



## **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

### **AVVA 2017 National Convention Minutes**

August 10-11, 2017

Marriot New Orleans Hotel

New Orleans, LA

President Sharon Hobbs, called to order the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) 9<sup>th</sup> National Convention at 9:03 am, August 10, 2017, in Galleries 5 and 6 of the Marriot Hotel, New Orleans, LA.

President Hobbs recognized Fran Davis, MO, National Chaplain, to give the invocation; John Birch, OR, Region 8 Director, to lead the assembly in the *Pledge of Allegiance*; Dennis Waling, MI, to sing the *National Anthem*.

President Hobbs introduced the board of directors, and the Parliamentarian Barbara C. Miller, PRP, and made the following appointments: Sergeants-at-Arms Antonio Perry of NV and Charlene Holloway of TN; Election Tellers Bernie Rekowski PA, Charlene Holloway TN, Rose Wright TN, and Joyce Luper TN; Timekeeper Kathy Andras, LA.

President Hobbs welcomed everyone and addressed the delegates with AVVA's many accomplishments over the past two years:

- AVVA participated in 52 Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings.
- AVVA now has 18 certified service officers writing claims in 10 states, with 3 applicants now in the training process.
- Incorporated subsidiaries include 12 states and 16 chapters, with one chapter in the process of incorporating.
- VISTA has over 53,000 community-service hours recorded since 2014.
- Two new brochures are now available: Legislative Priorities and Secondary PTSD. They are both available in the AVVA office and a Legislative Priorities brochure is included in each convention bag.
- The Secondary PTSD program and facilitator training has rolled out, and a seminar will be held on Friday afternoon.
- We have partnered with Military Veterans Caregivers Network (MVCN) to provide online peer support for members who are fulltime caregivers and who may be isolated from the outside world.
- AVVA has grown to over 9,300 members.
- The In-Memory Plaque project has moved forward to the fund-raising stage, and proposed costs are expected soon.
- Project Friendship donations are doing well, however the goal of \$12,000 has yet to be met. President Hobbs stated: "Please encourage your VVA chapters to donate. Donations will be taken until Friday morning."

President Hobbs recognized National Membership Committee member Roberta Morris of PA for the Credentials Report. Ms. Morris reported that there were 103 delegates and 23 alternates registered.



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President Hobbs recognized the sergeants-at-arms to establish a quorum via delegate count. *Quorum established.*

**Motion 1:** Roberta Morris moved: By direction of the Credentials Committee, I move the adoption of the Credentials Report as read. *Motion adopted.*

**Motion 2:** The president moved the adoption of the agenda as published in the Convention Guide. Without additions or corrections, *the agenda was adopted as published.*

President Hobbs, recognized the National Rules Committee, Nina Schloffel of CA and Beverly Pounds of TN to read the Convention Rules as published in the Convention Guide, and the amendments that were distributed.

**Motion 3:** Nina Schloffel moved: By direction of the Rules Committee, I move the adoption of the Convention Rules as read. *Motion adopted.*

**Motion 4:** Cecilia Essenmacher moved: On behalf of the committee appointed to draw up the amendments, I move the adoption of the bylaw amendments as presented by the committee.

President Hobbs, explained the procedure for adopting proposed amendments to the Corporation Bylaws as follows:

The committee chair will read the proposed bylaw amendments, one article and section at a time. After each article and section is read, it will be open to debate and amendment. When one amendment of one section is complete, the next will be read and considered. No article or section will be adopted until all have been opened to amendment.

President Hobbs recognized Cecilia Essenmacher, MI, Bylaws Committee Chair, to read the proposed amendments.

Motions offered on the proposed amendments were as follows:

**Motion 5:** Article IV, Section 4.02 Election of Directors: Pat Furno of WI, moved to strike the word "chapter" and insert the word "state" in the second sentence. *Amendment adopted.*

**Motion 6:** Article IV, Section 4.02 Election of Directors: Suzie Meeks of TX moved to strike the entire last sentence (No director shall be eligible to serve more than 10 consecutive terms in the same office). *Amendment failed.*

**Motion 7:** Article IV, Section 4.02 Election of Directors: Anna Stafford of AR moved to strike 10 years and insert 5 years, regarding consecutive terms. *Amendment adopted.*

**Motion 8:** Article IV, Section 4.03 Election of Deputy Directors: Pat Furno of WI moved to strike the word "chapter" and insert the word "state" in the second. *Amendment adopted.*



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**Motion 9:** Article IV, Section 4.03 Election of Deputy Directors: Penny Chamousis of CA moved to strike 10 years and insert 5 years regarding consecutive terms. *Amendment adopted.*

**Motion 10:** Article VII, Section 7.03 At-Large-Representative: Linda Yates of TN moved to insert the words “by ballot” into the second sentence, between the words conducted and through. *Amendment adopted.*

**Motion 11:** Article VIII, Section 8.04 Delegate of Record: Carol Near of IL moved to insert a sentence *between sentence two and three*: “The alternate must be a member of the same chapter as the delegate who appoints them.” *Amendment adopted.*

After all proposed amendments were discussed and action(s) taken, President Hobbs continued to process the motion made by the Bylaws Committee Chair, Cecilia Essenmacher, to adopt the bylaw amendments as presented by the committee. *Motion adopted.*

President Hobbs declared that the Bylaws, as amended and adopted, shall become effective immediately.

