

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

JULY 2020

This quarter has been a time of real activity. In April, I became interested in how many of our incarcerated members have had a DD-214 verified. The Board had approved a new application specifically for incarcerated applicants which states that a DD-214 is required for membership. I asked the Membership Department for a report that showed whether proof was shown with their applications.

The report listed 977 AIVI members, with 553 not verified. Since then I have been working with the rosters trying to determine how the membership committee can backtrack and confirm that these inmates are veterans. Because this effort involves contact with chapter sponsors, AIVI members and the facilities, it has been a slow and involved process, but it is close to implementation.

In January, I became interested in an organization that produces webinars for non-profits. "Charity-How-To" has a wealth of information and many staff who are available to discuss solutions to problems seen by non-profits. Though most of the topics cover fundraising, I have found several on membership recruiting and contact through media sources. If AVVA is to remain a vital organization, we must find a way to communicate with members at the chapter levels. Fewer than ½ of our members have provided email addresses. Mail contact is tedious and expensive and contact by phone is tedious, yet these are our major ways to reach individuals.

It is important that each person in leadership and elected positions take every opportunity to open the lines of communication with those members around them, whether at chapter, state, or national levels. Without communication none of us will be effective in our positions.

Respectfully,

Cecilia Essenmacher

AVVA Membership Committee Chair