

Region 6 August-October 2023 Report

August 7-13, 2023: Attended the AVVA National Convention in Orlando Florida. Participated in assembling backpacks for the convention. Participated in the National Elections and was duly elected as Region 6 Director to serve for the next two years.

Upon returning home I Nebraska, North Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin in my Region and introduced myself as AVVA Region 6 Director. I have only heard back from Kansas, Missouri, and Wisconsin. I also contacted John Margowski the VVA Region 6 Director, and he replied, it will be a pleasure to serve alongside me as we work to build Region 6 strong. I am working on contacting Minnesota as they have no State Council but there are many AVVA members. I am also working on getting POCs for each of the states to enable AVVA members to receive information on our projects and what we have planned.

September: I attended VVA Chapter 1014 in Lebanon Missouri and will be helping with their annual sweet potato drive to help the local veterans. I will also be helping them put together Christmas gifts for our local veterans in skilled nursing homes. I also attended the funeral of a highly decorated Vietnam Veteran, Howard Lance Coomer. He received 3 Purple Heart Medals and 4 Distinguished Flying Crosses. I am also in the process of finding out his history and sending it to our local Congressmen to see if they can Posthumously recognize his service. If any deserves to be recognized this man does and his family would appreciate it as he never really talked to them about it. He really was a remarkable man.

I have two asked two AVVA Members to serve on my Disciplinary Committee, Fran Davis from Missouri, and Joy Foye from Wisconsin. Waiting until the October meeting to ask my 3rd member from Kansas.

October: Attended the VVA Kansas State Council Meeting online was held on October 1st. Four Chapters shared what they have been doing since June. I shared the Bylaws which were passed and unfortunately the AVVA members were not present, but I did make contact with Mary Landes and am currently waiting to hear back from her to establish a POC for the State of Kansas. I will be attending the Missouri State Council Meeting which will be held on Oct 7th. More to report on after that meeting. I have a lot of work to do in my Region getting the other states to participate.

I am working with my community on a Veterans Day Parade. They have offered a table for us to set up information about VVA and AVVA as well as benefits available to our veterans and their families. I plan on having all AVVA programs available and hopefully be able to recruit some new members.

Attended VVA Chapter 1014 Dinner and Meeting talked about setting up for the Sweet Potato sale which proceeds go to take Christmas gifts for Veterans in the local Skilled Nursing Homes, Hospitals or Veterans Homes. I am currently working on items to add to these and make a basket to take to a local skilled nursing home. I have a contact and will get with her to find out how many Veterans are there. I know there is a WWII Veteran, and she has been trying to get him on an Honor Flight, but she is not having much luck with that. I will also be attending the BOD Meeting in Silver Springs, MD October 18-22.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Coan, Region 6 Director