



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 11th National Convention
November 4 - 5, 2021
Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel
Greensboro, NC

President Joanna Henshaw called the 11th National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) to order at 9:03 AM (EDT) on Thursday, November 4, 2021. Attendees convened in the Guilford D Ball Room at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC.

Bobbie Morris (PA), Chaplain delivered the invocation, then offered a moment of silence to honor our POWs, MIAs, and military personnel serving in harms' way. Vice President Kay Gardner (MD) was recognized to lead the assembly in the *Pledge of Allegiance and* was followed by AVVA member Kyle Orlemann (CA), who sang the National Anthem.

President Henshaw introduced the current board of directors and Parliamentarian Orlando McGruder, PRP. Bylaws and Membership Chair, Cecelia Essenmacher (MI), and Elections Chair, Nancy Montgomery (VA), were in attendance to represent their respective committees.

President Henshaw introduced and welcomed past National President Sharon Hobbs (TN).

President Henshaw recognized Elections Committee Chair Nancy Montgomery (VA) to present the Credentials Report. Chair Montgomery reported that 74 voting delegates were registered for the convention.

President Henshaw recognized Secretary Nina Schloffel (CA) to call the roll of registered voting delegates. Secretary Schloffel called said roll and recorded 72 of the of the 74 registered delegates as present on the voting floor. **Quorum Established.**

Motion 1: Elections Chair Montgomery moved: On behalf of the Credentials Committee, move to adopt the credentials report. **Credentials Report Adopted (Affirmed by Unanimous Voice Vote)**

Motion 2: By unanimous consent, the delegates moved to adopt the agenda as published. **Agenda Adopted**

President Henshaw recognized Vice President and Convention Rules Chair Kaye Gardner (MD) to present the Convention Rules.



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Motion 3: Conventions Rules Chair Gardner moved: On behalf of the Convention Rules Committee, move to adopt the Convention Rules. **Convention Rules Adopted (Affirmed by Unanimous Voice Vote)**

Upon adoption of the Convention Rules, the president announced the following appointments:

- Sergeants-at-Arms:
 - Bobbie Morris (PA)
 - Janice Richardson (LA)
- Elections Tellers:
 - Alice LaFleur (LA)
 - Cheryl Rock (LA)
- Timekeeper:
 - Fran Guevremont (RI)

Bylaws Committee Chair Cecilia Essenmacher was recognized to present the procedure for adopting the proposed bylaws amendments. The procedure, as presented, follows:

- All proposed amendments are printed in the convention book.
- Each proposed amendment would be considered individually.
- The Bylaws Committee Chair 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.
- Delegates having comments in favor of the amendment shall make their comments from the mic marked 'Pro'.
- Delegates having comments against the amendment shall make their comments from the mic marked 'Con'.
- If amendments to these proposals are offered, they will be handled as explained in the delegate training.
- Once the actions on the offered proposal are complete, the next will be read and considered.
- Once all the individual amendments have been discussed and either adopted or failed, the bylaws will be voted on. The bylaws will be verified as a whole document, and this portion of the convention will be concluded

Section-by-section proposal:

Motion 4: Article III, Section 3.02, MEMBERSHIP: Bylaws Committee moved to change the text as follows:



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The Corporation shall have three (3) classes of members: Regular Members, Incarcerated Veteran Members, and Dual Members.

- a. *Regular Members shall be entitled to vote on all business and hold office and chair committees at all levels.*
- b. *Incarcerated Veteran Members shall have the above rights only within the facility in which they are housed.*
- c. *Dual Members shall have no such rights.*

Amendment: Article III, Section 3.02, MEMBERSHIP: Penny Chamousis (CA) , moved and another delegate seconded to amend Section 3.02 as follows:

The Corporation shall have three (3) classes of members: Regular Members, Incarcerated ~~Veteran~~ Members, and Dual Members.

- a. *Regular Members shall be entitled to vote on all business and hold office and chair committees at all levels.*
- b. *Incarcerated ~~Veteran~~ Members shall have the above rights only within the facility in which they are housed.*
- c. *Dual Members shall have no such no such rights. **Amendment Passed (27 No, 40 Yes)***

Amended Main Motion 4: Article III, Section 3.02, MEMBERSHIP:

The Corporation shall have three (3) classes of members: Regular Members, Incarcerated Members, and Dual Members.

