

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT- April 2016

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In November, I went to Washington DC to work in the Membership and Information tent; the weather was so bad with wind and rain that on November 10<sup>th</sup> we had to close the tent. We spend the day at the National Office stuffing Life Membership packets for the Membership Department. On Veteran's Day, the weather was much nicer for the wreath-laying.

I was unable to attend the January 2016 VVA Board meeting due the sudden illness of my husband. I want to thank the Vice President and Treasurer for standing-in for me.

During the month of February, I wrote letters to all of the AVVA Chapters in Region 1 that had more than five members inviting them to hold a chapter election in April. Since then, we have received several inquiries and have scheduled elections in two chapters. Region 1 has had no representation at the National level since the 2015 Convention. It is the goal of the Membership and the Election Committees to have elected Representatives in Region 1.

In March, I visited the National Office to participate in the educational planning of the 2016 Leadership Conference. While there, I researched for the past Members-of-the-Year and Fellowship Award recipients. I left with very good outcomes, with only a few years still in question. I put out a plea in the UPDATES e-newsletter for help; hopefully, the list will be completed soon.

In March, I visited our vendor's place of business. Military Best is now offering the AVVA Membership pin and the AVVA Life Member pin. The AVVA challenge coins may also be purchased there.

The AVVA Board and Committees continue work well together; we are planning the 2016 Leadership and Education Conference with VVA. We will be finalizing the many facets of the Conference during the upcoming Board meeting. Secondary PTSD seminar will be offered during the Conference; we will also conduct our Annual Membership Meeting. We will announce our Project Friendship during the April Board Meeting.

Since my last report in October, I have written three (3) articles for the VVA Veteran, one (1) for the *UPDATES*, two (2) for the VVA Board, one (1) for the AVVA Board and one (1) after-action report. I have had dozens of phone conversations with members; and conversed through hundreds of emails.

*Sharon Hobbs, President*