: Our National President Tom Burke spoke at length the first day about the outlook of the National VVA. Revenues are down on a National level by 30% from 2025, with cutbacks to be expected by the National Leadership. As you can imagine the cost of doing business in the DC/Arlington and Maryland areas are becoming cost prohibitive for the National VVA. The decision has been made to move most of the Headquarters from Silver Spring, Md to another location, with an eye on Pittsburg, Pa, or other locations. RFP's have been sent out looking for a new cheaper home, with only keeping a small office in the DC area for the Governmental Affairs Office for lobbying Congress. Lots of things happening with our organization!! If you read your Veteran Magazine for March/April on page 3 and page 12; Our National President Tom Burke talked about ideas on where we as an organization are headed. Several options and solutions are being discussed and will be talked about at the August 10th-15th Conference being held in Jacksonville, Fl. One of the main topics being discussed is the options available to our organization. Your State Council has decided to send representative to this Conference to ensure Our voice is being heard. An option to follow will be discussed and potentially be finalized as to the direction we are headed and will be presented to the Delegates/Members for approval at the 2027 National Convention. After the August Convention in Jacksonville, Fl 2026, it is my sincere hope to inform Our Membership as to where we are headed. **THERE ARE RUMORS FLOATING AROUND ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF THE NATIONAL VVA HEADQUARTERS. PLEASE NOTE THAT AS OF THIS WRITING, I HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING THAT WOULD INDICATE OF THIS HAPPENING. OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT HAS INDICATED HIS WISH TO CONTINUE OUR LEGACY AS THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA. LET'S CONTINUE TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS AND GROW OUR SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTERS!!**

Larry L. Miller
President
SC State Council

