



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL

State Council Meeting
June 21, 2014
The Highground
Neillsville, Wisconsin

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Agent Orange Committee

At 11:00 A.M. Mike Demske, Co-Chairperson of the AO Committee, brought the Committee to order. Mike was pleased to share the WSC's AO Team logo created by Tom Heitman.



Mike stated more information will be given during the full Meeting, but stated the AO Town Hall Meetings in Richard Lindbeck, John Margowski, and he presented at three locations in Kansas were successful beyond expectations – over 500 participants!

Demske, Lindbeck, Margowski, and Jim Hackbarth presented an AO Town Hall Meeting to the Ho-Chunk Nation in Black River Falls. The first time VVA representatives have presented to a Native American Tribe on AO.

Additionally, the WSC AO Team presented and Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting at the National VVA Leadership Conference in Wichita, Kansas. As a result of the AO Town Hall held at Leadership the WSC AO Team has been invited to other states to present.

For those on the AO Team who did not have chance to see the AO Team's shirts.

Information was shared on the upcoming AO Town Hall Meetings in Manitowoc and Richland Center in September and October, respectively. The Manitowoc AO Town Hall flyer/poster is available on the WSC website at www.vvawi.org/media.

Wisconsin State Council Meeting

President Lindbeck Called to Order the State Council Meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. on June 21, 2014. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and A Moment of Silence was offered to our

POWs/MIAs and active duty service. The Secretary completed Roll Call of Officers, Directors and Chapters. The President confirmed a quorum.

Of special note the following officers were present: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors from Region 1, 2, 3, and 4. The Chapters represented included: 005, 092, 101, 206, 236, 256, 425, 437, 448, 529, 635, 729, 767, and At-Large. VVA Region 6 was also present. This turnout of 13 of 27 WSC Chapters is good at 48%, but let's strive for even greater representation at our upcoming meetings. Also, Chapter 425 had the member, associate, and guest turnout at the Meeting

There was no reinstatement of suspended Chapters.

President Lindbeck appointed John Margowski as Parliamentarian and Mike Demske as Timekeeper.

There was one change to the Agenda, which was further moved, seconded, and approved without objection.

The Minutes of the March 22, 2014, Wisconsin State Council Meeting, were moved, seconded, and approved without objection.

President Lindbeck presented the President's Report; which included a special emphasis on Wisconsin's Agent Orange Town Hall meetings within and outside of the State. In April President Lindbeck, WSC AO Co-Chairperson Mike Demske, and Region 6 Director John Margowski were in Kansas to present three (3) Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings. Wisconsin was invited to present the Town Hall Meetings by the Kansas State Council and VVA National. The team presented in Hayes, Salinas, and Topeka with overwhelming attendance 146, 168, and 200 plus, respectively.

In May the above AO Team along with Jim Hackbarth presented an AO Town Hall Meeting in Black River Falls to the Ho-Chunk Nation. This was the *first* time that VVA has been able to speak to a Native American Tribe to discuss Agent Orange. About 100 were in attendance; however, several came to the team members to talk individually.

In early June Margowski and I were interviewed on WUWM radio regarding AO and its affects. This was a pre-recorded interview for later broadcast(s). At the end of June the team is scheduled to be in Green Bay to present an AO Town Hall Meeting to the Oneida Nation.

On May 10th I represented VVA WSC at the VET CON program in Milwaukee. Sponsored by WDVA it was to present information on jobs and services to returning veterans. During the morning there were a significant number in attendance; however, by Noon the business people had left. I do not think that this needed activity was neither well organized nor publicized to the veteran community.

In May I had the distinct honor of presenting the Oshkosh Chapter 437 with their 25 Year Anniversary Certificate. Oshkosh has an active Chapter with numerous programs for members, associates, and the community.

Finally, on June 11th I was at Fox Lake Correctional Institution discussing restarting a VVA Incarcerated Chapter. There are over 100 Vietnam Veterans at Fox Lake; however, only

three attended the meeting. Those in attendance were advised in order to have a veterans group and have it under VVA it would probably mean an AVVA Chapter. I believe more information and discussions are needed before we proceed.

Clif Sorenson submitted the Legislative Report. We are seeing and assisting many of our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, neighbors and fellow Veterans who served in hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan (OIF/OEF and Operation New Dawn). The Veterans Assistance Foundation (among others) has a **Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program** that is doing extensive outreach (866-823-8387). **Service** to our Veterans and their families is the most important item of concern to us at this time.

John Margowski, VVA Region 6 Director, again urged Wisconsin State Council Chapters, Associates, and guests to contact their Congressional (U.S. Representatives and Senators) representatives urging them to support H.R. 543 (i.e., Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013) and S.1602 (i.e., Toxic Exposure Research and Military Family Support Act). For complete information on these pieces of legislation go to <https://beta.congress.gov/> and enter the legislative numbers including the H.R. or S.

