

SPOUSAL AND SURVIVOR BENEFIT COMMITTEE REPORT

October 20, 2022

Committee Members:

Jennifer Ellis, Region8 Director – Chair S&S Benefit Program

Bobbi Morris, Region 2 Director

Hope Summers, Region 3 Director

Jean Kloos, Treasurer Chapter 805, Oregon

Ora Wall, Chapter 630, Louisiana

Gail Dubois Broussard, Chapter 630, Louisiana

Kathy Andras, National Vice President, Advisor

During the past few months, I have been overseeing the planning and implementation of our Spousal and Survivor Benefit Seminar. The need for these events is increasing as we are losing more and more of our veterans every day. Both spouses and survivors need to be informed about up to date information from both Federal and State levels.

We began planning this event in the beginning of the year, unfortunately our chairperson at the time needed to hand off the project to another member. Jean, we appreciate all of your hard work and dedication that you performed in establishing our seminar and in the gathering of all of the information you researched. Dawn Wait, member of Chapter 805, has done a magnificent job taking up the torch and running with it. There is certainly a learning curve and significant growth potential for anyone who has yet to discover what it takes to navigate the VA Healthcare System in regards to Spousal and Survivor Benefits. The more time we spend in the maze of information the more we understand the importance of these seminars to be held. As our local VA Healthcare Facility is reducing even more services, the relaying of this information to our Veterans, their spouses and families is crucial.

I am hoping that many other chapters throughout our AVVA organization will schedule S&SB seminars in their area as well and that our committee can potentially monitor these results.