

RE-ELECTION FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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I am announcing my candidacy for the re-election to the office of National President for the 2023-2025 term. If re-elected I will endeavor to lead AVVA with the diligence, fairness, and integrity that I did in all of my previous terms.

Although this past term was rather short in the number of days, the Board and I did not let that hinder us from working diligently to complete our goals that we set during our first month in office. We have met both online and face-to-face as a Board and our committees have continued to work together to complete our tasks and to reach new goal as we enter into the next phase of our future. This past term, AVVA presented two seminars during the National Leadership and Education Conference. We introduced our new *Heartbreak to Hope* peer-support program and we reactivated all of our other programs that lay dormant during the pandemic. I am proud to say that both seminars were a huge success. Since our VISTA presentation, we have received VISTA hours from members who have never reported before and we have more and more chapters that are incorporating. We are so proud! And, we raised over \$18,000 for Project Friendship which was a new all-time high.



As we move forward, AVVA is working to improve our communication with our membership through an email program that allows us to speak directly to each member as news breaks and as updates happen. Our National Secretary is working with the IS Director in the National Office to ensure this breakthrough for AVVA happens. This will be the best communication tool that AVVA has ever had. We are excited to be able to talk to our membership directly; however, we must have a current email address on file for you to be included in our this plan. Our Public Relations Committee is working to create a U-Tube channel for education purposes and our other educational programs are busy raising awareness to the important issues affecting our veterans and their families through seminars, peer support groups and Town Hall meetings. So, I feel we have had a very successful term.

We have been hearing and talking about VVA legacy for several years now, but it also time to talk about AVVA's legacy as well. If re-elected, AVVA's legacy will be a Board focus in this upcoming term and an addition to our Strategic Plan. It's time to begin bringing our children and grandchildren onboard as chapter and state officers if we are to carry on their father's and grandfather's legacy. Coaching and educating begins at the chapter-level; now is the time to prepare our younger members to be leaders and to occupy the national boardroom.

I have listed bullet points that encompass a portion of my past involvement with AVVA and VVA; I tried not to bore you with too many of them.

Asking for your vote,

Sharon Hobbs

AVVA ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2013 – 2023

- 2013 Conducted the first official orientation for the new incoming board of directors
- 2014 Implemented the VISTA program
- 2014 Added a new class of membership: *Associate Permanently Hospitalized Veteran (APHV)*
- 2014 Supervised a redesign of the AVVA website
- 2014-2023 Raised over \$113,000 for Project Friendship
- 2014-2023 Recorded over 130,000 VISTA hours
- 2014-2023 Added three vendors for AVVA logo-products
- 2014-2013 Increased VVA dual membership over 300%
- 2015 Sent AVVA Chapter delegates to the national convention
- 2015 Registered the "Together Always" Trademark
- 2015 Partnered with Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
- 2015 Implemented the Secondary PTSD (PTSD 2) program
- 2016 Reduced Life Membership Dues
- 2017 Introduced and presented the first Cathy Keister *SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE* Award
- 2017 Partnered with Military & Veterans Caregivers Network
- 2018 Implemented the Spousal & Survivor Benefits program
- 2018 Converted AVVA National to a 501(c)(3)
- 2018 Reduced supporting VVA life membership to \$50
- 2018 Exceeded 10,000 members
- 2019 Completed the raising and rededication of the *In Memory Plaque*
- 2021 Partnered with the National Birth Defects Registry
- 2022 Instrumental in developing and introducing the Heartbreak to Hope peer-support program
- 2022 Design the dual membership pin

AVVA OFFICES/COMMITTEES (ABRIDGED) (ABRIDGED)

- 2021-2023 AVVA National President
- 2013-2019 AVVA National President
- 2021-2023 AVVA Advisor to VVA Government Affairs Committee
- 2021-2023 AVVA Advisor to VVA Convention Committee
- 2013-2019 AVVA Advisor to VVA Econ. Opportunities Committee
- 2012-2013 AVVA Chapter 203, Inc. President
- 2011-2012 AVVA Tennessee Association Secretary
- 2010-2013 AVVA National Secretary
- 2010-2013 AVVA Advisor to VVA Homeless Veterans Committee
- 2008-2013 AVVA National Elections Committee Member
- 2008-2010 AVVA Region 3 Director

2010–2023 CONTRIBUTIONS

- Presenter at the 2022 Leadership Conference in Greenville, SC
- Presenter at the MI 2022 State Convention
- Served as a non-voting member of VVA's Workgroup 1
- Developed the Spousal and Survivor Benefits Program
- Presenter at the 2016 Leadership Conference in Tucson, AZ
- Presenter at the 2015 Region 3 Conference in Knoxville, TN
- Presenter at the 2014 Florida State Conference in Orlando, FL.
- Co-Presenter at the 2014 Leadership Conference in Wichita, KS
- Co-Presenter at the 2014 Region 3 Conf in Virginia Beach, VA
- Presenter at the 2013 AVVA TN Association Retreat
- Co-Presenter at the 2012 Leadership Conference in Irving, TX