



Biography for Candidacy for AVVA National Vice President

My name is Kaye Gardner and I am announcing my candidacy for the office of National Vice President. I have served as the Region 3 Director since the AVVA National elections in 2017.

My involvement began in 1987 with AVVA (then VVA). I joined to help the veterans of VVA Chapter 304 in Frederick, Maryland. My husband (Adolph) purchased my life membership for me in 1993 at the VVA Convention in Norfolk, Virginia.

In 1999, I remember the split from VVA caused by the IRS. It was a time of uncertainty for our members but also a time of excitement for the newly created AVVA.

In the past, I have served AVVA mostly in the background giving my support to their endeavors. During the years, I have seen AVVA grow and become a successful and viable organization. I have attended the VVA Conventions since 1991 only missing the St. Louis convention due to work obligations.

I was a founding officer of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America Maryland Association, Inc. which was formed in 2004. My position was Treasurer and I served in this capacity from 2004 until the Maryland State Association was dissolved in December of 2014. The dissolution came about because of major health issues of two of the officers and the retirement and eventual moving of the President to Florida. Since the dissolution of the Maryland Association, I volunteered to serve as the POC for the State of Maryland and still serve in that appointed position.

I am looking forward to being elected to the office of vice president and helping AVVA to continue to grow. I will support the President anyway that I am asked to do so. I am a team player and will complete tasks assigned to me by the President.

After spending 38 ½ years with the same company, I decided it was time to retire in order to have time for what I wanted to do. After working in the Finance department for 30 years, the decision was made that to move my position to Human Resources. While in Finance, I worked with payroll taxes, ledger accounting, budgets, financial reporting, helping HR create employee policies, and processing payroll for 500+ employees. After moving to Human Resources, my main functions were processing payroll and employee benefits, and continuing to help create employee policies. Moving forward, I now have the time to dedicate my experience to AVVA. Depending on how the VVA members vote at the convention in Spokane this July, will determine how AVVA must move forward. AVVA will soon be in the process of planning to determine how the organization will move forward; and, I would like to help and to be a part of the future of this amazing organization.

Kaye Gardner

Education

- High School Graduate of 1969 – Allegany High School, Cumberland, Maryland
- Frederick Community College – majored in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance.

Volunteer History

- Chapter Liaison(prior)/Chapter Representative(current)
- 2004 to 2014 - Treasurer - Associates of Vietnam Veterans of American Maryland Association, Inc.
- 2014 to Current – POC for the State of Maryland
- 1999 to 2009 - Treasurer – The Maryland Trust for Vietnam Veterans
- 1997 to 2004 – AVVA Special Advisor to the VVA Women Veterans Committee
- 2001 to Current – AVVA Special Advisor to the VVA POW/MIA Committee
- 2007 to 2015 – Chair of the AVVA National Finance Committee
- 2016 to Current – Chair of the AVVA National Elections Committee
- 2016 to Current – Member of the AVVA National Disciplinary Committee
- 2017 to Current – Region 3 Director
- AVVA Life Member – since 1993

Honors

- VVA MD State Council – Outstanding Support of Maryland Vietnam Veterans (1994)
- Phi Theta Kappa – honor society for a 2 year college
- Chapel of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Recipient (1998)
- AVVA Commendation Medal (2009)
- Honorary Life Member of VVA (2016)

Family

My husband (Adolph) and I have been married for over 46 years. He is my life partner and my best friend. We have been through many family crises together over those years. We have lost both sets of parents and 2 of his brothers during our life together. We do not have human children but we do have “furry” children.