



Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
8719 Colesville Road; Suite 100 • Silver Spring, MD 20910-3919
Telephone (301) 585-4000 • Fax Main (301) 585-0519.



Region 9 Director's Report

To start off my report, I would like to Thank the membership of Region 9 for their confidence and support in electing me to be the Director of Region 9 at the AVVA 2019 National Convention, Spokane, WA! I hope to bring that confidence with me and represent Region 9 at the board meetings in Silver Spring, MD.

My first official duty as an AVVA Director, our National President, Joanna Henshaw asked me to cross regional borders and represent the National Board to present the Chapter Charter to newly incorporated AVVA Chapter 1087 in Somers, MT in Region 8. The ride through Idaho to Kalispell with my wife, was both beautiful and captivating! The membership of both the VVA and AVVA chapters were friendly and greeted us with open arms, full plates, and winning door prize tickets! It was both an honor and privilege to be on the presentation end of starting off a new chapter. I believe Willa Burgess, President of Chapter 1087, will go far with AVVA. Maybe even Region 8 Director someday!

The October 2019 National Board Meeting was a busy three (3) days and our second official meeting since the New Board Meeting at the end of AVVA 2019 National Convention in Spokane, WA in July 2019. The board considered thirteen (13) motions, adopted twelve (12) motions, and one (1) motion was sent back for revision. For all AVVA members, all minutes from Board Meetings and On-Line Board Meetings can be accessed on the AVVA National Website at <http://www.avva.org/minutes.html>.

Starting a line of communication with Incorporated State Associations and Chapters, and Unincorporated State Representatives and Chapters has been a chore. I started out using the 2018 National Elections database that I received from the Elections Committee. I can't stress the importance of having accurate e-mail contact information, as this is the first line of communication I will use to share important AVVA news and information with Incorporated/Unincorporated States and Chapters. Also, elect your representation, whether it be a Chapter President or a Representative. They are your front line and go-to for this news and information. I will start sending snail mail soon, so I hope home addresses are correct.

December and January were a blur to me. After my elk hunt on November 30, my health to a decline and I ended up being a guest of my local hospital overnight after a trip to the ER with shortness of breath and pain in my right lung. Turned out I had a pulmonary embolism in both lungs. Ultrasounds on both legs showed I had



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a chronic blood clot behind my left knee, thanks to my service-connected disability. I've been placed on Eliquis for the rest of my life and the VA Medical System is working with me and providing it.

I had a GREAT conversation with Kelly Fredrickson, Region 9 Deputy Director. She has been busy recovering from the fires that ravaged her area of California and wanted to assure me that she is ready, willing, and able to serve AVVA National and Region 9 to the best of her ability. Thank you for calling, Kelly! I'm looking forward to working with you and Region 9!

I am saddened, but relieved the April 2020 National Board Meeting was cancelled. Joanna asked for individual thoughts about travelling and meeting in Silver Spring due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. I am grateful that she is looking out for the health and welfare of the National Board and cancelled the Face-to-Face meeting. We will be conducting business in online meetings to be scheduled. Luckily, I am teleworking from my home and will be ready to participate in all meetings we will have online.

Together Always!

*Tim Von Bon
Director, AVVA Region 9
tim.vonbon@outlook.com
Call or Text: (801) 644-8516*