

AVVA Region 6 Report:

November 2023: Plans for Veterans Day Celebration in Marshfield, Missouri. Decorated my car for the 1st Annual Veterans Day Parade. I stocked my car with candy, and our VSO Mark Coan with his son Luke tossed candy to the crowd. There was a great turn out and we were well received. Afterward, we had a table with VVA and AVVA material many came by to see what we had to offer. This was a very well-received day for all our local veterans.

December 2023: I started to gather information and printed out a letter looking for updates on addresses, phone numbers, and emails. I sent out 459 letters. This took weeks just to get them all addressed, stamped and sent out. I also sent emails to all those in my Region who are at large reminding them of at-large elections. North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota do not have Representatives. Only Missouri and Wisconsin have Representatives and they took care of their states.

January 2024: I have been working on my roster getting all the updates for MailChimp. I have sent all changes to VVA Membership and updated Nina Schloffel, Kathy Andras, and Terri Rangle with all the information I have received. I am working on getting At-Large Representatives for each of the eight states. We only have two states with representation, Missouri and Wisconsin. I did let all the states know of the deadline of February 5, 2024, for At-Large and the upcoming elections for Chapter and State Representatives by June 2024.

February 2024: Attended Kansas State Council meeting online on February 4, 2024. Presented them with information passed on to me from Wisconsin. They have a fantastic Memorial called "The High-Ground" honoring all veterans. Located in the state's center, Veterans from any place in Wisconsin can get to and from The Highground in one day. Visitors are welcome in the park 24/7/365. For more information check out their website: thehighground.us

The At-Large Representative for Kansas is John Holzhuter, for Missouri is Fran Davis, and for Wisconsin Joy Foye. Information was sent to Nancy Montgomery and Suzie Meeks. Received no response for Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, or South Dakota.

March 2024: Attending a Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mapping workshop. This workshop utilized tools in strategic planning to assess available resources, identify gaps/ challenges in accessing services, and establish a plan for community change (and ultimately statewide change). The SIM tools were developed to focus on those "intercepts" at each point in the justice system to improve cross-system collaborations and reduce involvement in the justice system by those with behavioral health disorders. There were 7 intercepts of which intercept 3 dealt with Specialty Courts. Webster County in Missouri is in the process of developing a Veterans Court. This was the main reason I was invited to attend and will be working with a team for skill building.

I was not able to attend the Missouri State Council meeting due to a conflict in my schedule I was already committed to another meeting and was not able to miss it.

April 2024: Preparing for the upcoming Board Meeting to be held in Silver Spring, MD. More information will be in my next report. AVVA Chapter 1056 Poplar Bluff Missouri is in the process of incorporating soon.

In Service to America,

Barbara Coan, AVVA Region 6 Director