

January 12, 2022

Sharon Hobbs
President
Associates of Vietnam Veterans
Of America, Inc.
8719 Colesville Rd, Suite 100
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Sharon:

The following is my initial report for Region 8 as Director.

Our Region has been without leadership for some time and I am working to establish new relationships and to re-establish connections throughout Alaska, Washington, Oregon (within the VVA), Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The Region 8 Director for the VVA is Francisco Ivarra, who is currently working with me to usher in new AVVA chapters and bring life back to those who have lost interest. The following is an update per State:

Alaska: The VVA and AVVA Chapters in this state are without form. Francisco and I have discussed traveling there and presenting a Town Hall or some type of event that we can introduce to the current members to give them updated information and provide resources for them. This state is so rural that it does pose a challenge but we are working on a strategy.

Washington: There is now a new POC in this state, Life member: Steven Jordon, who is interested in running for State Representative in this year's election. I will turn in the election form as soon as they accomplish an actual election. I have offered to visit their Chapter so that I can encourage them and lend support.

Oregon: Since the National election, I have been busy with our State and local Chapter 805 events: We enjoyed a Christmas Banquet with over 120 guests in attendance which included Francisco Ivarra, Jaycee Newman and John Birch who traveled a great distance to participate. Ruth Feliciano, Chapter 805 Vice President and I were awarded the VVA medal of honor for our work here in Oregon. This honor was unexpected and humbling. Our Chapters VVA/AVVA 805 also adopted 3 Veteran families for the Christmas season. We provided gifts for the entire family (9 children total), hand made blankets, Christmas dinner certificates (\$100), and misc. gifts. Following we had our State VVA meeting where I was included and asked to present information regarding Moods In Music. This was the first opportunity I have had to be included in our VVA State meeting, thanks to Jaycee Newman and Bill Duncan. Two other Chapters in the state have requested that we attend their meetings in person so that we can bring life back

into their AVVA Chapters. In addition, we had our VVA Monthly mtg (January 3rd) and VVA Board Meeting (which I attend) where we provide dinner for the entire Chapter. Our AVVA Chapter 805 Yearly Planning Meeting was January 12th and attached is our 2022 yearly agenda.

Idaho: In this state we have one AVVA member who was appointed a VVA honorary member, Nancy Shamel, Idaho Falls. There are 19 members in the state. I am planning a trip which is approximately 495 miles from my location which is an 8.22 hour trip one way.

Montana: I have had the privilege to be invited to Montana and visit Chapter 1087 where Willa Burgess is now the POC. They are planning a Chili cookoff, car show and "Rat and Rod" swap meet in the Spring of 2022 and asked if I would attend. Of course I said yes! I will keep you updated as to the other events they have planned and their accomplishments.

Wyoming: I have not been able to connect with any AVVA or VVA members or chapters yet but they are definitely on my agenda.

I am attempting to update all election candidates of their responsibilities within each state so that we can get the ball rolling with some fresh energy.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Ellis
Region 8 Director
Oregon State Representative
Chapter 805, President

cc: John Birch, Deputy Director, Region 8

2022 AVVA CALENDAR

JANUARY	1/3	VVA MEETING/DINNER/BOD MTG 6:00
	1/11	AVVA YEARLY PLANNING MTG 10:00 AM
	1/18	AVVA MONTHLY MTG 10:00 AM
FEBRUARY	2/7	VVA MONTHLY MTG 6:00 PM
	2/22	AVVA MONTHLY MTG 10:00 AM
	2/25	VVA BOD MTG
MARCH	3/7	VVA MONTHLY MTG 6:00 PM
	3/15	AVVA MONTHLY MTG 10:00 AM
	3/29	VIETNAM VETERANS DAY
APRIL	4/4	VVA MONTHLY MTG 6:00 PM
	4/19	AVVA MONTHLY MTG 10:00 AM
	4/29	VVA BOD MTG
	4/30	VVA/AVVA STATE MTG/ELECTIONS
MAY	5/2	VVA MONTHLY MTG 6:00
	5/17	AVVA MONTHLY MTG/ELECTIONS 10:00
	5/27	VVA BOD MTG
	5/30	MEMORIAL DAY
JUNE	6/6	VVA MONTHLY MTG 6:00
	6/21	AVVA MONTHLY MTG 10:00 AM
	6/24	VVA BOD

JULY	7/1-4	7 FEATHERS 4TH OF JULY EVENT
	7/11	VVA MONTHLY MTG 6:00
	7/19	AVVA MONTHLY MTG 10:00
AUGUST	8/1	VVA MONTHLY MTG 6:00
	8/8-14	LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SO. CAROLINA
	8/16	AVVA MONTHLY MTG 10:00
	8/26	VVA BOD MTG
SEPTEMBER	9/5	LABOR DAY PICNIC
	9/20	AVVA MONTHLY MTG 10:00
		CHINOOK WINDS TBA
OCTOBER	10/3	VVA MONTHLY MTG 6:00
	10/18	AVVA MONTHLY MTG 10:00
	10/28	VVA BOD MTG
NOVEMBER	11/7	VVA MONTHLY MTG 6:00
	11/11	VETERANS DAY PARADE
	11/15	AVVA MONTHLY MTG 10:00
DECEMBER	12/5	CHRISTMAS DINNER
		NO AVVA MONTHLY MTG
	12/17-19	CHRISTMAS FAMILIES DISTRIBUTION

AVVA CALENDAR ADDITIONS

- 1. AUCTION/DINNER: APRIL 2,9,16, MAY 7TH
\$450**
- 2. 7 FEATHERS WEEKLY FARMERS MARKET**
- 3. MOODS IN MUSIC**
- 4. TOWN HALL – SPOUSAL & SURVIVOR BENEFITS**
- 5. TOWN HALL – AGENT ORANGE**
- 6. DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR**
- 7. BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL**