

# UPDATES

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. Enewsletter

Volume 5 Issue 1

April 2010

## Editors Message

We are going to try something new with this e-newsletter starting with this issue. Since submissions have been sparse from chapters and the web site overhaul is having difficulties, this e-newsletter will be sent out on the first of each month for the next 6 months.

We have a great deal of information to pass to the membership regarding the upcoming Biennial meeting in Orlando, Florida on August 10-14, 2010. This e-newsletter will serve as one of the methods of communications for both National and the membership. Please utilize our e-mail at [avvaupdates@yahoo.com](mailto:avvaupdates@yahoo.com), the website or contact your state representative/president or regional director with questions.

This Biennial meeting is your opportunity to be heard by directing your state delegate on voting for candidates and By-law change. They can also express your ideas for shaping the future of this organization.

We have included in this issue critical deadlines for many of the upcoming changes, candidates, awards and much more. Please take your time to read each and every page so you are aware of all deadlines, qualifications and instructions for what ever you submit

If you have any questions, contact the person listed in charge of that committee. If all else fails, contact me - I will be glad to steer you in the right direction.

Please take the time to sign up for at least one of the three methods for obtaining information regarding this organization. You can always contact you State Representative/President or Regional Director. Although the website is having some download issues, it contains a great deal of information. Go to it, explore it and make suggestions to the Webmaster.

Hope to see you in Orlando.

Suzanne Blohm-Weber  
Updates Committee Chair/Editor

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of  
America, Inc.  
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Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 585-4000

### Officers

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[esimmons@avva.org](mailto:esimmons@avva.org)

Vice President: Mary Yeomans  
[myeomans@avva.org](mailto:myeomans@avva.org)

Secretary: Patsy Varnell  
[pvarnell@avva.org](mailto:pvarnell@avva.org)

Treasurer: Bill Williams  
[bwilliams@avva.org](mailto:bwilliams@avva.org)

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# Three Ways to receive information from AVVA

## National Information Distribution List (NIDL)

In an effort to get National information out to the membership as quickly, efficiently, and economically as possible, AVVA implemented a National Information Distribution List as of October, 2008. It is our hope that all members who have e-mail capabilities will join the NIDL. The NIDL database is being maintained and updated regularly. People who want to join that list, should send me an e-mail requesting that they be added.

They need to give me their:

- A) First and last name
- B) Mailing address, including city, state, and zip
- C) Telephone numbers, including area code,
- D) Membership number and whether they are a Life Member or not
- E) Their e-mail address

The members are asked to provide this information for a variety of reasons:

1. So we know who we are adding to the NIDL
2. We have alternate methods of contacting them if their e-mail start bouncing back
3. We can periodically check to see if they have renewed their members and qualify to be on the list
4. We need this list of their e-mail address so we can send them information. Very few members have their e-mail address on the membership database.

The NIDL is confidential and is neither sold nor shared. Thank you for your participation

Patsy Varnell, AVVA National Secretary  
pvarnell@avva.org

## UPDATES

Sign up to receive this enewsletter by  
sending your email address to:

1. avvaupdates@yahoo.com
2. Membership at national
3. State Representative/President
4. Regional Director

## Join the AVVA Talklist!

Send an email to:

dmond@avva.org

and request to be put on the talklist

This is the first deadline item:

By-Law submissions must be postmarked on or before APRIL 13, 2010 to be considered

Mail to: Pat Furno W1080 Roosevelt Road Oconomowoc, WI 53066-9516

Her contact information for any questions: (920) 474-4017 or cpapfavva@wi.rr.com



**Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.**

**Proposed Changes to the By-Laws Form**

**Section Affected:**

Article: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

**Related Section(s) Affected:**

Article: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Article: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

**Must be submitted no later than 120 days prior to Convention  
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE**

**Proposed Change:**

(Enter general wording of Proposed Change: Exact text will be prepared by the By-Laws Committee once approved by the Convention Delegates.)

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**Reason for Proposed Change:**

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*Use additional pages if necessary*

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliated Number: \_\_\_\_\_ State Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received by National By-Laws Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

**From: Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. Election Committee**

**Facts re: AVVA National Biennial Meeting**

**Elections, Candidate Registration, Delegate Registration**

**The AVVA National Biennial Meeting...August 10-14, 2010 Rosen Centre-Orlando, FL.**

**Who is eligible to run for an office?**

Anyone, as long as you are an AVVA member in good standing for one (1) year and have a current AVVA membership.

**What does “good standing mean?”**

Good standing means that you have no pending disciplinary actions at the, Chapter, State or National level for a period of one (1) year.

