



**AVA Annual Membership Meeting Summary Report  
June 4, 2026  
2:00pm – 3:00pm (ET)**

**Attendance:** 34 participants (*41 registered*)

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. A Year in Review: Amy Baynes, AVA Board President** (*See attached President's Report*)

- AVA Membership Tier Structure and Fees have not been adjusted in over 20 years. The Board reviewed the current structure and fees and approved updated that will be effective in July 2026. The Executive Director will share additional details during her report.
- The fee increase is intended to address rising operational and organizational cost and ensure AVA's membership structure remains accurate, sustainable, and able to support member services and organizational priorities.

**III. Financial Report: Mark Hertweck, AVA Board Immediate Past President**

- Presentation of the budget
- The budget will be shared via email to all member organizations.

**IV. Subcommittee Report** (*See attached Subcommittee Reports*)

- Website Committee: Laura Quasney
- Communications Committee: Tanya Bower

**V. Governance Updates/Board Recruitment, Tierra Williams, AVA Board Vice President**

- The Board recruitment process was shared as outlined in AVA's Bylaws and information previously distributed via the AVA listserv.

## Board Recruitment

- Two current Board member (Amy Baynes and Mark Hertweck) are seeking re-election
- Amy Baynes and Mark Hertweck introduced themselves, shared their experience, and spoke about their interest in serving an additional term on AVA's Board.
- The voting link was shared via chat, and members were provided the opportunity to cast their vote. Voting link:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9qGbFLY7utwcaaW49Bsml6TsAahUPyTmMXxD0kya5\\_o5fKw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9qGbFLY7utwcaaW49Bsml6TsAahUPyTmMXxD0kya5_o5fKw/viewform)
  - Members who don't have access to Google Form, were encouraged to reach out to Arlene to receive the pdf version or the survey.
  - Additional voting options can be provided, as needed.
- There are currently three additional open Board positions.
  - AVA members were encouraged to apply, even if you're new in your role.
  - Several current board members shared they became involved at 2 years into their role.

## VI. **Where We Are and Looking Ahead: Arlene Vassell, AVA Executive Director** (See attached Executive Director's Report)

- The Executive Director position is part-time. Current office hours: Monday-Thursday, 10:00-3:00 ET, with flexibility as needed.
- AVA's mission was shared: *AVA is a collective voice for state administrators of the Violence Against Women Grant (VAWA). AVA's mission is to encourage and facilitate mutual support, peer enrichment, awareness and collaboration among states and territories administering STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Formula Grant Programs.*
- AVA's core values were shared: *collaboration, relationships, encouragement, teamwork, resourcefulness, trustworthiness, and safe space.*
  - Core values serve as an accountable strategy and guide AVA's internal and external communications and work.
- Review of AVA's Strategic Priorities
- As AVA enter the new fiscal year, all are encouraged to share recommendations for national organizations and strategic partnership that AVA should pursue.
  - Recommendations may be shared directly to Arlene or any Board member.

- AVA is currently collaborating and building strategic partnerships with National Organization of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAAVA), ALSO STAAR, National Organization for Victim Advocacy (NOVA), and National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV).
- Collaboration with OVW continues through quarterly calls, which have been productive and engaging.

### **Peer-to-Peer In-person Meeting**

- Planning is underway for the 2026 Peer-to-Peer In-person Meeting in Montana in late-September/early October. *Additional information coming out soon.*
- AVA hopes to have the National TA providers join us again this year, following the positive feedback received from the 2025 in-person meeting.
- Conversations are underway with the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence regarding facilitating a session on providing services in rural communities.

### **AVA Monthly Connect Calls**

- Monthly Connect Calls continue to be well attended and positively received.
- All members were encouraged to attend.
- The calls are recorded for AVA-internal notetaking purposes only

### **Membership Tiers Adjustment & Fee Increase** *(See attached one-pager)*

- Tier adjustments were made based on current state populations data.
- Membership tiers will increase by 10% across all tier levels.
- Changes become effective July 1, 2026.
- Fee increases range from \$50 to \$300 depending on membership tier.
- Flexibility will be provided during the upcoming membership year to support current or potential members if the increase creates a financial barrier for joining AVA.
- Please reach out to Executive Director or any Board member for additional information.

### **Peer Support and Mentoring Program**

- The program has officially launched.
- Members and non-members interested in serving as a mentor were encouraged to contact Executive Director.

- A comprehensive Mentor Guide has been developed to support implementation and provide practical tools and guidance for mentors, recognizing that mentors have significant workloads and competing priorities.

**VII. Open Forum Discussion: Emily Burnett, AVA Board Secretary**

- The space was opened for attendees to share feedback, questions, reflections, etc...
- Links to OVW NOFOs have been disseminate. Anyone seeking peer support were encouraged to reach out to membership via the listserv.

**VIII. Closing Remarks: Amy Baynes**

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

*Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to this year's Annual Membership Meeting. We look forward to ongoing collaboration and partnership on behalf of survivors across all communities.*