



ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Region 7 Quarterly Report – March 29, 2018

REGION 7: as Region 7 Director, pushed out emails to TX, AR, LA, OK. First, my introduction Region 7 Director to region 7 states.

--Asked for input from each state accompanied by photos if possible on the great things we do for VVA and Veterans in general. Response was minimal. Made several calls to the State Reps and extracting information was painful but after spending several minutes on the phone with them, they opened up and I managed to gather information. I'm still waiting on their dates for State Council Meetings (from all states) as I plan to make some of these meetings pending my current work requirements.

--As part of the POW-MIA committee, I challenged Region 7 AVVA members to obtain a bracelet of a Soldier on the Vietnam Wall to keep their memory alive. I sent this request via email.

--At the start of the year I sent out another email asking the states to get more involved with their chapters and asking to see if they need assistance with getting folks on board with automation.

--Sent out info on upcoming elections and offering assistance if needed. Also sent out information to nominate our wonderful members for National Awards.

--Managed to get some AVVA members Chapter 574 with automation for emails. They were excited they can actually use their smart phones to communicate now—work in progress at Chapter level and state levels.



ARKANSAS

Telephone Calls to State Rep-Reponse:

--Chapter 467 –held a ceremony in honor of the POW- MIA. They also held their first golf tournament and it turned out to be a great success. They are very active with their VVA chapter for holiday events to include the Chapter Christmas party. They attended their State Council Meeting at Jacksonville, AR, in January 2018. The AVVA 467, Bi-Annual Yard Sale is coming up in April as their fundraiser. They also assist VVA 467 with the Motorcycle Bike Run in April 2018. AVVA 467, volunteers their time periodically to feed the homeless Veterans.



LOUISIANA

From sent Emails to LA-Response:

Louisiana held their Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Baton Rouge on February 23-25, 2018. They had great attendance and a wonderful fellowship.

All AVVA active Chapters were there and were handed out folders with election information for chapter elections. They even had a surprise visit from their Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser.

The LA. State Council will have their State Convention June 1-3, 2018 at the Coushatta Casino in Kinder, La.



OKLAHOMA

Telephone Calls to State Rep-Reponse:

--Ms. Wanda Ross's, father passed away in July and with both her husband and herself not in the best of health, Ms. Wanda will step down from AVVA after 15 years. Please keep them in your prayers.

--Spoke with Ms. Kathy Andras and she agreed to run elections for AVVA OK.

--Elections for AVVA State were held 23-24 March 2018, in OK City. Ms. Victoria O'Rourke, Chapter 751, was elected as the new State AVVA Rep. The AVVA members are thrilled for a new beginning. Called Ms. Victoria to congratulate her and offered assistance if she has any questions.



TEXAS

Nominations: Submitted a nomination packet for the National Convention in July, and AVVA member Martha Escajeda, Chapter 574, won the Fellowship Award. Congratulations Martha!



Photo by Terri Rangel

Sharon Hobbs, National AVVA President, Martha Escajeda-Chapter 574 and Percilla Newberry, Texas State President present Martha with the Fellowship award during the

Chapter
574,

Photo by Saul Hernandez

Swearing in of new AVVA 574, Inc. members. Left to right: Cris Hernandez, Secretary; Martha Escajeda-Treasurer; Rosa "Laura" Nevarez-Vice President; and Terri Rangel, President.

El Paso Texas--became the first chapter in the State of Texas to incorporate. As President and Region 7 Director, I went over P&P with members. Provided them folders with the By-Laws and P&P to familiarize themselves with these documents.



As Texas is in the planning stages of their Texas State Council meeting in El Paso, in April 6-7, I am training many of the AVVA 574, members what is needed to plan and host a convention i.e., solicitations and follow-up on the requests, asking for donated items for auctions, registrations, visiting the hotel etc...Great experience for all. Will showcase the Fort Bliss installation, Soldiers and leadership to our VVA Veterans especially the Wounded Warrior Battalion to let the Veterans know what help is available to Soldiers with PTSD.



Across all the State of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana, I'm learning quickly they are all active, but I need to capture their activity. I intend to do this further as Ms. Kathy Andras gave me advice on how she handled this while during her tenure as Region 7 Director.