



**AVVA**

**ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**

*Serving Veterans & Their Families Since 1999*

## **AVVA REGION 9 REPORT – July 23, 2022**

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### **ELECTIONS**

**Elections took place during this quarter.**

There was some confusion regarding elections in a few states. I found myself referring to the AVVA NATIONAL POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL frequently throughout this timeframe. Because many Chapter Presidents did not hold elections in these states, I am hopeful you will join me in reviewing some of the key areas that seemed to cause the most election confusion.

Go to AVVA.ORG, scroll across to LEGAL DOCUMENTS, scroll down to AVVA NATIONAL POLICIES, this takes you to the AVVA NATIONAL POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL, then scroll down and click on SECTION 5 – ELECTIONS.

This policy will determine the Dates of AVVA state, chapter, and at-large elections. The location and times of state and chapter elections shall be determined by the state or chapter involved.

### **CHAPTER ELECTIONS**

**IMPORTANT:** All duties and minimum qualifications for all positions in AVVA can be found listed in order of the level of responsibility and authority in Section 1: “Position Responsibilities” of the AVVA Policy and Procedure Manual. ([www.avva.org/policy.html](http://www.avva.org/policy.html))

#### **I. ELECTIONS: General Elections Rules – For All Levels**

A. Elections at all levels shall be held as the last order of business at the convention or meeting during which an election is planned. Newly elected officials will take over their responsibilities at the end of such convention or meeting, even if an oath has not yet been administered.

B. Ballots must be used in all elections at all levels, except in at-large elections where only one candidate comes forward. (See Sec. 5 VIII. C.5. and bylaws article 7, 7.03)

C. There will be no absentee votes at any level (Bylaws Article III), nor will members of one chapter be allowed to vote on behalf of another chapter for any reason as a proxy vote.

## **VI. ELECTIONS: Chapter Level Elections**

A. There will be an election of the AVVA incorporated chapter officers and the AVVA unincorporated chapter representatives during **April of each even-numbered year**. (EXCEPTION: A newly formed chapter may hold its first election on a date closely following its formation date.)

1. Incorporated chapters will elect a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. a. if there is a candidate for either secretary or treasurer, but not both, the president can appoint a combined secretary-treasurer after the election results are announced, if that person agrees to hold both positions, and b. if the person mentioned above disagrees, the president can appoint another member to fill the vacant position. c. There must be at least three individuals holding the four officer positions.
2. Unincorporated chapters will elect one (1) chapter representative. a. Unincorporated chapters are encouraged to hold elections but are not required to; however, if no election is held, the chapter will have no representation at state or national level elections or other state or national business. b. Chapters with as few as one (1) official regular member can hold an election for chapter representative. You follow the below election process with one (1) member running for office and one (1) member voting.

§ 5 10 Revised 05-25-2022

B. The term of the AVVA chapter officers and the AVVA chapter representative shall be **two (2) years** until the next official election date.

### **C. ELECTION PROCESS – CHAPTERS**

3. Any person who wishes to run for an incorporated chapter officer or an unincorporated chapter-representative position will file a “**Letter of Intent to Run**” with the current chapter elections chair or person assigned to oversee the election at least thirty (30) days before the date of the election. (A sample letter is provided at the end of this policy sec.
5. All those seeking office in a chapter election must attend the election meeting. A candidate may be excused from attending the election meeting only with a valid excuse and accepted by the chapter election chair or person overseeing the election or the current chapter president or chapter representative.
7. All ballots used will be the ballots currently approved by the state association president or the state representative in the state having authority over a said chapter, or in the absence of a state-level official, by the regional director. (Generic ballots are available on the AVVA Website: [www.avva.org/forms.html](http://www.avva.org/forms.html))
  - a. Regardless of whether there is one candidate or multiple candidates for any given office, or if only one person is voting, **ballots and Sign-in Sheets MUST be used in all chapter elections.**
8. All ballots will be counted privately by the chapter election chair or person overseeing the election or a teller or tellers. The person counting votes will not be

a person who has voted in the election. (VVA members may be used for tellers or persons overseeing the election if needed.)

