



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 Board of Directors Meeting October 14, 2021

Call to Order:

President Joanna Henshaw called the online meeting of the AVVA Board of Directors to order at 4:07PM (PDT) on Thursday, October 14, 2021. The meeting was conducted and recorded using the GoToMeeting conferencing application.

Opening Ceremonies:

President Henshaw recognized National Chaplain, Bobbie Morris to deliver the invocation and call for a moment of silence. Region 9 Director, Tim Von Bon led the assembly in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Board of Directors Roll Call:

A roll call by Secretary Schloffel established a quorum.

President: Joanna Henshaw
Vice President: Kaye Gardner
Secretary: Nina Schloffel
Treasurer: Kathy Andras
Region 1: Frances Guevremont
Region 2: Bobbie Morris
Region 3: Hope Summers - excused

Region 4: Susan Henthorn
Region 5: Deputy Cecilia Essenmacher
Region 6: Rick Talford – excused, 1st half
Region 7: Terri Rangel - excused
Region 8: Vacant
Region 9: Tim Von Bon

Other Attendees/Guests:

Kathy Mattingly – Chair, National Finance Committee
Nancy Montgomery – Chair, National Elections Committee
Orlando McGruder, PRP – National Parliamentarian

Agenda:

Motion (# 1) – moved by President Joanna Henshaw, second by Vice President Kaye Gardner, to accept the agenda as presented.

Adopted w/o Objection



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Electronic Motions:

IEM121: The Secretary moves to adopt the minutes from the April 22, 2021 Online Board Meeting. (*Second by Region 9, Tim Von Bon*)
Adopted w/o Objection (May 11, 2021)

Motion (# 2) – moved by Secretary Schloffel, second by Vice President Gardner, to confirm and enter into the permanent record all electronic motions made between the April 22, 2021 and the October 14, 2021 Board Meetings.
Adopted w/o Objection

Motion (# 3) – moved by President Henshaw, second by Region 9 Director, Tim Von Bon, to donate \$2,000 to Project Friendship.
Adopted w/o Objection

Motion (# 4) – moved by moved by Secretary Schloffel, second by Region 1, Director, Fran Guevremont, to adopt minutes from the August 24, 2021 Board Meeting.
Adopted w/o Objection

Information / Assignments (National Convention):

President Henshaw reviewed tasks and assignments for the National Convention. Board members and other attendees provided updates to their respective assignments.

New Business:

President Henshaw provided an update on the @avva.org email problems. We recently learned that there is an issue with the delivery platform used by VVA and the technology behind our electronic mail. President Henshaw has been investigating a possible solution that uses Google Workspace. However, it's unlikely that the problem will be resolved until after the convention.

Finance Chair Kathy Mattingly noted that she will deliver FY 2023 budget requests to the incoming Finance Committee Chair at the convention. There are a number of budget requests outstanding. These need to be completed and submitted to Kathy M. by the end of October.



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Information / Additional Assignments (National Convention):

President Henshaw requested that all Sunday arrivals call her to let her know they've arrived (cell: 702-809-8091). Monday morning, we will be unpacking boxes and getting setup to stuff convention bags. We should be downstairs and ready to work at 9am.

President Henshaw reviewed which items needed transport to the convention and verified that each was assigned to a specific board member or committee chair.

The annual meeting will be held at convention. President Henshaw reminded the board that our members will be expecting reports from their officers and regional directors. The reports should be short and provide brief summaries of our activities and accomplishments.

Policy Proposals:

Motion (# 5) – moved by the Scholarship Committee, no second required, to change policy Section 3.II.N-R to add new text that defines the basic responsibilities of the Scholarship Committee. This change re-configures existing letters N-R as letters O-S.
Adopted by Majority Vote (6 yes, 2 no)

Motion (# 6) – moved by moved by the Scholarship Committee and the Survivor Benefits Committee, no second required, to add new text to policy Section 8.II.G-H that respectively define the Scholarship and Survivor Benefits programs. This change requires subsequent subsections to be re-numbered accordingly.
Adopted by Majority Vote (6 yes, 2 no)

Motion (# 7) – moved by the Scholarship Committee, no second required, to add a new subsection XX to policy Section 11 that define the duties and corresponding work processes associated with the Scholarship Program Committee.
Adopted by Majority Vote (5 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain)

Region 6 Director, Rick Talford joined the meeting at 5:48 PM (unable to join audio)

Motion (# 8) – moved by P & P Committee/ Elections Committee, no second required, to add a new subsection D to policy Section 5.1 that requires candidates for national, state, chapter offices to be present at the meeting wherein the election is conducted for their office of choice. This change requires that the current subsections D -G be reconfigured as subsections E-H.

Withdrawn by Makers



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Good of the Order:

Region1 Director, Fran Guevremont, informed the board that VA C&P's (medical evaluations) are no longer conducted at VA facilities, or even by VA employees. Instead, these evaluations are now processed through a network of contracted, VA approved, vendors. Fran suggested that veterans having issues with these vendor evaluations contact their congressional officials. *

* Note: Fran subsequently provided the attached list of informational websites.

Adjournment:

Having no further business, President Henshaw adjourned the meeting at 6:03 PM (PDT).

Submitted by,

Nina D. Schloffel
AVVA National Secretary

Websites that might be helpful to veterans having issues with vendor processed medical evaluations:

VA claim Exam (C&P) Veterans Affairs

VA Claim Exam Fact Sheet

Claim Exam Tipsheet (VA.gov)

Claim Exam Fact Sheet #2. (VA.gov)

Improving the VA Claim & Exam Experience - A step by step process

VA Compensation & Pension : Understanding Mental Health Examinations Fact Sheet

Understanding Review Examinations (VA.gov)

Your VA Claim Exam: Here's What you should Expect - you tube