



ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

Minutes AVVA 13TH National Convention
August 7, 2025 – August 8, 2025
Marriott Hotel • 555 Canal St. • New Orleans, LA

Opening Ceremonies:

President Sharon Hobbs (TN) called the 13th National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) to order at 9:00 AM (CDT) on Thursday, August 7, 2025. The Convention was held at the Marriott Hotel, 555 Canal St., Gallerias 4 -6, New Orleans, Louisiana. Secretary Nina Schloffel (CA) was in place.

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

President Hobbs introduced Delegate Dennis Waling (MI), to sing the National Anthem.

President Hobbs thanked Delegate Waling for singing the National Anthem and welcomed delegates, veterans and guests to New Orleans for AVVA's 13th National Convention.

Upon concluding her opening remarks, President Hobbs made the following appointments:

- Elections Tellers
 - Cheryl Rock
 - Alice LaFleur
- Sergeants-at-Arms
 - Kathy Andras
 - Bobbie Morris
- Timekeeper
 - Linda Knowles
- Parliamentarian
 - Barbara Miller, PRP

President Hobbs thanked appointees for agreeing to serve, then introduced the current National Officers, Regional Directors and Deputy Regional Directors. President Hobbs also introduced each Convention Committee Chair.



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Credentials Report:

President Hobbs recognized National Elections Committee Chair, Nancy Montgomery (VA), to present the Credentials Report. Elections Chair Montgomery reported that 87 delegates were pre-certified for the Convention.

President Hobbs recognized the Sergeants-at-Arms to establish a quorum by a count of the delegates on the floor. 85 delegates were counted. ***Quorum Established***

Motion #1: On behalf of the Credentials Committee, National Elections Chair, Nancy Montgomery (VA) moved to adopt the Credentials Report.

Credentials Report Adopted by Unanimous Consent

Convention Rules:

President Hobbs recognized Jennifer Ellis (OR) and Beverly Pounds (TN) to present the Convention Rules.

Motion #2: On behalf of the Rules Committee, Jennifer Ellis (OR), moved to adopt the Convention Rules.

President Hobbs stated that the question is: On behalf of the Rules Committee to adopt the Convention Rules. The President informed the delegation that it takes a two-thirds vote to adopt the Convention Rules. Delegates were asked to respond with a standing vote.

Convention Rules Adopted by Unanimous Consent

Agenda:

Delegate Pat Furno (WI) moved to amend the agenda, and it was seconded, to add, at the end of the bylaws approval process, a discussion of AVVA's legacy.

President Hobbs stated that the question is on the adoption of the amended agenda.

Motion #3: By unanimous consent, the delegates adopted the agenda as amended.
Amended Agenda Adopted

Proposed Bylaws Amendments:

President Hobbs recognized Bylaws Committee Chair, Wynella Bethards (KY) to present the bylaws amendments.



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Motion #4: On behalf of the Bylaws Committee, Bylaws Committee Chair, Wynella Bethards moved to adopt bylaws amendments as submitted by the members and published in the convention notebook beginning on tab 7, Bylaws - Proposed, page one.

Motion #4: Adopted by Unanimous Consent

President Hobbs followed with the procedure for adopting the proposed bylaws amendments:

- The committee chair will read the proposed bylaws amendments one section at a time.
- The amendments for that section will then be voted on and shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting.*

*Note: Specific proposed text changes indicated as follows –

To be deleted: ~~Text displayed with strike through option~~

To be inserted: **Text displayed as bold and underlined**

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #1**.

Motion #5: Amendment #1 - Article III, Section 3.02 subsection c., **Membership**, Pat Furno (WI) moved to amend subsection c. to read`:

Dual Members shall have the right to vote and chair committees at the chapter level. They are eligible to serve as voting members on ~~state and national committees~~ **all levels of the organization**. They are ineligible to hold any elected office; they are ineligible to serve as an alternate delegate at the state or national level.

Motion #5: (Amendment #1) Failed by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs stated that Amendment #2 and Amendment #3 both address Article III Section 3.03 subsection c Each one must be considered in turn by the delegates.

