

2018 Leadership & Education Conference Report to the Membership



The 2018 VVA and AVVA Leadership and Education Conference was held July 24th – 28th at the Renaissance Hotel, in Palm Springs, CA. The following report is a composite of happenings submitted by the Conference Committee members. This report is a narrative designed for those members not in attendance and a review for those members present. All Board Members and four Deputy Directors played an active role in the success of the convention. Planning meetings began six weeks before through our online conference calling. All Board Members and Deputies were invited to participate in the planning. Although AVVA's role in the Conference was somewhat limited, this report is a full accounting of our involvement.

Registration:

Official registration opened on Tuesday, July 24th, but the task of stuffing Conference bags began early Monday morning. VVA and AVVA bags contained a 3" binder with handouts for the seminars. Conference registration began at 9am on Tuesday morning. A total of 49 AVVA members preregistered for the Conference; four additional members registered onsite. Making AVVA's total 53 registered participants.

AVVA Office

AVVA manned the office every day of the Conference. Visitors dropped by to discuss issues, pick up brochures, applications, and Paper Safes. Nina Schloffel, National Secretary, was the overall manager of the office; however, it took several Board members and Deputies to make it happen.

Luncheon

The AVVA Luncheon was held on Thursday, July 21st. There were 111 luncheon tickets sold. Austin Wampler was our guest speaker. He is a readjustment counselor at CA San Bernardino's Vet Center. Austin addressed the implications of family support to the veteran's emotional health and overall wellbeing. Each attendee was given a flashlight compliments of AVVA. Kaye Gardner (Region 3 Director) and Joanne Blum (Region 1 Director) were assigned the Luncheon. Joanna Henshaw, AVVA webmaster, assisted by creating and printing the Luncheon Program. Nina Schloffel, National Secretary, secured our guest speaker.

During the Luncheon, AVVA awards were presented.

<i>Member of the Year</i>	Willa Burgess (MT Chapter 1087)
<i>Fellowship Award</i>	Rosa Nevarez (TX Chapter 574) NC Chapter 966
<i>AVVA Commendation Medal</i>	Jake Barsottini, PA Susan Henthorn, GA
<i>VISTA Volunteer Hours</i>	Individuals: 1 st Place: Rita Clifton (GA Chapter 772) (1,159 hours) 2 nd Place: Linda Myer (TN Chapter 1004) (971 hours) 3 rd Place: Linda Yates (TN Chapter 1004) (830 hours)

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Regional: Region III (12,617 hours reported)
State: Tennessee (9,861 hours reported)
Chapter: TN 1004 (6,235 hours reported)

There were numerous nominees for each award. All nominees were given an appreciation certificate. Bernie Rekowski, graphic designer and AVVA life member, designed and printed the certificates.



Fellowship Award
Rosa Nevarez, TX



Commendation Medal
Susan Henthorn, GA



Commendation Medal
Jake Barsottini, PA

Product Sales

During the Conference, our vendor table included AVVA flags, challenge coins, Agent Orange pins, and other numerous products from the Agent Orange Store (AOS). The AOS supplied products to us on consignment. We sold most everything we had. Bobbie Morris, PA State Association President, donated numerous beaded items for our table. Cash and credit card sales totaled approximately \$1,200 in profit. Susan Henthorn (Product Sales Chair) and John Birch (Region 8 Director) were in charge of making sure that the table was covered with adequate help during the entire Conference. A detailed report from our Treasurer, Kathy Andras, will be given during the October Board meeting.

Educational Seminars



PTSD '2

AVVA offered two educational seminars during the Conference: *"Recognizing and Living with Secondary PTSD"* and Parliamentary Procedure. Both seminars were well attended.



Parliamentary Procedure
Barbara Miller, PRP far right

Business meeting

The Annual Business meeting was called to order at 2:00pm PST on Thursday, July 26th. Officer and Board reports, *National Foundation for Veterans & Families* update, *In Memory Plaque* project update, and a Financial Report were on the agenda. A handout was given to each

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attendee that included our accomplishments and goals this term. After the official business was completed, a time of questions and answers was offered to the attendees.

Project Friendship

The 2018 Project Friendship was Lighthouse Social Services Center (LSSC). LSSC is a non-profit organization (501c3) serving the homeless. They are located in Colton, CA. On Saturday morning, we presented them with a check for \$13,000 which was \$1,000 above our goal. Due to the distance away, we were unable to visit LSSC.



NOTE: After returning home, thank you letters were sent to all who contributed.

Conclusion

The Conference was well attended, the food was good, and overall it went very smoothly. With the unified effort of our Board of Directors, the AVVA seminars, luncheon, vendor table, and our Project Friendship were all huge successes.

The minutes of the business meeting and the Board of Directors meeting are posted on the AVVA website. www.avva.org

A very special “thank you” to our Historian, Steve Mackey, and to our Webmaster, Joanna Henshaw, for the great pictures and great website coverage of the Conference.

Friday was “Support Our Active Troops” Day. Everyone was asked to wear red.



Sitting: Kathy Andras (Treasurer), Sharon Hobbs (President), Elayne Mackey (Vice President), & Nina Schloffel, (Secretary)

Standing L-R: Casey Farrell (Region 9), John Birch (Region 8), Terri Rangel (Region 7), Fran Davis (Region 6), Cecilia Essenmacher (Region 5), Jeri Wallis (Region 4), Kaye Gardner (Region 3), Nancy Rekowski (Region 2), Joanne Blum (Region 1)