

**SPOUSAL AND SURVIVOR BENEFIT
REGION 6-9 CO-COMMITTEE REPORT
7/24/25**

The need for presenting Spousal and Survivor Benefit Seminars is now more than ever. Beverly Pounds and I, Co-chair of our National Committee agree that due to the fact that our Vietnam Veterans are passing away at an alarming rate, we need to educate spouses of the benefits that are available for them and the need to ultimately visit their local VSOs for specific information regarding their needs.

It is our duty, though not mandatory, to encourage our state presidents/representatives and local chapters to present a seminar in their area. It may seem daunting at first but when realized the process is actually quite simple and feasible. Beverly and I are here to walk alongside those willing to carry out their mission. Please understand that some of our spouses can be caught off guard and not prepared for the day of their veteran passing. Preparing for this ahead of time will make an enormous difference in their lives. I have shared my experience multiple times at our seminars as my veteran passed away unexpectedly and thus I was thrust into widowhood which I was somewhat prepared for but not entirely. I so appreciate the support of our local VSO who assisted me with the necessary paperwork and our VVA/AVVA Chapters that came up alongside me as I walked through the process. Not everyone has these support pillars in place and thus is the reason for these seminars.

Please feel free to contact Beverly Pounds, who represents Regions 1-5 or myself, representing Regions 6-9, if you are interested in holding a seminar. We are happy to answer your questions and to point you in the right direction.

Jennifer Ellis, Region 8 Director
S&SB Co-Chairperson, Regions 6-9

Spousal and Survivor Benefits Committee

Eastern Regions 1,2,3,4,5

Co-Chair, Beverly Pounds

July 2025

A Special Thank you to Sharon Hobbs our National AVVA President for supporting and making the Spousal and Survivor Benefits Program a priority.

As the chairperson of the Spousal and Survivor Benefits Committee Regions 1,2,3,4,5, I want to thank each of our committee members, Margret Wojciechowicz, Nancy Switzer and Rebecca Thomas for their time and contributions to our committee.

We have been blessed to have such passionate and caring people working together to help our veterans and their families.

At the present time we are working and preparing for our AVVA National Convention in New Orleans .

There is a great need in each of our communities. Many veteran families don't know where to turn for help. Our Spousal and Survivor Benefits Programs are needed more now than ever.

If your chapter wishes to sponsor a Spousal and Survivor Benefits program and you need help, please contact your Region co-chair. We are here to help.

Regions 1,2,3,4,5 Beverly Pounds, (615) 812-5442

Regions 6,7,8,9 Jennifer Ellis, (541) 373-1030

Continuing to create a better everyday life for our Veterans and their families