



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL**

State Council Meeting
Waupaca, Wisconsin
September 29, 2018

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Toxic Exposure Committee Meeting (Formerly Agent Orange Committee)

Attendance: Mike Demske (Chair), John Margowski, Richard Lindbeck, James Mullarkey, and Pat Furno (AVVA Special Advisor to Committee).



Guest: Dr. Jeffrey Whittle, Zablocki VAMC

The meeting was called to order by the Chair - Mike Demske at 9:00 A.M. Due to the nature of the meeting and our guest other VVA WSC delegates also listened into the meeting.

The Blue Water Navy Bill was discussed and all advised to contact their Senators to get the bill on the floor. It has passed the Representative House and is now waiting to get on the floor in the Senate. The VVA WSC Secretary will be directed to send information out to Wisconsin's

VVA Chapters as to what individual members can do, especially contacting their Senators before the end of this Congress. If this is **not passed** by the Senate we will be **starting all over** with the new Congress.

VA Secretary Wilke testified that there is no evidence supporting the exposure. **(Not True)**

There are Town Hall Meetings on Agent Orange being planned. There is an individual in the Milwaukee area that is going to see if we can conduct one in the Milwaukee area. He has contacts with Marquette University for a possible location.

Jennie Nueske is going to contact the Menomonee Nation to inquire on a possible Agent Orange Town Hall there.

Oconomowoc is looking at one at Waukesha County Technical College for an Agent Orange Town Hall during Spring Break in 2019. Chapter 351, Appleton advised they could provide their display if requested.

We need to promote the Iraq-Afghanistan Veterans in the Agent Orange/Toxic Exposure Program since they were exposed to the Burn Pits and other toxic chemicals.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Richard Lindbeck

Wisconsin State Council Meeting

President Lindbeck called the State Council Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. on September 29, 2018; Pledge of Allegiance; and a Moment of Silence. President Lindbeck introduced Dr. Jeffrey Whittle to the VVA WSC officers, directors, delegates, and guests as well as the AVVA State Representative, AVVA members and guests.

[Dr. Whittle](#) did an over on the issue of [Liver Flukes and Cancer](#) among Vietnam Veterans who served in Vietnam and southeast Asia. A bio of Dr. Whittle as well as the PowerPoint presentation can be found by clicking on either [Dr. Whittle](#) or [Liver Flukes and Cancer](#). If this is not being reviewed wlectronically you can go to www.vvawsc.org/ then WSC Committees > Education Committee > Topics & Activities.

After Dr. Whittle's presentation, President Lindbeck recalled the delegation to order and assigned Tom Heitman as Parlimentarian and Mike Demske as Time Keeper. The Secretary conducted the Roll Call with the following present: WSC President Richard Lindbeck, WSC Vice-President Daniel (Dan) Scuiti, WSC Secretary James Mullarkey, WSC Treasurer Patrick Craney, WSC Region 2 Drirector Mike Johnson, WSC Region 3 Director Thomas Hoffman, and WSC At-Large Director Greg Foye. VVA At-Large Director John Margowski and AVVA State Representative were also present. The VVA WSC Chapters present¹ included: 005(3)(#4), 101(2)#2, 115(2)#3, 206(2)#3, 224(2)#3, 236(3)#1, 324(3)#1, 351(3)#4, 409(3)#1, 425(3)#3, 437(3)#1, 448(3)#4, 479(3)#1, 635(2)#1, 729(2)#2, 731(3)#2, 921(2)#1, 1130(2)#4, At-Large(2). AVVA representation was from At-Large, VVA Chapters 005, 101, 206, and 425. A quorum was present.

The Unapproved Meeting Minutes from the June 16, 2018, WSC Meeting held at the HighGround was motioned by John Margowski for approval with the amendment made by AVVA State Representative Pat Furno and was seconded by Mike Demske; which was carried without objection by the President. The Agenda was motioned for approval by Tom Heitman and seconded by Greg Foye; which was carried without objection by the President.

President's Report: President Lindbeck attended the National Leadership Conference in Palm Springs, CA July 23 through 27. There was some good information presented during the week. The two VVA National Working Groups that are charged with developing a Strategic Plan for the future of VVA were at the conference and presented. (Note: A breakdown of these groups is on our VVA WSC website www.vvawsc.org then click on WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL > VVA NATIONAL, STATE & CHAPTER and scroll down the page for a complete explanation. Further down you can click for a full-page view and print-out.) I felt that Working Group I had a better developed presentation. Working Group II needs to get a plan and get it in order before they make the presentations at the National Convention in Spokane in July 2019.

