

## Region 5 Director's report

As the new Region 5 director, I contacted the representatives and presidents at both the state and chapter levels listed on the National database, introducing myself and encouraging each to send information on activities and events coming up. Soon after that, I sent the VISTA pins presented at National Convention to their appropriate chapter reps to be given to the recipients. Lastly, I have prepared a list of persons to sit on the disciplinary panel for the region.

I anticipate wider contact with members in unrepresented chapters and at-large once I receive a membership list and look forward to visiting our chapters and states over the next two years.

With no response from the state representatives and presidents in Region 5, my activities have been minimal. I have forwarded the emails received from national officers and committees as they arrived. In an effort to have some contact with the states, I sent emails to the VVA presidents and again have received no responses.

In November, I was honored to travel to D.C. to participate in the presentation of the wreaths at the memorials on the Mall, and spend time at the membership booth during the weekend. Weather kept us from staying at the booth, so we traveled to the office and stuffed lifetime membership envelopes.

I participated in the Go-To-Meeting training for elections in February, as well as, the finance committee's go-to-meetings as we discussed the budget proposal.

In an effort to have more contact with chapters without representatives or points of contact, I sent out 236 emails to those member's addresses on the National roster whose chapters are not listed on the National database. I am pleased to have received several responses.

With chapter elections taking place in April, verifying and contacting the representatives and presidents was the first action taken. Many contacts were made by email and phone with chapter and state leaders. A problem arose in Ohio that took multiple contacts with chapter reps before it was resolved. I appreciate all the help I received from everyone involved.

I was invited to the Ohio State meeting but was unable to attend due to a previously scheduled event but look forward to meeting with those members, several which are going to Leadership conference. The new Representative is Don Jones. I anticipate that Don will be an asset to AVVA in Ohio. Welcome, Don.

I attended the state meeting in Michigan. A new President was elected, Marilyn Lash, from Clarksville, MI. I want to thank Betty Pike for her years as leader of the Michigan Association. Welcome, Marilyn.

Illinois re-elected Freda Goodwin, who has led the state well for several years. Welcome back, Freda.

Thanks to each state and chapter leader who has stepped up to help make Region 5 an active and vital organization.

National Conference in Tucson, AZ was a busy time. As Region Director, I attended multiple seminars. The best part for me was having time to meet and visit with members of Region 5. The pool party/welcome home was the best chance. I try to encourage all members in the region to feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns and that is what we did.

Because not everyone attended the Conference, I made efforts to visit the chapters with VISTA pins and award recipients to present those receiving recognition. Unfortunately I was unable to work all the visits into my schedule. I congratulate all who received pins and special congratulations to Jeff Metheny who received second place in hours earned.

I have kept in touch with the states and chapters in my region through e-mails and phone calls during this term. These contacts include the Region 5 conference in Columbus Ohio. I encourage the membership in the region to come to this event in preparation of the national convention in New Orleans.

It was a pleasant experience to be involved with interviewing a VSO applicant. This young man is a disabled veteran that will soon know both sides of the claims process. We welcome him as a recently joined member of AVVA and into the service officer program.

Plans to visit individual chapters has unfortunately been sidelined, but I am still making contact by emails and phone calls.

I want to thank Penny Meinhardt for being Deputy Director during this term, and, am looking forward to continuing to serve this organization and Region 5 as Director.

Respectfully,

Region 5 Director,  
Cecilia Essenmacher