



AVVA PRESIDENT'S REPORT FINAL REPORT 2021 - 2023

As the 2021 – 2023 term comes to a close, AVVA has been very productive and active. We have reached several goals and have plans to continue those that aren't finished next term as well as developing and creating new ones. I am very proud of the work that this board has completed. We have worked well together; although, we had diverse personalities, in the end, we all wanted what was best for AVVA and our members.

In this report, I will attempt to mention all of my tasks and list some of AVVA accomplishments this term without implying that this a complete report, only my recollection. For a more complete list of accomplishments, read the regional, program and committee reports.

From 2021 – 2023:

- Answered scores of emails, phone calls, and returned voicemails.
- Met with the officers online x 7
- Wrote five (5) articles for The Veteran magazine.
- Wrote four (4) AVVA Board report
- Wrote seven (7) VVA Board report.
- Wrote five (5) travel after-action report
- Met with the Finance Chair three (3) times
- Wrote eight (8) VVA Advisor reports
- Met three (3) times with the Membership Director via telephone
- Attended the local AVVA meetings where I serve as the Secretary.
- Shipped six (6) orders of Paper Safes
- Presenter at the MI State Convention in 2022
- Responded to seven (7) Ring Central voicemails.
- Developed the agenda for all Board meeting and Annual Business meetings
- Created a Project Friendship flyer x 2
- Developed: new product sales form, dual membership application, & delegate form
- Created and developed two (2) Power Point presentations for Leadership seminars
- Met online with the: Bylaws, Finance, Disciplinary, Public Relations, and Strategic Planning committees
- Worked with our graphics designer to revise & update our membership application brochure
- Worked with a designer to create a dual membership pin
- Revised the membership renewal letter x 3 to reflect current updates
- Submitted my VISTA hours for my local chapter.
- Assisted Committees with policy rewrites: Helping Hands, Incorporation, VISTA, Spousal & Survivors Benefits, & Finance
- Attended an online training session for Heartbreak to Hope organizers.



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- Ordered two (2) supplies of Paper Safes. 10,000 ea. Nancy Switzer was in the lead with this purchase.
- Participated in the local "Vietnam War Veterans Recognition" day event
- Ordered a replenishment of condolence cards and envelopes
- Bought 500 stamps for Condolence program mailings
- Ordered a replenishment of Life Member Certificates
- Wrote a letter to TN Chapter 1004 congratulating them on 15 years of service
- Met with the officers of Sandy Spring Bank x 4. Lock box, CD, & credit cards,
- Reviewed the IRS 990 before submitting
- Interviewed with The Veteran staff on an *In Memory Plaque Registry* article
- Created Charters for newly incorporated chapters: UT 1079, CA 201, KY 454, CA 391
- Ordered a fresh supply of AVVA flags
- Sent a congratulatory certificate to a Veterans Incarcerated Group on 25 years of meeting.
- Secured luncheon speakers for two Annual meetings
- Wrote introduction of Luncheon Speaker for Flash Notice
- Ordered gifts for convention bags
- Ordered "big Check" for Project Friendship presentation
- Received a donation of peanutbutter/crackers for convention bags
- Wrote two (2) Welcome Addresses for Annual meetings.
- Co-Presenter at the 2022 Leadership & Education Conference
- Held online meetings before the Leadership Conference and Convention in preparation for the events
- Chose the backpack for AVVA convention bag with online approval from the BOD
- Ordered gifts for departing board members, luncheon speaker, and serving on the BOD this past term.
- Reserved AVVA a vendor table during both Annual meetings.
- Created, developed, & printed luncheon place cards
- Created and developed the convention registration form
- Met with a financial advisor and the Finance Chair on CD investment options.
- Moved CD to Edward Jones Financial for better return on our money
- Received a travel tissue donation for convention backpacks.
- Ordered fresh supply of folders for recognition certificates

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The AVVA National Board of Directors met face-to-face four times in Silver Spring, MD.



All were productive and completed in a timely manner. Our National Parliamentarian, Barbara Miller, attended all meetings via the telephone. After each meeting, we attended VVA Committee meetings where one of our group was the AVVA Advisor to that meeting. In January of 2022, we had an online orientation session. In January 2023, we had a full online board meeting. The Board also met at the 2022 Leadership Conference and again at the Annual Membership meeting.

During this past term, all life membership dues were reduced to \$100; there is no longer a prorated amount by age. We still offer one-year or life membership; there is no longer a 3-year option. Life Member Time Payment is still available. Dual members may join AVVA at \$50 for a life membership. In addition, we moved our membership application address to PO Box 29049, Baltimore, MD 21297. After which, new membership applications were printed with the new dues structure and new mailing address.

During the 2022 Leadership & Education Conference in Greenville, SC, AVVA presented two seminars titled “The 3 R’ to Recovery” and “Heartbreak to Hope.” We also presented a Project Friendship check to **Fellow Countrymen** for \$17,000. After returning home, another \$800+ was received. Thank you for helping us achieve an all-time high. This year’s Project Friendship recipient is the **National Birth Defects Registry (BDR)** located in Orlando, FL. Since January 2022, AVVA has been an official partner with BDR helping to bring awareness to the registry. Total donations will be presented during the Convention closing ceremonies on Saturday, August 12, 2023.



The Paper Safe is still one of our most successful program. Of the 85,000 copies that have been printed since 2013, 20,000 of those were printed this past term. AVVA introduced a new program this term titled “**Heartbreak to Hope**”. This peer-support program is designed to help widows and widowers of deceased veterans. And, in 2023 we designed a dual membership pin which is given free to every dual member wanting one. Last but not least, is our newest communication tool. Mail Chimp is an electronic method of reaching our membership directly from national. We bypass all of the stops between the national organizations to the individual members who have a valid email address on file with the national office.





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Travels:

- In March of 2022, I attended the Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony in Washington DC. I had the distinct honor of laying a wreath with Jack McManus, VVA Nat'l President, Jim Knotts, VVMF CEO, and the VA Secretary.
- In May 2022, I attended the MI State Convention where I was a presenter. The topic requested was "Paper Safes"
- In June 2022, I attended the Tennessee Association meeting in Nashville where I conducted their state elections. This trip was of no cost to national.
- In October 2022, I visited Orlando, FL with VVA Officers, Wes Guidry, and the Convention Committee for an onsite visit before the convention in 2023
- In August of 2022, I attended the National Leadership & Educational Conference in Greenville, SC. I participated in two seminars, held an annual meeting, presided over the AVVA Awards Luncheon, and presented the Project Friendship check to our recipient.
- In November 2022, I attended (along with the National Board) the 40th Anniversary ceremony of the dedication of **The Wall** in Washington DC. I had the honor of placing a wreath alongside of VVA National Secretary, Bill Meeks. Before the ceremony began, I placed a wreath at the ***In Memory Plaque***.
- In December 2022, I traveled to Silver Spring for a meeting with Jack McManus, (VVA Nat'l President), the VVA officers, VVOA, and VVA staff concerning the legacy of VVA.
- In June 2023, I was invited to speak at the LA State Convention where I spoke on the "AVVA, Here & Now".



I want to thank the Board of Directors, the National Parliamentarian, and the Committees for helping to make this a very productive, successful, and pleasant term. AVVA could not have been effective without you. If you are returning next term, I look forward to working with you. If you are leaving, I wish you the best and I appreciate your past dedication and commitment to our organization.

Sharon Yarrow