



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
**WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL**

State Council Meeting  
Comfort Suites/Foxfire  
Waupaca, Wisconsin

December 7, 2019

**UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Toxic Exposure Committee Meeting (Formerly Agent Orange Committee)**

Called to order by Chair Mike Demske

John Koehler (VVA Chapter 351) wants to host an Agent Orange conference in the Appleton area in the fall of 2020. This is to be for families and children of Vietnam Veterans and Gulf War Veterans and led by Heather Bowser. (See handout on the WSC AO/TE Committee Archives – Legacy 12072019)



Heather Bowser (co-founder Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance: CVVHA) is a leading expert on the effects of Agent Orange and the transgenerational impact of dioxins – the essential chemical used in Agent Orange – on the children and grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans. As an internationally recognized authority, Bowser has presented seminars around the world as well as the U.S. She knows the legacy of **Agent Orange 50 Years After**; and the impact it continues to have on Veterans, their adult children, and grandchildren.

Koehler believes the seminar could possibly be held at the Humana Office in Appleton since they have the facilities available.

Mike Demske discussed the possibility of getting new veterans to discuss the problems of Burn Pits, Depleted Uranium, etc. from the Gulf War to today.

Richard Lindbeck requested that the program also contact the Native American Community regarding Agent Orange/Toxic Exposure. With some nine (9) Native American tribes in Wisconsin they are forgotten to invite.

Further discussion focused on target audience(s), co-sponsors, and more. Recognizing the need for funds for such a conference the group focused on how this committee could assist. Demske reminded the group of the Agent Orange set aside the committee has. Margowski made the **motion** that the Toxic Exposure Committee donate \$1,000.00 towards this program; the motion was seconded by Canon and carried without objection. Demske, as co-chair of this committee will report this out in the full meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM

Respectfully submitted;

Richard Lindbeck

## Wisconsin State Council Meeting



President Lindbeck called the State Council Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. on September 21, 2019 in Waupaca, Wisconsin. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was offered to our POW/MIA's and active duty service members. The roll call of Officers, Directors and Chapters was completed and a quorum called.

Present at the meeting were the President, Secretary; Regions 1, 3, 4, and At-Large Directors; VVA Chapters present included VVA Chapters: 0005 (4/4)#3/1, 0092 (4/2)#1/0, 0101 (2/4)#2/0, 0221 (2/2)#1/0, 0236 (2/3)#1/0, 0351 (3/3)#5/1, 0409 (1/3)#1/0, 0425 (1/4)#3/0, 0437 (3/3)#1/1, 0448 (1/4)#3/0, 0479 (4/3)#1/0, 0529 (4/3)#1/0, 0635 (1/4)#1/1, 0731 (3/3)#2/0, 0767 (1/3)#2/1, 01130 (4/4)#1/0. A quorum was called 16 VVA Chapters for a total of 30 delegates – 29 chapter delegates and one at-large. Six (6) AVVA members – five chapter one at-large associates. VVA At-Large Director John Margowski was also present. Please refer to footnote<sup>1</sup>.

### President's Report:

I attended the CSCP/BOD meeting October 9-13 in Silver Spring, MD. This meeting was regarding the finance procedures and updates on filling out budget and expense reports. The program was set up by Vice President Tom Burke and Treasurer Jack McManus to inform the BOD and CSCP on what is on the agenda for the future of VVA.

A new flow chart was handed out for the responsibilities of the officer and the office staff. This was done to make the job descriptions in line with daily operations.

The CSCP only had a half day of the finance program and then we held the CSCP meeting.

The new members of the BOD were required to attend the Finance Meeting. We had 46 State Council Presidents in attendance.

There were members of the Korean War Veterans that presented letters of thanks to all the State Presidents.

Tracie Houston gave a presentation of the Point of Contacts for the various offices in the National Office. Membership can check on with the chapters if the election reports are submitted with the proper contacts listed. The Membership office is also updating the dual membership list (i.e., VVA/AVVA) During the BOD meeting we broke to attend the various committee meeting. I attended the Agent Orange meeting and we are also looking at the Iraq/Afghan Burn Pits problem.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 voting suspension – refer to VVA Constitution and National Disciplinary Policy. The parentheses () following the VVA Chapters number (e.g., 0007 **(3/2)**) indicates the chapter's region and the number of meetings recorded as attended in the calendar year as of the roll call. The numbers after () and following the # sign indicate the number VVA members represented followed by the number of AVVA members (e.g., #4/2).

In the afternoon I attended the Membership Affairs Committee meeting. With the Life Membership at \$50 it would not be long before the reimbursement fund could be depleted. This would require looking at other resources for State Councils and Chapters. At the current rate the fund could be depleted in seven years.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report i.e., the Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for the nine months ending November 30, 2019, was submitted to the delegates on behalf of the WSC Treasurer.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

- There was error found in Article III of the WSC By-Laws. This will be corrected to follow closely with the VVA Constitution.
- Regardless if a VVA Chapter has submitted its Election and Financial Reports to VVA National it must submit these Reports to the Secretary of the WSC as per the VVA Constitution.

#### **VVA WSC Region Director Reports:**

##### **Region 3 Director:**

The **complete** report is listed on the website; however, Tom Hoffman, Region 3 Director, sadly reported that VVA Chapter 618 (Sheboygan) has filed papers with VVA National to dissolve the chapter effective immediately. The VVA Chapter 618 members were invited by Tom to join the Manitowoc VVA Chapter 731, the closest VVA Chapter.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **POW/MIA Committee:** report was presented by Duane Cannon and is provided in its entirety on the WSC website at <https://www.vvawi.org/wsc-committees/pow-mia.html>.
- **Scholarship Committee:** All of the latest scholarship materials are on the website. Please feel free to share this information with your VVA Chapter members or provide information for access on the WSC website at <https://www.vvawi.org/wsc-committees/scholarship/application.html>.

#### **VVA Chapter Reports:**

Please note VVA Chapter reports and Newsletters are located on the WSC website under WSC Info > Chapter Reports (<https://www.vvawi.org/wsc-info/chapter-info.html>).

#### **Old Business:**

None

#### **New Business:**

None

#### **For the Benefit of the Order:**

Jon Rybar shared with the group to carefully read any contract(s) you may have to enter into regarding the Moving Wall.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Mullarkey, Secretary