

End of Term Report National President

October 2021

This has been an incredibly challenging two years. There was close to nothing that we were able to do in a normal, manner. The real challenge was to figure out how we could do business without [as it turns out] any in-person contact of any kind after October of 2019.

Regarding our future, the national board has had many discussions about what AVVA needs to do if we are going to be able to function in the new world of communications and doing business. We have talked about the ways in which we can hold serious virtual events, and hold our board meetings online; the kinds of things that will help us to communicate with our long-time members as well as the new generations of members that we are acquiring. We have discussed some of the concerns connected with preparing to be on our own one day, and our strategic plan lists several areas that need to be seriously managed. I have researched and reported on some tools with which these goals can be accomplished. Some of these concerns are a few years away, God willing, but the idea that we **do not** need to be ready, very soon, for a future is absurd.

Early in 2020 I researched and introduced a “low-code” concept to the board (Caspio) which would allow AVVA to keep all of its own membership data, reports, forms, roster templates; ultimately all of the data (except specific financial data) we need in order to continue if we had to be completely independent. The cost for such a software program, with support, was very reasonable, and we do have members who are capable of setting up and running this program at least for the first years. There are financial data base programs within our reach, and which can replace our current situation. With or without this programing, we would eventually need to hire an administrator, change to a nationally accessible bank, and find a way of storing and distributing, or accessing, any physical files still needed. There are ways to do these things. An administrator could be available to us on a part time basis and possibly be filled by a person who is retired and would not need such things as insurance, leave time, etc. to be provided by us. At least, this is an option to consider. There is talent within our membership now.

During my term as your President I have led some significant accomplishments:

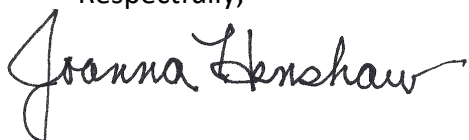
- Created additional sources of donations by updating the Guide Star profile for AVVA to at least the gold Level, which puts us in the top percent of organizations found by people searching for a nonprofit to give money to. This has resulted in new dollars in random donations during 2020, and more is coming in during 2021.
- With the help of your National Incorporation Chair, Bobbie Morris, I was able to deal with all of the IRS requirements and requested information so that we could acquire the

Group Exemption determination for all of our incorporated chapters and states, which gives our donors the right to tax deductibility. Together Bobbie and I spent about 300 hours on this project, not to mention the numerous hours it took the cooperating chapters and states who had to fill out and send several forms and records to us!

- Formation of a Scholarship Program which will help Veterans and their family members, as well as qualifying AVVA members or their families. This program is now funded for approximately 5-7 years. The committee members for this program are to be commended for their many hours of work to make this successful. It was meant to be available by the fall of 2021. Due to some delays in getting approval it should now begin sometime in 2022.
- Initiated the creation of a contingency fund out of funds that were not used due to the covid pandemic, so that money is available for the changes that will be coming, and to satisfy some of the requirements in the Strategic Plan. That fund is fairly substantial.
- Personally attended more than 20 webinars (online seminars) for the purpose of gathering new ways for the organization to communicate, fundraise, hold online events, and other subjects that would help move us into our future.
- Participated in meetings regarding AVVA's needs in a new CRM database system, which VVA is planning for, so that AVVA will be better able to process everything we require and would like to be able to do. Thanks go out to Jack McManus, VVA National Treasurer for thinking about AVVA's needs, and caring about our input.
- Recommended to the new board to continue finding new funding sources so that AVVA can [in the near future] lower its 3-year and life member dues to at most, \$50.00 for all.
- Consulted with the National Membership Committee and others regarding the issues AVVA has with incarcerated members, and participated in discussions designed to improve the situation.
- Researched and created a new online donation system with a new software partner, which modernized and expanded our ability to process online donations.
- Initiated and participated in studies of our membership details in order to determine what may happen when the day comes that we are independent; how many members we may lose, how many members we will retain and how we might be able to turn essential services over to the next generation, reports of which can be obtained through myself or the membership chair.
- Made plans for the contingency that the convention might be cancelled or rescheduled due to the pandemic and related circumstances.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is an established charitable organization who, if we want it to, will survive anything the world throws at us. It is up to all of us, every single member, to decide if we want to continue our mission or not. With or without VVA; with or without our current exact name; no matter what we may need to overcome, we can keep our work moving.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna Henshaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.