

PROGRESS REPORT.....AUGUST - OCTOBER, 2024

Sadly, due to my husband's continuous hospitalizations, we were unable to attend the national leadership conference. However, members who attended explained the various sessions they attended and their significance.

I had the honor and privilege to present to Chapter 1059, Clay County, FL, their charter and flag. This was especially memorable for me since I am the chapter's founder. The presentation was conducted during a VVA meeting with approximately 50 VVA and AVVA members in attendance.

The incorporated officers are:

Kim Biddle, President

Mary Anne Newman, Vice President

Diana Gilpin, Secretary

Sandra Colson, Treasurer

During conversations with hospital personnel, I learned that a majority of hospitalists are not familiar with the line item, "Contributing Factors," that appears on the death certificate. I was asked to provide a write up that defines the presumptions of Agent Orange to the administration for review and subsequent education of their staff.

I attend VVA Florida state council zoom meetings as I serve as Logistics chair for the council.

Participated in AVVA Florida zoom meetings and remain in contact with the President as I serve as Vice President for Florida.

Emails received from national are disseminated to all state presidents/ reps, incorporated presidents and chapter reps in Alabama and Mississippi.

After a lengthy discussion with AVVA member from Chapter 1067, Mississippi, she was appointed as POC. I shared with her the importance of familiarizing herself with national AVVA P&P and

bylaws. I also explained that P&P required that she be an AVVA member for three months prior to her appointment (end of August).

Attended the NE Florida Vets4Vets event where a minimum of 50 various veterans' organizations meet to network and share their resources.

Attended the Cecil Field MIA/POW ceremony. The local Congressman stated that he is working on making this location the declared the "national POW/MIA" site.

Chapter 1084, St. Augustine, held their tenth anniversary celebration in September, I had the privilege to attend (I also attended their fifth anniversary celebration.)

I would be remiss if I did not mention how proud I am of AVVA Florida Association for being #1 in membership for the seven months during 2024. (The other two months they were second.) Florida has gained four POCs since April who are all interested in having a special election to become chapter reps.

There is one chapter in Florida (incorporated chapter) who has completed the preliminary paperwork to become incorporated. There are two more who are working on obtaining the required signatures.

Georgia AVVA is attempting to obtain the required signatures for incorporation. Their meeting for this weekend (September 29) was postponed due to Hurricane Helene. It has been rescheduled for October 11. I plan to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Anne Newman
Region 4 Director**