



Vietnam Veterans of America Sammy L. Davis Chapter 295



November 2015 Newsletter

November Meeting Date Changed

It was decided at the last meeting to change the November meeting date because it falls on Veterans Day. It will be Wednesday, November 4 at 7 pm. There will be no pitch-in at this meeting.

Food Drive for HVAF

Bring non-perishable food to the next meeting for HVAF (Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation) for the Veterans they are helping. What they need the most is canned meats, pasta and noodles. You can visit their website to see what they do. <http://www.hvafofindiana.org/>

Special Membership Offer

There is a one time special offer on VVA membership. Lifetime membership dues are \$100 until December 31, 2015. Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1978, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1978. The special membership application form for this offer is attached or you can print from this website: <http://www.vva.org/documents/Membership/SpecialOffer.pdf> Make sure you bring it in or mail it to VVA Chapter 295.

AVVA is also offering a special life membership for \$100 until December 31, 2015. A special membership form is attached or you can print it from this website:

http://www.avva.org/forms/membership/sp_member_app_nov2015.pdf Make sure you bring it in or mail it to AVVA Chapter 295.

National Convention Report: Be sure to read AVVA member Terri C. Anderson's report on the AVVA National Convention that was held in July. It is on the next two pages.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 269279, Indianapolis, IN 46226-9279 Phone: 317-547-4748

Physical Address: 9450 E. 59th Street, Indianapolis, IN Website: www.vva295.com

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm; Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America Reflections

8th Biennial National Convention July 21—25, 2015

AVVA Mission Statement:

To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects and education.

AVVA Vision Statement:

To create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families.

AVVA Core Values:

Commitment, Ethics & Integrity, Relevance and Teamwork

I, Terri C Anderson, attended the AVVA 8th National Convention. I learned that this was the second National Convention in which the AVVA Chapters were given voting rights and privileges. Chapter Representatives and Presidents made it clear by our attendance and participation that we wanted a voice in the national elections and by-law revisions. During registration, I was given an AVVA bag which included a manual with the agenda for each day, convention rules, proposed by-law changes, election information and policies, governing documents and legislative finance.

Beginning Thursday morning, the AVVA Delegates began working on critical decisions concerning our national by-laws. The by-law committee worked diligently comprising and developing the new revision. As a delegate, I attended the by-law panel discussion so that I could better understand the by-law revisions the committee proposed and the reasons for the changes. In addition, the committee provided information concerning the by-law discussion and voting process.

Cecelia Essenmacher presented the detail of the by-law revisions. Each delegate who had discussion or questions about the revision moved to the microphone to be recognized and was given three minutes to speak on the subject. At the end of the discussion and any additional revisions the delegates were asked to vote. By-law revisions were approved by the delegates on Thursday, July 23, 2015.

The AVVA Convention reconvened on Friday, July 24, 2015 and the focus was on the AVVA Candidate's Forum and Election. A candidate forum was held on the Convention floor prior to the election so that any candidate who was running in opposition to another of the same office had an opportunity to address the Delegate body. The candidates were called by office, and then in alphabetical order. Each candidate was given five minutes to present their view and answer any questions from the floor. Unopposed candidates did not speak unless one or more delegates had questions for them. Our manual included a candidate biography for each person running for office.

The majority of the candidates for national office were re-elected to their position. Three new officers were elected. They were:

- Treasurer—Kathy Andras (Bill Williamson chose to leave the Treasurer position after 16 years of service. He gave a farewell speech.

- Region 1—No candidate.
- Region 5 Director—Cecilia Essenmacher (Penny Meinhart retired)
- Region 7 Director—Percilla Newberry

I attended the AVVA Luncheon where I met many members of the AVVA and the VVA. It was very enjoyable. General Burwell B. Bell, U.S. Army (Retired) was the guest speaker. He is a lifetime member of the New York based Council on Foreign Affairs and VVA Chapter 203.

In addition, the legislative priorities of the 114 Congress were reviewed. Areas of focus for AVVA are:

- Toxic Exposure Act of 2015
- Reinstatement of Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act of 2013

Other areas of AVVA support include:

- Improving the oversight and accountability of the Veterans Administration
- Extending the relationship with the IOM
- Increasing the visibility of the VA through expanded outreach programs
- The fullest accounting of our POW/MIA's
- Clearing up the VA's benefit backlog
- Hiring to fill positions and programs for PTSD and substance abuse
- Incarcerated Veterans
- Minority Veterans
- Women Veterans
- The Newest Veterans
- The Veterans Health Council

Bill Williamson presented the AVVA financial results for the period ending May 31, 2015.