**When should I register?**

Whenever you are sure that you want to seek a National position or can be a Delegate/Alternate Delegate.

**What should I do?**

File form: F-Ele05.01 Candidate Registration Form or F-Ele05.02 National Delegate Registration Form

**I misplaced my Registration Forms, now what?**

Go to avva.org, go to the *About* section. In the *About* section you will see *Forms*. All Candidate Registration and Delegate/Alternate Delegate Registration Forms can be found here.

**What is the process for Candidate Registration or Delegate/Alternate Delegate Registration?**

Once your registration is received, your current membership will be verified by the AVVA National Membership Committee. Once verified, the registration will be sent to the AVVA National Election Committee and placed in the proper listing...Candidate and (or) Delegate/Alternate Delegate. Upon verification you will receive a letter confirming your status.

**Can I seek a National position and be a delegate, too? Yes**

**Where do I send forms? Do I have to mail it?**

Registration for any National Office, Regional Director, Delegate/Alternate Delegate will be accepted starting Friday January 1, 2010. Forms must be sent (mail or fax) to:

Elayne G. Mackey , Election Committee Chair

cysticfib@aol.com

7407 Candlelight Drive

Riverside, CA. 92509

951) 681-9531 Home phone

951) 681-9531 Fax number (or) Fax: 909) 874-0670 Attn.: Shelly

**Who is eligible to be a Delegate/Alternate Delegate?** Your State’s Associate Representative/President is eligible to be a Delegate. This is a position afforded them when they were elected. You should always have an Alternate Delegate chosen. This Alternate will replace the Delegate if she/he is not able to fulfill the position as Delegate of record.

**What paper work do I need to have done before I register?**

If the year is an even numbered year, the Delegate/Alternate Delegate’s state must file any reports that are required by National headquarters. A prime example being any reports required by the Finance Committee. The reports must be filed no later than sixty (60) days prior to the election. This would be Thursday June 10, 2010.

**When is it too late to register?**

Candidates and Delegates/Alternate Delegates must register...No later than thirty (30) days prior to the National Biennial Meeting. This does not mean the day of the elections, it means thirty (30) days prior to the start of the Convention. This would be... Saturday July 10, 2010.

**If I am a candidate do I have to be at the elections?**

Yes, although certain exceptions do apply, such as a death in the family, illness or weather conditions.

**Can my Alternate Delegate have an Alternate Delegate? No**

**Can a Point of Contact be a Delegate? No**

**How many times can I vote?**

As a delegate you will be able to vote one (1) time for the position of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. You will also vote one (1) time for the position of Regional Director from your region. There will be thirteen (13) positions available. You will vote for 5 of these positions.

**BY-LAWS  
ARTICLE VII  
Board of Directors**

Section 7.01. General. The property, affairs, and business of the Corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors.

Section 7.02 Number of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of no less than ten (10) nor more than sixteen (16).

Section 7.03. Election of Directors. Nine (9) of the members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall be members, one from each respective Region, elected as determined by the Board of Directors. The Candidate and the resulting elected Director must reside in the region they represent. The remaining four (4) members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Corporation elected as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 7.04. Term. Each member of the Board of Directors shall hold office for a term of two (2) years, and until her or his successor has been elected and qualified, or until her or his death, resignation or removal.

## Agent Orange Remembrance Pin

(WHAT IT REPRESENTS)



Please wear this pin in honor of those who have suffered the effects of Agent Orange.

The heart shape symbolizes the love we have for our Vietnam Veterans,  
who have given so much for our Country.

The broken crack in the heart shows heartbreak that so many have endured  
due to the exposure to the deadly dioxins.

The orange tear is still being shed each day by our veterans, their families and children  
due to the lingering effects over 40 years later.

Each time you pin this to your lapel take a moment to remember those who suffer today  
and those who will suffer for generations to come.

The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America has reproduced the AVVA Agent Orange Remembrance pin. They are now available for sale.

The pin is a lovely memento to give to the widows/widowers and family members of victims, to present to those who have Agent Orange related illness, or be worn by anyone just to keep the victims in our thoughts and prayers.

Use the attached billing application. If you are an Incorporated AVVA State or Chapter you can order these pins directly. If you are not incorporated, your VVA chapter can order them for you. National AVVA is selling these pins for \$3.00. We ask that no more than \$4.00 be charged for this pin. This is a symbol of our undying love for our veterans and their families who are touched by this issue every day. This is the purpose of this pin – the heart and soul of our organization.

