

To: Sharon Hobbs President AVVA
AVVA Board

From: John Birch
Region VIII Director

Re: Region VIII Director Report.

Board of Directors meeting October 2017 to present; activities in Region VIII are as follows, I have not had much of a chance to travel part due to caring for an ailing parent. But I have kept up communications while working with the VSO program and At Large election cycle, chapter/state activities and Correctional facility visits and speaking with AVVA contacts within the region. Travel was hard this winter for most of my region due to really bad winter in the mountain areas.

I was involved with Veteran day activities in our area which supports the biggest Veteran day parade west of the Mississippi in Albany, Oregon. State Council meeting the following weekend

At Large election process went as it usually does in this region, very little response. I sent out 35 AL notifications via USPS. Notification were mailed early due to how responses came in past AL elections. I received in return seven responses in the form four undeliverable returns, one advising me they had quit, two inquiries expressing interest. I made contact and answered there questions. They backed out.

Any problems I found I informed membership in Silver Springs of the problems discovered and corrected on the membership roster. I found problems with the P&P that need to be corrected and or updated.

The Veteran Service Officer program in my region started a little rough. The VSO candidates would send the packets to the VSO program chairperson. The documents required from me were lacking and in all cases none of theses packets had evidence of a three year membership nor the letter of recommendation on my part. I finally got that straightened out and the process does work if the process chain is followed. If my memory is correct I have 4 VSO candidates finalizing there requirements. It was good to work with them.

I have made 3 visits with incarcerated Inmates at Oregon State Pen., I have worked with DOC staff , Veteran Peer courts in Salem, Oregon. This is in preparation for Hon. D. Yezzo, Committee Chair Veterans Incarcerated and in the Justice System to visit. This is a planned future event.

I have been working with Tom and Nadine Owen on the Agent Orange/Toxin Exposure committee in region VIII. In brief; we are moving forward and have support in partnership with Samaritan Medical. They want us to help educate the Doctors/medical understand what happens to Veterans. With the new toxic exposures in recent conflicts Samaritan sees a need to be able to treat. AO Town Hall meeting will be held at Portland VA Saturday 3/24/18 and that report will come later.

End of Report.