



**ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS
OF AMERICA,
CHAPTER 203, INC.**

President's Message

AVVA Chapter 203, Inc.
792 Flinn Dr.
Chattanooga, TN 37412

Feb / Mar 2018 issue

AVVA Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and the beginning of a great New Year.

Looking back to 2017:

In March, we attended the three day "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Celebration" in Chattanooga. Our goal was to let people know there is an AVVA chapter in Chattanooga.

In August, the National Convention was held in New Orleans. The election for national officers was held, and once again our very own, Sharon Hobbs, was reelected National President. Congratulations to Sharon.

On Veterans Day, we had a table setup at the first "Salute to A Veteran" recognition organized by the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council. We distributed information to veterans and their spouses about benefits and support groups.

After Thanksgiving, a group of us gathered at Susan Price's house where we prepared 135 one-gallon bags with gloves, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste and miscellaneous personal hygiene items. The bags were delivered to the Chattanooga Vet Clinic to be given out to homeless veterans in the area.

Looking forward to 2018:

Chapter 203 has shown some increase in membership, but we all must work harder this year in recruiting new members and retaining current members.

VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America, hours have increased to an all-time high. Keep up the good work! Chapter 203 is the largest AVVA chapter in Tennessee and should be the leader in volunteer hours. I challenge all members to volunteer, to record, and to submit those hours. Did you know that attending our monthly meeting constitutes as volunteer time?

See you all on Monday, February 5th.

-Joyce Simpson, President

Legislative Priority	Page 2
Calendar Events	Page 2
AVVA Awards	Page 3
Officer Contact Information	Page 3
Application for membership	Page 4

ATTENTION:

Monthly Meetings

Monday, February 5th
Monday, March 5th

Best Western Hotel • 6710
Ringgold Rd • East Ridge • TN
Doors open at 6:30pm
Meeting starts at 7:00pm

APRIL IS AVVA CHAPTER ELECTIONS MONTH
(this is official notification)

All offices are open for candidates: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The term shall be for two (2) years.

QUALIFICATIONS – ALL OFFICERS

- Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- Must be an AVVA Regular Member in good standing for at least three (3) months prior to the election, with no pending disciplinary actions against them.
- Must be actively involved in the AVVA chapter to which he/she belongs, as determined by the majority of the members of that chapter, and must possess the basic skills for the position they seek

DUTIES:

- May be found on the AVVA website. www.avva.org Under GOVERNING DOCUMENTS / Policies & Procedures. Section 5 page 17.

CANDIDATES:

- A simple letter-of-intent to run for office must be submitted by **March 19th**. (14 days prior to elections per policy)
- Send your declaration to: Sharon Hobbs · 312 Dee Ln · Hixson · TN · 37343 or email to blondyhobbs@aol.com Be sure to include your name, phone number, and office you are seeking.

*****NATIONAL AVVA AT WORK*****

Supports legislation supporting Gulf War Veterans

The Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014 (H.R. 4261) did not make it out of committee, yet this era of Veterans suffer without recognition of their illnesses and lack of targeted treatment due to the VA's prevaricated tactics and restraints levied on the Research Advisory Committee (RAC). Research is defined as the systematic investigation into the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions. An estimated one quarter of the 700,000, U.S. troops who deployed to the Persian Gulf to liberate Kuwait have medical symptoms related to service in the region.

The premise of Gulf War health research, either basic or applied, conducted by the Federal Government to improve any ill health of Gulf War veterans should answer central questions on the nature, causes, and treatments of the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theatre of operations during the Gulf War.

Research of children of Gulf War veterans show they have a birth defect rate greater than seven percent (7%) at birth. The normal birth defect rate, according to Mekdeci is 2 to 3% at birth. The 2008 report concedes that Gulf War illness is a serious physical disease affecting a 'minimum' of 175,000 veterans of the 1990-1991 Gulf War.

**VISIT THE AVVA WEBSITE FOR A COMPLETE READING OF THIS LEGISLATIVE PRIORTY:
AVVA.ORG/ NEWS & EVENTS/ GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Feb 5th: AVVA Monthly meeting
Best Western Hotel, East Ridge
- Feb 19th: VVA Chapter 203 monthly meeting
AL Post 95, Ringgold Rd, East Ridge
- Jan-June: AVVA State elections
All state-level offices open for candidates
- Mar 5th: AVVA Monthly meeting
Best Western Hotel, East Ridge
- Mar 19th: VVA Chapter 203 monthly meeting
AL Post 95, Ringgold Rd, East Ridge
- Mar 29-31st: Region III Conference
Weston Hotel, Greenville, SC
- Apr 2nd: AVVA monthly meeting/elections
Best Western Hotel, East Ridge

Make your AVVA tax deductible donations to ***National Foundations for Veterans & Families (NFVF)***
Be sure to stipulate
"AVVA Chapter 203"
on your check
www.nfvf.org
Mail to: Treasurer
792 Flinn Dr.
Chattanooga, TN 37412
(NFVF is the fundraising arm of AVVA, both nationally & locally.)

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, which will be in color and arrive sooner, send an email to susan_price_2454@msn.com with "Newsletter" in the subject line. Be sure to sign your name.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS:

President: Joyce Simpson
423-987-6851
jsimpson203avva@gmail.com

Vice President Tammy Moody
423-883-5126
t1m7625@yahoo.com

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Susan Price
423-596-1219
susan_price_2454@msn.com

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Membership Chair: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Sharon Hobbs
423-364-6385
blondyhobbs@aol.com

AVVA Facts:

- In 2017, AVVA members participated in 52 Faces of Agent Orange Town Hall meetings nationwide.
- Since the implantation of the AVVA VISTA program in 2014, AVVA members have reported over 53,000 hours nationwide.
- In 2019, AVVA will celebrate our 20th anniversary.



Members volunteering to prepare Christmas bags for the homeless:
L-R: Janice Brauch, Sue Anderson, Joyce Simpson, and Susan Price.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2018 AVVA NATIONAL AWARDS

It is time to nominate members for the National Member-of-the-Year Award, National Fellowship Award, and the National Cathy Keister *SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE* Award. Do you know someone who always volunteers their time, helps with fundraisers or membership drives? Someone who goes above-and-beyond for AVVA? Take a few minutes and nominate that person for a 2018 award. The criteria and nomination forms can be found on the national AVVA website. www.avva.org Deadline for nominations is May 10, 2018. The recipients will be announced during the Leadership & Education Conference in Palm Springs, CA. The winner does not have to be present to win.

NOTICE: Until the Membership Chair appointed position is filled, address all membership inquiries/issues to Sharon Hobbs. 423.364.6385 blondyhobbs@aol.com

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APPLICATION FOR AVVA MEMBERSHIP

Make your check payable to **AVVA**
Mail to: Membership • 312 Dee Ln • Hixson • TN • 37343-2056

Name: _____

Sex: F M

Complete Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Chapter Affiliation: **TN- Chapter 203**

E-Mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Yearly Membership Dues:

1 Year: \$20

3 Years: \$50

Life Membership Options: (check all that apply)

Paid in Full

Optional Life Time
Payment

59yrs and below \$175

(\$50 down & \$25/mo)

60yrs and above \$100

*Paying less than \$175 requires proof of age,
driver's license, state-issued ID, etc.*