AGENT ORANGE REMEMBRANCE PIN ORDER FORM

Ordered By:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Information (If Different From Above)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Pricing:            1 Pin                    \$3.00 each  
                         100 or more Pins       \$2.00 each

Shipping Costs:    Orders less than 100 pins, add \$5.00  
                         Orders of 100 pins or more, add \$10.00

Payment should be made payable to AVVA

Mail Order To:

Penny Meinhardt, National Fundraising Chair  
4125 Dove Road; Lot #67  
Port Huron, MI 48060-7409  
Home: 810-985-6595  
Cell: 810-531-0409  
E-Mail: [vvameinhardt@comcast.net](mailto:vvameinhardt@comcast.net)

# BETTER CHANCE SCHOLARSHIP

ASSOCIATES of VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA (AVVA) was chartered in 1999. It is a parallel organization of Vietnam Veterans of America, working side by side to improve the life of the Vietnam Veterans and their families. In January 1998, the BETTER CHANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM was established.

This was one of the ways that the associates could help better the lives of the veterans and their families not only today but for years to come. The program targets the average student who would not be eligible for an academic scholarship and could not afford the escalating costs of an education, but did want to attend college.

As funds permit, scholarships in the amount of \$1000, \$750, or \$500 will be awarded to students who are in financial need to pursue post-secondary education.

## ELIGIBILITY

For an application to be accepted, you must be a VVA or AVVA member; the spouse, child, or grandchild of a VVA or AVVA member; or the spouse, child, or grandchild of a KIA or MIA Vietnam Veteran

You must be registered in an accredited college, university, or post-secondary training institute.

You must be able to prove financial need through the official print out from the Federal Student Aid Application form (FASA).

## TO APPLY

Applicants must submit the following by June 30, 2010

- \_\_\_ A completed application form.
- \_\_\_ A copy of the Official Student Aid Report sent to you from the Federal Student Aid Program.
- \_\_\_ A sealed copy of your latest high school or college transcript.
- \_\_\_ Proof of acceptance from the school of choice.
- \_\_\_ Letters of reference from a current or former teacher, academic advisor, employer, community leader, minister, etc. (at least two). Letters CANNOT BE FROM A RELATIVE.
- \_\_\_ A letter of recommendation from the chapter president or state council president.

To be considered for this scholarship:

**ALL OF THE ABOVE MUST BE INCLUDED  
WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM,  
BE CURRENT, AND MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JUNE 30, 2010**

The process of the selection of the award winners is within the sole discretion of the ASSOCIATES of VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA and is not subject to appeal or review.  
Send completed paperwork to:

AVVA BETTER CHANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CHAIR  
8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## Better Chance Scholarship Application

Applicant Status:  Vietnam-era Veteran  Child/grandchild of MIA or KIA Vietnam Veteran  
 AVVA Member  Child/grandchild of VVA or AVVA Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full name and membership number of VVA/AVVA sponsor. If MIA or KIA, state name.

### EDUCATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School Date of graduation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
School You Plan To Attend

ESSAY QUESTIONS: Limit to one page or less per question.

- (1.) What long-range goals have you made for yourself? Why did you choose them? How will you accomplish them?
- (2.) What type of work experience have you had? To what extent will you be able to assist with your college expenses?
- (3.) List organizations or activities in which you are or have been involved and list any community service involvement.
- (4.) Why do you think you should receive the scholarship?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## Annual Fellowship Award

Submission deadline is  
May 30, 2010

Go to [avva.org](http://avva.org) for the criteria  
for nomination

Will be awarded at the AVVA  
Awards Luncheon in  
Orlando, Florida at the  
Biennial Convention

## ANNUAL MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Submission deadline is  
May 30, 2010

Go to [avva.org](http://avva.org) for the criteria  
for nomination

Will be awarded at the AVVA  
Awards Luncheon in  
Orlando, Florida at the  
Biennial Convention

## UPDATES DEADLINES

From April 2010 to September 2010 there  
will be an issue sent out  
the first of every month.  
Feel free to submit at any time,  
it will be published in the next issue.

Please send submissions and email  
changes or requests to:

[avvaupdates@yahoo.com](mailto:avvaupdates@yahoo.com)

All submissions will be considered,  
screened for content and edited if necessary.  
“Letters to the Editor” are strictly the  
opinions of the author and not that of  
Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America.  
All chapter, state and regional reports  
are the responsibility of the writer and must  
contain name and contact information in order  
to be published. Content must be  
verifiable, accurate and appropriate for this  
newsletter. Thanks for your support.

*Together  
Always*