

Jennifer Ellis
AVVA Region 8 Report

The beautiful State of Oregon is blooming this time of year and our veterans are beginning to come out of hibernation. Many activities are scheduled for our State and local Chapter's Spring calendars including Elections, a Welcome Home Dinner and Auction, Fundraising events ie: Fair Booths, Farmers Markets, Donation and Information tables and much more. Our State Elections are scheduled for April 15th and Ruth Feliciano is running for State Representative. She will be replacing me so that I may give my full attention to the Region and President of my local Chapter 805. Ruth has been 805's VP for 4 years and will do an excellent job leading the state for AVVA.

Recently on March 29th Vietnam Veterans Day our local Chapter 805 conducted a commemorative ceremony at the Roseburg National Cemetery. Though we were limited to #45 attendees, we appeared in force with honor and pride. In addition to the AVVA activities Ruth and I have been requested, by Tom Weiss, to visit his Chapter 271 in Salem, OR to speak to both the AVVA and VVA Chapters and encourage them.

Our neighboring State of Washington is also hard at work with or new POC Steven Jordan, soon to be Washington State Representative. Steve's passion is increasing membership and bringing life back to the existing chapters while encouraging new ones to develop. I appreciate his energy and enthusiasm and look forward to visiting him in person sometime soon.

The great State of Montana is blessed to have Willa Burgess at the helm as the current POC and as of April 6th their elections will be held and we can present Willa as the new AVVA State Representative! Her Chapter 1087 is busy with a Chili Cookoff Fundraiser which proceeds benefit their local Combat Vet Center's therapy programs, Veterans Community Response PTSD program, and the Montana Veterans Home. They have a Car Show coming up on May 21st which I hope to attend.

I am excited about Region 8's growth potential and the progress that we have been making. I am looking forward to developing new relationships throughout the region and reporting on our achievements.