



AVVA

ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Serving Veterans & Their Families Since 1999

AVVA REGION 9 REPORT – April 12, 2024
Kelly Frederickson – AVVA Director Region 9
birchkellyann@gmail.com 530-321-8805

LOTS OF ADVENTURE IN THE REGION

VVA WELCOME HOME – MARCH 29TH

I ATTENDED VVA CHAPTER 582 WELCOME HOME. A large crowd joined in the BBQ festivities. Channel 12 News featured a vibrant news segment that evening. The event highlighted a DJ and numerous displays depicting Vietnam memories.



**WELCOME
HOME
VIETNAM
VETERANS!**

**FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**





REGION 9 ELECTION PLEA

Dear AVVA Members,

As members of AVVA you are and have been dedicated to advancing the work of VVA whose promise is: *“Never again will one Generation of Veterans Abandon Another.”*

AVVA’s “main focus is on programs and educational materials to support *all Veterans and their families, as well as the families of active military personnel.*”

Two of my favorite quotes were made by Winston Churchill:

“Never, never, never give up” and *“Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”*

As AVVA members, you exemplify the courage it takes to never give up. AVVA Chapter Elections are taking place this month and ends **April 30th**. **AVVA State Elections** have been running since January of this year and will end **June 30th**. We are still missing many positions.

We truly need positions for AVVA please consider running for your Chapter Representative. This is one of the ways to make your voice heard and possibly even change a nation through your courage to honor and advance our Veterans. Please say yes and contact Regional Director Kelly Frederickson, birchkellyann@gmail.com, 530-321-8805.

Many of you know Michelle Mackey, she is the daughter of Steve and Elayne Mackey. Michelle (among many other positions) currently is the AVVA CA Election Chair. Michelle gave me permission to share part of her election email with you (below).

“Hello AVVA Chapter Rep,

This email is to remind you that **AVVA Elections** is quickly approaching.

AVVA IS the future of VVA. The time is NOW for us to step up and continue to carry on the legacy of our Vietnam Veterans. We are losing them at alarming rates, and we must do what we can while we can. We can build AVVA to be a strong organization but only with your continued determination. With it, we can leave AVVA for future generations.

Just last week, I heard my dad say, "Once again the Vietnam Veteran is forgotten." It brought me to tears then as it is now. I do not want ANY Vietnam Veteran to EVER feel forgotten EVER again!

Join me in building AVVA for future generations!"

Thank You in advance,
Michelle Mackey
CA AVVA
Elections Chair

TRAVEL TO AVVA/VVA CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL.

Michelle Mackey and I had the privilege to give a PowerPoint presentation to the VVA CA State Council Board Members. AVVA CA and Region 9 are excited to undertake a project that I hope will promote and remind our state to honor veterans *all* the time. We will start in the San Diego area and work our way up through CA state. The project will start in CA, and upon success, will branch out into other states of Region 9.

AVVA CA President Alice Gomez produced the title of the project **TAKE A VIRTUAL ROAD TRIP WITH AVVA**. The CA Strategic Committee (Michelle Mackey, Alice Gomez, Kelly Frederickson) developed this project, and the overview includes the following ideas. Please view the PowerPoint link below; the link will assist in illustrating the project points.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/hq7b5fa0494h9orhw2k52/CA-PRESENTATION-TO-CSC-BOD-TRAVELING-REPORT-COPY-WITHOUT-FINANCES.pptx?rlkey=oikjr3tse9ue3tuknjnfrxkcu&dl=0>

- **HONORING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS** by highlighting the memorials, memorabilia and remembrances of each area that surrounds our AVVA/VVA chapters as we travel up CA state. Please view the link above, the PowerPoint will give you an illustration of the Veteran highlights in the San Diego community. AVVA/VVA Chapter 472 is located in the corresponding area.
- **INCREASING MEMBERSHIP** by encouraging and assisting further participation with the Universities near the corresponding chapters. Chapter 472 is located in the vicinity of the University of CA San Diego. UC San Diego features a thriving Students Veterans Organization (SVO). Thus, increasing the possibility of fortifying AVVA with younger members. Moreover, chapter participation with corresponding universities will increase the opportunity for fundraisers with assistance from the SVO's. The University of CA Chico Campus works closely with Chapter 582 on fundraisers. Hence, both parties involved in this endeavor share the brainpower, the demographics, and funds.

- **INCREASING FUNDS** by the following ideas:
 - ***Incorporating your chapter*** or state will give you the ability to solicit donations, and to raise your own funds. AVVA is a 501(C)3, which means your donors will be able to claim donations as a deduction on their taxes.
 - ***Implementing a short-term method*** by approaching your AVVA or VVA Chapter (whoever has more finances, usually VVA) and petitioning them for a donation or a percentage of the household income. This seed money allows your chapter to build additional relationships from which to garner contributions within the community. This assistance will also give your chapter time to establish a grant writing process that has the potential to gather larger donations. The SVO may have a grant writer within their group or may be able to refer you to someone with this ability.
 - ***Approaching your local merchants***, corporations, civic organizations, and businesses through the abilities of presentations, grant writing and relationships to request donations.