- a. *Regular Members shall be entitled to vote on all business and hold office and chair committees at all levels.*
- b. *Incarcerated Members shall have the above rights only within the facility in which they are housed.*
- c. *Dual Members shall have no such rights. **Motion 4 Passed as Amended (22 No, 49 Yes)***

Motion 5: Article III, Section 3.02 c. MEMBERSHIP: Sharon Hobbs (TN) moved to change the text as follows:

- c. *Dual Members shall have the right to vote at the chapter level. They are ineligible to hold any elected office; they are ineligible to serve as an alternate delegate at the state or national level.*

Amendment: Article III, Section 3.02, MEMBERSHIP: Bylaws Committee moved no second required, to amend Section 3.02 as follows:



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- c. Dual Members shall have the right to vote at the chapter level *if the regular members agree to it*. They are ineligible to hold any elected office; they are ineligible to serve as an alternate delegate at the state or national level.

Amendment Failed (44 No, 27 Yes)

Motion 5 Passed as Originally Presented (18 No, 53Yes)

Motion 6: Article III, Section 3.03, ELEGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP: moved by Bylaws Committee. **Withdrawn by Maker**

Motion 7: Article IV, Section 4.04, TERM OF OFFICE AND OFFICE HOLDING LIMITATIONS: Bylaws Committee moved to insert the following subsection:

Each regional director and deputy regional director shall hold office for a term of two years. Should there be an unavoidable event that by itself forces an election to be postponed, the current directors and deputies may be asked to remain in office until an election can be held. The national board of directors shall determine what actions to take if this occurs. The term of office begins at the adjournment of the meeting at which they are elected. No regional director or deputy regional director shall be eligible to serve more than five (5) consecutive terms in the same office. No member shall hold more than one national office at a time.

Amendment Article IV, Section 4.04 – 4.10, TERM OF OFFICE AND OFFICE HOLDING LIMITATIONS: Pat Furno (WI) , moved and another delegate seconded to amend Section 4.04 as follows:

*Each regional director and deputy regional director shall hold office for a term of two years. Should there be an unavoidable event that by itself forces an election to be postponed, the current directors and deputies ~~may~~ shall be asked to remain in office until an election can be held. The national board of directors shall determine what actions to take if this occurs. The term of office begins at the adjournment of the meeting at which they are elected. No regional director or deputy regional director shall be eligible to serve more than five (5) consecutive terms in the same office. No member shall hold more than one national office at a time. **Amendment Passed (0 No, 70 Yes)***

Amended Main Motion 7: Article IV, Section 4.04 – 4.10, TERM OF OFFICE AND OFFICE HOLDING LIMITATIONS:

*Each regional director and deputy regional director shall hold office for a term of two years. Should there be an unavoidable event that by itself forces an election to be postponed, the current directors and deputies shall be asked to remain in office until an election can be held. The national board of directors shall determine what actions to take if this occurs. The term of office begins at the adjournment of the meeting at which they are elected. No regional director or deputy regional director shall be eligible to serve more than five (5) consecutive terms in the same office. No member shall hold more than one national office at a time. **Motion 6 Passed as Amended (0 No, 71 Yes)***



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Motion 8: Article V, Section 5.03, TERM OF OFFICE AND OFFICE HOLDING LIMITATIONS: Bylaws Committee moved to change text as follows:

Each officer shall serve for a term of two years. Should there be an unavoidable event that by itself forces an election to be postponed, the current officers may be asked to remain in office until an election can be held. The national board of directors shall determine what actions to take if this occurs. The term of office begins at the adjournment of the meeting at which they are elected. No officer shall be eligible to serve more than five (5) consecutive terms in the same office. No member shall hold more than one national office at a time.

Amendment Article V, Section 5.03, TERM OF OFFICE AND OFFICE HOLDING LIMITATIONS: Pat Furno (WI) , moved and another delegate seconded to amend Section 5.03 as follows:

*Each officer shall serve for a term of two years. Should there be an unavoidable event that by itself forces an election to be postponed, the current officers ~~may~~ **shall** be asked to remain in office until an election can be held. The national board of directors shall determine what actions to take if this occurs. The term of office begins at the adjournment of the meeting at which they are elected. No officer shall be eligible to serve more than five (5) consecutive terms in the same office. No member shall hold more than one national office at a time.*

Amended Main Motion 8: Article V, Section 5.03, TERM OF OFFICE AND OFFICE HOLDING LIMITATIONS:

*Each officer shall serve for a term of two years. Should there be an unavoidable event that by itself forces an election to be postponed, the current officers shall be asked to remain in office until an election can be held. The national board of directors shall determine what actions to take if this occurs. The term of office begins at the adjournment of the meeting at which they are elected. No officer shall be eligible to serve more than five (5) consecutive terms in the same office. No member shall hold more than one national office at a time. **Motion 6 Passed as Amended (0 No, 71 Yes)***

Proposals for the following articles passed as presented:

Article III, Section 3.07 b
Article IV, Section 4.02
Article IV, Section 4.03
Article V, Section 5.02
Article VI, Section 6.01 a-c



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Motion 9: Bylaws Committee Chair, Cecilia Essenmacher moved: On behalf of the Bylaws Committee, to adopt the bylaw proposals as amended. **Bylaws Amendments Adopted**

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

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

President Henshaw recessed the general session of the 11th National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America at 12:07 PM, to reconvene on Friday, November 5, 2021, at 9:00 AM.