¹ As per VVA WSC letter sent (October 6, 2014) to all VVA WSC Officers, WSC Region Directors, and VVA WSC Chapter Presidents, Officers and their delegates; it was declared that all VVA WSC Chapters must be represented at no less than one-half or 50 percent of the scheduled WSC Meetings – held quarterly during the calendar year. Failure to meet this minimum requirement will result in disciplinary action and VVA WSC suspension – refer to VVA Constitution and National Disciplinary Policy. The parentheses () following the VVA Chapters number (e.g., 007 **(3)**) indicates the number of meetings recorded as attended in the calendar year as of the roll call. The # refers to the VVA Chapters WSC region.

An underline of the VVA WSC Chapter number (e.g., 009 (1)) indicates that they have been suspended in the previous calendar year and have as yet attended the minimum meetings for the present calendar year. The number following the # sign indicates the number VVA members represented and ## the number of AVVA members.

From August 23-25 I attended the Region Six Conference in Altoona, IA. We received a presentation on what took place in Palm Springs. Drs. Berger and Hall gave a presentation on Substance Abuse and PTSD. Once again this was an outstanding presentation.

Mike Demske, John Margowski, and I did a mini-Agent Orange (Toxic Exposure) Town Hall – this is designed to provide an overview of what a full-blown Town Hall could be if a group assisted in scheduling and arranging a Town Hall. We had a good response from attendees. It should be noted that a good portion of the attendees had been to a Town Hall and were able to assist in getting information out to those that had never attended one.

Clyde Lewandowski, St. Cloud, MN, presented a look at Vietnam 30 years later. His group works with orphanages in Vietnam. They work with getting water, food, and supplies to them.

Jim Diester, presented his account of how he was injured and MOH recipient Sammy Davis was the person who saved him. Jim and Sammy met several years later and have been friends since. They have done presentations together at various locations.

September 22nd, I attended the POW/MIA program at the HighGround in Neillsville. This was a very interesting program with a large attendance.

October 17th-21st I will be attending the **CSCP/BOD** meeting in Silver Spring, MD.

October 24th I am scheduled to do a panel discussion at the UWM/Washington County Campus on Vietnam. At this time the panel will be comprised of three Vietnam Veterans from different years in Vietnam sharing experiences.

President Lindbeck presented for ratification the **WSC Appointments for 2018-2020**. A motion to accept the appointments was made by Tom Hoffman and seconded by Duane Canon. Following a discussion and suggested revisions the question was called. Hoffman adjusted his motion to approve the appointments for 2018-2020 with the recommended changes which was seconded by Canon and approved without objection.

Vice-President's Report

Vice-President Dan Sciuti reintroduced himself to the delegate body and thanked them for their support. Moreover, Dan indicated he is pleased to be the Chair of the PTSD/Substance Abuse Committee and looks forward to hearing from those who would like to serve on this Committee.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reinforced the need for all VVA Chapters to submit their Election Reports and Annual Financial Reports to the VVA WSC Secretary. And that all pages of the Election Report must be submitted to VVA WSC, especially page three which lists the VVA Chapter's Board of Directors and their Delegates and Alternates to the VVA WSC.

Treasurer's Report

Patrick Craney provided the VVA WSC's Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for the Six Months Ending August 31, 2018, Using Actual compared to Budgeted Amount. Both the VVA WSC Balance Sheet and Cash Disbursements was provided

VVA At-Large Report: John Margowski, VVA At-Large Director, picked-up on President Lindbeck's overview of the Working Groups presentation at the Leadership Conference in Palm Springs. As a member of Working Group I, Margowski indicated that while he cannot discuss particulars that the group has developed he is able to review and expand upon the process his

group has diligently followed. Moreover, Margowski indicated that it is the intent of VVA to have each group present their recommendations at the 2019 National Convention.

Without going into detail the VVA WSC delegates had a somewhat lengthy and occasionally specific discussion on various scenarios including the closing of VVA National. While Margowski could not get into specific, he shared that it is just for these reasons these Working Groups were established.

AVVA State Representative Report: Pat Furno, AVVA Wisconsin State Representative, shared that AVVA life memberships are:

\$100 for individuals 60 years and older.	\$175 for individuals 59 years and younger.
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As Furno explained in June AVVA sought and received from the IRS 501(c)(4) designation. There appears to be ongoing discussions by AVVA National as to whether it is in the organization's best interest to remain a 501(c)(4) or seek 501(c)(3) designation. As these discussions either progress or are tabled Furno will report to the VVA WSC and AVVA membership in Wisconsin.

