

To: Sharon Hobbs President AVVA
AVVA National Board

From : John Birch Region VIII Director AVVA

Re: Veterans in the Justice System

This last reporting period has been one of re-structuring of this committee which was identified as VIC to VITJS. With the loss of Cathy Keister, Cecelia Essenmacher was appointed to this committee.

The goals of this committee is awareness of incarcerated Veterans of all eras and to help facilitate programs for re-integration of these Veterans upon parole.

Currently I am involved with the Oregon State Penitentiary Veteran Club as a Veteran Volunteer and have started working on a couple projects to see if this activity will lead to a viable program. Working with the incarcerated Veteran the following has occurred; Identified a good organization for the Veterans Club to help support. Project 22 which is a non profit endeavor that exposes the loss of Veterans due to suicide. The Veteran Club at OSP raises funds for different causes that support Veterans.

(Mr. Premo current Warden, has been very supportive of the Veteran Club and encourages this type of activity.)

The next program is to encourage Veterans to get involved with AVVA while incarcerated. Identify where this Veteran was convicted at, identify a chapter in that area and have them sign up with that chapter. The idea is to provide more support for those paroling Veteran with a ride, counseling, AA/NA programs and any function that could help. Utilizing AVVA chapter assets to facilitate this activity. With a hand up approach versus handout approach. I have discussed this plan with my chapter to see if there would be resistance or concerns. I received that support. Moving forward and will report on these successes.

End of report