

Region V Director
Transition Report

I have been the director of Region V for four years. During that time, Region V has fluctuated in membership, with the largest growth in the incarcerated memberships. There are 80 chapters and approximately 1,500 members in the four states of the region. Making and keeping in contact with the state presidents has been the most difficult task. I believe this is probably because the states are more involved in their own agendas and interests and not the national organization. The current presidents are Anthony Gigli for Indiana; Freda Goodwin for Illinois; Kathy Driscoll for Michigan and Don Jones is representative for Ohio.

Election times are an on-going issue. Chapters do not seem concerned about holding elections because they center on local issues over national. As we move into this new phase of change, this may truly raise problems as some VVA chapters close and AVVA members are transferred to at-large status. Keeping in touch with these members will be difficult because no meetings are held at which to disperse information. Watching membership rosters will be an important issue for each state as this begins to happen. If the individual member does not actively follow AVVA on the website, those members will be lost to the organization.

Each month, I have tried to forward all information from national that effects each state president or representative. I have attended all national Board meetings, except the last one due to illness, during my time as director. I have been vigilant in responding to emails concerning Board activities and business. I have attended all the training and go-to-meeting sessions of which I have been notified.

There is not any on-going activity to continue into the next board term. Little activity is held at the region level other than conferences and the notifications by email.

Respectfully,

Cecilia Essenmacher
Region V Director