

**SPOUSAL & SURVIVOR BENEFIT
PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT
REGIONS 6-9 as of March 2026**

Committee Members:

Craig Wade, VVA Alaska State President, AVVA Dual Member

Dorine Kirkes, AVVA Chapter 805 Secretary, S&SB Chairperson OR805

Bobbie Morris: Region 2 Director

Kathy Andres: AVVA National Vice President, Committee Advisor

I am so excited to announce the successful outcome of our Alaska State Spousal & Survivor Benefit Seminar that was held March 6, 2026 in Anchorage. The magnificent team effort beginning with VVA State Secretary Vickie Clay, VVA State President Craig Wade, AK VSO Mark Johnson, VVA Region 8 Director Chuck Renevier, S&SB Committee member Dorine Kirkes and myself. Special thank you to Nina Schloffel, National Secretary, for coordinating our GoTo meetings prior to the event. Vicky Clay was extraordinary in how she was able to arrange for the venue which had an exquisite view and was easily accessible to arranging the speakers who presented useful content such as Verdie Bowen, Director Alaska State Office of Veterans Affairs, Forrest Powell, Deputy Director State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs, Lisa Robinson, Outreach Coordinator Veterans Benefits Admin, Roger Nevells, Fort Richardson National Cemetery and Debbie Janssen from Janssen Funeral Home and more. Each provided insightful information that was practical for all in attendance. At the conclusion of the seminar many voiced their appreciation and suggested scheduling another seminar in the near future.

VVA Montana State President and VVA Region 8 Director, Chuck Renevier, and Allan Perkal are also planning a Town Hall May 16th entitled "The Aging Veteran" which will include similar content as our S&SB Seminars. The more information that we generate and circulate to our Veterans and their spouses the better.

Regions 6-9 have more work to do in arranging seminars in their states. I am reaching out to our VVA and AVVA State Presidents to coordinate with us in planning these events.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Ellis

S&SB Co-Chair Regions 6-9

Region 8 Director