



ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

8719 Colesville Road; Suite 100 • Silver Spring, MD 20910-3919

Telephone (301) 585-4000 • Fax Main (301) 585-0519

2015 Convention Minutes July 23-24, 2015 President Lincoln Double Tree Hotel Springfield, IL

President Hobbs welcomed all delegates and guests and declared the 8th Biennial Convention open at 9:08 am, July 23, 2015, in Salon C/D of the President Lincoln Double Tree Hotel, in Springfield, IL.

Blanch Duggins gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Vice-President Cathy Keister.

President Hobbs appointed the Parliamentarian: Barbara Miller, the Timekeeper: Bill Williams, Sergeants at Arms: Charlene Holloway and Bonnie Grant, and Tellers: Teresa Brewer (CA), Lynda Kelby (MI), and Joyce Luper (TN). President Hobbs made necessary introductions.

Announcements included:

- Our trademark for “Together Always” is complete and is now ours.
- 870 gifts have been sent to 3 year and life members.
- There are 12 states and 10 chapters incorporated, with 3 more chapters currently in the process.
- Approximately 9000 hours of volunteer service have been reported through VISTA program.
- We now offer free life memberships to Permanently Hospitalized Veterans.
- The upcoming special on Life Memberships begins on November 1st, ends on December 31st.
- At-Large elections will be held in 2016. The first training sessions that will be offered to the new Board and Deputies will be a refresher on At-Large Elections.

President Hobbs recognized the National Membership Chair, Cathy Keister, to present the Credentials Report.

The Credentials Report was presented by the Credentials Committee Chairperson Cathy Keister. The credentials report was **adopted by a majority vote**.

The Secretary recorded that Sergeants-at-Arms Charlene Holloway and Bonnie Grant have established a quorum.

President Hobbs recognized Nancy Rekowski, to present the Convention Rules. Nancy Rekowski requested that the Rules be read aloud by Jeri Wallis.

The Convention Rules were presented by the Convention Rules Chairperson, Nancy Rekowski, and the committee’s report was read to the assembly by Jeri Wallis. The Convention Rules were **adopted by a majority vote**.



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The convention agenda was amended.

The Convention Agenda was presented by President Hobbs and **adopted by unanimous consent.**

A Roll Call of delegates was requested. The Secretary called roll from the official delegate list, and recorded that there were 92 delegates present as determined by voice responses. The gavel was passed to the Bylaws Chair, Cecilia Essenmacher for the Committee report.

The Bylaws Committee Chair, Cecilia Essenmacher, explained the hierarchy of governing documents for the Corporation, sighting the order being the Washington DC Nonprofit Code, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws.

Recess for morning break at 10:31.

Reconvened at 10:48.

The Bylaws Chair, Cecilia Essenmacher, presented the new bylaws proposal article-by-article, section-by-section. Motions on the proposal were offered on the following Articles and sections:

- 1) 3.03: Motion to remove references to VVA eligibility in order to make anyone eligible for regular membership. **Failed**
- 2) 4.02: Motion to remove all mention of Deputy Directors and add the words “in good standing”. **Passed**
- 3) 4.02: Motion to remove the words “or an adjoining State”. **Passed by division vote (count= 52 yes; 45 no)**
- 4) *New: Motion to add new section 4:03: Adds new section for election of Deputy Regional Directors, mirroring the section on election of Regional Directors. **Passed** (requires re-numbering of article IV sections)
- 5) 7.01: Motion to add the punctuation and words “, and the At-Large Representative”. **Passed**
- 6) 7.02: Motion to add the punctuation and words “, and the At-Large Representative. **Passed**
- 7) New: Motion to add new section 7.03 to establish the At-Large Representative election process and delegate status. **Passed** (Requires the re-numbering of article VII sections)
- 8) Old 7.03: Motion to add punctuation and words as follows: “, or their alternate”. **Passed**

Recess for lunch break at end of article 7 – 11:55 am.



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Reconvene at 1:35 pm. A quorum was established and recorded.

Discussion of and motions on bylaws continued:

- 9) 8.02: Motion to add “and the bylaws of their respective incorporated state.” **Passed by division vote. (Count= 47 yes, 37 no)**
- 10) 8.03: Motion to add the wording: “Incorporated chapters report to incorporated states. If an incorporated chapter does not reside in an incorporated state, the chapter reports to the Corporation.” **Passed**
- 11) 8.04: Motion to add the words and punctuation “, or their designated alternate” to the third line. **Passed**

No further motions offered on remaining articles of the bylaws proposal.

At this time, the entire document was opened to the delegation for any desired revisions or further motions on any portion previously discussed or any other portion.

