



## Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc

### AVVA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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JANUARY 15, 2021

We are finally into a new year. 2020 was a difficult year in many ways, and while there is nothing magical about January 1<sup>st</sup>, it brings hope.

Since the October report, I have:

- Presided over one online board meeting, and one online committee meeting.
- Updated the AVVA website for the 2021 convention year, to include currently known convention, election, and award information, in addition to normal updates.
- Worked with the elections chair to update election forms.
- Worked with scholarship committee members to create a new scholarship program plan. This included the creation of application forms and other related documents.
- Reviewed and approved several invoices for services (such as member renewal notices, new member cards, national awards, etc.)
- Worked with the Membership Committee Chair to update the Membership Application Brochure.
  - Worked with Artforms Printer get the brochure proof ready for print.
- Worked with the Survivor Benefits Committee to review and update the Survivor Benefits Brochure (Formerly called the DIC brochure).
  - Worked with Artforms printer and our graphic designer to ready the brochure for print.)
- Attended two online “webinars” designed for nonprofit organizations as a learning tool.
- Written and mailed thank you cards for donations made through independent charity organizations.
- Reviewed all Budget to Actual monthly reports for accuracy.
- Answered countless emails letters, and phone calls from members and business contacts, as well as responding to several letters sent in the mail.
- Written a VVA board report, AVVA board report, committee reports, Veteran Magazine article, and policy requests as needed.
- Begun creating documents for the convention books, and informational materials requested by VVA chapter and state presidents.
- Designed a convention logo for Greensboro.
- Will be adding candidate information and other convention details to the website as they are received.

We have accomplished quite a lot in 2020, even with all of the challenges. We have not had the ability to hold meetings or events; even our elections were a challenge. Trying to take care of business in the pandemic, needing to find new ways to do so, has been difficult. The national board has been able to perfect ways to use online meetings to conduct business. We have managed to update policies, work on committee business, consider requests for aid, and developed a new scholarship program, which is still in the works. After I updated our status to the “Silver” level with GuideStar, we brought in a total of \$12,107.80 in additional, unexpected donations, and this continues. We have updated both the Membership Brochure and the Survivor Benefits Brochure, which will be printed shortly. We started working on convention planning and will be ready for it when it is held. In the calendar year 2020 we had 513 new members, and hundreds of renewals. We had several discussions concerning the Strategic Plan, however not all assignments have been completed. I want to thank the board members and committee chairs who took their responsibilities seriously and worked with cooperation and a willingness to put AVVA first. It has been a very challenging year, to say the least!

Respectfully,

*Joanna Henshaw*  
AVVA National President