

CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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I am announcing my candidacy for the office of National President for the 2021-2023 term. If elected I will endeavor to lead AVVA with the diligence, fairness, and integrity that I did from 2013 to 2019.

During my past six-year tenure, AVVA added many accomplishments: among them were the introduction and implementation of two new educational programs and a new volunteer hours program designed to capture our member's time working in their communities, our membership reached an all-time high, we collected record amounts for Project Friendship, we established partnerships with two non-profit organizations, our chapters voted in the national elections for the first time, we completed the *In Memory Plaque* project, and we developed AVVA's Strategic Plan. And although I would love to take credit for all of these, I cannot. The Board of Directors was the nucleus of all our productivity, efforts, and successes. Working as a unit, we developed and oversaw all of AVVA's programs and we thoroughly investigated all financial decisions.

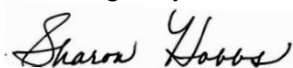


I have always believed that education begins in the boardroom and from there AVVA knowledge would flow down to our states and chapters. Although this method of teaching seemed to be effective in the past, it is time to reassess our commitment to our membership and to the community around us. AVVA's ultimate challenge must be to educate our members and all military families on the after-effects of war both physically and emotionally. To coach them on what they are currently facing and to prepare them for what's to come. If I am elected, this much needed education will be our focus. We will meet this task by (1) rejuvenating our Town Hall meetings, (2) reviving our educational programs that were instituted during my last time in office, (3) executing any educational programs added during the current administration, and (4) possibly developing new ones in the upcoming term.

We all know that 2020 was an unprecedented year for everyone including AVVA and we all anticipate returning to a time of normalcy. Managing and growing a national organization requires a business-minded leader who is always cautious but willing to adapt to new norms, who will lead our organization with our Mission and Vision Statements always in mind, who will listen to our membership's concerns and will respond, who will work toward completion of our Strategic Plan, and who is driven to ensure our existence and survival in the years to come. I promise to be that kind of leader. AVVA is at a critical time concerning our future; there is no time to waste. I look forward to working with the incoming Board; I look forward to serving our membership again.

I have listed bullet points that encompass a portion of my past involvement with AVVA and VVA; due to the restrictions on the amount of pages permitted with this announcement, my bio is incomplete. I will gladly send a completed version to anyone asking for it. I thank you in advance for considering me.

Asking for your vote,



AVVA ACHIEVEMENTS WHILE SERVING AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT

- 2013 Conducted the first official orientation for the new incoming board of directors
- 2014 Implemented the VISTA program
- 2014 Added a new class of membership: *Associate Permanently Hospitalized Veteran (APHV)*
- 2014 Supervised a redesign of the AVVA website

- 2014-2019 Raised over \$78,000 for Project Friendship
- 2014-2019 Recorded over 98,000 VISTA hours
- 2014-2019 Added three vendors for AVVA logo-products
- 2014-2019 Increased VVA dual membership over 250%

- 2015 Sent AVVA Chapter delegates to the national convention
- 2015 Registered the "Together Always" Trademark
- 2015 Partnered with Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
- 2015 Implemented the Secondary PTSD (PTSD 2) program
- 2016 Reduced Life Membership Dues
- 2017 Introduced and presented the first Cathy Keister *SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE* Award
- 2017 Partnered with Military & Veterans Caregivers Network
- 2018 Implemented the Spousal & Survivor Benefits program
- 2018 Converted AVVA National to a 501(c)(3)
- 2018 Reduced supporting VVA life membership to \$50
- 2018 Exceeded 10,000 members
- 2019 Completed the raising and rededication of the *In Memory Plaque*

AVVA OFFICES/COMMITTEES (ABRIDGED)

- 2013-2019 AVVA National President
- 2013-2019 AVVA Advisor to VVA Government Affairs Committee
- 2013-2019 AVVA Advisor to VVA Convention Committee
- 2013-2019 AVVA Advisor to VVA Econ. Opportunities Committee
- 2012-2013 AVVA Chapter 203, Inc. President
- 2011-2012 AVVA Tennessee Association Secretary
- 2010-2013 AVVA National Secretary
- 2010-2013 AVVA Advisor to VVA Homeless Veterans Committee
- 2010-2013 AVVA Website Webmaster and Committee Chair
- 2008-2013 AVVA National Elections Committee Member
- 2008-2010 AVVA Region 3 Director
- 2008-2010 AVVA National Membership Chair
- 2007-2009 AVVA Tennessee Association, Inc. Founding President
- 2006-2009 AVVA Chapter 203 Founding Representative

2008-2019 CONTRIBUTIONS (ABRIDGED)

- Served as a non-voting member of VVA's Workgroup 1
- Developed the Spousal and Survivor Benefits Program
- Presenter at the 2016 Leadership Conference in Tucson, AZ
- Presenter at the 2015 Region 3 Conference in Knoxville, TN
- Presenter at the 2014 Florida State Conference in Orlando, FL.
- Co-Presenter at the 2014 Leadership Conference in Wichita, KS
- Co-Presenter at the 2014 Region 3 Conf in Virginia Beach, VA
- Presenter at the 2013 AVVA TN Association Retreat
- Redesigned several of VVA Nat'l Membership forms still used
- Co-Presenter at the 2012 Leadership Conference in Irving, TX
- Designed the AVVA Challenge Coin
- Wrote the first National Chapter Incorporation Policy
- Co-Developed the first AVVA Desk Reference Guide for the National Membership Department