

AVVA Region 9 Report

Casey Farrell – Director

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Since my last report, things have continued to be very busy. I am still trying to figure out how to put more hours in the day as I am sure some of you would also like. There are so many things to accomplish for our veterans and their families, so we will just continue to work together until we get it done, extra hours or not.

In July I attended the Leadership Conference in Tucson, AZ. There I had the opportunity to network with members from all over the United States. I also got to better know and share information with members from Region 9. This was a pleasure. We have so many great people in our organization. While at the conference I attended classes on Electronic Web Rosters, Recognizing and Living with PTSD, Planning a Meeting or Convention, The Silent Epidemic Affecting an Estimated 10% of Vietnam Veterans (Hep C) and AVVA Proud of our Past, Poised for our Future. You can find a power point of AVVA Proud of our Past, Poised for our Future on the website under education and training. I also spent time working in our product sales booth and the AVVA office. While in Tucson, I visited our Project Friendship recipient, Esperanza En Escalante where I obtained information to assist with the formation of a new transitional housing center in region 9. I can't stress enough about networking with other organizations. Most are willing to share as we are all working for the betterment of veterans and their families. I also participated in the AVVA Annual Business Meeting and attended the VVA Board of Directors Meeting. During the conference I was added to the Veterans in the Justice Committee. I recently developed a veterans re-entry program at the Arizona State Prison Kingman Facility (which is a private prison owned by the GEO Group) and facilitate the program weekly as a part time employee. Also in July I attended several go to meetings with the board pertaining to the conference.

In August, I attended a luncheon for women veterans where I had the opportunity to interact with female veterans and listen to the issues that they are encountering. I also had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Bennett, Director of the Kingman CBOC and MS Johnson, Director of the Women's Programs for Northern Arizona. Later in the month I met with Arizona Representatives Sonny Borrelli and Regina Cobb about support for a transitional housing project, Toxic Exposure Act and the concerns of veterans and their families. I also attended a Vet Center picnic to show support so they can obtain a permanent site for their facility. We hope this can occur soon. Please check if you don't know already, into the services they offer. The services are not just for the combat veteran, they have ones for the family too. Remember if you would like me to attend your event or meeting, just ask. Also during the month, I participated in go to meetings to establish an award in Cathy Keister's name. She was a remarkable lady. Look for information on this award in the future.

In September, I worked with Chapter 975 at the Mohave County Fair to increase membership for AVVA and VVA. The chapter was also able to get some new members. People were happy to speak with someone from a regional level, and I had the opportunity to answer questions and share about our new program Secondary PTSD (PTSD 2). I will be formally trained as a facilitator for PTSD 2 in the near future.

In the first few days of October, I have attended the Arizona State Association meeting where I had the opportunity to recommend a fund raising idea to help the State and the Chapters. I also helped to host an Agent Orange Town Hall which included a Hepatitis C presentation. I highly recommend that everyone look into including information on Hep C as it is so important to get that information out as well. Later in the month, I will be attending our board meeting in Silver Springs, MD. This will be my first board meeting there and I look forward to all that it will offer. I will be attending the Veterans in

the Justice Committee, Women's Veterans Committee and the Homeless Veterans Committee. Look for updates on what's happening when I get back.

Every month I attend chamber of commerce meetings to promote AVVA and I attend the monthly meetings of the Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council, which is an organization of organizations and individuals working to improve the lives of veterans and their families, especially the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. I also forward information and reports throughout the month.

Thank you Region 9 for all of your hard work and support to help our veterans and their families. Please know that I am here to help you in any way I can and I am committed to learn as much as possible to best serve you.

Casey