



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

October 19, 2011

### **MINORITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT TO NBOD OCTOBER 7, 2011 COMMITTEE MEETING SPRING ROOM, CROWN PLAZA SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jerry Yamamoto. The following persons attended: Pat Toro Jr., Pete Peterson, Virgie Hibbler, Dave Simmons, Paul E. Crowell, Jr., Donna-Marie Crowell and Joe Jennings.

Contact has to be made with Tammy Duckworth to arrange a time and place for her to pick up the 2011 Diversity Award that was approved for her. The committee hopes it can be at a National Board of Directors Meeting, whenever that can be arranged.

Two of the three Native American Resolutions that the committee considered this year were rejected at the National Convention. The third one was rejected by the committee. The committee will continue to monitor the progress of the individual selected by the VA to represent it with the tribes in the Office of Tribal Relations, even though that resolution was rejected at the convention.

The committee will maintain the same Priorities and Goals that it had established for the 2011 Fiscal Year for the 2011-2013 committee term.

The budget for the forthcoming 2012-2013 Fiscal Year was discussed. The Chair will be developing the projects and funding projections for that proposed budget to present at the January 2012 committee meeting with the possibility of maintaining a budget request funding amount similar to the current fiscal year amount.

The committee chair was invited by Region 4 Director Bob Barry and Pat Toro to join them in an inspection tour of the VA hospital and facilities in Puerto Rico early in 2012.

For the 2012 Leadership Conference our committee needs to look at topics to present at a seminar and, alternatively, having a booth. We will look at working with the Veterans Incarcerated Committee on a possible seminar topic.

Our committee will look at producing, somehow, a possible PSA and a possible partnership with the Veterans Health Care Committee.

Our committee was asked by the Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee to come up with a possible legislative proposal for Congress based on our 112<sup>th</sup> Congress Legislative Agenda item. We are looking at ideas to bring back to the January meeting on improving our legislative item on cultural diversity and to get out word to our minority veterans.

The following nominations of proposed committee members were submitted to the BOD for approval: Connie Steers as Vice Chair, Dave Simmons, Tommy Gipson, Pete Peterson, Joe Jennings, Paul Crowell, Ric Davidge, Ron Speight, Tom Meinhardt, Alvin Roberts, Cecilio Besares, Virgie Hibbler, Pastor Toro and Tom Wilson as members, plus Joe Wynn as Staff Consultant and Mary Miller and Donna-Marie Crowell as AVVA Advisors.

Recorded by Pete Peterson and transcribed by Jerry Yamamoto