



AVVATM

ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Serving Veterans & Their Families Since 1999

AVVA REGION 9 REPORT – April 7, 2022
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DON'T FORGET ☺

Don't forget to send in your AVVA Election Results Form and Sign-in sheets – full requirements attached to the email.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. 10. *After the election is concluded, a completed Election Results Form (either F-ELE5.06 or F-ELE5.10) and the sign-in sheet (F-ELE05.09) used at the election meeting must be sent to the AVVA state association president or AVVA state representative **within fifteen (15) days of the election.*** The state association president or the state representative must send copies of these documents to the regional director, who will send copies to the National Elections Committee chair and the national database manager. 11. If there is any office for which there is no candidate in an incorporated chapter election the newly elected president shall appoint a person to fill that position, with the approval of the remaining newly elected officers. The only combined office that will be allowed is a secretary-treasurer. All other offices must be held by an individual person. 12. In the event that no chapter election is held, the AVVA state association president or AVVA state representative may appoint a person of contact (POC) for the chapter until the next election cycle. NOTE: A POC has no voting rights at any level of the organization and the chapter will not be represented by a delegate at state meetings or national conventions). a. Incorporated chapters must hold elections at the appointed time or risk the loss of their AVVA Charter.

STATE ELECTIONS

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. **POLICIES and PROCEDURES V. ELECTIONS: State Level Elections.** *After the election is concluded, a completed Election Results Form (F-ELE5.06 or FELE5.10) and the Sign-In Sheet (F-ELE05.09) used at the election meeting must be sent to the AVVA regional director **within twenty-one (21) days of the election.***

ACTION

Veterans History Project: The VHP is a Program of the Library of Congress, and it has helped ensure that *all* Veterans attain the honor, respect and benefits they deserve. I

am hoping the merit of the VHP will be experienced by a grateful Nation. As an *individual* AVVA Member, I would like to share this with anyone who is interested.

What is The Veterans History Project?

The Veterans History Project (VHP) is a program of the Library of Congress that collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American War Veterans so that future generations may hear directly from Veterans and better understand the realities of war. The Veterans are videoed telling their story in their own words, the way they experienced it. The VHP committee sends the video of the Veterans story to the Library of Congress to be archived and made accessible through the internet. For detailed information, visit <https://www.loc.gov/vets/> or type in veteranshistoryproject.com and the website is available.

As manager of an Independent Retirement Community, from 2003 to 2009, my team and I successfully implemented the VHP in the Northern California area to junior, senior high school students, college students and Veterans. The VHP increased our finances because the public saw the value in a project that encompassed Veterans, students, and the Library of Congress. Congressmembers, Assemblymembers, local and national media sources *freely* assisted us in educating the public. Moreover, The Veterans tell their ***Story*** the way they experienced it without any editing! Additionally, the students learn that ***freedom is not free.***

A Special *Thank you* to Joanna Henshaw, Michelle Mackey, and Committee Members for their direction regarding the VHP.

I would like to emphasize that this project is for general interest, not an AVVA Project. I am sharing this information for ‘Veteran and family’ communication.

ADVENTURE IN THE REGION

AVVA Utah Chapter 1079 is not lost! VVA/AVVA Dual Member Dennis Howland and AVVA Member Tim Von Bon are currently working on Chapter Incorporation Paperwork. Instead of losing a wonderful AVVA Chapter and Members, AVVA is gaining members. A special *Thank you* to Suzie Meeks and Terri Rangel for their tenacity in this matter!

March 5th, Butch and I, along with AZ State Vietnam Veteran Gene Crego and his wife (AVVA Deputy Director) Sue Crego were invited to the Library of Congress, Veteran ***Heritage*** Project (like the Veterans ***History*** Project), Gala, March 5th in AZ. The Gala

was a **TREMENDOUS success**, they raised approximately \$130,000 during the event. Their revenue for 2022 is now over \$1,000,000.



January brought the Silver Springs, Maryland AVVA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting, which took place at the Double Tree Hotel, January 13, 2022. The VVA and AVVA National Headquarters is located close to the Double Tree Hotel! The January BOD meeting included the following highlights:

PAPER SAFE is a wonderful document for any family. We all know that we are not going to live forever, and the hardest thing for our families and friends is trying to deal with all the details when we are gone, or if we become unable to make important decisions for ourselves. Often, people do not have any information available for their spouse, children, or friends to help them do what you would want them to do.

- **Paper Safe** was designed with Veterans in mind but is a great tool for anyone. It is intended for you to easily contain all the information that your family will need in a stressful time. Even if you already have a Will or Trust, the Paper Safe can allow you to put all that information, along with all the other details that someone would need, in one simple to find place. From the link below, you can read it over and get ideas, or you can print it right from your computer for your immediate use.
- If you want to order printed copies of this document [which come in a sturdy folder] for yourself or for your State or Chapters to give out to your local Veterans, please fill out this form: Paper Safe Order Form. We do not charge for them, but because the postage is significant, we do ask for a voluntary donation toward the cost of shipping. For other questions, contact Nancy Switzer at: switzer3@frontiernet.net.

AVVA HAS PARTNERED WITH THE NATIONAL BIRTH DEFECTS REGISTRY:

- Ever since WWI, our military personnel have been left to deal with numerous kinds of toxins, which have many effects on their health and lives. Many Veterans have died before their time because of these toxins. The additional issue of how these toxins affect second and third generations is alarming. We need to be informed and try to help those who have defended us.
- Find out about the National Birth Defects Registry and Toxin research here: BDR Veteran Research
- Participate in the registry by going here: <https://birthdefects.org/veterans-research/>
- Click <https://birthdefects.org/about-us/> to find out who they are and how they help children all over the country.

AVVA Commendation Medal:

- President Hobbs announced that **Don Jones (OH) is awarded the AVVA Commendation Medal**. Don's hard work and exceptional dedication to veterans, and their families, was first noted in his home state of Ohio. While continuing to advocate on behalf of Ohio's veteran community, Don stepped up his advocacy to the national level. Don served on the AVVA National Board, was a key member of the AVVA Finance Committee, and chaired AVVA's Veterans in the Justice System.

Nina Schloffel gave us a tour of the National VVA and AVVA Offices – Loved it 😊 Thank you Nina!!

Please let me know how I can best serve AVVA by sending me your ideas!

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