

Candidate Biography
AVVA, Region III Director

Wynella Bethards # 1005033(Life Member)
4404 Saratoga Woods Drive
Louisville, Ky 40200-8309
(502) 718-9277
icejean51@twc.com



I wish to declare my candidacy for AVVA Region III Director. I joined Chapter 454's AVVA in 2011 in Jeffersontown, Ky. and became a life member the next year. I strongly believe in the work of the AVVA and want to be part of it in any way I can. At this time, I believe I can best serve by being Region III Director.

I first became involved in military groups when I formed the family support group for the 87th Division, 2nd Brigade at the beginning of Desert Storm. Our group set the example for the US Army Reserve Family Support groups across the nation. It is still used today. For my many hours of work and dedication, I received the National USAR FY95 Volunteer of the Year Award.

I joined the AVVA after my husband joined the VVA. I could see a difference in him after he joined, I thought we could be involved together, so I jumped in with both feet.

In 2016 I was elected Chapter Representative and have been ever since. My focus very quickly became on PTSD and PTSD2. I took the facilitator training and we started a group. It has been very helpful to many veteran families. Our membership has improved under my leadership. We have held Agent Orange Meetings and currently have a large project each year we call Operation Christmas. In 2022 we bought an outfit of clothes for 14 veterans and 57 veteran family members. Any children receive toys. Each family got a gift card for food. We also purchased an outfit for a homeless veteran and shoes for four more. We are now working on our Heartbreak to Heroes Program to help families with grief.

I feel I have good people skills and am well organized. I want to use these skills to help with the transition of VVA and AVVA becoming one, if this occurs. Whatever happens I want to help insure AVVA remains solid! It will take strong leadership, honest communication, dedication and hard work. I am willing to do all!

Thank you for your consideration!
Wynella Bethards

Personal Information

Married to CSM Gregory Bethards (Ret) for 34 years. Greg retired in 1997 after 26 service. After serving on active duty, including a tour in Vietnam, he spent 24 years in the Army Reserves.

We are a blended family composed of 5 children, 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Work History

In 2008 I retired from General Electric Appliance Park after 36 years. I did everything from assembly line work to team coordinator. I served as union steward for IUE Local 761 for many years as well as working as a volunteer for Employee Community Fund.

Volunteer History

Current

A KY Colonel and volunteers at their headquarters and at their annual day of service
Election Poll worker

Coordinator for the Spring and Fall GE Retirees' Day at Races at Churchill Downs as well as GE Retirees' June Luncheon

Life Member AVVA

Volunteers At Robley Rex VAMC

Serve on Design Committee for Veterans Memorial Park of Kentucky

Attends most Joint Executive Council of Veterans Organizations of Kentucky (JECVO)

President of American Legion GI Joe Post # 244 Auxiliary, past E-Board Member

Vice-President, 5th District American Legion Auxiliary

Serve on AVVA Region III Disciplinary Committee

Serve on the National AVVA Election Board

Facilitator for AVVA Regional and Chapter 454's PTSD2 and Heartbreak to Heroes Groups

Assist with National AVVA Vista Hours

Assist with most activities of VVA and AVVA, Chapter 454 as well as the American Legion Post 244 in Jeffersontown, Ky

Attends all Region III conferences, Leadership Conferences and National Conventions since becoming the Chapter Representative

Past

President of USAR Family Support Group for the 87th Division, 2nd Brigade

Union Stewart UAW Local 761

Employee Community Fund Volunteer and Board Member

Dare to Care Volunteer

Served on AVVA National Awards Committee

Served as a Board Member of the Saratoga Woods Neighborhood Home Owners Association