

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Attended the National Board and Council of State President's meeting in Silver Spring, MD in April. Prior to going to Capitol Hill we had a training session on contacting our various Representatives, not only in Washington but our State Representatives as well. The training was beneficial.

The Board and State Presidents went to Capitol to meet with our Senators and Representatives. John Margowski and I met with Senator Johnson and Kohl to discuss funding for Veteran Programs. We talked about watching where the money was being spent in the VA. Some of which was for programs that were not functioning properly.

Both Senator Johnson and Kohl's Staff agreed to work with the VVA and Veterans to make sure that funding was going where it should.

Cut off date for the National Convention in Reno is July 15th. Tuesday August 16th there is going to be a Welcome Home Party at 7 pm. Several of the entertainers have been OK'd and it has the cost of the airline ticket and hotel room. Budweiser is sponsoring the entertainment. (Consider changing your brand of beer for that time.)

990N MUST BE FILED OR STATE COUNCIL AND CHAPTERS WILL NOT BE SEATED AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION. This is very important for all VVA Chapters and is coming from the IRS. The IRS will suspend the tax exempt status and the cost to reinstate is a couple hundred dollars and may take some time. National needs a copy of the receipt from each chapter showing that the report was filed. This is done electronically and takes a couple minutes to complete. **MAKE SURE YOU MAKE A COPY OF THE RECEIPT FOR THE CHAPTER AND NATIONAL.**

VP Jack Divine presented a report on his recent trip to Vietnam. The VVA is well respected in Vietnam. Some members of the team will be at the National Convention to discuss the progress made between JPAC and VN.

LTC Marty Herbert presented a report on his JPAC team and the progress that has been made not only in VN, but Laos and Cambodia on locating crash sites. He presented a slide show of some of the areas that he had been working. The VN Government has become more trustful of the Americans and recently opened 17 crash sites that had previously been classified and restricted for excavation.

Medals of America has been working on improving items for sale. There will be more items for the VVA/AVVA/Women Veterans. The catalog has more items on the website, so check it out.

The Task Force on the future of VVA was discussed. **THIS IS A FACT FINDING COMMITTEE. NO PERCEIVED NOTION ON WHERE THE ORGANIZATION IS GOING. THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN RENO IN AUGUST. THIS IS TO GATHER INFORMATION AND IDEAS. A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT SHOULD BE OUT BU THE CONVENTION AND THE INFORMATION IN THE 'VETERAN'**

Committee Reports presented by the chairs.

Government Affairs: There will be several persons honored at the National Convention if they attend. This will be on their dime.

Agent Orange: There are over 100 studies on health issues resulted from AO. Thailand service has been discussed regarding the use of herbicides around the bases, even though it was not sprayed by aircraft. This was not called AO since it was used on the ground to keep weeds down.

Membership Affairs: There are now 1001 women VVA Vets.

Public Affairs: There will be PSA's around Memorial Day, July 4th, and Veterans Day to bring awareness on VVA and Medical Assistance. Contact Kking@vva.org if you have any contacts with the media.

Bills to consider: SB658/HR1260 Preservation of Documents by DOD on Sexual Abuse. Currently they are destroyed.

HR 930-VA Benefits for Sexual Abuse.

Suicide Prevention was discussed. The Hot Line is being changed from Suicide Hot Line to CRISIS HOT LINE. The highest rate of suicide is in the National Guard.

Jim Blount-Convention Planning: PRE-REGISTER FOR RENO. YOUR FINANCE REPORT AND ELECTION REPORT ARE REQUIRED TO BE SEATED AS A DELEGATE. It takes 15 minutes to an hour to register you at the convention.

I presented a scholarship to Wyatt J. Rufener at the Slinger HS on May 25th.

Richard Lindbeck

President, Wisconsin State Council
Vietnam Veterans of America