VVA WSC Region Director Reports:

Region 1 Director: Excused

Region 2 Director: Mike Johnson

Region 3 Director: Tom Hoffman indicated that the Region 3 activities were rather quiet throughout the Summer, but was assured all of the VVA Chapters in the Region were had plenty going on.

As a VVA Chapter member and as the WSC Region 3 Director I had the pleasure of attending the HighGround's 30th Anniversary Celebration and the Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Day held on Saturday September 22nd. The overall celebration was great – starting with the parade, the Huey fly-in, speeches, Color Guards, Rifle Salute, Taps, and a large map of Vietnam to sign. A day of a lot of *comaraderie*. On a personal note, I have a special spot in my heart for the HighGround Veterans Park in Neillsville, you see this city was my County Seat for the County of Clark which was where I was raised, went to school, and was the home of my Draft Board.

I remember when the HighGround was just a place of bulldozed dirt and when the first monument was put-up – “Fragments” in honor of the Vietnam KIA and Vietnam Veterans. The rest is history...

A great day to remember our fellow Veterans and to give thanks to all who are serving now, may God bless them.

Region 4 Director: Excused

At Large Director, Greg Foye, no report at this time.

Committee Reports:

Agent Orange / Toxic Exposure Committee: Mike Demske, Committee Co-Chair, wants all Veterans to know **The Blue Water Navy Bill** must be passed by the Senate this session. The House passed the Bill! Veterans need to contact their Senators to get the Bill on the floor for a VOTE!

The VVA WSC Secretary has sent information out to Wisconsin's VVA Chapters, and those who have signed up on the website to be informed. The VVA WSC will change the website so information is on the Home page as you open up to www.vvawi.org.

If this is **not passed** by the Senate we will be **starting all over** with the new Congress.

POW/MIA Committee:

Current Status of Unaccounted-for Americans Lost in the Vietnam War

	Vietnam	Laos	Cambodia	China	Total
Original Missing	1,973	573	90	10	2,646
Repatriated and Identified	722	282	42	3	1049[1]
Remaining Missing	1,251	291	48	7	1,597

[1] This number now includes the 63 Americans who were returned and/or Identified from 1973-1975.

Resolving "Last Known Alive" Cases

- Of the original 196 individuals "Last Known Alive" in Vietnam (those who survived or may have survived their loss incident and were either alive on the ground, in captivity, or in immediate proximity to capture, but did not return), DoD has confirmed the death of 176, with 20 still unresolved.
- Of the 176 whose deaths have been confirmed, the remains of 51 have been located and identified; efforts continue to recover the remaining 125.
- U.S. and Vietnamese specialists met in Hanoi earlier this year to discuss Last Known Alive cases in Vietnam, as well as in Cambodia and Laos.

Vietnam Missing or Killed in Action Found and Returned Home (FY 2018)

(Note: These soldiers obituaries are available from DPPA by clicking on the names. If you do not have an electronic i.e., computer-based copy of these minutes they can be found on the VVA WSC website (vvawi.org) and checking these minutes.)

[Airman Killed During Vietnam War Accounted For \(Kibbey, R.\)](#)

[Airman Killed During Vietnam War Accounted For \(Mellor, F.\)](#)

[Naval Aviator Accounted-For From The Vietnam War \(Mills, J.\)](#)

[Airman Killed During Vietnam War \(Davis, E.\)](#)

[Army Pilot Killed During Vietnam War \(Nopp, R.\)](#)

[Air Force Pilot Missing From Vietnam War Accounted For \(Stewart, P.\)](#)

[Army Soldier Killed During Vietnam War \(Kipina, M.\)](#)

[Airman Killed During Vietnam War Accounted For \(Dinan\)](#)

[Naval Pilot Killed During Vietnam War Accounted For \(Kilpatrick, L.\)](#)

Additional POW/MIA information and/or links can be found on VVA WSC website (vvawi.org) under WSC Committees.

Scholarship Committee: Virginia Nuske, Special Advisor, has provided the 2019 Scholarship application and information which will be updated on the VVA WSC website (www.vvawi.org) under WSC Committees > Scholarship. Additionally, Virginia will provide an update at the December 2018 meeting.

Note: The 2018 scholarship winners along with their essays are on the VVA WSC website (www.vvawi.org) located under WSC Committees > Scholarship > 2018 Winners.

VVA Chapter Reports: [Following are those delegate reports submitted at the HighGround]

VVA Chapter 101, Tom Sachs reported VVA Chapter 101 participated in the July 4th Parade in Pittsville, WI as well as the Kellner Corn Fest Parade.

We were proud to be a part of the Groundbreaking Ceremony for Boys & Girls Club/YMCA complex in Wisconsin Rapids. This will be a draw from many of our kids and their families.

