

I attended all AVVA quarterly meetings in Silver Spring, MD. I was unable to attend the National Leadership Conference, and Deputy Director, Mary Anne Newman attended in my place. I found these quarterly meetings to be most educational and had the privilege of attending the VVA special meetings as the AVVA Liaison. Those were the Veteran Health and the Incarcerated meetings. Getting to know and work with the National Officers, as well as the other Region Directors, has been a plus learning from them and gaining some of their expertise. I look forward to reading Convention Rules with Jennifer Ellis at Convention. Also, I expect to help filling up the Convention bags as well as helping with Product Sales and working in the Office with Nina and other officers.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Region 4 Director. I only wish that I could have traveled to other states in the Region to meet other AVVA members. I was able to contact the Chapter Reps from all other states in the Region, all by email, and some by phone, and periodically send out information which I received from National AVVA. I sent out and forwarded Convention material and encouraged everyone to attend the Convention. I also was strongly encouraging these members to become familiar with the Birth Defects website and let them know that that would be the topic at the AVVA luncheon, hoping all that were coming could attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Blum

AVVA Region 4 Director