



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
NATIONAL MINORITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 30, 2009

TO: VVA National Minority Affairs Committee members
FROM: Jerry Yamamoto, Chair,
National Minority Affairs Committee

SUBJECT: April 24, 2009 Committee Minutes

The National Minority Affairs Committee Meeting was held on Friday April 24, 2009 in the Blair Room at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Silver Spring, MD, starting at 11:30 AM.

ATTENDEES: *Members:* Jerry Yamamoto-Chair, Connie Steers-Vice Chair, Tom Meinhardt, Dave Simmons, Paul E. Crowell, Jr, Norm Hawkins, Joe Jenkins, Jorge Pedroza and Ric Davidge

GUESTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2009 MEETING.

Jerry Yamamoto is scheduling a meeting time with Senator Akaka for May 2009 to deliver the committee's 2008 National Diversity Award.

The role of the committee at the NAACP 2009 National Convention in New York City in July was discussed. Because of the lack of information about the status of our committee booth and requests for Connie Steers to speak at other activities, the committee released him from attending the NAACP Convention in July.

The committee's proposed Cultural Competency Resolution has been accepted by the Resolutions Committee for the 2009 National Convention. One 2007 Resolution will be retired as met with the appointment of an American Indian representative to the VA National Office. The other resolutions will be ongoing. The committee would like to meet with the

Government Affairs Committee to discuss the status of the resolutions as to whether they should stay with Minority Affairs Committee.

The committee's power point presentation at the 2010 National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fl was discussed. Dave Simmons and Jerry Yamamoto will work on a Power Point presentation on recruitment issues and how the chapters do it. A sample power point program will, hopefully, be available for viewing by MAC members at the National Convention.

Recruitment of American Indian veteran members at the National American Indian Veterans Organization Conference in Cabazon, Ca in March was discussed.

An article on VA health care disparities is scheduled for the next issue of the VVA Veteran based on input to the staff of the Veteran by the MAC Chair after return from a presentation by the VA Office of Research and Development.

Jerry Yamamoto will be developing for the VVA California State Council a proposal for the creation of a Tribal Veteran Representative position to assist American Indian veterans on reservations and nations. This position would be funded by a private grant from a 501-c (3) organization being created in California for that purpose. Jerry will then bring that proposal to National to work with David Houppert and others to customize that program for National.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Submitted by

Jerry Yamamoto, Chair,
April 30, 2009