

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Florida State Council  
Minutes  
March 12, 2011**

**Meeting called to order:** 8:30

**Opening Ceremonies:** Opening Prayer, Moment of Silence, Pledge of Allegiance  
Completed

**Roll Call of Officers:** Completed

**Roll Call of Delegates:** Completed...Quorum established

**Approval of Agenda:** Approved with additions to New Business

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved without change

**Chapter Reports:** Completed

**Officer Reports:**

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Ben Humphries

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Mike Bousher

Secretary - Craig Tonjes – no report

Treasurer – Tom Hall – Discussed proposed change to 3 meetings.

2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in June, 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in November, and 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in February

Motion 1: Vinnie Rega – To change FSC Meetings from 4 to 3 meetings per year  
– June 11, 12, 2011, the first weekend in November, 2011, and Feb 11, 12, 2012.

Rules suspended... Motion passed w/75%+ ...amends bylaws

Discussed IRS 990N filing requirements and solicitation reporting

Motion 2: [To change the bylaws] The change would be to Article V, Section 1,  
Regular Meetings. The change to the first sentence would [will] read as “Regular  
meeting of the State [Council] shall be held at least 3 times per year at such times  
and locations as the State Council shall designate.

Motion passed w/75%+...inserts language change to bylaws

Motion 3: To increase travel expenses [allowance] from \$0.36 to \$0.44 per mile

Motion passed

Discussed necessity to amend HGSP Contract based on meeting changes and fund  
distribution.

**State Legislation:** Charlie Price – Reported on current Veteran issues before the State Legislature as well as State issues such as lack of new nursing homes, and privatization of nursing home employees. Discussed creating State ID to establish veteran status verification for commercial discounts.

**VA Regional Office Service Officer:** Marc McCabe – Provided verbal resume (727) 319-7515 - [marc.mccabe@va.gov](mailto:marc.mccabe@va.gov)

**Region IV AVVA Director:** Suzanne Blohm-Weber – Advised to go to AVVA web-site [www.avva.org](http://www.avva.org) Presented Charter to Mount Dora AVVA Chapter

**AVVA State Liaison:** Beverly Thomas (AVVA State VP) reported for Rose Ledford – Announced elections in June...Presented AVVA Member of the Year to Helen Shaut

**Region IV Director:** Carol Schetrompf – Encouraged Convention participation. Noted VVA budget meetings soon. Noted that Chapters must have all reports (Financial, Election) in to National in order to seat delegate(s) at convention. Discussed status of Puerto Rico VA hospital

**Special Reports:**

Emergency Relief: Tom Hall – Funds remain available

Legislative: No Report

Coalition: Jim Ruffino – Presented report – Presented Certificate of Appreciation and plaque

**Committee Reports:**

Veterans Affairs: Connie Christensen - Reported

Health Care: Connie Christensen - Reported

Women Veterans: Connie Christensen - Reported

Minority Affairs: Alvin Roberts - Reported

Veterans Incarcerated: John Koprowski - Reported

FVVAF: John Koprowski - Reported

Veterans Benefits: Vic Diaz - Reported

Membership Affairs: Aris Atoa – Reported – At-Large currently at 878

Public Affairs: Mike Bousher - Reported

Education/Scholarship: Tom Hall - Reported

Recon: Tom Hall – Reported – Deadline for next issue is 05/15/2011 – Seeking new editor...citing health and family

Finance: Vinnie Rega –

**Motion 4: Out of committee. Approve Budget as submitted (see Treasurer's report) for 2011. Passed**

Government Affairs: Tom Corey appointed – Jerry Klein reported

Constitution: Craig Tonjes – Reported

Motion 5: Out of committee. To support Constitution Amendment (at Reno Convention) to reduce At-Large Directors to 4. Passed

Veterans Advocacy & Legal Affairs: Position Vacant

POW/MIA: Rose Ledford – Absent

PTSD & Agent Orange: Alan Thompson - Absent

Homeless Veterans: Suzanne Blohm-Weber - Absent

ITT – Tim Nightengale – Reported – Web site up and running (VVAFSC.org)

**President's Report:** Reported – Melbourne, Sarasota, Key West may have forming Chapters. Veterans Courts discussed – Palm Beach County has only current program in Florida.

**Old Business:**

Convention: +/-30 Delegates preliminary count

**New Business:**

Task Force on future of VVA: Bob Barry, Regional Task Force on the future of VVA Reported – seeking suggestions to deal with closure of the Organization.

**Good of the Order:** Corporation renewals due by May 31st

**Motion to Adjourn:** So moved and passed @ 4:00

**Next Meeting:** June 11, 2011

**Submitted by:**

**Craig Tonjes, Secretary**

**Approved:**