



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

President's Message

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

*Dec 2017/
Jan 2018 issue*

Inside this Issue:

Legislative Priority	Page 2
Caregiving Support	Page 2
Calendar Events	Page 2
Christmas Dinner Reservation form	Page 3
Officer Contact Information	Page 3
Application for membership	Page 4

AVVA Members,

Welcome to our first bimonthly newsletter. Our intent is to make this an up-to-date source of information for you. Expect our next issue in February.

In October, AVVA began meeting on the first Monday of each month at the Best Western Hotel in East Ridge. I would like to personally invite you to attend and participate. It's time for AVVA to become more proactive in our organization and in the veteran community.

Chapter elections will take place in April of 2018. It's not too early to make a commitment to our Chapter. All offices will be open for candidates.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Details of location are on this page. If you need transportation, please contact me. I hope to see everyone at the Christmas Dinner.

-Joyce Simpson, President

ATTENTION:

Monthly Meetings

**Monday, December 4th
Monday, February 5th**

Best Western Hotel • 6710 Ringgold Rd • East Ridge, TN

Due to the first Monday in January being New Year's Day, the meeting is canceled.

AVVA's Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA)

The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America give innumerable hours of service to our veterans and our communities. In an effort to capture the totals and recognize those who have committed their time to AVVA's service, we have created the VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA (AVVA VISTA) Program.

Volunteer hours are hours donated without prejudice or coercion to the betterment or care of our veterans, individually or collectively, or involvement in community activities or local charities in your capacity as an AVVA member.

Examples of VISTA hours include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Assisting an individual who would otherwise have difficulty completing day-to-day tasks. (i.e. shopping, cleaning, and/or cooking without assistance);
- (2) Cooking for a chapter meeting, volunteering during fundraisers, and/or chapter functions;
- (3) Driving an individual to doctor's office visits;
- (4) Visiting Nursing Homes or Hospitals;
- (5) Spending time with emotionally, mentally or physically challenged persons ('Lending an ear');
- (6) Creating items to be donated or building quality-of-life home improvements for the physically challenged

AVVA Chapter 203 is actively participating in the VISTA program. Are you volunteering your time as an AVVA member? Please begin recording those times and enter them into a VISTA hours form. A form can be picked up at our monthly meeting or you may obtain one by visiting the AVVA website. www.avva.org/programs . Directions for submitting are written on the form.

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

Supports introduction of legislation supporting Military and Veterans Caregivers

AVVA supports introduction of legislation supporting Military and Veterans Caregivers Public Law 111-163, the "Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, stated that the Department of Veterans Affairs provide comprehensive benefits as part of the Caregiver Support program. Under current law, such eligibility is limited to only those veterans who incurred disability on or after September 11, 2001. AVVA implores our legislators to apply benefits with parity to all veterans and their families. The absence of parity is insulting and displays a lack of gratitude for their sacrifice.

The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America supports legislation that would extend to all veterans with serious service-connected disabilities, enabling them to participate in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program of comprehensive assistance to family caregivers. If passed, all caregivers of seriously disabled veterans would be allowed to receive a tax-free monthly stipend, reimbursement for travel expenses, health insurance, mental health services, counseling, training, and respite care.

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



The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America and Military and Veteran Caregiver Network (MVCN) are partners in providing an online peer support services for our caregiving members. The AVVA and MVCN Team desires to ensure caregivers of wounded, ill, and injured veterans and service members are not isolated but have



access to the knowledge, skills, and resources that will allow them to support one another in a meaningful way.

If you are caregiver or if you have transition over from being a caregiver to a survivor, we invite you to visit the website and join the AVVA Group today.

<https://milvetcaregivernetnetwork.org/join-a-support-group/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Dec 4th: Monthly meeting
Best Western Hotel, East Ridge
- Dec 6th: Deadline for Christmas Dinner
(See page 3)
- Dec 14th: Annual Christmas Dinner
Ridgedale Baptist Church (See page 3)
- Jan 15th: VVA Chapter 203 monthly meeting
AL Post 95, Ringgold Rd, East Ridge
- Feb 5th: Monthly meeting
Best Western Hotel, East Ridge
- Jan-Feb: AVVA At-Large State
Representative elections
- Jan-June: AVVA State elections
All state-level offices open for candidates

AVVA has 3 vendors for logo'd products:

**MILITARY BEST
IDEAL IMAGES
AGENT ORANGE STORE**

Visit www.avva.org AVVA PRODUCTS to access their online store

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

MEET OUR LEADERS

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: Charlene Holloway
423-802-9316
hollowaychar@gmail.com

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

L-R:
Simpson,
Price,
Moody



AVVA Chapter 203 participated in "Salute a Veteran" on Veteran's Day at the National Guard Armory in Chattanooga.

L-R: Marie Hays & Charlene Holloway.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER RESERVATIONS



RIDGEDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
1831 HICKORY VALLEY RD
CHATTANOOGA, TN
DECEMBER 14TH 6:00PM



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Total number in your party? Adults: _____ Children under 12 years: _____ (free)

Total @ \$10ea = \$ _____ Payment must accompany this reservation

Make your check payable to: *VVA Chapter 203*

Mail to: Christmas Dinner • PO Box 23405 • Chattanooga • TN • 37422

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: DECEMBER 6TH (tickets not sold at door)

AVVA
792 Flinn Dr.
Chattanooga, TN 37412

APPLICATION FOR AVVA MEMBERSHIP

Make your check payable to **AVVA**
Mail to: Membership • PO Box 242 • Soddy Daisy • TN • 37384-0242

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.*