

JOANNA HENSHAW

CANDIDATE FOR AVVA NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Experience in Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America:

- ✓ Joined AVVA in April 1997, and became a Life Member that same year
- ✓ Elected Nevada State Vice-President - 2002 in our interim election
- ✓ Assisted with the Nevada Incorporation process in early 2003
- ✓ Elected Nevada State President - April 2003, served a total of 14 years
- ✓ Elected Region 9 Director - 2010, served 3 years (The 3-year transitional term)
- ✓ Elected National Secretary - 2013, served 4 years. (two terms)
- ✓ As an AVVA board member I was special advisor to two VVA committees [Homeless Veterans; Minority Affairs] 2010 - 2017
- ✓ Have chaired the National Policy and Procedure Committee; currently chair the National Website Committee
- ✓ As AVVA National Webmaster, Designed, published, and currently maintain the national website
- ✓ Have served, or am serving, on the following National Committees: Bylaws, P&P, Membership, Incorporation, Strategic Planning, Leadership Development, Disciplinary
- ✓ Elected Nevada State Association Treasurer 2018
- ✓ Two-time chapter member of the year; recipient of the National Presidents Award

First, I would like to say that I am heartsick for the loss of my friend, and our Vice-President, Elayne Mackey. She would want us to pick up the pieces and keep moving forward, and so I am putting my hat in the ring for the office of president. My name is Joanna Henshaw and I am the widow of a Marine Vietnam Veteran, who was a life member of VVA since the 1980's, and who was a Service Officer. Throughout the years as a member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, I have been involved with many aspects of the organization

from helping with the grunt work at conventions and conferences, to spending seven (7) years as a member of the National Board of Directors. I have experience with writing and interpreting policy, laws and codes, negotiating contracts, establishing budgets, representing people in employee conflicts, planning events, organizing, supervising personnel, creating training materials, and training personnel.

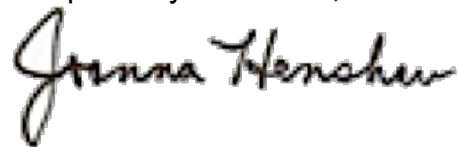
My life experience includes working in a dry-cleaning store as an alterations person; being a wife and mother; returning to college and earning a Bachelor's Degree and two Associates Degrees; a thirty (30) year career in Law Enforcement as a civilian Evidence Specialist (retired) as well as a union shop steward; involvement in graphics and web development.

My vision for AVVA's future involves our ability to adapt to a changing environment, and to become an inclusive support organization, working with and for Veterans of all eras and their families. I see us as civilians, Veterans, and even active military families, who work together for the resolution of the serious problems affecting veterans and their children as well as other family members; helping to ensure that they get the benefits and help they have earned. In the coming years we will need to look at who we are, who we want to be, and who we need to become; strengthening ourselves using both our own experience and influence, and new ideas and methods. We are a unique support organization that is made up of people from all ages and walks of life. We can determine our path, and follow it, to make a difference in our country and in our communities.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America has strengths that we must build on to move forward into our future. A future that will afford us the ability to make the lives of our Veterans and their families a little bit easier, and to become a perpetual organization, aggressively pursuing the legacy health issues due to toxic exposures and other sources, that will assault our veterans and their children for decades to come along with support for Veterans current needs. We can work together, using the talents and skills of all our members, to continue the VVA motto: *"never again will one generation of veterans abandon another;"* helping veterans from all eras stay together and watch out for each other. We can effect a positive change for those who sacrifice for us.

I can offer the time and experience to take on this responsibility. I am capable and knowledgeable; enough to know that there is always more to learn. I would like to assist the new AVVA Board of Directors, as well as our members, to remain relevant beyond any decision that VVA is compelled come to; moving toward a future that will make us stronger, more influential, highly respected, and will continue to make us proud to be Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America members.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna Henshaw". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joanna" being more prominent than the last name "Henshaw".

Joanna Henshaw