

REGION 8 DIRECTOR

Jennifer M. Ellis #1115384 Life
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- Appointed Chaplain Chapter 805 Roseburg, OR - 2018
- Elected Vice President Chapter 805 Roseburg, OR - 2018
- Interim President Chapter 805, Roseburg, OR - 2018
- Elected President Chapter 805, Roseburg, OR - 2020
- Elected Oregon State Representative – 2020
- Awarded AVVA President's Commendation Medal - 2020

My name is Jennifer Ellis, AVVA Oregon State Representative, and President of Umpqua Valley Chapter 805 located in Roseburg, Oregon. I am running for Director of Region 8 which encompasses Alaska, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Wyoming. I have many years of leadership experience in the medical field, Christian Ministry and community service.

My husband, Bruce Ellis, served as a United States Marine from August 1970 to January 1975. He served with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines as a Force Recon Marine. He survived 14 months of combat in Vietnam. So many of our Vietnam Veterans experienced significant levels of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as a result these effect them every single day, my husband being one of them. This has given me a unique perspective on the issues attributed to this disability. The effects of PTSD on them, their spouses, their adult children and care takers are overwhelming. Our Chapter 805 located in Roseburg, Oregon has established a PTSD-2 group to support our fellow wives and families with the daily struggles of this mental illness.

My husband and I, along with our four children, moved to Gold Beach Oregon in 2002 from California. Prior to moving to Oregon, I worked as an Administrator for a Physical Therapy facility in Ukiah, CA. I was given the opportunity to work with leaders within the community which included Doctors, Pastors, Bank Managers, along with the Physical Therapist that I worked with. We navigated through a 3 year leadership training program using the 21 Laws of

Leadership by John Maxwell. I suggest this training for anyone in a leadership role as it enhances qualities that already exist and continues to refine areas we find challenging.

Soon after joining our Chapter in 2017, I was appointed Chaplain which was an immense honor. I am grateful for my faith in Jesus Christ and I know from years of experience in ministry that prayer is essential to every endeavor. My Vice President, Ruth Feliciano, and I would pray every morning together over our VVA and AVVA chapters, the health of our Veterans and all of the events that we worked hard to make successful. As a result of our prayers being answered we, in partnership with our VVA Chapter 805, have established healthy working relationships which have enabled us to accomplish a great deal for our veteran community.

In addition, our incredible AVVA and VVA Chapters 805 along with volunteer instructors from our community, and the cooperation of the Roseburg VA Healthcare Administration have created a program called *Moods In Music*. Our Veterans learn to play guitar, read music, and upon completion of the six week course they are gifted the guitar to play on a regular basis. This is a tool to assist them with the trials of PTSD and suicide prevention. Fundraising for this program is accomplished by the hard work of every member of our chapter. We have graduated approximately 80 students in 2019 and as we all heal and move forward from this pandemic we will continue to provide our Veterans with this unique program.

In 2020, I received the AVVA President's Commendation Medal for the success of the *Moods In Music* program. This was a group effort that has demonstrated the power of teamwork and dedication.

If elected, I look forward to working with the AVVA National Board and to represent Region 8 in a way that is honorable and successful.

I appreciate your Vote,
Jennifer Ellis

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Ellis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.