There are four steps to the procedure of selecting one of th amendments:

- Delegates may discuss and amend Amendment #2.
- Delegates may discuss and amend Amendment #3
- Delegates vote on selecting an option. That is, “shall we substitute the 3rd Amendment in place of the 2nd Amendment?”
- Delegates vote on the substitute amendment.

The vote on the substitute amendment requires a two-thirds vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #2**.



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Amendment #2 - Article III, Section 3.03 subsection c., **Eligibility for Membership**, Joanna Henshaw (NV) moved to amend 3.03.c to read:

Regular membership shall be granted to any persons who are ineligible for membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA) and who wish to further the purposes of both VVA and the Corporation. **Incarcerated membership shall be granted to veterans who are ineligible for membership in VVA and who are detained in legal detention facilities.** Dual membership shall be limited to those who are eligible for membership in VVA.

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #3**.

Amendment #3 - Article III, Section 3.03 subsection c., **Eligibility for Membership**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 3.03.c to read:

Regular membership shall be granted to any persons who are ineligible for membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA) and who wish to further the purposes of both VVA and the Corporation. Dual membership shall be limited to those who are eligible for membership in **members of** VVA.

President Hobbs instructed the delegates to vote on whether to substitute **Amendment #3** in place of **Amendment #2**.

A majority of the delegates voted to substitute **Amendment #3** in place of **Amendment #2**.

Substitute Amendment #2 Failed by 2/3 Vote

Motion #6: Substitute Amendment #3 - Article III, Section 3.03 **Eligibility for Membership**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 3.03 to read:

Regular membership shall be granted to any persons who are ineligible for membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA) and who wish to further the purposes of both VVA and the Corporation. Dual membership shall be limited to those who are eligible for membership in **members of** VVA.

Motion #6: (Substitute Amendment #3) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs stated that Amendment #4 and Amendment #5 both address Article III Sections 3.07.a.b.,d. Each one must be considered in turn by the delegates.

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #4**.



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Amendment #4 - Article III, Section 3.07 subsections a.,b.,d., **Voting**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend subsections a.,b.,d. to read:

- a. ~~All~~Elections shall be by ballot and cast by persons present and entitled to vote. A majority vote declares the candidate elected. If there is an office where no candidate attains a majority vote, then that office remains unfilled, and balloting is repeated until a majority vote declares an elected candidate.
- b. If only one person is nominated for an office at the state or chapter level, a ballot vote is not required to be taken, and the election chair declares that the nominee is elected by acclamation.
- d. Members of the Election Committee ~~members~~ do not have to resign their respective committee positions if they run for any ~~national~~ office. However, such Election Committee ~~M~~members cannot be present in any location where ballots are held, collected, or counted.

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #5**.

Amendment #5 - Article III, Section 3.07 subsections a.,b.,d., **Voting**, Joanna Henshaw moved to amend subsections a.,b.,d. to read:

- a. All elections shall be by ballot, and cast by persons present and entitled to vote. A majority vote of those eligible, registered, and present declares the candidate elected. ~~If there is an office where no candidate attains a majority vote, then that office remains unfilled, and balloting is repeated until a majority vote declares an elected candidate.~~
- b. If only one person is nominated for an qualified candidate has submitted a Candidate Registrations and Biography for any individual office, a ballot vote is not required to be taken, and the election chair will declares that the nominee candidate is elected by acclamation.
- d. In the event of a tie vote a second, and if necessary, a third vote will be taken. If after a third vote a tie remains, the office will be filled in accordance with A) the bylaws of the incorporated chapter or state or B) the elections policy of the organization in that order.

President Hobbs instructed the delegates to vote on whether to substitute **Amendment #5** in place of **Amendment #4**.

A majority of the delegates voted not to substitute **Amendment #5** in place of **Amendment #4**.

