

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE 2017 IN REGION VII

The grass is getting green, but if you are familiar with after the largest grass fire in Texas grass will get greener. Seven volunteer firefighters lost their lives and millions of acres were lost among the massive amount of livestock lives lost. Waiting on the so needed rains and the forecast is saying rain, high wind and large hail tonight.



We reside by the lake and last week at 7:00 am the smell of smoke was strong and they were doing a control burn across the pasture. Kept me on my toes all day praying nothing gets out of hand. Pray for the Panhandle.

Region VII is busy with giving scholarships, recognition awards, and preparing for track meets, proms and graduations. I appreciate all of the feedback on our face book page.

TEXAS

Still requesting prayers for our AVVA Texas State President, Lynn Kennedy. Our lives move forward memories of our loved ones still linger. Always remember when our members have a death in their family—let them talk—as it heals. There is no time limit on grieving and shouldn't be.

Texas State Council is preparing for the Texas State Council meeting in Irving in April. AVVA will have their meeting on a Friday night and take care of new and old business and candidates that have declared their intent to run for a National Office will be talking. The Agenda will also cover the VA Choice Program, AVVA Caregivers Program, AVVA VISTA, and USAA. On Saturday, get ready and be jealous as there will be a class on how to make wreaths by Terri Rangel.



This wreath will be auctioned off Saturday night.

Chapter 297 – Amarillo – Is recovering from the death of their long term VVA Chapter President, Terry Kirby. They have plans to continue the Children Fishing Tournament that will be held in Terry's Memory. Prayers for this chapter.

Chapter 404 – Borger –Has been working with the Veteran's Resource Center in Amarillo to take food to our fire fighters and supporting the area towns that were hit the hardest.

Chapter 574 – The AVVA Ladies of Chapter 574 took a retreat to Ruidoso. These ladies not only work for their Chapter they play together. They are preparing a Mexican dinner fundraiser on April 2, 2017. They also cook the meals before each chapter meeting.



Chapter 987 - Last November 12th, 2016 our chapter attended a flag raising ceremony at the Eastman Plant in Longview, Texas. The employees and many of our chapter members attended the ceremony. Then we proceeded to the Veteran Ceremony at the Gregg County Courthouse, where speakers, judges, veterans and citizens meet to honor our veterans. Laying of wreaths for the POW/MIA, for All veterans ending with the bagpipe procession and 21 gun salute.

Our chapter donated \$500 to the Liberty City H.S. band to help provide free meals to veterans and their wives at the Celebrating America Night, entertainment provided by all levels of schools, honoring our veterans on the field, followed by an awesome fireworks display.

Our chapter was invited to ride in the Liberty City and Longview Christmas parades with our chapter banner and members on board. Citizens thanked our Veterans for their sacrifice and service!

Our chapter has been attending the East Texas Veterans Resource center once a month, where many people from the VA, other veterans' groups and East Texas Legal Aid that are assisting with jobs employment, housing and furnishing needs for veterans, local businesses and others who attend gather together to help veterans and their families.

Members are helping to provide financial assistance for veterans in need, linens, and other necessities for veterans in need.

The Purple Heart chapter of Victoria, Texas were surprised with the gift of the Purple Heart wall hanging thanking them for their service to our country and our freedom!

Please say a word of prayer for Tom's son Daniel Call, Monday wee hours, who had a massive heart attack. Daniel is on a list for a heart transplant—pray for this family.

Chapter 854 – This Chapter has donated four times this year's bingo money to the four area nursing homes for the residents. For Mother's Day, this year they have made knitted caps which they placed in gift packages with a snack for the residents and for Father's Day they will supply gift snacks. This February, for Valentine's Day AVVA delivered to San Antonio Family Support Center formerly known as Brooks Army Medical Center, 125 goodie bags stuffed with chips, candy, cookies fruits, pudding, lap quilts, and an assortment of items for a week or better. They were able to do this with the help of Communities, Businesses, 4 H Clubs, Boy Scouts and Ladies quilting groups, Church groups and AVVA members along with their families and friends. In addition, they have conducted two clothing drives in which they had to rent a U-Haul truck to deliver the clothing to the G I Forum in San Antonio to benefit the homeless veterans. On a sad note, they donated \$100.00 towards a family whose house burned down in which one member of the family died. AVVA donated \$100.00 towards VVA's Yearly fundraiser. AVVA also donated a patriotic iron bench valued at \$600.00 and four handmade knitted baby gift sets and a lap quilt for the silent auction for the Warriors Weekend fundraiser in Victoria. In April, they will have a bake sale in order to raise funds which will be used for upcoming projects. They are a small AVVA group, but a dedicated one that supports their veterans and community.

OKLAHOMA

Chapter 940 The VVA and AVVA signed Christmas cards for veterans at Crabtree Correction and sent them out.

Several AVVA members are also Blue Star Mothers and Associates to the Blue Star Mothers and work at the BSM Store and help fundraisers and packing care packages. Also, several VVA members help.

They made donations of hygiene items to Our Daily Bread and Mercy House for the homeless and poor that need help. A lot of veterans go for meals, clothing and items they need.

The Blue Star Mothers had a lot of books donated AVVA and VVA helped get things ready for the Book Sale.

They help veterans that need assistance getting to the VA Hospital in OKC and the Clinic on May Avenue in OKC.

OKLAHOMA STATE COUNCIL MEETING – OKLAHOMA CITY – APRIL 21, 22, 2017 AT THE SADDLEBACK INN

ARKANSAS

Arkansas VVA and AVVA is working on two major fund raisers:



These are the types of fundraisers that require **lots** of hard work, but the payoff is major.

LOUISIANA

All I can say is the AVVA Louisiana is working very hard preparing for the National Convention that is to be held in New Orleans in August. Please send cards to Kathy Andras as she is having knee surgery and will be recovering for a few weeks. Send cards, emails and telephone calls. Prayers for a speedy recovery.

**A BIG THANKS TO ALL THAT SUBMITTED THE ABOVE
INFORMATION. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. JOB WELL DONE!**