

ASSOCIATES OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

REGION VII Report

June 30, 2016

The month of April was a very busy month as it was chapter elections all across the region. I attended meetings in Oklahoma and in Texas. Not only was chapter representatives being elected it was a time for Texas and Oklahoma to elect State Representatives. On board for Texas is Lynn Kennedy and Oklahoma is Wanda Ross. Time for Louisiana and Arkansas they held their state elections in June, 2016. We now have Ora Wall from Louisiana and Anna Strafford from Arkansas. I will present the AVVA Oath of Office to Anna Strafford in Tucson.

I was not able to attend the state meetings in Louisiana and Arkansas as my husband had doctor appointments out of state during that time. Suzie Meeks, Deputy for Region VII, attended the Louisiana State Council meeting. Not only did she attend she help with the elections there. In April Suzie again helped with the Texas state elections. Kudos to Suzie Meeks. She has also been a big help for me to be able to call in our chapter results.

Oklahoma and Texas is getting ready to host Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings and including Hepatitis C Seminars this summer. A very busy summer for our chapters and informative meetings. All states are in preparing to attend the Leadership Conference in Tucson.

Just returned from El Paso today where I had the opportunity to be present when Congressman Beto O'Rourke received the National VVA Achievement Award from John Rowan and then also received the Legislature of the Year 2016 plaque from Buster Newberry. Texas is very proud of Congressman O'Rourke as he was the first that signed on for HR 1769 and S 901. It has taken SEVERAL months for a FEW others to join him.

During this visit the guests were honored with a tour to Ft. Bliss. We shot gun, drove tanks and had lunch in the mess hall. Amazing trip. I just have to show some of the pictures. Life is Good and getting better every day, we are truly blessed in Region VII.



Buster Newberry and Congressman Beto O'Rourke



John Rowan and Congressman Beto O'Rourke



Dennis Andras in a Tank



Group shot



Everyone there from veterans, wives, families, congressman, Ft. Bliss officers finished the night after an awesome meal prepared by El Paso AVVA with the song – “I’m Proud to be an American”.