The Following amendments were offered and voted on:

- 1) 8.04: Motion to add the word “elected” to the first sentence. **Passed**
- 2) 4.02: Motion to remove the words “must reside in that region” from the second line, and add the words “in a chapter within” in the fourth line. **Passed**
- 3) 4.03 (the new addition): Motion to revise this section to mirror the language in 4.02, so that the section regarding Deputy Regional Directors will be the same as for Regional Directors. **Passed**

At 3:05 pm, Motion by Hope Summers of South Carolina Chapter 523 to adopt the revised bylaws as a whole document. Second by Kathleen Penfield of Pennsylvania Chapter 865. **Passed by near unanimous vote**

- *The newly revised bylaws will be made available on the AVVA website within the next thirty (30) days.*

Announcements were offered by several delegates regarding general information and events.

Announcements were made by President Hobbs regarding the events on the agenda for Friday.

Recessed at 3:30 pm until Friday morning at 9:00 am.

Convention reconvened Friday, July 24, 2015, at 9:00 am.



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President Hobbs declares the 8th Biennial Convention reopened.

Dennis Waling, AVVA MI State VP, sang the National Anthem.

Announcements:

- Our Project Friendship donations are still coming in, but will be well over the \$7,400 that we collected in Wichita, KS.
- The first meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors will be Saturday at 9:00 am, July 25, 2015. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- The next Leadership Conference will be in July 2016 in Tucson, AZ.
- The next National Convention will be in August 2017, in New Orleans, LA.

A quorum was established by the Sergeants at Arms.

President Hobbs passed the gavel to the Elections Committee Chair, Elayne Mackey.

The Election Committee Chair opened the Elections. The Elections Committee Chair read the Election Rules to the body. The Election Rules were **adopted by the delegation by unanimous consent.**

The Elections Committee Chair explained the process for national elections. All Candidates were introduced to the delegate body.

The Candidate Forum began at 9:40 am. The only office with more than one candidate was the office of National Treasurer. Both candidates spoke to the delegation for 5 minutes each. At the request of President Hobbs, the remaining 3 National Officer candidates also spoke to the delegation for 2 minutes each.

Recess for morning break at 10:00 am.

Reconvened at 10:15 am.

President Hobbs requested that the delegates allow the Region 5 delegation to vote first, due to an emergency situation concerning one of their delegates; they want to support their delegate with their presence at the hospital.

Voting began at 10:20 am.

During the voting process, some suggestions were given for the website. AVVA will be adding a link/button to email Dick Southern in order that members can request to be added to the AVVA



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Talklist. Also, AVVA will be discussing the addition of some kind of “honoree” page, or condolence page to list our members who have passed away.

A delegate from California suggested that AVVA might think about creating a special Life-Member ribbon, or something similar, for future national events that would clearly identify our Dual Life Members as way of thanking them for their support.

The election results were officially turned in at 11:30. All candidates were moved to another room to be told the results.

The Election results were read to the delegate body at 11:45 am. The 2015-2017 Board consists of:

President: Sharon Hobbs

Vice-President: Cathy Keister

Secretary: Joanna Henshaw

Treasurer: Kathy Andras

Region 1 Director: vacant

Region 2 Director: Nancy Rekowski

Region 3 Director: Beverly Pounds

Region 4 Director: Jeri Wallis

Region 5 Director: Cecilia Essenmacher

Region 6 Director: Diane Nicholson

Region 7 Director: Percilla Newberry

Region 8 Director: John Birch

Region 9 Director: Elayne Mackey

The Elections Committee Chair declared the election closed, and the gavel was passed to President Hobbs.

Bill Williams, the outgoing Treasurer, administered the Oath of Office to President Sharon Hobbs. President Hobbs administered the Oath of Office to the remaining Board Members.

With no further business, the 8th Biennial Convention was declared closed, and was adjourned at 11:55 am.

National Secretary Joanna Henshaw recorded the minutes.

Joanna Henshaw
AVVA National Secretary

PLEASE SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR AVVA AWARDS



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Awards were given during the AVVA Luncheon on July 22, 2015. The Recipients were as follows:

President's Commendation Medal

Cathy Keister, Joanna Henshaw, Sandy Miller (VVA)

Fellowship Award(s)

John Emery Sr. and John Emery Jr., Chapter 635, WI

Kathy Kutac, Chapter 870, TX

National Member of the Year Award

Nina Schloffel, CA

VISTA Program Awards

1st Place for most individual Volunteer Hours – Bobbie Morris, PA (386.5)

2nd Place for most individual Volunteer Hours – Nancy Briggs, AZ (358)

3rd Place for most individual Volunteer Hours – Karen See, TN (291)

Region with most Volunteer Hours – Region 3 (1705.95)

State with most Volunteer Hours – Tennessee (1167.95)

Chapter with most Volunteer Hours – Chapter 1004 (651.45)