Pat Craney, WSC Treasurer, provided the Treasurer's Report including a three-month comparative (i.e., actual to anticipated) report ending in May.

Kirk, from The HighGround, shared information on three extraordinary upcoming events, specifically *Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall*, *Canadian Veterans Memorial Wall*, and the *Global War on Terror (GWOT) Wall of Remembrance* covering Desert Storm, Desert Shield, 9/11, OEF, OIF, and OND. Additional information is available at <http://www.thehighground.org/index.html>.

Chapter Reports

Chapter 101, represented by Roger Sampson and Tom Sachs, presented a year-end report indicating participation in four parades, eight Veterans ceremonies ranging from Wood County Veterans Day to Posting Colors for Veterans Day at King, sponsorship of a Car Show, numerous community service activities, several fundraising activities, donations and five substantial donations, including The HighGround. The Chapter concluded the year with the Annual Christmas Party held in January.

Chapter 425 represented by Joseph Deloria, President, reported that the Chapter has conducted five fund raising events this quarter with a three-day fundraising event the end of July at the Waukesha County Fair.

The Chapter has purchased "NEW" **RED SHIRT FRIDAY** shirts and "NEW" Chapter emblems. Jerry and Ruth Keith orchestrated the deal for the shirts, logo, and new jackets with the emblem. If you are interested please contact Jerry or Ruth at jrkeith53188@yahoo.com.

The Chapter has been represented at the Memorial Day Ceremony and plans to be represented at the July 4th Ceremony/Parade, Dousman Derby Days, and Wings *OVER* Waukesha.

The Chapter was pleased to award Associate VVA Member Carly Eichner a \$1,000 educational assistance grant to assist in her ongoing college education.

The Chapter is honored to continue its efforts in sending packages to troops who are deployed.

Chapter 437 represented by Duane Canon, President, was honored to receive the *Vietnam Veterans of America 25 Years of Service Certificate for Chapter 437* presented by VVA WSC President Richard Lindbeck.

The Chapter participated in the 150th Anniversary Procession honoring the 2nd Wisconsin Division, Company E return from the Civil War in 1864. The Chapter is also preparing for its organization of and participation in the Oshkosh 4th of July Parade.

Fundraising this quarter is largely our Orange Blossom drive in Omro and *Saw Dust Days*. The Chapter is also raising funds for the Old Glory Honor Flight.

Chapter 448 reports submitted by Frank Mueller, President; declared the summer fundraising season started with very successful brat fry's with more to come!

Memorial Day began with our Chapter's participation in the West Bend Parade and concluded in Newburg with Nate Nez (WDVA) who spoke of his uncle who was one of the original *Navajo Code Talkers* and how he had kept it a secret until just a few years ago. Nate was invited back for a possible Native American program.

The Chapter donated to the *Port Washington Veterans Fishing Day*. On this annual event boats are chartered to take veterans out on Lake Michigan fishing. Several Chapter members assist in preparing food and assist veterans on the fishing trip.

The Chapter will be participating in the Washington County Fair for the Veterans Day at the Fair – we will have a Jeep and M151 on display along with other Vietnam War items.

As of this report Mueller and Jim Hackbarth will be going to Kansas for the Leadership Conference in August.

Gary Moll reported for Chapter 479; which included two quarterly business meetings (01/19 and 04/06), donation or gift to The HighGround, a Chapter member for medical expenses, and Greg and Joy Foye for their many years of work at The HighGround.

The Chapter participated in the Wausau Memorial Day Parade, held a Brat Fry in Statford on Flag Day, and in August a planned Annual Chapter Picnic for VVA/AVVA/Family and Friends, and a Co-sponsored Brat Fry with DAV Chapter 31.

Chapter 767, represented by Paul Pankoff, reported that they on Memorial Day they not only participated in the parade but were honored to perform the **Table Ceremony** (a YouTube Table Ceremony is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st-uEwTALL8>) and the **Battlefield Cross Ceremony** (a YouTube Battlefield Cross Ceremony is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XV7H8I8p9ic>). Both Ceremonies were also presented at Pritchett Park for middle school students and at Union Grove's Memorial Day Ceremonies.

Our Honor Guard has served at too many funerals and also shared duties with the American Legion's Firing Squad. Too many of our brothers are falling.

Elections

Bob Morzenti presided over the election of officers and Region Directors. Results of the 2014-2015 elections are:

Richard Lindbeck, President
Robert Piaro, Vice-President
James Mullarkey, Secretary
Patrick Craney, Treasurer
Thomas Heitman, Region 1 Director
Mike Johnson, Region 2 Director
Tom Hoffman, Region 3 Director
Robert Morzenti, Region 4 Director

A motion for Adjournment was seconded and accepted without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Mullarkey

James E. Mullarkey, Secretary