Announcements:

The AVVA Membership Fire Sale is November 1 through December 31, 2015. During this period AVVA Life Membership is \$100.

Leadership Conference is July 19—23, 2016 in Tucson, Arizona

National Convention is July 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana

The conference adjourned Saturday, July 25, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri C Anderson

AVVA Delegate, Region 5



One Time Special Offer

August 1 – December 31, 2015

Life Membership Application

New: _____ Renewal: _____ Membership # _____ Chapter # _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Life Membership Dues \$100.00

Life Membership Payment: Check _____ Money Order _____

Credit Card: Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Amex _____ Discover _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility: Membership is to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purpose) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975. **You MUST submit a copy of your DD214 with this application.**

Send To: Vietnam Veterans of America, PO Box 64299, Baltimore, MD 21264-4299



Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.



* SPECIAL ONE-TIME LIFE MEMBERSHIP OFFER *

**This application is for the Life Membership Special being offered from November 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 only. The application must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2015 to be accepted.*

This application can be filled in online and printed to sign and mail, or it can be printed blank and filled out by hand.

State: Chapter: At-Large? Yes No
Are You a Veteran? Yes No Are you eligible for VVA? Yes No
I am a new member: I am renewing a current membership:

Member #

Name: Sex: M F

Address: Date of Birth:

City: State: Zip:

Phone (Home): Phone (Cell):

Email: (please print clearly)

**Payment must be made in full for \$100.00.
No payment plans are offered with this special.**

DO NOT SEND CASH
(Checks, money orders or credit cards accepted)

Payment Method (Credit Card)

Check <input type="checkbox"/>	Money Order <input type="checkbox"/>	Visa <input type="checkbox"/>	American Express <input type="checkbox"/>	Master Card <input type="checkbox"/>	Discover <input type="checkbox"/>
Card #: <input type="text"/>			Expiration Date: <input type="text"/>		
Cardholder Signature: <input type="text"/>					

**MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO AVVA,
AND MAIL WITH APPLICATION TO:**

Monument Bank, AVVA Lock Box | 8602 Colesville Road | Silver Spring, MD 20910

VVA Call in Day on the Hill—November 4, 2015

Call 202-224-3121, give the operator your state or zip code, and he/she will connect you with your elected officials' office. Ask to speak to the LA for Veterans Affairs, make it clear that you are calling as a constituent, asking for their support of H.R. 1769 and S.901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015. Congressman Dan Benishek, (MI-1) has introduced H.R.1769 the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 co-sponsored by Congressman Mike Honda (CA-17th). Senator Jerry Moran, (KS) has introduced S.901 the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 co-sponsored by Senator Richard Blumenthal (CT). If enacted into law, this bipartisan legislation would establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces.

Dates to Remember

- November 1 Veterans Day Event, 3 pm at Community Life Center, 10612 E Washington Street, Indianapolis, speaker is Brig Gen (Retired) J. Stewart Goodwin
- November 3 Election Day—VOTE!
- November 4 VVA Call in Day on the Hill regarding H.R. 1769 & S.901
VVA meeting 7 pm
- November 9 Carmel High School Veterans Program at 10 am in auditorium, speaker is Major General Bob Nestor, lunch provided. If you wish to attend, email Will Ellery wellery@ccs.k12.in.us or call 846-7721 ext 7018
- November 11 Veterans Day—many restaurants offering specials for Veterans Day
Veterans Day Parade, downtown Indy, arrive before 10am. We will have Vehicles to accommodate those not able to walk, park in the lot across the street from the north side of the Federal Building. Parade starts 11:45am.
- November 21 VVA Indiana State Council, Thanksgiving dinner at 12 noon, meeting at 1pm, This is a pitch-in meal.
- November 26 Happy Thanksgiving
- November 28 Deck the Halls at the Ft. Harrison Veterans Center at 10 am—we have several Christmas trees to decorate.
- December 9 VVA meeting 7:30pm; Board meeting 6pm
- December 19 VVA Christmas Party, doors open 6pm, dinner 7pm; This is a pitch-in meal. If your last name begins with A-G bring Salads, H-O bring Vegetables and P-Z bring desserts. More details at meeting.