

SPOUSAL & SURVIVOR BENEFIT
PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT
REGIONS 6-9 as of September 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 pleased to announce that we have scheduled our annual Spousal and Survivor Benefit Seminar for November 14, 2026, in Roseburg, Oregon with the cooperation of the Roseburg VA Medical Center. In addition, we are planning another seminar next year to expand across the state to Newport, OR which will better facilitate our veterans in the coastal communities. In addition, Alaska is discussing yet another seminar or town hall focusing on the Aging Veteran, incorporating the AVVA Spousal & Survivor Benefit Program as well. I am also looking into scheduling a seminar in Seattle, WA with the assistance of our VVA Partners in the state.

In the course of working on the seminars it has come to the attention of my co-chair, Beverly Pounds, and myself that it is imperative that our veterans and their spouses complete and file a VA two-way form: VA 10-5345 and/or a 3-way form: VA 21-0845 for their benefit. This allows communication with medical providers and/or with the VA regarding any financial issues. The VA is not legally authorized to communicate with an individual nor can they do so if the veteran is incapacitated. Beverly and I agree that these forms should be included in the online S&SB program packet.

Finally, when planning a seminar please reach out to us so that we can walk you through the step by step process which includes locating a qualified Veteran's Service Officer in your area. There should be a resource or webpage online for your state with a VSO listed in each county.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Ellis

S&SB Co-Chair Regions 6-9

Region 8 Director