Boy did we hold the brat fries! Each were very successful fundraisers in Wisconsin Rapids.

Our monthly breakfast get-togethers are very successful and highly enjoyable.

Our VVA Chapter participated in the “Salute to Veterans” opening ceremony at Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School football game.

VVA Chapter 224 submitted their report through Steve DeRuyter who shared that the VVA Chapter “wrapped-up” their largest fundraiser which included an eighteen hole golf outing.

The VVA Chapter awarded four \$1,000 scholarships to grandchildren of Green Bay area Vietnam Veterans.

This is the third consecutive Quarter the VVA Chapter donated \$400 to the King Veterans Home Homeless Veterans’ Center. In addition to our monetary donation we also donated fishing poles and 250 caps for the King residents.

Twenty area Veterans and/or their families received a \$100 Festival Foods card in time for Memorial Day.

VVA Chapter 224 partnered with Desert Veterans of Wisconsin to cover the flight and lodging, to allow a U.S. Navy Veteran to go to his ship’s reunion after he lost his home and belongings to fire.

Our Chapter conducted the Memorial Day Service at Veterans’ Parkway in Green Bay. The names of the fallen from Brown County who died in Vietnam were read along with the Honor Guard, Rifle Squad, and echo taps. VVA Chapter members later marched in the Memorial Day Parade in DePere.

The Honor Guard presented the Colors prior to the Timber Rattlers game in Appleton. VVA Chapter members took the bus to Appleton and enjoyed a cookout prior to attending the game.

The VVA Chapter Honor Guard took part in the July 4th Ceremony in downtown Green Bay, the Labor Day Picnic, and the POW/MIA Recognition Day Service at the POW/MIA Memorial in Green Bay.

Our Chapter’s Rifle Squad in several of Veterans’ funeral services.

The Chapter is proud to announce we now have 269 members of which 258 are Life Members of VVA.

VVA Chapter 437, Duane Canon, President, reported that the VVA Chapter helped organize the 4th of July parade and was please we were able to get every moving in the right order – a success.

The VVA Chapter helped in the concession tent along with AMVETS Post 7 for Sawdust Days but with lower attendance profits were down, so too were Old Glory Honor Flight (OGHF) out of Appleton donations. However, with letters sent by the President to other VSOs and respective

Auxillaries we were able to raise \$6,500 this year. The Chapter is still waiting for the Wisconsin Tavern League to match the Oshkosh Tavern League's donation. In the meantime, the VVA Chapter donated \$1,000 to the OGHF and another \$1,000 for a trip to Vietnam in February 2019 called "Return to Nam." In the past the OGHF had a trip to Peral Harbor, but the Return to Nam will be taking 50 Veterans to Vietnam on a two week trip.

On September 15th VVA Chapter 437 had our POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony at the South Park War Memorial. Our keynote speaker was Kevin Hermening, the youngest U.S. Marine to be held hostage, 444 days, at the U.S. Embassy in Iran (1979 to 1981) after Islamic terrorists captured the embassy personnel. This is the second time Hermening was a speaker at the Ceremony and we had an excellent turn out to see and hear him.

Our Chapter was invited to the Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) Riverside Campus in Oshkosh for their POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 21st. FVTC was having a POW/MIA Flag Raising Ceremony. Two of our VVA Chapter's members attended the Ceremony and were honored by raising the POW/MIA Flag – First Vice-President Myron Dimmett and Jake Hendrix.

VVA Chapter 425, Joseph Deloria, Sr., President wrote that the Chapter has been busy this Quarter with a number of community projects.

On June 24th and 25th the Chapter attended the Watertown Air Show which was hosting the Moving Wall.

The VVA Chapter's Color Guard was honored to march in the 4th of July Parade held in Waukesha and Dousman's Derby Day Parade.

July 18th thru the 22nd the VVA Chapter had a booth at the Waukesha County Fair. In addition to usual fair activities, seven (7) of our VVA Chapter 425 members were honored with a quilt each made by Quilts of Valor. Honorees were Ray Brooks, Patrick Craney, John Margowski, James Mullarkey, Jack Reich, Daniel Sciuti, and Warren Windau.

To assist Quilts of Valor with this great cause, the warm and wonderful Ruth Keith, The Quiet One, held a raffle for Quilts of Valor at the fair. Ruth raised \$800 and the Chapter donated another \$200 which was sent off to Quilts of Valor to assist them in continuing their mission of recognizing Veterans.

AVVA member Barbara Trout and President Deloria boxed and sent 11 packages to deployed troops in August – an ongoing activity of our Chapter.

