



# AVVA

ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

*Serving Veterans & Their Families Since 1999*

**AVVA REGION 9 REPORT – October 2023**  
**Kelly Frederickson – AVVA Director Region 9**  
**[birchkellyann@gmail.com](mailto:birchkellyann@gmail.com) 530-321-8805**

## **AVVA/VVA CONVENTION** ☺

The Orlando Convention has concluded and a number of bylaws have changed. The main bylaw that has changed is copied below for your review. Another important event is AVVA Project Friendship raised approximately \$42,000 for the 'National Registry for Birth Defects' This is the largest amount of money raised for AVVA Project Friendship to date.

## **CHANGE TO ELECTION BYLAWS**

### **AVVA BYLAW CHANGE - ELECTIONS**

Section 3.02 Membership. The Corporation shall have three (3) classes of members: Regular Members, Incarcerated Members, and Dual Members. a. Regular members shall be entitled to vote on all business, hold office, and chair committees at all levels. b. Incarcerated Members shall have the above rights only within the facility in which they are housed. c. **Dual Members shall have the right to vote and chair committees at the chapter level. They are eligible to serve as voting members on state and national committees. They are ineligible to hold any elected office; they are ineligible to serve as an alternate delegate at the state or national level.**

## **ELECTION – AT LARGE INFORMATION AND DATES**

### **POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

Election information is found at [www.avva.org](http://www.avva.org) under Legal Documents. Click AVVA National Policies and go to Section 5 - Elections.

State, Chapter and **At Large ELECTIONS** ARE HELD EVERY TWO-EVEN YEARS. Our last AVVA state and chapter election was 2022 and the upcoming state and chapter elections will be held in 2024.

### **OVERVIEW OF DATES FOR AT LARGE ELECTIONS**

A. Each state has regular members of AVVA who are *not* associated with any AVVA chapter or an At-Large member. The At-Large members may have a delegate who will represent them at state-level meetings and national conventions. This is the at-large representative within an individual state.

**B.** A member must have been a **regular at-large member in the state in which they would be running for at least three (3) months.** (At-Large representative qualifications can be found in P&P section 1 XVIII)

**BY JANUARY 15, 2024**

*The AVVA state representative or president, or their designee, shall contact all At-Large members in even-numbered years by January 15th and give each At-Large member who is qualified the opportunity to run for the position of at-large representative.*

**21 DAYS AFTER NOTIFICATION NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

*Candidates wishing to run must respond to the notice within twenty-one (21) days of the date of the notification. Candidate responses must be received by the person who sent the messages no later than February 5th.*

*If, after the twenty-one (21) day limit, no candidate has come forward to run for the position of at-large representative, the position will remain unfilled until the next election cycle.*

**10 DAYS OF RECEIVING LETTERS OF INTENT**

*Within ten (10) days of receiving those letters of intent that were sent and received within the time limits listed in 5.VIII.C.2 above, the ballot and any candidate information shall be mailed, or group emailed to every at-large member within the state. The vote and information will be sent using the contact information listed on the current AVVA membership roster. If group email is used, it will be cc'd to the regional director.*



SAMPLE OF LETTER  
OF INTENT TO RUN.d

**30 DAYS – BALLOTS RECEIVED**

*The ballots must be received by the state representative, president, or designee within thirty (30) days from the postmarked date of the vote or the 'date sent' represented on the email.*

**21 DAYS – OF THE DECISION REGARDING THE WINNER OF ELECTION**

*Within twenty-one (21) days of the decision regarding the winner of the at-large election, the state representative or president, or their designee, shall complete and submit an Election Result Form (F-Ele05.07 found on the AVVA Website: [www.avva.org/forms.html](http://www.avva.org/forms.html)) and the list(s) of the persons who were mailed a letter via USPS, to the regional director.*

**MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

*The state representative or president will be the one to notify the at-large members of the name and contact information for the at-large representative no later than May 15th of the election year.*

**MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> - NOTIFICATION OF ELECTED MEMBER**

*The state representative or president will be the one to notify the at-large members of the name and contact information for the at-large representative no later than May 15th of the election year.*

## **STATE, CHAPTER, INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED ELECTION INFORMATION.**

***I will send out State, Chapter, Incorporated and Unincorporated Election Information in the January 2024 Report. Due dates to watch for include the following:***

***Any person who wishes to run for an incorporated chapter officer or an unincorporated chapter-representative position will file a “Letter of Intent to Run” (sample above) with the current chapter elections chair or person assigned to oversee the election at least thirty (30) days before the date of the election. (A sample letter is provided at the end of the AVVA Policy and Procedure section).***

### **JANUARY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2024 - ELECTIONS: State-Level Elections**

**A. There will be an election of the incorporated AVVA state association officers and the AVVA unincorporated state representatives between January 1 and June 30 of each even-numbered year. (EXCEPTION: A newly formed state group may hold their first election on a date closely following their formation date.)**

### **APRIL 1 – 30, 2024 - ELECTIONS: Chapter Level Elections**

**A. There will be an election of the AVVA incorporated chapter officers and the AVVA unincorporated chapter representatives during April of each even-numbered year.**

## **LOTS OF ADVENTURE IN THE REGION**

***AVVA CA STATE PRESIDENT ALICE GOMEZ hosted a ZOOM meeting for the CA Chapter Presidents, Chapter Representatives and Committee Chair Members.*** Alice led a great meeting that encompassed gathering ideas on how to best promote AVVA throughout the state of CA. CA is off to a good start in promoting AVVA in the state.

The AVVA CA Website is up and running thanks to Michelle Mackey. Michelle is seeking someone to assist her with the website. Please visit <https://avvaca.org/> **to see the lates news.**

Shirley Hunter shared that she has an AVVA member that heads up Chapter 391’s Vista Program. This makes it easier to capture all the volunteer hours of the chapter members. *Great Idea Shirley!*

***AVVA CA CHAPTER 391, CONGRATULATIONS to President Shirley Hunter and Sonora Chapter 391 AVVA Members.*** I had the honor of presenting the AVVA Incorporation Charter and AVVA Flag to Sonora Chapter 391.

President Shirley Hunter referred me to the beautiful National Historic St. James Hotel for my overnight stay. The hotel is the oldest hotel still operating in the State of California! I enjoyed the hotel and their food. Shirley and her husband George graciously met me at the hotel and took me to the AVVA/VVA meeting. I am glad they did, Sonora reminds me of a miniature San Francisco when it comes to steep hills and parking 😊

Please view the pictures below.



I felt the warmth, camaraderie, and work ethic within CA Chapter 391. Also, Chapter 391 is a highly active chapter which includes National Secretary Nina Schloffel, Regional Dick Southern, and CA State Secretary Shirley Hunter.

You will find AVVA/VVA Chapter 391 hard at work promoting activities and fundraisers. One of their fantastic fundraisers is the well-attended Chapter 391 Golf Tournament.



As always, please contact me with any questions, ideas, suggestions, and any comments. Thank you for all you do!

Kelly Frederickson  
AVVA Region 9 Director  
530-321-8805,  
birchkellyann@gmail.com