Substitute Amendment #5 Failed by 2/3 Vote



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Motion #7: Substitute Amendment #4 - Article III, Section 3.07, **Voting**, subsections a.,b.,d., the Bylaws Committee moved to amend subsections a.,b.,d. to read:

- a. All Elections shall be by ballot and cast by persons present and entitled to vote. A majority vote declares the candidate elected. If there is an office where no candidate attains a majority vote, then that office remains unfilled, and balloting is repeated until a majority vote declares an elected candidate.
- b. If only one person is nominated for an office at the state or chapter level, a ballot vote is not required to be taken, and the election chair declares that the nominee is elected by acclamation.
- e. Members of the Election Committee members do not have to resign their respective committee positions if they run for any national office. However, such Election Committee Members cannot be present in any location where ballots are held, collected, or counted.

Motion #7: (Substitute Amendment #4) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs stated that Amendment #6 and Amendment #7 both address Article III Sections 3.07.c Each one must be considered in turn by the delegates.

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #6**.

Amendment #6 – Article III Section 3.07subsection c., **Voting**, Joanna Henshaw (NV) moved to amend Section 3.07subsection c to read:

- c. There will be no absentee or proxy ballots permitted in elections at any level, nor will any representative of one chapter vote on behalf of another chapter, or one state vote on behalf of another state.

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #7**

Amendment #7 – Article III Section 3.07subsection c., **Voting**, Pat Furno (WI) moved to amend Section 3.07subsection c to read:

- c. ~~There will be no absentee or proxy ballots permitted in elections at any level.~~ Proxy voting will be allowed on state and national elections to ensure adequate state and chapter representation.

President Hobbs instructed the delegates to vote on whether to substitute **Amendment #7** in place of **Amendment #6**.

A majority of the delegates voted not to substitute **Amendment #7** in place of **Amendment #6**.



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Substitute Amendment #7 *Failed* by 2/3 Vote

Motion #8: Substitute Amendment #6 - Article III Section 3.07subsection c., **Voting**, Joanna Henshaw (NV) moved to amend Section 3.07subsection c to read:

- e. There will be no absentee **or proxy** ballots permitted in elections at any level, **nor will any representative of one chapter vote on behalf of another chapter, or one state vote on behalf of another state.**

Motion #8: (Substitute Amendment #6) *Failed* by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #8**

Amendment #8 – Article III Section 3.07subsection e., **Voting**, Joanna Henshaw (NV) moved to amend Section 3.07subsection e to read:

- e. Election Committee members do not have to resign their position on the Election Committee if they run for any national office. However, such Election Committee members cannot be present in any location where ballots are held, collected, or counted, **and must recuse themselves from participation in the process for the election in which they, themselves, are running.**

Motion #9: (Amendment #8) *Failed* by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #9**

Amendment #9 – Article IV Section 4.04, **Term of Office and Office Holding Limitations**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 4.04 to read:

SECTION 4.04 Term of Office and Office Holding Limitations.

Each regional director and deputy regional director shall hold office for a term of two(2) years. Should there be an unavoidable event that by itself forces an election to be postponed, the current directors and deputies shall remain in office until their successors are elected. 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 (1) national office at a time.

Motion 10: (Amendment #9) *Adopted* by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #10**

Amendment #10 – Article IV Section 4.05, **Removal**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 4.05 to read:



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Section 4.05 Removal.

Any regional director, or deputy regional director, of the Corporation may be recommended for removal from office in compliance with the Corporation's Disciplinary Code.

Motion 11: (Amendment #10) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

----- **BREAK 10:20 AM – 10:37AM (CDT)** -----

President Hobbs stated that Amendment #11 and Amendment #12 both address Article IV Sections 4.06 Each one must be considered in turn by the delegates.

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #11**.

Amendment #11– Article IV Section 4.06, **Vacancies**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 4.06 to read:

Section 4.06 Vacancies.

In the event of any vacancy of a regional director, the deputy regional director shall fulfill the remainder of the term of office until a regular election is held. If the vacancy occurs in a region where there is no deputy regional director in place, the board ~~will~~ **may** appoint a replacement from the same region, with the majority approval of the state representatives and state presidents of that region.

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #12**.

Amendment #12– Article IV Section 4.06, **Vacancies**, Joanna Henshaw (NV) moved to amend Section 4.06 to read:

Section 4.06 Vacancies.

