



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
January 11, 2023

Call to Order:

President Sharon Hobbs called the virtual meeting of the AVVA Board of Directors to order at 5:06 PM (EST) on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 and Secretary Nina Schloffel was in place. The meeting was conducted and recorded using the GoToMeeting conferencing application.

Opening Ceremonies:

President Hobbs recognized National Chaplain, Bobbie Morris to deliver the invocation. Vice President Kathy Andras led the assembly in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Board of Directors' Roll Call:

Secretary Nina Schloffel called the roll.

President: Sharon Hobbs	Region 4: Joanne Blum*
Vice President: Kathy Andras	Region 5: Penny Meinhardt
Secretary: Nina Schloffel	Region 6: Barbara Coan
Treasurer: Kay Gardner	Region 7: Terri Rangel (Excused)
Region 1: Vacant	Region 8: Jennifer Ellis
Region 2: Bobbie Morris	Region 9: Kelly Frederickson
Region 3: Hope Summers*	

* Joined meeting after roll call

A quorum was established.

Other Attendees / Guests:

Chair, National Finance Committee, Susan Price
National Parliamentarian, Barbara Miller, PRP
Deputy Region 3, Debbie Musolino
Deputy Region 5, Bobbi Heidenrich

Welcome:

President Hobbs welcomed the Board and guests attending the meeting.



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Agenda:

Motion (#1) - Region 2 Director, Bobbie Morris, moved to accept the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded.

Adopted by Unanimous Vote

Out of Committee Proposals:

Policy and Procedures Chair, Nina Schloffel affirmed that no committee proposals had been submitted for Board approval. No proposals were offered from the floor.

Policy and Procedure Proposals:

Policy and Procedures Chair, Nina Schloffel advised that there were also no policy and procedure proposals to be put before the Board. No proposals were offered from the floor.

Electronic Motions:

Electronic Motions: November 2022 - January 2023

IEM211 The secretary moves to adopt the minutes from the November 8, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting

December 17, 2022 - MOTION ADOPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION

Motion (#2) –Treasurer, Kaye Gardner, moved to confirm and enter into the permanent record all electronic motions made between the November 2022 and the January 2023 Board Meetings. Motion was seconded.

Adopted by Unanimous Vote

General Orders:

- A. National Elections Reminder – Deadline: March 25, 2023
- B. Delegate Reminder - Deadline: July 8, 2023
- C. Awards Reminder – Deadline: May 31, 2023
- D. Bylaws Reminder – Deadline: April 1, 2023
- E. Budget Update:

Finance Chair, Susan Price, stated that confirmations have been sent for all budget requests received. The budget requests are appropriately justified and ready for Finance Committee use in developing a balanced budget. President Hobbs added that the new budget will be approved in April. In the meantime, we will continue to operate under the existing budget.



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F. President Hobbs' Meeting with VVA President McManus:

President Hobbs related that in addition to AVVA, the meeting with VVA President Jack McManus included all VVA officers, members of the VVA staff, and representatives of Veterans Voices of America (VVOA). A summary of takeaways from the meeting follows:

- VVA turnover plan will encompass a five-year window
- VVA's is committed to preserving its legacy
- Stakeholders must include VVA staff
- Organizational functions will transition with related resources/funding. These include:
 - Veterans Benefits – transition to VVOA
 - Advocacy – transition to VVOA and AVVA
 - Programs – transition to AVVA

President McManus asked President Hobbs to identify VVA programs that AVVA would be willing to assume. In response to President McManus' request, President Hobbs and the board determined the following as programs of interest to AVVA. These will be submitted to President McManus for VVA consideration:

- Agent Orange
- Homeless Veterans
- PTSD & Substance Abuse
- VAVS (Veterans Administration Voluntary Service)
- Veterans Against Drugs
- Veterans' Healthcare
- Veterans Incarcerated
- Women Veterans

President Hobbs discussed the evolution of AVVA. Where VVA focused on taking care of the veteran, AVVA's focus has been on the families. If we are to remain viable, AVVA will need to expand our focus to include veterans. AVVA might also consider increasing the size of our Board of Directors. Such would add to AVVA's ability to assume VVA programs.

Among other things, we can expect to change our name. How can we be associates of an organization that doesn't exist? President Hobbs emphasized that ensuring AVVA's legacy can happen only if we get the younger generation involved. Recruit our children. Recruit younger veterans.



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The strategic planning for the VVA shutdown is just beginning. There is much more to come.

G. Discussion of Possible Chapter Voluntary Endeavor:

President Hobbs presented an overview of a chapter level wreath program that supplements 'Wreaths Across America'. The program works with VSO chaplains to place wreaths on the graves of veterans interred in local cemeteries. 'Wreaths Across America' places wreaths only at National Cemeteries.

Marsha Four's (VVA National) VVA/AVVA chapter raised money for the wreaths and placed them on the graves of veterans buried in local cemeteries. They then notified the veterans' families. The families were very appreciative of the gesture. The program is not difficult to administer and is well received. President Hobbs suggested that the Board share the concept of this program with their states and chapters.

Announcements:

President Hobbs announced that the next Board Meeting will be on April 20th. The meeting will be at the new hotel. The new hotel is situated about two blocks away from the National Office. The distance is readily walkable.

Region 8 Director, Jennifer Ellis, thanked the Board for the support she's received since her husband died. Jennifer noted that with her husband's passing, she came to appreciate the importance of AVVA's 'From Heartbreak to Hope' program. Jennifer hopes the program gets strengthened and that its outreach expands.

Region 2 Director, Bobbie Morris, announced that she has arranged 'From Heartbreak to Hope' training for her region. President Hobbs recognized Region 2's commitment to the program, then offered 'From Heartbreak to Hope' seminars to regional conferences. Contact 'H to H' program chair, Nina Schloffel to schedule training or seminars.

President Hobbs noted that convention registration forms will be on the website after the January Board Meeting. The Board can begin registering for the convention once the form is posted. President Hobbs reminded the Board not to pay the convention registration fee. The fee will come out of our respective budgets. AVVA will also pay some convention event fees. Once these are determined, President Hobbs will inform the Board.

Region 3 Deputy Director, Debbie Musolino discussed VA rehabilitation centers for blind and/or deaf veterans. There are 14 such centers across the country. They are affiliated with certain VA hospitals. Debbie's husband was in one of these rehabilitation centers for a full month. Both Debbie and her husband were very impressed with the level of care he received at the facility.



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Adjournment:

Having no further business, President Hobbs adjourned the meeting at 6:07 PM (Eastern).

Submitted by,

Nina D. Schloffel
AVVA National Secretary