

## **AVVA REGION 8 REPORT**

**3-30-26**

**Traveling to Anchorage Alaska for their Spousal and Survivor Benefit Seminar allowed me to develop new relationships with veterans and their spouses who live in town and who also reside in the outlying areas. The seminar also initiated opportunities for spouses to meet one another and share their experiences. Some are widows and some are working hard to care for their aging spouses who were exposed to Agent Orange. That is how support is built, it is all about relationships.**

**Once we were all together it was obvious that we had a great deal in common. There is a unique identity in being a Vietnam Veteran and/or a spouse of one. We share the same compassion and understanding for one another because we have walked through years of PTSD, PTSD-2 and similar challenges associated with it.**

**As a result of our visit, I am excited to announce that we have a new Point of Contact (POC), Millie Pattison, who has been an AVVA member for many years. She is excited to discover more about our organization and begin the process of reestablishing our AVVA presence in Alaska. Vickie Clay, once again, has come through and spread the word so that those interested in AVVA will be meeting in person at the next VVA AK State Meeting, May 19<sup>th</sup> on their own in an adjacent area. I am so impressed at the level of enthusiasm and teamwork displayed in our Vietnam Veterans in Alaska which includes Craig Wade, VVA State President, Vickie Clay, VVA AK State Secretary, and Chuck Renevier, VVA Region 8 Director.**

**Thank you to all who are working alongside us to establish AVVA where it is needed.**

**Thank you for this opportunity to breakthrough in the areas of Region 8 that will benefit from our support and friendship.**

**Jennifer Ellis,  
Region 8 Director**