

## *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 2025-2027 term. If re-elected I will endeavor to lead AVVA with the same diligence, fairness, and integrity as in my last terms with the added dimension of preparing for our future.

The AVVA Board has met both online and face-to-face in order to continue our due-diligence to the needs and expectations from our membership. This past term, we raised over \$21,000 for Project Friendship which was our second-highest total, introduced a new Flag Etiquette booklet, continue to collect VISTA volunteer hours, introduced the dual membership pin, and participated in the National Leadership and Education Conference in Reno, NV,

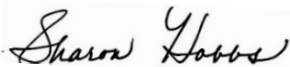


As we move forward, AVVA will continue to improve our communication with our membership through an email program that allows us to speak directly to each member with a valid email on file as news breaks and as updates happen. Our other educational programs are busy raising awareness to the important 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 and can think of no reason why these successful endeavors will not continue in the upcoming term.

We have been hearing and talking about VVA legacy for several years now, but it is also time to talk about AVVA's legacy as well. If re-elected, AVVA's legacy will be a Board-involved focus in this upcoming term. We are already, and, we will continue to work with VVA to create a transition that will be seamless and successful. The AVVA Board is very excited and confident that our future will be secure and prosperous.

I have listed bullet points that encompass a portion of my past involvement for the last ten years as president with AVVA and VVA; although I have held a national position for over seventeen years. I have tried not to bore you with too many mind-numbing facts.

Asking for your vote,



## ***AVVA ACHIEVEMENTS WHILE SERVING AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT***

- 2014-2024 Raised over \$180,000 for Project Friendship
- 2014-2014 Recorded over 175,000 VISTA hours
- 2014 Celebrated AVVA's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- 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
- 2019 Completed the raising and rededication of the *In Memory Plaque*
- 2019 Celebrated AVVA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- 2023 Partnered with National Birth Defects Registry
- 2023 Created the dual membership pin
- 2023 Introduced the "*Heartbreak to Hope*" peer support program
- 2024 Exceeded 11,000 members
- 2024 Introduced the Flag Etiquette Booklet
- 2024 Celebrated AVVA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- 2025 AVVA participated in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the end of the Vietnam War

## ***AVVA NATIONAL OFFICES/COMMITTEES/CONTRIBUTIONS*** ***(abridged)***

- 2021-2025 AVVA National President
- 2023-2025 AVVA Advisor to Veterans Incarcerated
- 2013-2019 AVVA National President
- 2013-2019 AVVA Advisor to VVA Government Affairs Committee
- 2013-2019 AVVA Advisor to VVA Convention Committee
- 2013-2019 AVVA Advisor to VVA Econ. Opportunities Committee
- 2015-2019 In Memory Plaque Taskforce
- 2010-2013 AVVA Advisor to VVA Homeless Veterans Committee
- 2010-2013 AVVA Website Webmaster and Committee Chair
- 2010-2019 Participated in Wreath laying at The Wall on military holidays

- Serving on VVA's Legacy Taskforce in 2025
- 2023 Presided over the 2023 AVVA National Convention
- Presided over the 2015, 2017, & 2019 National Conventions
- Served as a non-voting member of VVA's Workgroup 1
- Developed the Spousal and Survivor Benefits Program
- Presenter at the 2022 Leadership Conference in Greenville, SC
- 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