



Vietnam Veterans of America
Wisconsin State Council
Office of the State Secretary
P.O. Box 1917
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1917

October 6, 2014

Richard Lindbeck, President
VVA - WI State Council
1716 Columbia Place
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095-3731

RE: Chapter Participation at Quarterly Meetings

Dear President:

Good news, on average nearly 50 percent of Wisconsin's Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapters members and Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) attends the VVA Wisconsin State Council's (WSC) quarterly meetings. The meetings not only provide an opportunity for fellow Members and Associates to re-connect but discover what the State Council Officers and VVA Chapters around Wisconsin are doing.

The WSC has a goal of educating and learning as much possible about Agent Orange and dioxin exposure from Veterans and their families. We are fortunate to have strong Agent Orange Committee within the WSC co-chaired by Michael Demske (VVA Member) and Pat Furno (AVVA Wisconsin State Representative). The Agent Orange Team, in concert with our VVA Region 6 Director, John Margowski, have facilitated Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings with Veterans and their families in Wisconsin, Kansas, Minnesota, and North Dakota. The Team has more Town Hall Meetings throughout Wisconsin. Additionally, the VVA WSC has other initiatives benefitting all VVA Chapters including goals of increasing membership and fundraising.

VVA Chapter Representatives to the VVA WSC not only share Chapter Members activities in their community, but detail local methods used to increase VVA Chapter memberships, fundraising activities, educational projects, and more. The VVA Chapter participation is the *lifeblood* of the VVA Wisconsin State Council.

An outcome of our most recent VVA WSC Meeting (September 13, 2014, in Waupaca) was to reaffirm the definition of VVA Chapter participation at the VVA WSC Meeting. As a result the Secretary was directed to review both National Constitution and State By-Laws with respect to VVA Chapter participation in full standing i.e., meeting Constitution and By-Laws, respectively.

As a review of the National Constitution, specifically Article II: State Provisions, Section 3 – Membership, Sub-Section A. paragraphs two and three state:

Each Chapter within a state which has organized a State Council shall be represented on the State Council. At large membership may be represented on the State Council. The number of delegates, a system of alternate delegates, and the voting procedures of the delegates shall be established by the respective State Councils, provided, however, that such rules must be uniform in fact and application, must be in compliance with this Constitution, and are subject to review and modification by the Board of Directors of the Corporation if the Board, in its judgment, deems a modification necessary or desirable.

Each Chapter shall elect delegates to the State Council, and these delegates shall represent the Chapter on all matters to come before the Council. Chapters shall be responsible for ensuring the attendance of at least one (1) delegate per Chapter at not less than one half of all of the meetings of the State Council during the preceding twelve months, and the unexcused absence of at least one (1) delegate from such meetings of the council during the preceding twelve months may be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action against the Chapter, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and the Code of Disciplinary Procedure, adopted by the Corporation.

As called by the By-Laws of the WSC, Article V, Section 1 states:

The Council shall meet in March, June and December.

Furthermore, WSC Officers, Directors, and VVA Chapter Delegates have identified *September* as the fourth meeting of the calendar year. And has designated the June meeting to be the annual meeting to include election of WSC officers, specifically president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and four region directors – each representing specific Wisconsin VVA Chapters as identified in Appendix I in the By-Laws of the WSC.

VVA Chapters in Wisconsin in good standing at the National level (i.e., are Chartered under the Constitution, incorporated within the respective State, have submitted Election Reports and Annual Financial Reports, and are not under disciplinary action) must identify a delegate or alternate to attend WSC Meetings. According to Article 5 Section 3 of WSC By-Laws:

Chapters are required to have at least one delegate present at half the Council meetings each year; failure of a Chapter to meet this requirement shall result in the automatic suspension of that Chapter's voting rights at all Council meetings until that Chapter is in compliance with the attendance requirement.

Therefore, based on the VVA Constitution and WSC By-Laws Chapters need to be represented at least two of the Wisconsin State Council's scheduled meetings in a *calendar year*, failure will result in automatic WSC suspension as described in Section II of VVA National Disciplinary Policy (2013).

In an effort to maintain the vibrancy of Wisconsin's VVA State Council and assist all of Wisconsin's VVA Chapters, their Members, and Associates beginning January 1, 2015, the WSC will begin to enforce the VVA Constitution and By-Laws of the WSC to the fullest. This means that all VVA Chapters must attend a minimum of two VVA WSC meetings between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015. If your Chapter has not identified a delegate to the VVA WSC or has not been an active participant we urge you to send your delegate(s), alternate(s), and Associates, to the upcoming VVA WSC scheduled meeting December 6, 2014. And to a minimum of two meetings in 2015 which are scheduled for March 21, 2015, in Waupaca, June 19, 2015 at The HighGround, September 12, 2015, and December 5, 2015, in Waupaca. This information is available to you, your VVA Chapter Members and Associates online at www.vvawi.org.

VVA WSC Officers and Directors look forward to your VVA Chapter's continued participation and welcome delegate(s) and Associates to these meetings. Moreover, as your VVA WSC we stand ready to answer or find an answer to any questions from your VVA Chapter or membership

In advance and on behalf of all Officers and Region Directors, thank you for assistance and look forward to seeing you at upcoming VVA WSC Meetings.

Sincerely,

James E. Mullarkey

James E. Mullarkey
Secretary

Cc: WSC Executive Board
WSC Region Directors
VVA Region 6 Director
Wisconsin AVVA Representative