

# 2017-2019 PRESIDENT'S COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

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My final report will be divided into two segments: the first will be just a synopsis of the actions of the organization; the second will be my personal work as your national president. Keep in mind that the written information here reflects data as of July 1, 2019, and that I believe it to be accurate. However, I cannot guarantee that it is complete. So, please forgive me if I have omitted something.

## 1. ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ENDEAVORS/ EVENTS:

- Suffered the unexpected loss of the National Vice President.
- Reduced life membership dues permanently for dual members to \$50.
- **SPOUSAL & SURVIVOR BENEFITS PROGRAM:** Our newest program was launched in 2018. Full details and instructions are on our website.
- **PROJECT FRIENDSHIP:** 2018 Lighthouse Social Services \$13,000+, *Volunteers of America Eastern Washington and Western Idaho*. (collections still in progress)
- **CONDOLENCE CARD PROGRAM:** AVVA's Chaplain worked with Father Phil in sending sympathy cards to the families of all reported deceased members of VVA and AVVA. We averaged 80/month. AVVA now includes a small card in each envelope that encourages loved ones to submit their veteran's name to the ***In Memory Registry*** if eligible.
- **PAPER SAFE PROGRAM:** We are currently in our fifth (5) printing of the Paper Safe; the sixth printing is scheduled to take place this fall. AVVA continues to give them without charge to our members and to all veterans.
- **HELPING HANDS GRANT:** (formally Homeless Grant) In 2018, we gave a total of \$1500 to the hurricane victims in Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico. In 2019, we gave \$2,000 to the Birth Defects Registry.
- **TWO PARTNERSHIPS:** (1) Military and Veteran Caregiver Network (MVCN) to provide online peer support services to caregiving members. (2) Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) in the repair of the In Memory Plaque.
- **IN MEMORY PLAQUE PROJECT:** After eight (8) long years, the repair is completed. The rededication was completed on Memorial Day 2019.
- **INCORPORATIONS:** We currently have twelve (12) incorporated states and eighteen (18) incorporated chapters.
- **TOXIC EXPOSURE COMMITTEE:** Participated in 21 Faces of Agent Orange Town Hall meetings across the US.
- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:**
  - 2-hour Board Orientation during the October 2017 meetings in Silver Spring, MD.
  - State and chapter elections review

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- “Budgets & Finance” (online)
  - “Legislative Advocacy” (classroom)
  - “Electronic Motions” (classroom)
  - Pre-planning for the 2019 National Convention (online)
- **MEMBERSHIP:** Over 10,200 members; and all-time high.
  - **FOUR EDUCATIONAL BROCHURES:** PTSD ‘2, Legislative Priorities, Spousal Benefits and Agent Orange.
  - **SPONSORED SEMINARS DURING 2018 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** (Palm Springs, CA): “Recognizing and Living with Secondary PTSD” and “Basic Parliamentary Procedure”
  - **WEBSITE:** Over 211,000 visits since its debut in 2013. A facelift in 2018.
  - **VENDORS:** Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with (1) **Ideal Images** for women’s clothing. (2) **Military Best** added the AVVA logo patch, Life member patch, the AVVA Membership pin, the AVVA Life Member pin and the AVVA challenge coins. (3) **The Agent Orange Store** added specialty pins, patches, and clothing.
  - **POLICIES & PROCEDURES:** Numerous policy revisions
  - **VISTA PROGRAM:** Continues to thrive. Over 98,000 community volunteer hours reported since its inception in 2014.
  - **MOU with VVA:** Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Vietnam Veterans of America revisited and passed by both organizations in April of 2017.
  - **501 (C)(3) CONVERSION:** Completed in the fall of 2018.
  - **MILESTONE:** Celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019.

## 2. **President’s Report encompassing the 2017 – 2019 term:**

- Sent thank you letters to every individual, chapter and state-level groups that donated to Project Friendship in 2017 & 2018. .
- Wrote a comprehensive report of the 2017 Convention and the 2018 Conference report to the membership.
- Reviewed and revised the Membership Application brochure with designer, Bernie Rekowski.
- Sat has a non-voting advisor to VVA’s Governmental Affairs Committee, Convention Planning Committee, EOC Committee, and Veteran’s Benefits Committee.

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- Reviewed and revised the AVVA membership renewal letter.
- Reviewed and made recommendations to the national committees on policy changes.
- Worked with Strategic Planning Committee to complete a new plan.
- Scheduled six (6) GoTo Meeting sessions.
- Participated in eleven (11) GoTo Meeting sessions.
- Worked with vendors on adding new products to online stores.
- Wrote ten (10) articles for the VVA Veteran magazine.
- Sent nineteen (19) donation acknowledgment letters to donors.
- Wrote five (5) reports for the AVVA Board.
- Wrote eight (8) report for the VVA Board.
- Participated in a conference call with the VA on homelessness
- Participated in a conference call with the DAV
- Wrote five (5) after-action reports.
- Conversed through hundreds of emails and telephone calls.
- Accompanied the National VVA Membership Chair to Columbus, GA to speak to AVVA members in a newly organized VVA chapter at no cost to AVVA.
- Attended the Welcome Home Salute and Parade to Veterans in Pigeon Forge, TN.
- Guest on local TV show to talk of Spousal & Survivor Benefits program
- Speaker at the roll-out of the new Spousal & Survivor Benefits seminar.
- Shipped fourteen (14) orders of Paper Safes.
- Comprised AVVA monthly Membership Reports and sent to Chair for distribution.

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- Sent letters to all incorporated states and chapters informing them of crime insurance changes.
- Conducted two (2) online pre-planning GoTo Meetings before the Leadership Conference in Palm Springs, CA.
- Submitted a grant to the National Foundation for Veterans & Families (NFVF) to print Paper Safes.
- Worked on converting AVVA to a 501(c)(3) with Jake Barsottini and the IRS agent. Which took a significant amount of time in additional paperwork and two conference calls with the IRS.
- Sat with the Finance Committee while completing the 2018 and 2019 proposed budget
- Serving as the Interim Director of the AVVA Service Officer's Program January 2017-March 2019.
- Met numerous times with Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund CEO, Jim Knotts, through conference calling concerning the In Memory Plaque.
- Participated in the rededication of the *In Memory Plaque* on Memorial Day 2019.
- Created agendas for all AVVA National Board meetings and National Meetings
- Served on the "Future of VVA- Workgroup #1" as an advisor.
- Served on the Board of Directors to the National Foundation for Veterans & Families until January 2019.
- Wrote the President's Transition Report
- Pre-planning online meetings still in process for the 2019 convention at this writing

## ***Travels:***

- 2017 – 2019: I attended and presided over six (6) AVVA Board meetings in Silver Spring, MD.
- 2017, 2018 & 2019: I accompanied VVA Membership Affairs Chair to Washington DC for the military holidays to work in the Membership and Information Tent.

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- Lay wreaths at *The Wall* and *In Memory Plaque* on military holidays.
- 2017 – 2019: I attended eight (8) VVA Board meeting; sitting as a non-voting member.
- 2019: I attended the George C. Duggins Region 3 Conference in Willington, NC.
- 2018: In March, the National Office to participate in the educational planning of the Leadership Conference to be held in Palm Springs, CA.
- 2017-2019: VVA Workgroup # 1 meeting (x 8) at the national office.
- Attended the Vice President’s memorial service in Riverside, CA. April 2019
- Site visit to Spokane, WA. May 2019
- In Memory Plaque rededication, Washington DC. May 2019