

AVVA TOXIC EXPOSURE COMMITTEE ACTIVIT REPORT AND OVERVIEW

**Nadine Own – Co-Chair
Nancy S. Switzer, Co-Chair**

JULY 1, 2019

In the North West Nadine and Tom Owen, assembled a team of dedicated Agent Orange activists who have now done over 100 Agent Orange presentations with 4 more on the near horizon, two of which are at medical facilities. Many thanks to Jerry Craig in the Portland Metro area who has done dozens of presentations through numerous church groups, the American Legion and VFW posts, as well as, Portland VVA Chapter 392 who has now in the process of organizing their 7th Agent Orange Town Hall at the Portland VA. The effort continues to put together a symposium geared to the medical practitioner. In order for the presentation to be accredited so the practitioner can get continuing education hours, we are searching for a geneticist to compliment the panel. If you know of someone who might assist in the search, please contact Nancy Switzer or Nadine Owen.

The recent discovery of barrels of Agent Orange in one of Oregon's pristine lakes is very alarming. That, coupled with thousands of barrels buried in the desert area of south east Oregon, makes one wonder what else might be out there across the large expanse in our country.

TWO YEAR OVERVIEW:

For the last two years we have been keeping an eye out on the progress of the VA and seeing if the time lines are met regarding the Toxic Exposure Act. We must continue to educate not only our veterans and their families and the public, but most importantly the next generation of veterans, the Afghanistan, Iraqi and Gulf War, and the best way to do this is holding Town Hall meetings on Toxic Exposures.

Good news for the Blue Water Navy that has just won their fight to get the Agent Orange compensation due to them! The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 will extend benefits to service members that served in the territorial waters off the coast of Vietnam and were exposed to Agent Orange. The legislation will ensure tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans finally get the benefits they have earned and deserve.

The last two years have been busy ones for our committee. For the past two years AVVA has been a participant in over 68 Town Hall Meetings. We were involved with the strategic planning meeting to address not only the legislation that has been passed but

continuing to educate the veterans and their families on exposure to toxins. We had a great discussion on town hall meetings and how we can improve on these.

In 2015 we developed a brochure "Has Your Child's or Grandchild's Health Been Affected by Your Military Service. This is a great brochure to hand out to families who feel their child has been affected by Dioxins and how they should be preparing for when the research is finished.

We are continuing to educate the public on Toxins that are readily available at many of the stores, for example weed killer Round Up.

We would like to thank the members of our committee for their forever support, they are: Kathy Andras, John Birch, Pat Furno, and Mokie Porter. Special Advisors: Mark McCabe and Tom Owen.

On behalf of Nadine and myself we would like to thank the Board of Directors for their unceasing support throughout these past two years as co-chairs.