



## **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 10<sup>th</sup> National Convention - Minutes  
July 18-19, 2019  
Spokane Convention Center, Conference Room Bay 11C  
Spokane, WA

President Sharon Hobbs called the 10<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) to order at 9:00 am, July 18, 2019 in Conference Room Bay 11C at the Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, WA.

President Hobbs recognized Fran Davis, MO, National Chaplain, to deliver the invocation. Nina Schloffel, CA, National Secretary, led the assembly in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

President Hobbs welcomed convention delegates, veterans and guests. A special welcome was extended to, AVVA past presidents, Nancy Switzer, Mary Miller and Elaine Simmons.

President Hobbs addressed the delegates and guests with a summary of AVVA accomplishments over the past two years:

- AVVA has grown to over 10,000 members.
- AVVA National converted from a 501C4 to a 501C3. and our incorporated states and chapters are on track with their respective 501C3 conversions.
- The In-Memory Plaque project was completed and the upgraded plaque rededicated this year on Memorial Day.
- To date, AVVA's incorporated subsidiaries include twelve (12) states, eighteen (18) chapters, and there is one more chapter in the process of incorporating.
- The Spousal Benefits program was introduced and was very well received. Seminar packets and program outlines are available on the AVVA website.
- While serving our veterans and our communities, AVVA members logged over 98,000 VISTA hours.
- The AVVA website user community continues to grow. To date, the website has garnered more than 214,000 hits.
- Project Friendship donations have surpassed this year's goal of \$15,000.

President Hobbs introduced the current board of directors and Parliamentarian Barbara C, Miller, PRP. Upon concluding all introductions, the president announced the following appointments:

- Sergeants-at-Arms:
  - John Birch, WA
  - Don Jones, OH



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- Elections Tellers:
  - Deborah Franklin, CA
  - Cheryl Rock, LA
- Timekeeper:
  - Jeri Wallis, GA

President Hobbs recognized National Elections Committee Chair, Nancy Montgomery, VA, to present the Credentials Report. Chair Montgomery reported that 81 delegates and 20 alternates were registered for the convention.

President Hobbs recognized the sergeants-at-arms to establish a quorum by a count of delegates on the floor. 76 delegates were counted. **Quorum Established.**

**Motion 1:** Nancy Montgomery moved: On behalf of the Credentials Committee, move to adopt the credentials report. **Credentials Report Adopted**

President Hobbs recognized Joanne Blum, CT, and Don Jones, OH, to present the Convention Rules.

**Motion 2:** Joanne Blum moved: On behalf of the Convention Rules Committee, move to adopt the Convention Rules. **Convention Rules Adopted (Affirmed by Two-Thirds Standing Count)**

**Motion 3:** By unanimous consent, the delegates moved to adopt the agenda as published. **Agenda Adopted**

President Hobbs recognized Bylaws Committee designee, Cecilia Essenmacher, to present the bylaws amendments.

**Motion 4:** Cecilia Essenmacher moved: On behalf of the Bylaws Committee, to adopt the thirteen (13) proposed amendments as submitted to the members and published in the convention handbook.

President Hobbs explained the procedure for adopting the proposed bylaws amendments as follows:

- Each proposed amendment would be considered individually.
- The Bylaws Committee designee will read the proposed amendments one article and one section at a time.
- The president will then open the offered proposal for discussion and amendment.
- Once the actions on the offered proposal are complete, the next will be read and considered.



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- No proposal will be adopted until all proposals have been opened for amendment.

Section-by-section proposal:

**Motion 5:** Article III, Section 3.01, MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION: Bylaws Committee moved to strike the year “2010” The President moved to withdraw the proposed amendment. **Withdrawn Without Objection**

**Note on Motion 5:** The Parliamentarian recommended that the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment to Article III, Section 3.01, Membership Corporation should be rejected in that the official legally accepted title for the chapter under which the AVVA is incorporated is the “**Nonprofit Corporation Act of 2010**”. To not use the official legally accepted title could cause confusion when researching governing documents to determine a proper action.

**Motion 6:** Article III, Section 3.05, DUES: Rick Talford, WI, moved to add the text: *The "Anniversary" month (January) of each year shall be considered a membership drive month, with reduced fees for lifetime memberships. Members under the age of 59 shall be offered memberships at the rate of \$100.00. Those over the age of 60 shall be offered a membership at the rate of \$50.00.* **Failed**

**Motion 7:** Article III, Section 3.07, VOTING: Pat Furno, WI, moved and another delegate seconded to accept 3.07 amendments (a) through (c) and to consider amendment (d) separately.

