

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America

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Region 1 Director

Though 2021 may not be as challenging as 2020 was, since people are still in the process of getting vaccinated and travel from the CDC recommendation is that only essential travel should be made, our Board Of Directors, continues to conduct its meetings via the internet.

The Board continues to update our policy and procedures manual and recently voted on extending the deadline for the candidate registration to June 1, 2021. We also voted to extend our delegate registration to 9/30/2021. The award nomination deadline is set for 6/20/2021. Our National Board of Directors wanted members to have the additional time to provide members the opportunity to run for office and /or to be a delegate to the convention which has been moved from August to November.

I encourage chapter members in New England to run for Regional and /or Deputy Director.

And to attend the convention in November as a delegate. By November it appears the major Population will have been vaccinated and we will be able to meet in North Carolina. So please consider being a delegate representing your chapter and state.

Rhode Island chapter 273 JROTC committee which I sit on, has once again submitted a JROTC cadet's name to National. The submissions from the candidates were all excellent and it was difficult to select just one, but each state must submit just one name. Chapter 273 will be honoring the top three cadet's. It truly is a pleasure to serve on this committee, the students enthusiasm and dedication to the program astonishes me.

Since the state of Rhode Island is opening up slowly but surely I have attended one state council meeting and one chapter meeting. Discussions at the chapter level included the chapter's commitment to appearing in the oldest running 4th of July parade in the nation, that being the Bristol parade. Vietnam Veterans of America chapter 273 will present their float That includes a replica of the Vietnam Wall. I have attended in the past and plan to this July.

I have begun e mailing our members and updating the roster. I encourage every member in New England to email me or call me if they have any questions about completing the forms and or about any of the programs we have offered in the past and plan to begin offering again once States allow public educational and informative programs to begin.

The Agent Orange Next Gen birth defect campaign is selling masks for just \$10.00. The donation goes towards research connecting Agent Orange exposure to the birth defects and illnesses that veterans' children and grandchildren are facing every day. I purchased some and hope you will too.

I know from March 2020 to this March has been difficult on so many levels but we are getting closer to "normal". So please consider how you can make our organization even better in order to honor those who have served our country so nobly.