In the event of any vacancy of a regional director, the deputy regional director shall fulfill the remainder of the term of office until a regular election is held. If the vacancy occurs in a region where there is no deputy regional director in place, ~~the board will appoint a replacement from the same region, with the majority approval of the state representatives and state presidents~~ **the delegates from that region seated at the previous convention shall hold an election to fill the position for the remainder of the current term**

President Hobbs instructed the delegates to vote on whether to substitute **Amendment #12** in place of **Amendment #11**.



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A majority of the delegates voted not to substitute **Amendment #12** in place of **Amendment #11**.

Substitute Amendment #12 Failed by 2/3 Vote

Motion #12: Substitute Amendment #11 – Article IV Section 4.06, **Vacancies**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 4.06 to read:

Section 4.06 Vacancies.

In the event of any vacancy of a regional director, the deputy regional director shall fulfill the remainder of the term of office until a regular election is held. If the vacancy occurs in a region where there is no deputy regional director in place, the board will **may** appoint a replacement from the same region, with the majority approval of the state representatives and state presidents of that region.

Motion #12: (Substitute Amendment #11) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

Amendment #13– Article IV Section 4.07, **Meetings**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 4.07 to read:

Section 4.07 Meetings.

Unless otherwise ordered by the board, meetings shall be held no less than two times a year as determined by the president. Special meetings may be called by **at** the **discretion of the** president. Special meetings shall also be called by written request of five members of the board.

Motion #12: (Amendment #13) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #14**.

Amendment #14– Article IV Section 4.09, Notice, Joanna Henshaw (NV) moved to amend Section 4.09 to read:

Section 4.09 Notice.

Notice of special meetings, specifying the subjects to be considered at such meeting, shall be given in writing, by first-class mail, **phone call**, or by e-mail **to all members of the board of directors**, at least fourteen (14) days **as far in advance of** prior to the day of the meeting **as may be possible**. ~~to all members of the board of directors~~

Motion #13: (Amendment #14) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #15**.



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Amendment #15– Article IV Section 4.11, **Electronic Meetings**, Joanna Henshaw (NV) moved to amend Section 4.11 to read:

Section 4.11 Electronic Meetings.

Members of the board of directors may participate in a meetings~~s~~ of the board using electronic communications equipment. All persons participating in the meeting must be able to hear each other simultaneously. Participation in a meeting by such means shall constitute presence in person at the meeting. **Where a quorum exists, such meetings shall be considered official, and minutes shall be recorded unless the meeting is specifically declared unofficial at the onset.**

Motion #14: (Amendment #15) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #16**.

Amendment #16– Article V Section 5.03, **Term of Office and Office Holding Limitations**, the Bylaws moved to amend Section 5.03 to read:

Section 5.03 Term of Office and Office Holding Limitations.

Each officer shall serve for a term of two (2) years. Should there be an unavoidable event that by itself forces an election to be postponed, the current officers shall remain in office until their successors are elected. 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 #15: (Amendment #16) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #17**.

Amendment #17– Article VI Section 6.01.a-.b, **Annual Meetings and National Events**, Joanna Henshaw (NV) moved to amend Section 6.01.a-.b to read:

Section 6.01 Annual Meetings and National Events

- a. **National Convention:** A national convention will be held **every two (2) years** at a time and location determined by the board and shall be for the purpose of electing officers and directors, and for any other business of national significance that may come before the membership. A quorum for the business session of national conventions will be a majority **three-fourths** of the **whole number of** delegates of record **present at the convention venue and** registered **to vote.** ~~at and attending the convention.~~



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- b. Annual Membership Meetings shall be held each year, in conjunction with the AVVA convention or the ~~VVA Leadership and Education Conference~~ **at a time and place determined by the AVVA National Board of Directors**

Amendment Offered by the Bylaws Committee : Article VI Section 6.01.a-.b **Annual Meetings and National Events**, the Bylaws Committee moved, no second required, to amend Amendment #17 to retain the phrases 'every two (2) years', 'majority', 'and attending the convention'.

