

Region 9 Members  
October 2017

First I would like to thank everyone for electing me to a 2018-2019 term. Please be assured that I will work hard for you. Things have been busy since convention in New Orleans. I have been working to verify email addresses so information can be distributed easily. This has left me with some difficulties since my internet provider has not been able to determine why it only works part of the time. I have been assured that this issue will be resolved shortly so please bear with me. Six weeks of this has been way too long. I have been answering emails the best that I can under the circumstances.

I will be the AVVA committee advisor to the VVA committees of Homeless Veterans and the Co-Advisor to Veterans in the Justice System. I have been working with a private prison in Arizona to assist our incarcerated veterans. I have also been working with chapters to encourage them to participate or form stand downs or resource fairs to assist at risk and homeless veterans. I have also been working to organize an Agent Orange / PTSD and PTSD2 town hall which will be held later this month. Remember if you need assistance in any of these areas call or email.

I have been reviewing policies and procedures and duties for the committees I will be co-chairing and serving on. I have been asked to be a member of the following AVVA committees: Leadership Development, Incorporation, Veterans Benefits and the Strategic Planning Committee and I have accepted. In the Leadership Development committee note that we will be working hard to create educational programs for the 2018 Leadership Conference in Palm Springs, CA as well as creating programs and tools to assist the future leaders of AVVA. As a member of the Incorporation committee we have been working on policies and procedure for incorporation and hope to have these updated and out soon. I have also been answering questions and helping to lay out a plan for a chapter to incorporate in the future. I am excited to be a member of the Veterans Benefit committee and I am studying to become a Veterans Service Officer to better assist our incarcerated veterans and hope to have most of this done or it all completed by the first of the year. I also look forward to being more involved with spousal benefits. With the Strategic Planning Committee I look forward to working with the members of this group to come up with new projects to compete and keep the organization relevant.

This term I will be co-chairing the Veterans in the Justice System with John Birch, Region 8 Director. I believe our years of service and knowledge in the field of corrections along with our committee members will enable us to increase assistance and knowledge to our incarcerated veterans. I have been working on my short and long term goals for this committee. I also have recruited members for this committee which will be voted on at the October board meeting.

I have selected a disciplinary committee for our region which will be voted upon at the board meeting this month.

I have been representing AVVA at various meetings trying to increase our visibility and membership and I will be participating in a veteran's parade in November. I have also been working with other members to create a plaque to recognize people and organizations for their hard work and this should be completed later this year.

I would like to encourage everyone to continue recording and sending in your VISTA hours. These hours can assist AVVA when applying for grants for future projects. We work hard to assist veterans and their families and our numbers need to show this. If you wonder what hours you can count please ask me or refer to the policies and procedures for VISTA hours.

Remember together we can make things happen.

Together Always,

*Casey*

Casey Farrell

AVVA Region 9 Director

[pcfarrell2@suddenlink.net](mailto:pcfarrell2@suddenlink.net)

928-753-5239