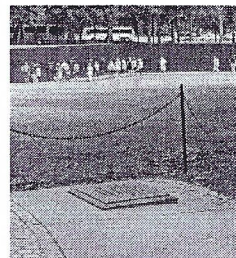


Since returning home from the January VVA Board meeting, the Board has conducted business and communicated through our online conferencing platform. The Officer, Regional, and Committee reports can be read on the AVVA website. (www.avva.org). The Finance Committee, Officers, and I met in January to complete the proposed 2020 budget. The BOD will be asked to accept it during our April board meeting.

IN MEMORY PLAQUE:

AVVA worked Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) and the governmental agencies in the repair of the *In Memory Plaque*. I am pleased to announce that the rededication is scheduled for 10 am onsite this Memorial Day weekend. VVMF and VVA plan to broadcast live from their Facebook pages. This broadcast will offer all of the *In Memory* families the opportunity to attend. We have known since November 2015 that the repair would not be what we had envisioned; however, the plaque will now have a presence and will no longer be overlooked or stood-on by unsuspecting visitors. Without the partnership of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), I believe this project would still be ongoing. Jim Knotts, CEO, has been a true champion for AVVA in this repair.



CONDOLENCE PROGRAM:

Fran Davis, AVVA Chaplain, continues to work with Father Phil in sending sympathy cards to the families of all reported deceased members of VVA and AVVA. Jim Knotts, VVMF CEO, has asked AVVA to help get the word out about the *In Memory Registry*. AVVA now includes a small additional card in each condolence card that will encourage loved ones to submit their veteran's name to the *In Memory Registry* if eligible. VVMF supplies the information cards.

SPOUSAL BENEFITS PROGRAM

In an effort to educate and support the families of veterans concerning the benefits available to them through the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America has created a program focused on bringing awareness to what is currently available to the spouse, widow, widower, and family of the veteran. Federal benefits are constant for everyone; state-funded benefits can vary. With that in mind, this program is designed to be implemented at the state and chapter levels where both federal and in-state funded programs are relevant. This program is only available through our website. Included in this program are all the tools needed to plan and execute a seminar.

CONVENTION:

AVVA is gearing up for our 10th National Convention and our 20th anniversary in 2019. Award nominations, delegate registration, and the convention registration forms are still being accepted. All information and forms are posted to our website. By the time this report is distributed, the deadlines for both bylaw proposals and candidate declarations will have passed.