- a. **National Convention:** A national convention will be held **every two (2) years** at a time and location determined by the board and shall be for the purpose of electing officers and directors, and for any other business of national significance that may come before the membership. A quorum for the business session of national conventions will be a majority of the delegates of record registered and attending the convention.
- b. Annual Membership Meetings shall be held each year, in conjunction with the AVVA convention or the ~~VVA Leadership and Education Conference~~ **at a time and place determined by the AVVA National Board of Directors**
Offered Amendment Passed by 2/3 Vote

Amended Amendment #17– Article Vi Section 6.01.a-.b **Annual Meetings and National Events**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Amendment #17 to read:

- a. **National Convention:** A national convention will be held **every two (2) years** at a time and location determined by the board and shall be for the purpose of electing officers and directors, and for any other business of national significance that may come before the membership. A quorum for the business session of national conventions will be a majority of the delegates of record registered and attending the convention.
- b. Annual Membership Meetings shall be held each year, in conjunction with the AVVA convention or the ~~VVA Leadership and Education Conference~~ **at a time and place determined by the AVVA National Board of Directors**
Motion #16: (Amendment #17) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read amended ***Amendment #18***.

Amendment #18 – Article VII Section 7.01, **Unincorporated State Associates**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 7.01 to read:

Section 7.01 Unincorporated State Associates.

The members within a state or legal U.S. territory ~~will be~~ **are** considered an AVVA unincorporated state organization. Elected chapter representatives or presidents



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and the at-large representative, or their alternates, may elect a state representative. The state associates are governed by the bylaws and polices of the Corporation. The regional director shall oversee the state, or in the absence of a regional director, the state shall be overseen by the National Board of Directors.

Amendment offered from the floor: Article VII Section 7.01, **Unincorporated State Associates**, – Delegate Betty Pike (MI) moved to amend the proposal to strike the term legal US territory. The motion was seconded.

Offered Amendment Passed by 2/3 Vote

Amended Amendment #18- Article VII Section 7.01, **Unincorporated State Associates**, Betty Pike (MI) moved, and it was seconded, to amend Section 7.01 to read:

Section 7.01 Unincorporated State Associates.

The members within a state ***are*** considered an AVVA unincorporated state organization. Elected chapter representatives or presidents and the at-large representative, or their alternates, may elect a state representative. The state associates are governed by the bylaws and polices of the Corporation. The regional director shall oversee the state, or in the absence of a regional director, the state shall be overseen by the National Board of Directors.

Motion #17: (Amendment #18) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read ***Amendment #19.***

Amendment #19 - Article VII Section 7.03, **At-Large Representative**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 7.03 to read:

Section 7.03 At-Large Representative.

Each state with At-Large Members may elect a representative to speak for them. This election process ~~will be~~ ***is*** conducted by ballot through the postal service, or through verifiable emails ~~the Internet~~ for those members who have furnished a valid email address to the national membership department. If only one candidate volunteers, for this election, an exception to the bylaws requiring ballots for all elections will be made. ~~the process will be considered~~ ***is*** complete, and the volunteer will be considered elected ~~without a ballot~~ ***by acclamation.*** The state shall oversee the at-large representative, or in absence of a state president or representative, the at-large representative shall be in overseen by the regional director. In the absence of any officials at both the state and regional level, the at-large representative ~~will be~~ ***is*** overseen by the National Board of Directors. The at-large representative, or their appointed alternate, has one vote at state level meetings and is a delegate of record to the national convention. The delegate and/or the appointed alternate to the national convention must be registered with



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the National Election Committee and be registered for the convention.

Motion #18: (Amendment #19) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #20.**

Amendment #20 - Article VII Section 7.04, **Delegate of Record** (States), the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 7.04 to read:

Section 7.04 Delegate of Record.

Each state ~~will be~~ **is** allowed one voting delegate to represent the state at the national meetings of the Corporation. The delegate for each state shall be the **elected** representative, president, or their appointed alternate. The delegate and/or appointed alternate to the national convention must be registered with the National Election Committee and be registered for the convention.