President Hobbs recessed the business meeting at 12:15 pm, until Friday, August 11, at 9:00 am.

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President Sharon Hobbs reconvened the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America 9<sup>th</sup> National Convention at 9:02 am on Friday, August 11, 2017, in Galleries 5 and 6 of the Marriot Hotel, New Orleans, LA.

President Hobbs recognized Fran Davis, MO, National Chaplain, to give the invocation; John Birch, OR, Region 8 Director, to lead the assembly in the *Pledge of Allegiance*; Dennis Waling, MI, to sing the *God Bless America*.

President Hobbs recognized National Membership Committee member Roberta Morris of PA for the Credentials Report. Ms. Morris reported that there were 103 delegates registered.

President Hobbs recognized the sergeants-at-arms to establish a quorum via delegate count. *Quorum established.*

**Motion 12:** Roberta Morris moved: By direction of the Credentials Committee, I move the adoption of the Credentials Report as read. *Motion adopted.*

President Hobbs recognized Kaye Gardner, National Election Committee Chair, to present the Election Rules.



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Kaye Gardner read the Election Rules as published in the Convention Guide.

**Motion 13:** Kaye Gardner moved: By direction of the Elections Committee, I move that the Election Rules be adopted as read. *Motion adopted.*

Elections Committee Chair Gardner announced that Pat Furno, candidate for Region 6 Director, had chosen to withdraw her candidacy. Candidate Furno's decision to withdraw resulted in having no races that were opposed, therefore none of the candidates were asked to speak. Chairperson Gardner invited the delegates to ask questions of any candidate if they wished to.

At 9:25 am the voting process began. Delegates were called to the voting area by region.

President Hobbs recognized delegate Linda Yates, TN, who gave information about the new NFVF (National Foundation for Veterans and Families) brochure and the goals of the foundation.

The polls closed at 10:10 am.

President Hobbs called for a break from 10:15 to 11:00 am to allow for counting of the ballots.

President Hobbs reconvened the convention at 11:06 am.

National Election Committee member Suzie Meeks presented the sealed envelope containing the election results to Kaye Gardner.

At 11:09 am Kaye Gardner excused herself and the candidates to the anti-room to announce the election results, returning at 11:15.

The election results were announced to the delegate body by Elections Committee Chair, Kaye Gardner, as follows:

National President: Sharon Hobbs	
National Vice-President: Elayne Mackey	
National Secretary: Nina Schloffel	
National Treasurer: Kathy Andras	
Region 1 Director: Joanne Blum	Region 1 Deputy Director: vacant
Region 2 Director: Nancy Rekowski	Region 2 Deputy Director: Roberta (Bobbie) Morris
Region 3 Director: Kaye Gardner	Region 3 Deputy Director: Hope Summers
Region 4 Director: Jeri Wallis	Region 4 Deputy Director: Susan Henthorn
Region 5 Director: Cecilia Essenmacher	Region 5 Deputy Director: Don Jones
Region 6 Director: Fran Davis	Region 6 Deputy Director: Diane Nicholson
Region 7 Director: Terri Rangel	Region 7 Deputy Director: Suzie Meeks
Region 8 Director: John Birch	Region 8 Deputy Director: vacant
Region 9 Director: Casey Farrell	Region 9 Deputy Director: vacant

Kaye Gardner thanked the election committee and tellers for their service.



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**Motion 14:** Kaye Gardner moved: Since no race was opposed, I move that the ballots and tally sheets be destroyed. *Motion adopted.*

President Hobbs thanked the Credentials Committee, the Elections Committee, the board of directors, the sergeants-at-arms, the tellers, the timekeeper, the delegates and the parliamentarian for their service, and stated that she is looking forward to the future of AVVA. We are looking forward to the next leadership conference in Palm Springs, CA, and to the 2019 convention in Spokane, WA, which will also be our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

President Hobbs was sworn in as the AVVA National President for the 2017-2019 term by Joanna Henshaw, past National Secretary. President Hobbs swore in the board of directors and deputy directors for the 2017-2019 term.

There being no further business, President Hobbs declared the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America 9<sup>th</sup> National Convention closed at 11:29 am.

Recorded by:

Joanna Henshaw  
2015-2017 AVVA National Secretary

Submitted by:

Nina D. Schloffel  
AVVA National Secretary