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The world pandemic did not exclude New England but we were able to conduct our elections and carry on. The election documents were mailed in a timely manner. Currently each state is reopening differently . Unfortunately, my planned Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting for April, had to be canceled due to the state's executive order for no gatherings at all until mid June, which continues to remain limited.

On a positive note we were still able to inform our veterans and their families about the topics we would have covered if we could have held the Town Hall Meeting. I contacted reporter, Mary Talbot, of the Providence Journal. The article that we collaborated on with certified service officer John Weiss, was picked up by Google search engine . Currently, I am still working with several families guiding them through the process of obtaining services and benefits and connecting them to certified service officers. I had received inquiries from veterans across the United States.

Chapter 273 works closely with high schools throughout the state with their youth ROTC programs. Each year the chapter sends a student's name for consideration for the National selection. I have the privilege each year, to serve on the committee in reading the letters written by the cadets and judge which letter will be sent to National . Last year, Chapter 273 contestant came in second on the national level. This year, all were so well written and their enthusiasm so wonderful to read I and the secretary of the chapter this year, started a scholarship fund to help each one. Our Members stepped forward and one veteran contributed for next year's scholarships .

The pandemic unfortunately hindered our biggest state fund raiser as well as our local chapters fund raisers . We will have much work to do come the fall or spring whenever the state fully reopens.

I have begun to update our New England roster and have forwarded the information to National. I also plan to begin writing to our members who do not have e mail nor phone numbers to see if they do have emails and or a telephone number they can provide AVVA . I have contacted some associates who had telephone numbers listed but haven't listed e mails. Only one person thus far provided a e mail address as others do not have emails.

In June, a veteran who had resided in Rhode Island but retired to Florida, who now is in poor health due to his exposure to toxins , wish was to return to Rhode Island. Due to the pandemic it was no minor feat to travel from Florida to Rhode Island. I accompanied our chapter honor guard to the pier in RI where the veteran was taking the Block Island ferry to his home on Block Island. His family was very appreciative and filled with emotion of our presence and thanked us for honoring this veteran's service to his country. People can google Vietnam Veteran returns to Block Island.

During this past quarter I have participated in our teleconference meetings updating our policies, and plan to attend our meeting scheduled for July 15th and 16th.

Respectively submitted
Fran Guevremont
Region 1 Director