

## AVA Annual Meeting Agenda

### Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

#### I. Welcome & Introduction

- All AVA board members introduced themselves to the AVA Administrators present on the zoom call.
- AVA Administrators asked to hold all questions and comments until the end during open forum and discussions.

#### II. AVA's President's Report - Julia Fuller-Wilson (Virginia)

- Reviewed AVA's goals and the current AVA board structure.
- There are five AVA Board seats are up for election this year.
- AVA dues-paying members will cast one ballot/state or territory for the available positions
- In 2019 the AVA membership voted to modify the bylaws to reflect that elected board members cannot serve more than four (4) full two-year consecutive terms.
- AVA Goals
  - Strengthen communication among VAWA Administrators and serve as the voice of VAWA Administrators in quarterly meetings with OVW
  - Facilitate AVA Connect conversations, giving VAWA Administrators the opportunity to thoughtfully discuss the most pressing challenges they are facing during the pandemic and to interact with peers to identify ways to improve compliance with VAWA and service to subgrantees.
  - VAWA Administrators will receive recurring listserv posts and/or emails from Barry about upcoming AVA Connect calls.
- AVA Administration and oversight of AVA
  - 12-month budget will be discussed by AVA's Treasurer, Cecilia Miller
  - AVA has conducted 11 board meetings so far in 2020, most via Zoom. We have been unable to meet in-person due to COVID. AVA's board had two (2) in-person meetings in 2019.
  - Kim Oppelt keeps AVA's website up-to date with the latest information and resources for review.
  - Julia thanked the board members for their dedication, commitment, and for making AVA successful and thanked the ED for his support and guidance.
  - Julia thanked Merry Wills for her commitment to AVA's Board during her tenure.
  - Julia also thanked AVA members for their continued support. AVA board and staff are looking forward to a happy and productive year.

### III. AVA's Treasurer's Report - Cecilia Miller (Minnesota)

- AVA's Primary source of revenue is from the dues paid by states and territories, as well as a minimal amount of interest and credit reward income.
- Expenses - we try to stick to a close match between expenses and revenue. We have approximately a year's worth of operating expenses in a Savings account.
- AVA has one PT employee currently, our Executive Director, Barry Bryant. AVA also has two (2) contractors, Kim Oppelt (updates site and membership information) and our accountant who completes our monthly reconciliations, balance sheets, profit and lost statements, and year-end tax returns.
- The net income this year was approximately \$20,000 (difference between expenses and revenue). Because of COVID-19, we were unable to meet in person or provide scholarships in 2020. We typically expend funds to support administrator's travel to attend the Peer-To-Peer meetings and our annual AVA luncheon meeting. We did not have AVA's annual luncheon, and we did not hold in-person board meetings, or peer-to-peer meetings. We are really hoping to be able to resume some of these activities in 2021.

### IV. AVA's Executive Director's Report – Barry Bryant

- Four Peer-To-Peer scholarships were awarded in 2019 that provided financial support to VAWA Administrators who attended our annual luncheon or one of our peer-to-peer meetings.
- AVA sincerely appreciates the ongoing support of our members. Your timely membership is the only way that AVA can continue to provide technical assistance and make opportunities to network and learn that AVA makes available to VAWA Administrators.
- My job is to provide you with the assistance that you need and to be available to you when you need that assistance and answer questions and listen to your challenges. If I can't answer your questions directly then I will reach out to a board member and ask them if they can help you and if the board members cannot help you then I will post the question to the list serv and ask all of the administrators across the country to see if they can help in some way.
- I want to take a few minutes to highlight what we do beyond the normal duties:
  - If you ever want to know more about the services that AVA provides, you can refer to our website ([www.avadministrators.org](http://www.avadministrators.org)) and click on the '**Member Benefits**' tab for an overview of the basic services that we provide.
  - To improve communication with colleagues across the country AVA transitioned from the Yahoo list serv to the Electric Embers list serv.
  - In the last year AVA added a peer mentor service for new administrators who need support. With this service, we pair new administrators (or any administrators who requests assistance) with a veteran administrator who will work with you on the issues that you need direct assistance with and give you an ongoing resource to reach out to. When possible, we try to match you with an administrator from a similar size state or territory.
  - To date we have assisted 10 states and we are available to add more if you need help. If you are interested in serving as a mentor for AVA, and you have a particular strength or area of expertise with respect to administrating VAWA funds, please let us know and we will match you with someone who has a need in the area that you have a strength.
  - We continue to have quarterly calls with OVW, however due to the pandemic we missed one call. The general discussion is framed around input from VAWA Administrators across the country.
  - Prior to each OVW call we ask administrators if they have any challenges or discussion topic areas that they would like for us to ask OVW about.
  - AVA has developed several relations with outside agencies that we feel are important:
    - OVW – Office on Violence Against Women
    - NAVAA – National Association for Victim Assistance Administrators (partnered to have Peer-To-Peer last year).
    - NCJA – National Criminal Justice Association

- JRSA - Justice Research and Statistics Association. Cecilia will be serving with an advisory group to identify standardized outcomes for victim services funded by VOCA and VAWA.
- AVA added two (2) congressional colleagues that we reach out to each month. We now have two contacts in the Senate and one in the House. AVA reaches out to these partners on issues like the VAWA reauthorization and the funding that VAWA gets from the Crime Victim's Fund. For the past year, there has been virtually no movement on the reauthorization as there are several key sticking points around gun provisions, protections for transgender and LGBTQ populations and tribal governments. To date there has been no movement and the contacts we have in DC are saying that there will not be any movement until after the election and into the next administration.

#### **V. AVA FY 2021 Board Nominees and Open Board Positions**

- This year we have five open board positions and six administrators who have expressed interest in serving on the Board. Four of the board member's current term is expiring so they have to re-run and two additional administrators are running for the first time.
- All individuals running introduced themselves to the membership.
- Voting will be done via survey monkey because we are not meeting in person this year.
  - The survey monkey will be sent only to the primary contacts at your agency.
  - Only AVA dues-paying members will be permitted to vote. If you do not receive an email around 5:00pm EST today, please let Barry know.
  - Survey's will be active through September 23, 2020 to give you time to vote.

#### **VI. Open Forum Discussion – MaryEllen**

- This is the point in our Annual meeting where we would normally be finishing our AVA sponsored lunch and the Executive Director would be standing before you asking you to share how AVA has helped and supported you and to also find out if there are other services that we can provide to each of you.
- During this part of our agenda, VAWA Administrators shared some of the ways that AVA had been useful to them and how they routinely reach out to AVA for support. Administrators expressed appreciation to AVA for working with OVW to help get valuable feedback.
- Other Administrators expressed appreciation for:
  - The one-on-one assistance they received during the AVA Connect Conversations
  - The Peer-to-Peer mentoring
  - Response to questions posted on the AVA listserv
  - AVA's continuing to conduct quarterly meetings with OVW to secure feedback about timely VAWA-related issues

#### **Closing words (Cecilia Miller)**

- Reminder about the survey monkey that will be emailed to AVA dues paying members to vote for AVA Board members. We will send out reminders of the voting deadline.
- We hope to see your faces in an AVA connect conversation soon and we hope to meet each of you in person next year. Please contact Barry or any of AVA's board members if you have any questions or needs.
- We encourage each of you to seek help if needed.