President Joanna Henshaw reconvened the 11th National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America at 9:00 AM (EDT) in the Guilford D Ball Room at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC.

President Henshaw recognized Chaplain Bobbie Morris (PA) to deliver the invocation and offer a moment of silence. Vice President, Kaye Gardner (MD) led the assembly in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

President Henshaw recognized the sergeants-at-arms to count the number of voting delegates on the convention floor.

Secretary Nina Schloffel (CA) informed President Henshaw that 72 voting delegates were present, and that a quorum was established.

Motion 10: Elections Chair, Nancy Montgomery (VA), moved: On behalf of the Credentials Committee, move to adopt the credentials report. **Credentials Report Adopted (Without Objection)**

President Henshaw recognized Elections Chair, Nancy Montgomery, to present the Election Rules.

Motion 11: Elections Chair, Nancy Montgomery moved: On behalf of the Elections Committee, to adopt the Election Rules as presented. **Election Rules Adopted (Without Objection)**

President Henshaw announced the Candidate's Forum. The forum allowed candidates running in contested elections to address the delegates. Candidate addresses were



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limited to five (5) minutes. Timekeeper, Fran Guevremont (RI), was to provide candidates with a one-minute warning and follow with an advisory when their time expired.

Delegate Pat Furno (WI) requested that candidates running for officers' positions address the assembly, as well. Hearing no objections, President Henshaw modified the candidate forum and allocated each officer candidate five (5) minutes to address the assembly.

President Henshaw recognized Elections Chair, Nancy Montgomery to direct the Candidate's Forum. The following candidates addressed the assembly:

Kathy Mattingly (KY) – Candidate, Region 3 Director
Hope Summers (SC) – Candidate, Region 3 Director
Joanne Blum (FL) – Candidate, Region 4 Director
Susan Henthorn (GA) – Candidate, Region 4 Director
Kaye Gardner (MD) – Candidate, National Treasurer
Nina Schloffel (CA) – Candidate, National Secretary
Kathy Andras (LA) – Candidate, National Vice President
Sharon Hobbs (TN) – Candidate, National President

Upon announcing that the Candidate's Forum was complete, Elections Chair Montgomery explained the following voting procedure:

- Voting will be conducted in the AVVA Office (Old North Conference Room).
- Delegates will be called to vote by region.
- Ballots will be distributed to delegates in accordance with the region they represent.
 - Vote for a candidate by marking an "X" next to the candidate's name.
 - Select only one candidate for each office.
 - Vote in all categories, regardless of the number of candidates running (necessary to get a valid count).
- Upon completing the ballot, place it into the box designated for your respective region.
- Leave the office, return to the convention hall, and await announcement of the election results.

The Elections Chair proclaimed the beginning of the voting process at 10:31 AM.

President Henshaw then recessed the convention until such time as voting is completed and the election results, tabulated. President Henshaw advised delegates and candidates to stay in, or very near, the convention hall during this recess.

President Henshaw reconvened the convention at 11:49 AM. Elections Chair Montgomery immediately sequestered the candidates and informed them of the election



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results. Chair Montgomery then came before the assembly and announced the following election results to the delegates:

President: Sharon Hobbs
Vice-President: Kathy Andras
Secretary: Nina Schloffel
Treasurer: Kaye Gardner

Director Region 1: Vacant
Director Region 2: Bobbie Morris
Director Region 3: Hope Summers
Director Region 4: Joanne Blum
Director Region 5: Penny Meinhardt
Director Region 6: Rick Talford
Director Region 7: Terri Rangel
Director Region 8: Jennifer Ellis
Director Region 9: Kelly Frederickson

Deputy Dir. Region 1: Vacant
Deputy Dir. Region 2: Nancy Rekowski
Deputy Dir. Region 3: Debbie Musolino
Deputy Dir. Region 4: Mary Anne Newman
Deputy Dir. Region 5: Bobbi Heidenrich
Deputy Dir. Region 6: Barbara Coan
Deputy Dir. Region 7: Rosa Fuentes
Deputy Dir. Region 9: Sue Crego

President Henshaw administered the oath of office to newly elected National President, Sharon Hobbs (TN), who in turn administered the oath of office to the new board.

President Hobbs thanked the delegates for their participation and congratulated the new board on their election. President Hobbs also announced that the board will meet Saturday, November 6th at 9:00 AM in the Guildford D Ballroom.

Having no further business, President Hobbs proclaimed the 11^h National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Submitted by:

Nina D. Schloffel
AVVA National Secretary