

Report of the Executive Board 2015–2019

More than 3 years have now passed since the 28th General Assembly, which was held in Sopot, Poland, at the invitation of our member association, who welcomed us warmly and hosted us efficiently. We thank all those who contributed to the success of that Assembly and send them our best regards.

From 2017 to 2018, together with our polish friends, we have been preparing for the 29th General Assembly in Warsaw, Poland. Unfortunately, this did not work out and the EB looked for other opportunities.

The only opportunity that came up was to arrange it in Paris, France, from 16 to 19 February 2019. With the help of our friends in Soldiers of Peace International Association (SPIA), the secretariat and a group of volunteers made many preparations for a successful event.

The EB would like to thank all those who have contributed to the preparation.

After previous successes, we have now included a full day where we will exchange ideas about veteran health and welfare and veterans' involvement in peace and security. At the same time, more people have been invited to the event, which has been called the World Veterans Congress and will include the WVF 29th General Assembly. Col. Bjarne Hesselberg has been appointed Chair of the Congress.

Since the last GA, the following people have participated in the EB

- President, **Mr Dan-Viggo Bergtun**, Norway.
- Deputy President, **Senator Admiral (retd) Tansri Mohd Anwar**, Malaysia
- Treasurer General, **Mrs Inge Nedergaard**, Denmark.
- Vice President, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Women, **Maj. Geirhild Snildal-Engen**, Norway.
- Vice President, Chairman of the Standing Committee for Asia and the Pacific, **Lt. Gen. Chung-Yan Kao**, ROC on Taiwan.
- Vice President, Chairman of the Standing Committee on European Affairs, **Gen. Stanislaw Wozniak**, Poland.
- Vice President, Chairman of the Standing Committee on African Affairs, **Col. (retd) Alfred Fuller**, Cameroon.
- Acting Vice President, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Americas, **Mr Saif Kahn**, United States. He was appointed to hold this position until the coming GA by the 156th EB meeting.
- The ED of the WVF secretariat, **Mrs Faye Pursell**, has only participated in three out of seven EB meetings due to maternity leave, sick leave and holidays. This has

necessitated an extra effort from the rest of the secretariat and the EB as she has been a key person with experience from many years in the WVF.

- Also, the Head of WVF Health and Welfare Division, **Mr Jos Weerts**, the Netherlands, has been invited to take place during these meetings.

Following a change to the WVF Constitution adopted by the 28th General Assembly, which was held in Sopot, Poland, in 2015, the Secretary General (SG) is now appointed by the Executive Board.

Appointed SG from 20 November 2015 was **Lt. Col. Joe Falzon**, the UK. He resigned 23 December 2016 due to personal reasons. He took part in the 153rd, 154th and 155th EB meetings.

Appointed acting SG for an agreed period from 1 March to 10 November 2018, was **Mr Tom Asplund**. He took part in the 159th meeting.

The President has been holding the post when there was no SG present.

EB meetings

153rd meeting in Paris, France, 19–20 November 2015

154th meeting on Skype 15 March 2016

155th meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroun, 12–13 December 2016

156th meeting out of committee, 7 June 2017

157th meeting in Taipei, ROC Taiwan, 2 September 2017

158th meeting out of committee, 31 January 2018

159th meeting in Paris, France, 9–10 August 2018

160th meeting out of committee, 17 December 2018

161st meeting in Paris, France, to be held 15 February 2019

The reports from the meetings are found here: <http://www.wvf-fmac.org/index.php/executive-board-meetings>

The EB has focused in each meeting on supporting the activities in the Standing Committees and activities decided by the General Assemblies, bearing in mind the importance of drastically reducing the costs of the daily operations of the secretariat and increasing revenue. Therefore, a management team consisting of the President, Secretary General, Treasurer General and ED (or one from the secretariat) has been established to implement the decisions made by the EB.

The period since the last General Assembly has been a transition period where management has come up with proposals to renew management methods and streamline operations, creating a better platform for internal and external communication.

One of our efforts is to increase communication both with our members and society in general. This is done at the management level and can be seen in the report from management. The vfonds-sponsored Veteran Communication Platform has given us tools such as Facebook, Twitter, homepage, newsletters and press releases; however, the members of the WVF have not been active in these forums.

Also, our future priority should be our two divisions, the Health and Welfare Division and the Peace and Security Division. These divisions will give us relevant information and new ideas in these two fields for our members' use and should, in addition to serving our members, become the cornerstone of our activities.

The Transition Plan for the future operation of the WVF will be presented in the management plan.

This is of course just a step towards a much-needed recovery, and by maintaining the right focus, we can enable the WVF to attain a much better financial situation. See the report from the TG and the management for details.

We would like to thank the EB members, the secretariat, volunteers and our members for their support. We would also like to thank the sponsors of the event, vfonds and Ipsen Foundation. Together we will continue to defend the spiritual and material interests of veterans and victims of war and their families, and with the mission to promote international peace, security and solidarity.

Dan-Viggo Bergtun
President