

2020 continues to be an exceptionally challenging year on so many levels. However, our organization has carried on. We continue to hold Board and Committee meetings by telephone. Policies are being reviewed, revised and updated.

I am happy and proud to be co-chairing the Survivors Benefit Committee with Bobbie Morris, who has been a member of AVVA for many years and brings a wealth of knowledge to this committee. As a new Board Member I very much appreciate her insights and expertise. Our committee members and co-chairs are working on updating the content and the graphic layout of the Brochure as well as the AVVA flyer. When both have been approved and completed we know our members and the general public will find both of the newly printed materials helpful and informative.

In my last quarterly report I noted I serve on the Junior Cadet selection committee for Chapter 273. Last year our selected candidate placed second Nationally. I am very proud to report that again this year the selected candidate from Chapter 273 came in second.

In my last quarterly report, I had also mentioned that through an article I had collaborated with a Providence Journal reporter regarding the negative health impacts on our veterans from toxins used in Vietnam that I have received inquires from veterans about the Agent Orange Registry as well as how to file a claim for benefits and services. I continue to connect our veterans to accredited service officers to help them through the process. After beginning the process, one of the veterans I'm happy to report chose to join Chapter 273 and his wife has joined AVVA and is also now a member of Chapter 273.

Some of AVVA members in the New England Region do not list their e mail addresses nor the telephone numbers so I am in the process of reaching out to them to update that information. When doing so I will also be encouraging them to consider running as their Chapter Representative.

Chapter 273 held their September meeting outdoors on the VA Providence Hospital grounds. I attended that meeting. We adhered to all CDC guidelines and we all agreed it was good to get back to some semblance of normal. We continue however, not to be able to hold our Poppy Drives due to the Pandemic so there is no income coming to the chapter. We remain optimistic that this coming Spring we will be able to resume our fund drives.

Respectively submitted,
Fran Guevremont
Region 1 Director