

SPOUSAL AND SURVIVOR BENEFIT PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

April 11, 2022

Committee Members:

Jennifer Ellis, Region 8 Director – Chair S&S Benefit Program

Jean Kloos, Treasurer Chapter 805, Oregon

Ora Wall, Chapter 630, Louisiana

Gail Dubois Broussard, Chapter 630, Louisiana

Bobbi Morris, Region 2 Director

Hope Summers, Region 3 Director

The Spousal and Survivor Benefit Program Committee has met via Zoom meetings twice thus far, February 11th and March 4th. Our goal was to update the P & P sections pertaining to the Spousal and Survivor program which we have done. During our meetings we discussed the suggested changes and unanimously agreed to them. The proposed revisions have been submitted to Nina and hopefully this will eventually result in the needed changes throughout the P & P.

In addition, we are working on a Spousal Benefits Brochure of which Ora Wall is creating a draft for our next meeting to view and discuss. As far as I am aware, we have not had this resource before and we look forward to presenting a pamphlet that will assist our Spouses in discovering any benefits that they qualify for.

Our committee is also responsible for the accuracy and upkeep of the Spousal and Survivor VA Benefits Educational Seminar Packet. We have touched on this and have discovered that it has not been updated since 10/18/2018. For example, the Government Affairs committee recently shared an update on Caregiver Act benefits which should also be updated in the packet. We are combing through the information and have some suggestions for our next meeting to discuss as well.

On a local level, our AVVA Chapter 805 is presenting a Spousal and Survivor Benefits Seminar November 5, 2022 here in Roseburg, Oregon. Jean Kloos is the Committee Chair and we have already met with our local VSO and VA Eligibility and Benefits representative to coordinate their sharing of Spousal and Survivor benefits.

I am pleased with the cohesiveness of our S & S Benefits Committee and I look forward to working together with them on these projects.

Jennifer Ellis, Region 8 Director