

A Recap of the last two years as Region 4 Director.

October 2015 I went to Blairesville Georgia for the Sorghum Festival and Vietnam Moving Wall. The VVA chapter in Blairesville that had only formed a year before with 25 members had grown to 75 plus members within the year. The chapter had worked hard on bringing the moving wall to Blairesville for their first big project but didn't have any AVVA members. I will educated and spoke to any and all that were interested in the AVVA, and signed up new members.

In February 2016 I spent a lot of time with getting the word out about our Agent Orange Town Hall meeting that would be held in April 2016 @ the University of North Georgia Dahlonega Campus.

At the GSC meeting in February 2016 there were several new AVVA members there from new VVA/AVVA chapters that have recently been established in Georgia and it was refreshing to see a nice turn out. I spoke with the members about up coming elections and about the VISTA program. I also explained to them about the Toxic Waste Exposure Act and to contact congress for their support. I had many emails asking questions about programs and where they can find the information they are looking for, I directed them to our website.

In April 2016 several chapters held their elections for Chapter Reps and were updated in the database.

The Agent Orange town hall meeting that was held May 2016 at the college in Dahlonega, GA had a turn out of a little over 150 in attendance. There were several people that learned a lot about agent orange that had no idea that any of it existed.

Memorial day 2016 I rode on the trailer with Chapter 772 Gainesville in the Memorial Day parade. And in June 2016 at the GSC meeting we held elections for Georgia State Rep. Attended the VVA/AVVA Leadership convention in July 2017 and it was the best one yet.

Arrived on Monday and that afternoon went on the tour for Project Friendship. On Tuesday I worked at the Registration Desk and greeted all the attendees and made sure their registration paperwork was correct.

Attended the opening ceremonies Wednesday morning and then the rest of the week I worked in the AVVA Office and attended the following seminars Web Rosters, Chapter and State Council Bylaws, Overview of VA Benefits with an In-Depth view of eBenefits, Recognizing and living with Secondary PTSD, Planning a meeting or Convention and Proud of our Past – Poised for our Future in AVVA. During our down time we had the Chuck Wagon Dinner and Show, AVVA Membership Meeting, The Movie Hacksaw Ridge by Mel Gibson, AVVA Luncheon and our BOD Meeting.

I kept up with my region, emailing information on membership and our new program Secondary PTSD. I have gone through the classes and am now a Facilitator. I'm looking to start a support group here in my hometown.

October 2016 Mule Camp (three Day Fair) in Gainesville Georgia signed up members and helped sell raffle tickets. One week later of to the Georgia State Council Meeting.

October 19 thru the 23, 2016, Silver Springs Maryland for the BOD meetings.

Worked on getting the word out to my Region about getting registered for the National Convention in New Orleans in August. I would like to see at least 50% more registered voters at the Elections for 2017 then what we had in 2015.

Many inquiries came to me on why they aren't getting the AVVA Rosters anymore. I explained that they are all on line now and that they should have received an email giving them the instructions on how to go in and get there Chapters or the States.

In attendance at the February 2017 GSC meeting I reminded all the VVA Chapter Presidents and AVVA Reps about supporting Project Friendship this year and that in June 2017 I will have the information on the facility that we will be donating the money to and to bring their checkbooks.

Chapter 772 in Gainesville Georgia has lost one of our Veterans, Bill Harris, USN – Vietnam from 1964 to 1968. Bill left us on March 4th 2017. He will be extremely missed. Bill was a go getter and never let his health stop him. Bill was our Chapter President for 4 years and the GSC Vice President since 2014. Myself, Susan Henthorn and a few others planned a Memorial Service which was held at the American Legion Post #7 in Gainesville Georgia on March 12th 2017. The service went very well and we also cooked and served for about 80 people.

In April 2017 at the BOD meetings we started planning for the 2017 Elections in New Orleans in August 2017. I finished committee reports, ordered plaques and pins for winners to be announced at the luncheon in New Orleans. I continue to work with my region to get as many to New Orleans this year and what to expect for our new comers.

Jeri Wallis
Region 4 Director