

Region 6 Report

The summer has come to an end, after a busy run of events. I have been working with the VVA members in several areas. I have been the cook for a brat stand multiple times between the VVA and the American Legion I have recently joined. We have worked on cemetery flag placements, as well as prepared the grounds of our new veteran's memorial park in Altoona, WI. The Chippewa Valley Veterans Park is now a reality and is open for guests to visit. There will be a few more years of new items being created along a trail on a riverfront. Another area I have kept busy is the many parades we have been in. I have been the organizer for our towns 4th of July parade for a handful of years now. I took this over, when the business association decided to drop the events. A town without any celebration on the 4th of July in support of our freedoms and those who provided them for us could not be allowed to end. I always carry the National AVVA Flag in these parades to create awareness that we are here. Fundraising for our annual raffle is a job in itself that lasts from late spring through the summer. I continue to spend much of the summer at one fair or another. Stores are another location that we spend time selling and chatting with citizens and veterans alike. One informative meeting I was involved with was the state gaming commissioner. Learning more about the do's and don'ts of holding raffles. There are many rules that must be followed in order for the raffle to be legal. Being a chapter representative and selling these raffle tickets has its own responsibilities, to keep from any legal liabilities with the state. This is just another area that must be taken seriously when getting involved.

I also became involved with the American Legion, and have worked on getting a charter formed for the Sons of the American Legion. There have been plenty of phone calls and paperwork to get everything in order and it appears that I will be the commander of the post in just a couple weeks. The good news is that I was successful in receiving the chapter at the end of July.

Throughout the summer I have fought with illnesses that have done their best to slow me down, but I thrive on being there for our veterans. It is with full commitment that I use, to drive myself to be active with as much as I possibly can. I recently moved, and got engaged to be married in May of 2022. This is another new chapter in this old dog's life.

I work many hours a year in assistance to our veterans on a personal level, going to their homes and helping them with their needs. This is extremely gratifying to give them my time and energy to get things done. I thank the lord on a regular basis for giving me the ability to do this each day.

As we prepare for the next chapter in the AVVA, delegates and officers will gather in North Carolina the beginning of November. With the convention and elections taking place, the National Board of Directors will reshape and push forward to bring knowledge and programs to our veterans and their families.

God Bless our veterans and all who care for them.

Rick A. Talford
Region 6 Director