Chapter members paid their respects to long-time Chapter member Al Kienast who passed.

Our VVA Chapter moved into fundraising mode in September with three (3) events.

VVA Chapter 448, The Chapter has had a good year going into the Fourth Quarter, in part, Brat Fries have been successful possibly due to the weather being in our favor.

This VVA Chapter has donated to the Veteran Scholarship at Concordia College in Mequon. VVA Chapter 448 is the only VSO that participates in this scholarship program. This Chapter established this scholarship program when participation from high schools was not productive.

Our annual meat raffle is underway to fund the scholarship program – a success since it was first started.

Several members attended the National Leadership Conference in Palm Springs, CA and then the Region 6 Conference in Altoona, IA. Both conferences were informational.

The VVA Chapter will be holding a Flag Disposal Program on October 11th. We have had some good attendance when we hold the program. Flags are collected throughout the year and then “properly” disposed of in the Fall.

Our last Brat Fry is September 29th and we thank all those that have assisted in making them a success during the year.

There is a program at UWM/Washington County Campus this month and in October. Richard Lindbeck will be on a panel discussion October 24th at 6:30 P.M.

The annual salute to Veterans at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High (KMLH) School is November 1st at 9:00 A.M. KMLH is located in Jackson, WI. This has always been an outstanding program.

VVA Chapter 479, as presented by John Willman, President, expressed that the VVA Chapter has been very busy this third Quarter with seven events, participation at the WSC and HighGround, and awarding of scholarships.

Although the Chapter said seven events are multiple Brat Fries that were fundraisers was just one of those events. Our Annual Picnic held at Amoco Park in Athens was very successful. As were the numerous events where we sold VVA Berets with Logos with proceeds supporting Honor Flights. Our Chapter’s booth at the Taylor County Veterans Outreach Day we believe was a success as were our appearances in the Colby Cheese Days Parade, the Stratford Volunteer Firemen’s Parade, and Athen’s World Fair Parade.

In addition to our members made King Veterans Home visits. And the Chapter participated in the Warbird Rendezvous or “Warbird’s Fly In” at Central Wisconsin Airport with proceeds going to Never Forgotten Honor Flight.

Our VVA Chapter members attended and donated to the Working Dog Tribute at the HighGround as well as participated in its 30th Anniversary Events.

This quarter our Chapter awarded two \$1,000 Scholarships to Veterans at Northcentral Technical College and Mid State Technical College.

VVA Chapter 729, submitted their report through Dennis Nielsen, President, which clearly indicated their ongoing commitment to education and training as demonstrated by a member participating in the Mauston High School History Program’s Vietnam: “As I saw it.” Additionally, the Chapter held CPR Class certifying various members and co-sponsored a class for Castle Rock Resort Employees.

The VVA Chapter Honor Guard served at funerals for two members who had passed.

Our Chapter not only gained a new member, but we had another transfer into our Chapter.

In concert with the American Legion the Chapter conducted a Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 30th.

Our VVA Chapter won “Best Float” at Adams 4th of July Parade and we provided a float and marching platoon composed of our members and members from VVA Chapter 101, with cadence, at the September 16th Wisconsin Dells Parade – a HUGE crowd.

Raised funds selling Orange Blossoms Labor Day Weekend.

VVA Chapter 731, as reported by Mike Demske, indicated that the Color Guard has been active with parades and presentations of Colors at several events.

Our Chapter had a very successful Picnic with an excellent turn out.

The VVA Chapter joined forces with another group and manned a Beer and Food Booth at the Manitowoc County Fair.

We have our Fall Raffle in full swing at this very moment!

Old Business:

None at this meeting.

New Business:

New Calendar for 2019 is on the VVA WSC website and will be forwarded along with the Unapproved Minutes of this Meeting.

Next Meeting

Mike Demske reminded the group that the **Annual Christmas Dinner and White Elephant Party** is **November 30, 2018**, at the Ramada Waupaca. Social Hour upstairs at 5:00 P.M. (1700 Hours), Dinner at 6:00 P.M. in the lower level Banquet Room followed by the White Elephant Party. Dinner is \$20.00 per person. If you haven't contacted Mike Demske regarding your attendance please either email Mike (Mike.Demske@Yahoo.com) or call him at 920-684-1624. Mike needs an accurate count of VVA members and guests and AVVA members and guests attending.

VVA WSC Meeting December 1, 2018, at the Ramada Waupaca. Rooms will be available at special rates November 30th and December 1st.

Joe Eiting moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 P.M. Without Objection the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M. (1215 Hours). Again, The next VVA WSC Meeting December 1, 2018, at the Ramada Waupaca.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Mullarkey, Secretary