

To: AVVA National Board

From: John Birch AVVA Region VIII Director

Re: 2017-2019

I have been the Region VIII Director since early 2012 when I was appointed and shortly thereafter I was elected and held this position since. I will present you with a brief of the last two years as Regional Director. Last Leadership conference (New Orleans 2017) was the start of the last two years. That year I had one delegate and that delegate never made it to the Leadership conference and that vote was lost so I was appointed to the position I held prior.

One of the largest obstacles I encountered in that time frame was an aging parent. I took on the role of primary care provider. This cut into a lot of my time and prevented me from attending organizational events in my State, Region and National board. But when I could, I got to where I needed to be.

April of 2018 during the Board of Directors meeting I was advised that a chapter in Oregon was incorporating. I needed to follow up and offer any and all assistance to this chapter in the incorporation process and I did. 2018 turned into the year of disciplinary problems in two of my chapters in Oregon. This problem effected the chapter that was incorporating the worst. My other chapter rebounded and is now on a growth cycle.

One of the problems worked itself out in one AVVA chapter but the other chapter did not complete the incorporation process. This problem still has not worked itself out. Very many dynamics sprinkled heavily with bullying. I worked hard with several members of the AVVA board and disciplinary committee to correct the problem and the problem never corrected itself. The problem was caused by VVA/AVVA members. When I tried to get a correction by my VVA counterparts for what the VVA members caused I was told by my VVA State council president that the problem was squashed. I was not to meddle in VVA chapter affairs. I reported this to the VVA National Board for assistance. I was advised that there would be a meeting at the next Oregon State council meeting and I needed to have my evidence. I did and there was no meeting.

I was advised recently that one chapter in Montana will start the incorporation process to carry on the legacy. The accomplishment of the last 2 years could have been better. Region VIII is a vast area, a big sky that will eat the budget of a Regional Director. One thing I can say with pride is in the last 7 years I have generated paperwork for 5 top AVVA National awards for individual members. Three of those awards were in one chapter, 2018 was the last one received.

Accomplishments for the years of 2017-2019:

- *Made all National events, National boards and Leadership conferences.
- *Presented awards.
- *Dealt with disciplinary problems. Unknown amount of time spent by numerous board members
- *Transferred members from chapter to chapter.
- *I believe my conversations with the newly incorporating chapter from Montana did help.
- *Tried to encourage communications within the region even with my family problems.
- *Support and endorse the direction the National committees I set with as a special advisor.
- *State/Region At Large elections.