

To: Sharon Hobbs, President AVVA

From: John Birch Region VIII Director AVVA

Re: Region Report July-October 2016

Many activities have occurred since the Leadership conference in July. After settling in and looking at state and region activities I had to pick more of the local projects to attend due to my budget. I have worked some with incarcerated Veteran issues but have not had the time to continue with my responsibilities at the Oregon State Penitentiary as a volunteer. Between child care issues and traveling within the region it has been busy. Later as the summer winds down I will be more regular at visiting the Facilities.

Chapter 585 VVA has had several fishing events this summer for our Veterans from the Veteran home. I did attend 3 fishing events with my chapter and saw a many happy Veteran.

One of the biggest projects I did accomplish this summer was to network with the rural areas of Region VIII promoting Toxic Exposure education and Agent Orange town hall meetings. I found this to be rewarding because more events are being planned for those areas through networking and support from the local communities. This was reported in the AO Committee report.

Since last reports were submitted there have been changes to Region VIII with Willa Burgess she has agreed to be a contact for AVVA in Montana. Her chapter in Kalispell is busy and she is involved with the AO committee. Part of the growth in Region VIII is Western Montana and Brookings, Oregon. Its not significant growth but it is upward growth compared to past years.

I have nothing else I can report that has not been drafted into committee reports.