

REGION 8 DIRECTOR

Jennifer M. Ellis #1115384 Life
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- Appointed Chaplain Chapter 805 Roseburg, OR 2018
- Elected Vice President Chapter 805 Roseburg, OR 2018
- Interim President Chapter 805, Roseburg, OR 2018
- Elected President Chapter 805, Roseburg, OR 2020 - Current
- Recipient of AVVA President's Commendation Medal 2020
- Oregon State Representative 2020 - 2022
- Region 8 Director 2021 - Current
- Spousal and Survivor Benefit Coordinator 2021 - 2023
- Spousal and Survivor Benefit Co-Coordinator, Regions 6-9, 2023 - Current

My name is Jennifer Ellis, AVVA Region 8 Director and President of Umpqua Valley AVVA Chapter 805, Inc. located in Roseburg, Oregon. I am once again running for Director of Region 8 which encompasses Alaska, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Wyoming. I have many years of leadership experience in the medical administrative field, Christian ministry and community service as well as AVVA experience on the chapter, state and regional levels. In addition, I have had the privilege to be appointed Spousal and Survivor Benefit Coordinator (2021-2023) and Co-Coordinator, Regions 6-9, since 2023. I have gleaned and implemented a great deal of information from this program as Beverly Pounds and I were asked to speak at our last Leadership Conference to our VVA and AVVA membership. The ultimate goal is for our state and local chapters to present Spousal and Survivor Benefit Seminars in their area to educate our veterans and their families on their benefits.

Some of my background and experience includes my marriage to Bruce Ellis, who served as a United States Marine from August 1970 to January 1975. He served with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines as a Force Recon Marine. He survived 14 months of combat in Vietnam. So many of

our Vietnam Veterans experienced significant levels of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as a result these memories effect them every single day, my husband included. This has given me a unique perspective on the issues attributed to this disability. The effects of PTSD on them, their spouses, their adult children and care takers are overwhelming.

On November 26, 2022, my husband Bruce passed away suddenly and thus his death has again given me a unique perspective on our Survivor's and their needs. The From Heartache to Hope Program, designed to support our Survivors, has been successfully implemented here in Oregon and I hope to see it flourish throughout Region 8. I believe grief support is essential for our membership as they embrace our Survivors as an anchor within AVVA, to assist them in weathering the storm of grieving their spouse.

Another Program that has brought healing and breakthrough to so many Veterans is Moods In Music, a Veterans guitar program, which was created by our local AVVA Chapter 805, established in 2019. Our Veterans learn to play guitar, read music, and upon completion of the six week course they are gifted the guitar to play on a regular basis. This is a tool to assist them with the trials of PTSD and suicide prevention. Fundraising for this program is accomplished by the hard work of every member of our chapter. We have graduated approximately 130 students since 2019 and are continuing to assist our local veterans to heal and move forward.

If re-elected, I look forward to working with the AVVA National Board and to represent Region 8 in a way that is honorable and successful.

I appreciate your Vote,
Jennifer Ellis