10. After the election is concluded, a completed Election Results Form (F-Ele5.06 or F-Ele5.10) and the Sign-in sheet Form (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.

No acclamation voting is permitted unless previous permission has been approved by the Election Chair.

VVA Dual Members are allowed to vote at the AVVA Chapter Level.

**Thank you for reviewing KEY ELECTIONS points with me!**

### **ADVENTURE IN THE REGION**

**AVVA Utah Chapter 1079 and AVVA California Chapter 391 are working on Incorporation!!**

**AVVA CA STATE COUNCIL APRIL 15<sup>th</sup>** – I attended AVVA CA State Council and assisted with the State Election.

**AVVA CA STATE COUNCIL JUNE 16<sup>th</sup>** – I attended the AVVA CA State council meeting. My husband, Butch and I donated a Sierra Nevada Basket for AVVA donations. We made approximately \$500 for AVVA CA that day.

### **PROJECT FRIENDSHIP – Fellow Countrymen**

*Fellow Countrymen* is a community-based 501c3 non-profit committed to ending Veteran homelessness within the Upstate of South Carolina.

**AVVA UTAH 1079** – AVVA Utah State President Judy Kent asked the following question,

“This project sounds very worthwhile; however, they are only working on upstate South Carolina according to the flyer, or am I misreading it?

I don't understand how a National Organization is requesting donations with the Project Fellowship. How do these programs get submitted to be covered by Project Fellowship or others available?”

## THE ANSWER TO A GREAT QUESTION

**Under National Programs, Policy, and Procedures, you will find Project Friendship.**

§ 8 3 Revised: 04-21-2022 F. PROJECT FRIENDSHIP 1. Each year, when AVVA meets, either for its National Convention or Leadership Conference, members come together to assist another non-profit organization. 2. It is common for Project Friendship to benefit a charity in the local area of the meeting, or as geographically close as can be located, that works either with Veterans, homeless Veterans, wounded Veterans, or those who have lost a loved one in service to America. 3. AVVA feels it is essential that, as a non-profit organization, we reach out to help other organizations whose mission touches on the Mission and Purpose of AVVA. 4. Project Friendship is announced annually and is the choice of the National President with the approval of the National Board.

AVVA Leadership Conference members meet in Greenville, South Carolina in August 2022. Hence, by choice of the National President and the approval of the National Board, *Fellow Countrymen* is a community-based 501c3 non-profit committed to ending Veteran homelessness within the Upstate of South Carolina.

### **VVA RICHARD HAUSER (CA CHAPTER 756) asked me to interview Huey Meador.**

July 12<sup>th</sup>, in LA I had the honor of interviewing 92-year-old Huey Meador, USMC Korean Veteran who is known as one of the *Frozen Chosin*. What many people might have considered being the darkest two weeks in Marine Corps history may have, in fact, become the Marine Corps' defining moment. With their backs to the wall, the men of the 1st Marine Division pulled together to accomplish the impossible. Their teamwork cemented a band of brothers who came to call themselves: "The Frozen Chosin".

Huey served under General MacArthur and was part of the unique group that were nicknamed the *Frozen Chosin*. "Today, the events of that battle serve as a major history lesson for young Marines." "Fighting in the winter of 1950 in bitter cold and brutal terrain, men endured severe frostbite, sleepless nights, and total mental and physical exhaustion. Below-zero temperatures, snow-covered mountains, icy roads, and wind-swept cliffs made every skirmish, firefight, and attack a nightmare beyond the men's wildest dreams. If You Stopped Moving, You Froze, and that was just the beginning of this harrowing battle.

**C. Douglas Sterner**

7 OCT 2018 | **Ned Forney** U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Korea

Donald Baker, Posted On January 28, 2021

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

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