Motion #19: (Amendment #20) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #21.**

Amendment #21 - Article VIII Section 8.01, **Establishment of Chapters**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 8.01 to read:

Section 8.01 Establishment of Chapters.

Any group of members, whether incorporated or not, ~~will be~~ **is** considered a chapter. Unincorporated chapters must be associated with a VVA chapter

Motion #20: (Amendment #21) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #22.**

Amendment #22 - Article VIII Section 8.02, **Unincorporated Chapters**, the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 8.02 to read:

Section 8.02 Unincorporated Chapters.

The members associated with a VVA chapter, and unincorporated, ~~will be~~ **are** considered **to be** an AVVA unincorporated chapter. The state shall oversee the chapter members. In the absence of a state president or representative, the chapter members shall be overseen by the regional director. In the absence of both state and regional officials, the chapter ~~will be~~ **is** overseen by the National Board of Directors.

Motion #21: (Amendment #22) Adopted by 2/3 Vote



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President Hobbs stated that Amendment #23 and Amendment #24 both address Article VIII Section 8.04, Each one must be considered in turn by the delegates.

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #23**.

Amendment #23 - Article VIII Section 8.04, **Delegate of Record** (Chapters), the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 8.04 to read:

Section 8.04 Delegate of Record.

Each chapter ~~will be~~ **is** allowed one voting delegate, elected to represent the chapter at the national convention of the Corporation and at state level meetings. The delegate for each chapter shall be the representative, president, or their appointed alternate. The alternate must be a member of the same chapter as the delegate who appoints them. The delegate, and/or alternate, to the national convention must be registered with the National Elections Committee and be registered for the convention.

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #24**.

Amendment #24 - Article VIII Section 8.04, **Delegate of Record** (Chapters), Pat Furno (WI) moved, to amend Section 8.04 to read:

Section 8.04 Delegate of Record.

Each chapter will be allowed one voting delegate, elected to represent the chapter at the national convention of the Corporation and at state level meetings. The delegate for each chapter shall be the representative, president, or their appointed alternate. The alternate must be a member of the same chapter ~~chapter~~ **state** as the delegate who appoints them. The delegate, and/or alternate, to the national convention must be registered with the National Elections Committee and be registered for the convention.

President Hobbs instructed the delegates to vote on whether to substitute **Amendment #24** place of **Amendment #23**.

A majority of the delegates voted not to substitute **Amendment #24** in place of **Amendment #23**.

Substitute Amendment #24 Failed by 2/3 Vote

Motion #22: Substitute Amendment #23 – Article VIII Section 8.04, **Delegate of Record** (Chapters), the Bylaws Committee moved to amend Section 8.04 to read:



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Section 8.04 Delegate of Record.

Each chapter ~~will be~~ is allowed one voting delegate, elected to represent the chapter at the national convention of the Corporation and at state level meetings. The delegate for each chapter shall be the representative, president, or their appointed alternate. The alternate must be a member of the same chapter as the delegate who appoints them. The delegate, and/or alternate, to the national convention must be registered with the National Elections Committee and be registered for the convention.

Motion #22: (Substitute Amendment #23) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs stated that Amendment #25 and Amendment #26 both address Article XI (New). Each one must be considered in turn by the delegates.

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #25**.

Amendment #25 - Article XI (New), **Dissolution**, Linda Yates, moved to add Article IX and insert the following text:

ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION

The Corporation shall comply with all rules and regulations of the District of Columbia relating to dissolution.

A notice of a Special Meeting to consider dissolution shall include a dissolution plan and be communicated to all members. The motion for the voluntary dissolution of the Corporation shall be proposed by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority of the members.

Upon dissolution, the Corporation's remaining assets, after indebtedness has been paid, shall be distributed to a §501(c)(3) organization as proposed in the dissolution plan, and approved by a majority of the members.

President Hobbs recognized the Bylaws Chair to read **Amendment #26**.

