



# Reports of Special Working Groups commissioned by VVA for the purpose of exploring future paths for the organization

## Working Group I

**Y O SEAL, CHAIR**

Working Group I was established by the VVA Board of Directors. It is guided by the following mission statement: "VVA will remain the same congressionally chartered organization it has been, and will develop a strategic plan to transition at a time certain in the future, that time to be determined by the working group with input from, and the approval of, the general membership represented by the delegates at a National Convention."

Working Group I wants to make it clear to the VVA membership that the group members are actively involved in VVA at the chapter, state council, and national levels, and are not at all anxious to see the VVA corporation dissolve. However, considering that it has been forty three years since the last Vietnam War veteran became eligible for membership and that the average age of VVA members is seventy one, we realize that at some point the VVA corporation will need to close. Consider the Working Group I task as similar to estate planning.

Based on the Working Group I mission statement, it is our goal to prepare a comprehensive strategic plan for the VVA Board of Directors that includes the actions necessary to dissolve the VVA corporation at an appropriate time in the future and to propose options to the membership regarding the appropriate point in the future for transitioning the VVA corporation. Working Group I intends to complete these two separate actions for presentation at the 2019 VVA National Convention.

Working Group I recognizes that in addition to identifying the legal actions necessary for dissolving the VVA corporation, it will be necessary to prepare guidance for other items such as distribution of assets, preserving the legacy of the VVA corporation and VVA membership, and other related actions. If Working Group I is successful in establishing a new organization, it will still be necessary to dissolve the existing VVA corporation so that many of the actions included in the strategic plan will still apply. If Working Group II is not successful in establishing a new organization, the strategic plan must be comprehensive enough as a stand alone document.

Working Group I has spent the last several months identifying the legal and practical requirements necessary for closing the corporation and is confident that the legal requirements have been identified. However, most of the practical actions are less well defined, and Working Group I is actively seeking input from VVA members to obtain ideas and recommendations regarding these actions.

The upcoming Education & Leadership Conference in Palm Springs will provide an opportunity for Working Group I to present the status of the work that has been completed to date. More importantly, it will provide an excellent opportunity for members to provide their ideas and input to the working group for consideration.

Please come to the Conference prepared to actively participate and to provide constructive ideas and recommendations that will strengthen the strategic plan. Working Group I is committed to receiving input from the membership and to sincerely consider that input when developing the strategic plan. ■

## Working Group II

**Y FRANCISCO MUÑIZ III, CHAIR**

VVA National Officers and Directors gave Working Group II the following mandate:

"VVA will determine the feasibility of forming, chartering, funding, or empowering a new veterans organization to perpetuate our legacy and assure the tomorrow of all veterans. This task will be accomplished by this Working Group with input from, and the approval of, the general membership represented by the delegates at a National Convention."

The Working Group is comprised of members in good standing in VVA. The individuals were selected based on their extensive knowledge and experience with VVA, other veterans organizations, and support organizations helping young veterans from the current conflicts. All of our members are actively involved in VVA at the local, state, and the national levels.

We identified several key Action Items from the mandate: Leading, Forming, Chartering, Funding, Empowerment, Perpetuating VVA's Legacy, and Assuring the Continuation of Benefits for All Veterans. Each team has created a PowerPoint with key points and expanded on the areas of actions to achieve a successful transition.

The Working Group's transition plan has used the experience of VVA during its early stage of growth to devise a layout of critical steps on how to establish a new veterans organization. Accomplishment of a successful transition begins with a viable plan. Between its start and outcomes are: Accountability, Leadership, Courage, Performance

We envision the freedom not merely to see the possibilities, but to commit, to act, and to make something happen. Chartering an organization is not a task to take lightly. What is the need the organization will fill for veterans of today and the future?

Funding needs to be looked at from all levels. From the national level, programs from VVA can be transferred to the leadership of a trusted body.

Our legacy is, and will be, an ongoing picture of who we are and what we stand for. When looking at our legacy and what we put forward, we need to look at what we have accomplished. We have addressed most of these issues and concerns.

VVA was founded on the principle that all veterans should receive the care and entitlements they were promised by our government. Our list of accomplishments includes judicial review for veterans' claims, a veterans Court of Appeals for claims, women veteran programs, our service officer program, compensation for PTSD and Agent Orange, an ongoing discussion on discharge upgrades, Veteran Treatment Courts, and protections for all veterans regardless of sexual status or beliefs.

Most important is that the VVA Constitution states that the ultimate decision is up to the delegates. They will decide at a future National Convention the feasibility of forming a new veterans organization.

We need your input in finding an organization that could take over our functions or to find new leaders in our network of veteran organizations. It is very important that you attend the VVA National Education & Leadership Conference in Palm Springs to hear the facts. ■