Vote to adopt sections (a) – (c) as presented. **Adopted**

Vote to adopt section (d) as presented. **Failed**

**Amendment:** Article III, Section 3.07, ELECTIONS: Kaye Gardner, MD, moved and another delegate seconded to amend section (d) to read: National Election Committee members, including the chair, must resign their position on the Election Committee if they run for any national office. **Amendment Adopted**

Main motion **Adopted as Amended.**

**Motion 8:** Article VIII, Section 8.02, UNINCORPORATED CHAPTER ASSOCIATES: Pat Furno, WI, moved and another delegate seconded, to separate the discussion of the word “Associates”. **Failed**



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**Amendment:** Article VIII, Section 8.02, UNINCORPORATED CHAPTER ASSOCIATES: Moved by Fran Davis, MO, and another delegate seconded, in the section title to insert AVVA before the word chapter. **Failed**

**Amendment:** Article VIII, Section 8.02, UNINCORPORATED CHAPTER ASSOCIATES: Moved by Linda Yates, TN, and seconded by another delegate to remove the word “Associates” from the title, which would then read: “Section 8.02 Unincorporated Chapters”. **Amendment Passed.**

Main motion **Adopted as Amended.**

Proposals for the following articles passed as presented:

Article IV, Section 4.10  
Article V, Section 5.01  
Article V, Section 5.05  
Article VI, Section 6.02  
Article VII, Section 7.01  
Article VII, Section 7.02  
Article VII, Section 7.03  
Article VII, Section 7.05  
Article VIII, Section 8.03

After all the proposed amendments were discussed and action(s) taken, President Hobbs resumed processing the main motion made by Bylaws Committee designee, Cecilia Essenmacher (**Motion 4**), “to adopt the thirteen (13) proposed amendments as submitted” to the members and published in the convention handbook”. Due to said actions, Ms. Essenmacher amended her motion as follows: “To adopt the bylaw proposals as amended “. **Amendments Adopted**

President Hobbs proclaimed that the proposed bylaws amendments, as adopted, would become effective immediately.

President Hobbs thanked the Bylaws Committee designee, Cecilia Essenmacher, and the members of the Bylaws Committee for a job well done.

President Hobbs recessed the general session of the 10<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America at 12:16 pm, to reconvene on Friday, July 19, at 9:00 am.



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President Sharon Hobbs reconvened the 10<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America at 9:00 am in Conference Room Bay 11C at the Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, WA.

President Hobbs recognized Fran Davis, MO, National Chaplain, to deliver the invocation. Nina Schloffel, CA, National Secretary, led the assembly in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

President Hobbs recognized National Elections Committee Chair, Nancy Montgomery, VA, to present the Credentials Report. Chair Montgomery reported that 81 delegates were registered for the convention.

President Hobbs recognized the sergeants-at-arms to establish a quorum by a count of delegates on the floor. 76 delegates were counted. **Quorum Established.**

**Motion 9:** Nancy Montgomery moved: On behalf of the Credentials Committee, to adopt the credentials report as presented. **Credentials Report Adopted.**

President Hobbs recognized National Elections Committee Chair, Nancy Montgomery, VA, to present the Election Rules.

**Motion 10:** Nancy Montgomery moved On behalf of the Elections Committee, to adopt the Election Rules as presented.

**Amendment:** Moved by Kaye Gardner, MD, and another delegate seconded, to amend the Election Rules to include “The candidates shall be informed of the results privately, by the National President, before the results are officially announced”. **Amendment Adopted**

Main motion **Adopted as Amended**

President Hobbs announced the Candidate’s Forum. The forum allowed candidates running in contested elections to address the delegates. Candidate addresses were limited to three minutes. Timekeeper, Jeri Wallis, GA, was to provide candidates with a one-minute warning, and follow with an advisory when their time expired.

President Hobbs recognized Elections Chair, Nancy Montgomery to direct the Candidate’s Forum.

Upon announcing that the Candidate’s Forum was complete, Nancy Montgomery explained the voting procedure. At 10:05 am, Nancy proclaimed the beginning of the voting process. Delegates were called to vote by their respective regions.



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The polls closed at 11:10 am. To facilitate counting the ballots, President Hobbs called a break from 11:15 am to noon.

President Hobbs reconvened the convention at 12:00 pm.

At 12:04 pm, the candidates were informed of the election results. Immediately thereafter, President Hobbs announced the following election results to the delegates:

National President: Joanna Henshaw  
National Vice-President: Kaye Gardner  
National Secretary: Nina Schloffel  
National Treasurer: Kathy Andras

Director, Region 1: Fran Guevremont  
Director, Region 2: Bobbie Morris  
Director, Region 3: Hope Summers  
Director, Region 4: Jeri Wallis  
Director, Region 5: Don Jones  
Director, Region 6: Fran Davis  
Director, Region 7: Terri Rangel  
Director, Region 8: Vacant  
Director, Region 9: Tim Von Bon

Deputy Dir. Region 2: Nancy Rekowski  
Deputy Dir. Region 3: Connie Jones  
Deputy Dir. Region 4: Susan Henthorn  
Deputy Dir. Region 5: Cecilia Essenmacher  
Deputy Dir. Region 6: Rick Talford  
Deputy Dir. Region 7: Suzie Meeks  
Deputy Dir. Region 9: Kelly Frederickson

President Hobbs administered the oath of office to the new board.

President elect Joanna Henshaw thanked the delegates for their votes and announced she was convening a Board of Directors Meeting at 1:30 p.m. Having no further business, President Henshaw proclaimed the 10<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Nina D. Schloffel  
AVVA National Secretary