



**Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.**  
**NATIONAL MINORITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**January 20, 2012**

**REPORT TO NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON JANUARY 14, 2012  
JANUARY 13, 2012 MINORITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING  
SPRING ROOM, CROWN PLAZA HOTEL  
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND**

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS: Meeting was called to order at 2:20 PM.

ATTENDEES: Joe Jennings, Pat Toro, Pete Peterson, John Birch, James Maddox and Jerry Yamamoto, Chair

The members presented approved the meeting agenda as written.

2011-2013 COMMITTEE MEMBER NOMINATIONS were approved by committee members present for James Maddox as regular member and Dave Simmons as Vice Chair to replace Connie Stevens who will remain a regular member.

Guest speaker Ms. Stephanie Birdwell, Director, VA Office of Tribal Relations and Ms. Erika D. Moott, Executive Officer, VA Office of Tribal Relations called to report that would not be able to attend the meeting as planned.

Chair Jerry Yamamoto and Ric Davidge, Chair of the Government Affairs Committee met with representatives of Calif Rep Barbara Lee, in her DC Office, to discuss VVA support of her HR 2954 Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2011. The Cultural Competency portion of that legislation is the Minority Affairs Committee's priority in the VVA's 112<sup>th</sup> Congress Legislative Agenda.

The committee members reviewed and approved the FY 2012-2013 Committee Budget Proposal, Budget Justification, Business Plan, Policy and Procedures Statement and the Auxiliary Budget and Justification. This paperwork was presented to Joe Sternburg at the January 2012 NBOD meeting.

The members were advised of proposals for the 2012 National Leadership Conference by Terry Hubert, Chair of the Vets Incarcerated Committee, and Jacqui Rector that may involve participation of members of the Minority Affairs Committee.

Presentation of the 2011 Diversity Award to Tammy Duckworth was discussed and proposals reviewed as to the manner of delivering the Diversity Award to her. No nominees for the 2012 award were discussed.

Chair Yamamoto participated with Sharon Hodge in the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) Conference Call on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The Chair, also, participated in the WHIAAPI Conference Call with the Federal Health and Human Services (HHS) Department on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Sharon and the Chair are attempting to be invited to participate in the WHIAAPI Roundtable at the VA on January 31, 2012. (The Chair discussed with VA's Kevin Secor, at this January NBOD meeting, the participation of the Chair and Sharon Hodge at the WHIAAPI Roundtable at the VA on January 31, 2012.)

Members were informed that ptsd statistics by ethnicity are listed on the VA website.

MOTIONS: Nominations of proposed committee members discussed above for BOD approval on the Consent Calendar were presented to Bill Meeks, the National Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Recorded and transcribed by Jerry Yamamoto