Amendment #26 - Article XI (New), **Dissolution**, the Executive Board and the Bylaws Committee, moved to add Article XI and insert the following text:

ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION

The AVVA at the local, state, or national levels shall comply with the Dissolution Articles of Corporation as outlined in the Code of District of Columbia Title 29 Chapter 3. Irrespective if the dissolution is requested on



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a volunteer or judicial basis a Special Meeting will be called after a dissolution plan has been developed and communicated to all members.

Upon dissolution, and after the Corporation's remaining assets and all indebtedness have been paid, any remainder items shall be distributed to a §501(c)3 organization as proposed in the dissolution plan and approved by a majority vote of the membership present and voting.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, all liabilities of the corporation shall first be paid of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization, as said Court shall, determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purpose.

President Hobbs instructed the delegates to vote on whether to substitute **Amendment #26** place of **Amendment #25**.

A majority of the delegates voted to select **Amendment #26** in place of **Amendment #25**. **Substitute Amendment #25 Failed by 2/3 Vote**

Motion #23: Substitute Amendment #26 – Article XI (New), **Dissolution**, the Executive Board and the Bylaws Committee, moved to add Article XI and insert the following text:

ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION

The AVVA at the local, state, or national levels shall comply with the Dissolution Articles of Corporation as outlined in the Code of District of Columbia Title 29 Chapter 3. Irrespective if the dissolution is requested on a volunteer or judicial basis a Special Meeting will be called after a dissolution plan has been developed and communicated to all members.

Upon dissolution, and after the Corporation's remaining assets and all indebtedness have been paid, any remainder items shall be distributed to a §501(c)3 organization as proposed in the dissolution plan and approved by a majority vote of the membership present and voting.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, all liabilities of the corporation shall first be paid of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public



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purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization, as said Court shall, determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purpose.

Motion #23: (Substitute Amendment #26) Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs proclaimed that the processing of the twenty-six bylaws amendments is complete and that the adopted amendments are effective immediately.

President Hobbs authorized the Bylaws Committee to correct article or section designations, punctuation, cross-reference, technical formatting, or other similar “housekeeping” needs that are necessary to reflect the true intent of the amendment accepted by the delegates during the convention.

AVVA Legacy:

President Hobbs noted that VVA ‘s Legacy Task Force is putting forward a resolution to migrate select VVA programs and funding to AVVA as it becomes ‘Vietnam Veterans of America Legacy Society’. There is a good chance the resolution will fail. While the VVA member’s average age is 78, many want the organization to continue as is until February, 2031.

What this means to AVVA’s future is unknown. President Hobbs will keep us informed as more information becomes available. President Hobbs answered a number of questions from the delegates and other members.

Recess:

President Hobbs announced that the business meeting will resume at 9:00 AM (CDT) tomorrow. First item on the agenda is the Candidates Forum.

President Hobbs recessed the general session of the 13th National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America at 12:40 PM (CDT), to reconvene on Friday, August 8, 2025 at 9:00 AM (CDT).

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President Sharon Hobbs reconvened the 13th National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) to at 9:00 AM (CDT) on Friday, August 8, 2025. The



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Convention reconvened in Galleries 4 - 6 at the Marriott Hotel, 555 Canal St., New Orleans, LA. Secretary Nina Schloffel was in place.

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

Credentials Report:

President Hobbs recognized National Elections Committee Chair Nancy Montgomery (to present the Credentials Report. Committee Chair Montgomery reported that 86 delegates were registered and present to vote.

Motion #24: On behalf of the Credentials Committee, National Elections Chair Nancy Montgomery, moved to adopt the Credentials Report.

Credentials Report Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs informed the assembly that a quorum was established by the Credentials Report.

President Hobbs recognized National Elections Committee Chair, Nancy Montgomery to present the Election Rules.

Motion #25: On behalf of the Elections Committee, National Elections Chair Nancy Montgomery, moved to adopt the Election Rules.

Election Rules Adopted by 2/3 Vote

President Hobbs announced the Candidates Forum. The forum allowed candidates running in contested elections to address the delegates. Candidate addresses were limited to five minutes. Timekeeper Linda Knowles (TN) advised the candidates when their time expired.

