

2019 VVA National Convention

July 16-20, 2019, Spokane, Washington

Meeting Handout Report by Bob Supak (9/11/2019)

Purpose of this Report:

On 8/20/2019, our VVA TSC (Texas State Council) Secretary, Cheryl Van Syckle, send us her report on the VVA National Convention that was held in Spokane, Washington, in July of this year. In her report, she listed the results of (1) the TSC officers election, (2) All Proposed Constitutional Amendments that were voted on, and (2) All Resolutions that were presented to and adopted (or not) by the various committees, along with their final status.

I have taken her report and created a more detailed secondary report (33 pages). In that report I have listed and included the details (their descriptions) for all 9 Amendments and all 22 Resolutions she mentions in her report. I have printed several copies of that report for your viewing at this meeting. Please return the report to the table when you are finished viewing it. You will find them up front on the table near the podium. If you would like a copy of this full report, please let me know.

In this brief 1-page handout report, I have included ONLY those 5 Amendments and 2 Resolutions that are related to the ongoing VVA organization transition discussions, that we've heard about past couple of years. The main changes that we are all concerned with are (1) changing the membership criteria of the organization so that all veterans may join, and (2) changing the name of the VVA to represent a more generic veteran's organization, that is no longer specific only to the Vietnam era veteran.

Results – VVA National Officers Voting:

- National President: **John Rowan**
- National Vice President: **Tom Burke**
- National Secretary: **Bill Meeks**
- National Treasurer: **Jack McManus**

Results – 5 Proposed Constitutional Amendments Voted On:

(1) Proposed Constitutional Amendment 03 - NOT ADOPTED

- Proposed Amendment to limit every chapter's voting Delegates to two, regardless of total number of chapter members.
- The reason for the proposed change, is a major cost reduction for National, States and Chapters. There would also be less confusion on how to determine the number of voters.

(2) Proposed Constitutional Amendment 04 – FAILED

- A Proposed Amendment to, at some point in the future, the Corporation (VVA Organization) will legally dissolve, either as a final involuntary action, or as a planned action associated with the transfer of assets to one or more other organizations.
- **NOTE: This proposed Amendment resulted in a "Division of the House" Vote! A secondary Amendment to the amendment motion was made and passed! The secondary Amendment stated "When the National Board develops a plan for dissolution of the VVA it must be voted on by the delegates at the next National Convention (scheduled for 2021)." Because of the Amendment to the Amendment motion, the "Dissolution" Amendment 04 failed and resulted in a "Division of the house" vote. (All attendees stand and count out a vote for Yea or Nay).**

(3) Proposed Constitutional Amendment 05 – FAILED

- A Proposed Amendment that states the Corporation (VVA Organization) shall be legally dissolved on or about December 31, 2028.

(4) Proposed Constitutional Amendment 06 – FAILED

- A Proposed Amendment that states the number of voting delegates to be only two per chapter.
- The reason for the proposed change is to provide equal representation for each chapter. Currently, one or two large chapters control all activities of a State Council.

(5) Proposed Constitutional Amendment 10 - OUT OF ORDER

- A Proposed Amendment stating that the Corporation (VVA Organization), its national board, national officers, and/or anyone acting at their direction, or on their behalf shall not conduct, plan and/or direct any activities regarding the disposal or transfer of Corporation assets in a dissolution or proposed dissolution of the Corporation.
- The reason for change, in a nutshell, to create a new veteran's organization with a new name that allows all veterans to join.

Results – 2 Resolutions Adopted by Committees:

(1) Resolution GA-XX - Create a New Veterans Organization of Post-Vietnam Veterans - MOOT

(2) Resolution MA-XX - Changing the name of the Vietnam Veterans of America – AMENDED

Summary:

The fact that Proposed Constitutional Amendment #04 was somehow defeated by the attending Delegates is what saved our VVA organization from transitioning into something else, at this time!

I think Proposed Constitutional Amendments #01 and #06 were intended to limit the Delegate voting power of the older and larger Northern & Eastern VVA chapters, as it appears those chapters may be more favorable to President Rowan's push for transitioning the current VVA organization into a new organization. The current Constitutional rule is basically, the more chapter members you have, the more voting Delegates you possess.

The above remaining Amendments and Resolutions are pretty self-explanatory.

The bottom line is that all Amendments and Resolutions to change the VVA organization did not pass. The 5 Amendments were voted down, and the associated committees of the 2 Resolutions did not adopt them. So, for now, the VVA organization stays as is, and will remain as is the next two years. However, it does appear that the VVA Board of Directors has now been given the task (see Amendment #04 details above) of going ahead anyway, with plans to make major changes to the VVA organization. And, at the next VVA National Convention, held in 2021, this issue will again come up. I assume the BOD by then will have some plan and present it at that Convention, and most likely another vote will be taken. Probably, sooner or later, VVA National will get its way and we will no longer be the Vietnam Veterans of America.

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