



**AVVA**

**ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**

*Serving Veterans & Their Families Since 1999*

***AVVA REGION 9 REPORT – JANUARY 10, 2022***

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## **GOALS**

**As new AVVA Director for Region 9, I am hoping to learn and be successful in this position. I am seeking your wisdom regarding ideas for AVVA.**

**I thank you for supporting AVVA and hope you will send me your ideas! I need all the help I can get 😊**

**I passionately believe that VVA is pivotal in protecting another generation that will accept the legacy to honor and protect our great Nation. I call this vital ingredient “hutzpah” that “NEVER AGAIN” attitude inherent in their mission statement which states: “Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another.” Vietnam Veterans were forged out of fire and their mission is pivotal for future generations of freedom.**

**(PATRIOT GUARD PROTECTING RECENT VETERANS COMING HOME!)**

***The legacy of the VVA is not going away! VVA will continue with their unique Legacy.***

**“LIGHTS OUT” is a plan to bequeath VVA’s Mission and Finances to another organization that will implement protecting Veterans and our great country.**

***AVVA consist of people that are a part of this legacy and who can implement VVA’s unique vision.***

- ☐ **AVVA Consists of *all* Friends of VVA that share the mission – Wives, Family and Friends**
- ☐ **Veterans young and old**

- ❑ Non-Veterans young and old that firmly uphold the VVA vision.
- ❑ AVVA is growing exponentially now that Dual Members can Vote at the Chapter Level. National is working on the rest of the plan.
- ❑ AVVA can take in members that are not Vietnam Veterans, but who will uphold the VVA, AVVA vision.

Hence, the VVA MISSION for all Veterans coming home will continue long after VVA has left us.'

I still passionately believe AVVA is the only organization that will preserve the integrity of the VVA mission. I would like to offer thoughts on encouraging the implementation of this process. I call it *VVA LIGHTS THE WAY TO AVVA!* I have discussed these ideas with my husband, Vietnam Veteran, (CA State Council, North State Director) Butch and he agrees that the VVA legacy should move towards AVVA.

**IDEA #1:** I will use CA as an example; however, this could be for all States. There are 36 VVA Chapters in the State of CA. There are over 281 Universities and Colleges in CA. Usually, each College has a Veterans Organization on Campus. I am familiar with California State University, Chico's Veterans Organization. This organization consists of Veterans of *all ages* not just young Veterans. Hence, additional members for AVVA.

VVA Chapter 582 has partnered with the CSUC Veterans through fundraising events. This partnering enhanced the finances for each organization and enriched the relationship between the two groups. If we can encourage *all* VVA Chapters-States that are located close to a Campus, to nurture this type of relationship towards the VVA mission (this would include families and friends) AVVA could be the recipient of new members. This could be an avenue for new AVVA members since they cannot join VVA. Moreover, the partnerships that the VVA develops through the fundraising activity would financially enrich both groups.

**IDEA #2:** *LIGHT UP THE FUTURE WITH EXISTING VETERAN'S GROUPS.* I was formerly the Executive Director for Atria Covell in Davis, CA, after the Paradise Campfire. Throughout the years, I have offered to do fundraisers for Veteran's Organizations (primarily for VVA) and use Atria's funds to pay for the entire fundraiser; thus, allowing all proceeds to go to the Veteran's Organization. The last fundraiser I organized this past November was for the American Legion, since the VVA Chapter was too far away and declined the offer. I was amazed to find that all the American Legion Veterans were *Vietnam Veterans* and had the same views as VVA members!! After discussing this with Butch, he agreed that all the major Veteran Organizations are primarily Vietnam Veterans. This idea consists

of existing Veterans Organizations, including families and friends, joining with VVA and AVVA.

**IDEA #3:** AVVA voted for Dual Members (VVA/AVVA) to participate in AVVA's voting process. I plan to visit AVVA State Council meetings in Region 9 to encourage Dual Memberships.

**IDEA #4:** Encourage and assist AVVA Chapters in the Incorporation process. AVVA needs to recruit and incorporate members to gain strength and to inherit the assets from VVA. AVVA chapters need to incorporate, if we are not incorporated as a 501(c)3, VVA cannot leave AVVA any assets. As stated above, AVVA has been part of the VVA legacy since the beginning and is the best and only candidate to inherit VVA's entire mission.

**IDEA #5:** Outreach to Atria Senior Living Communities within Region 9 to assist in our fundraising endeavors. The idea is that the fundraiser proceeds would go to AVVA.

**IDEA #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5 combination:** Potentially, the future of VVA's mission transferring to AVVA could be a combination of the ideas discussed above and additional ideas that are generated by others.

Additionally, I think the awareness of AVVA's ability to continue the VVA's legacy should be shared with our State Assembly Members and Congress Members.

Please send me your ideas! More minds coming together with ideas will make us stronger.

## **ADVENTURE**

November brought the Greensboro, North Carolina Convention. This was an exciting meeting that brought changes to AVVA and VVA. I would like to say "thank you" to Joanne Henshaw for conducting the 2021 AVVA Convention Meeting. We welcomed a new AVVA President, Sharon Hobbs. *Importantly*, AVVA Delegates voted on allowing VVA members that are part of AVVA to vote at the Chapter levels.

Region 9 represents the following: California, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Hawaii, Territory of Guam, and the Philippines. One of my first tasks was to nominate qualified AVVA members to the Disciplinary Panel. For the Disciplinary Panel, we welcomed Alma Chaika (CA) and Joanna Henshaw (NV). As newly appointed *Chair of Public Relations*, we welcomed Alma Chaika (CA) Michelle Mackey (CA), and Joanna Henshaw (NV) as members. Additionally, we welcomed *Special Advisors*, Steve Mackey (CA), Mike Kennedy (CA), and Gene Crego (AZ) to the Public Relation Committee.

**I have shared my Goals with AVVA State Presidents and Delegates. I am hopeful to collect additional contact information for AVVA Representatives. A special “thank you” to Susan Meeks for assisting me with specified AVVA contact information!**

**I completed the Budget for Region 9, and it has been approved by AVVA National after a few major edits😊.**

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

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