President Hobbs noted that while the office of National Treasurer was contested, only candidate Joanne Blum would be addressing the delegates. While incumbent Treasurer, Kaye Gardner was running for reelection, illness precluded Kaye's participation in the Candidates Forum.

President Hobbs recognized Elections Chair, Nancy Montgomery to direct the Candidates Forum. The following candidates addressed the delegates:

Joanne Blum:
Gail Courville

Candidate, National Treasurer
Candidate, Deputy Director, Region 7



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Anita Washburn: Candidate, Deputy Director, Region 7

Upon announcing that the Candidates Forum was complete, Elections Chair, Nancy Montgomery explained the voting procedure. Delegates were also informed that Joanna Henshaw (NV), candidate for Region 9 Deputy, has withdrawn from the Election and is not listed on the Region 9 ballot.

At 9:38 AM the Elections Chair announced the beginning of the voting process. Delegates were called to vote by their respective regions.

Voting ended at 10:35 AM . President Hobbs recessed the convention until such time that the ballots were counted. President Hobbs directed delegates and candidates to stay on the Convention floor or nearby.

President Hobbs reconvened the Convention at 11:15 AM. Elections Chair Nancy Montgomery informed the candidates of the election results. At 11:25 AM, President Hobbs announced the following election results:

National President:	Sharon Hobbs (TN)
National Vice President:	Kathy Andras (TX)
National Secretary:	Nina Schloffel (CA)
National Treasurer:	Joanne Blum (FL)
Director, Region 1	Vacant
Director, Region 2	Bobbie Morris (PA)
Director, Region 3	Wynella Bethards (KY)
Director, Region 4	Mary Anne Newman (FL)
Director, Region 5	Tony Gigli (IN)
Director, Region 6	Barbara Coan (MO)
Director, Region 7	Terri Rangel (TX)
Director, Region 8	Jennifer Ellis (OR)
Director, Region 9	Michelle Mackey (CA)
Deputy Director, Region 1	Vacant
Deputy Director, Region 2	Lori Calamita-Paton (NY)
Deputy Director, Region 3	Beverly Pounds (TN)
Deputy Director, Region 4	Brendia Nix (GA)
Deputy Director, Region 5	Penny Meinhardt (MI)
Deputy Director, Region 6	Jeanette Cox (MO))
Deputy Director, Region 7	Anita Washburn (TX)
Deputy Director, Region 8	Ruth Feliciano (OR)
Deputy Director, Region 9	Vacant



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National Parliamentarian Barbara Miller, PRP, 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 announced that the first meeting of the new Board will be a virtual meeting in September. National Secretary Nina Schloffel will inform the Board once a meeting date and time is determined.

Having no further business, President Hobbs proclaimed the 13th National Convention of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans adjourned at 11:40 AM (CDT).

Submitted by:

Nina Schloffel
AVVA National Secretary

Attachment: AVVA National Awards

2025 AVVA NATIONAL AWARDS

President's Commendation	Jack McManus, VVA President, AVVA Dual Member Fran Davis, MO AVVA At-Large
AVVA Cathy Keister Spirit of Excellence Award	Huong Le (MD) and Thao Phung (MD), AVVA Chapter 641
AVVA Member of the Year	Suzanne Blohm-Weber (FL), AVVA Chapter 1086
Fellowship Award	Mark Coan (MO), AVVA Chapter 1014 Mary Yanz (TX), AVVA Chapter 574 Bonnie Juza, (WI), AVVA Chapter 224
Chapel of the Four Chaplains - Legion of Honor Award	Bobbie Morris (PA), AVVA Chapter 862 Jeanette Cox (MO), AVVA Chapter 1056
VISTA Top Region	Region 3
VISTA Top State	Tennessee
VISTA Top Chapter	Chapter 1004, Tennessee
VISTA 1st Place Individual	Linda Myer (TN), AVVA Chapter 1004
VISTA 2nd Place Individual	Diana Gilpin (FL), AVVA Chapter 1059
VISTA 3rd Place Individual	Tammy Adcock (TN), AVVA Chapter 1004
VISTA TOTAL HOURS: 24147.35	Members Submitting Hours: 199