Vietnam, 50 Years

Support Our Veterans!

We Support Our Troops
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<td>email: <a href="mailto:charlene.cobb@SheboyganCounty.com">charlene.cobb@SheboyganCounty.com</a></td>
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**Upcoming NACVSO Conferences**

**NACVSO Conference 2018**
Reno, NV - Silver Legacy Casino and Hotel

**NACVSO Conference 2019**
Cleveland, OH - Renaissance Cleveland Hotel

**NACVSO Conference 2020**
Atlanta, GA - Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel
President, Ed Zackery  
1st Vice, Martin Caraway  
2nd Vice, Herm Breuer  
Secretary, Tami Saleska  

Treasurer, Barry Johns  
Judge Advocate, Mike Warner  
Women’s Vet Rep, Olivia Laschober  

Past President, Jim Golgart  
Exec. Dir., Robert Park  
Chaplain, Mitch Holmes  

E-Board: Kristi McNichol  
Chris Smith  
Nichole Coleman  
Elizabeth Ledvina  

For membership and benefits information, please visit nacvso.org.
It has only been four months since our conference in San Diego and we have already accomplished much. I would like to thank San Diego County and the California delegation for hosting a wonderful conference. Their team put together a wonderful Presidents Reception, which I do not think will ever be beat. The training was outstanding and the conference was a huge success.

Since the conference, we have accomplished much. In August, we held our second Leadership Summit in Providence, RI, hosted by NACVSO with the assistance of the State of Rhode Island Department of Veterans Services. These Summits are designed to bring community leaders and resources together to learn and grow from one another. We have found that in areas where there are CVSO’s, there is a strong relationship and centralized entry point to services. In areas without CVSO’s there is a need for a single entry to services for our Veterans and their families. We are helping identify those gaps and working together with community leaders to fill them. Our third and final summit this year took place the last week of October and was in Seattle, WA. See our website for details. In 2018 we will host three more summits; Orange County, CA, Denver, CO and South Carolina are the locations.

Our 1st Vice Marty Caraway has become ever more famous by being invited to the American Legions National Convention for the signing of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Bill by President Trump. Many of you may have seen his picture standing behind the President on the cover of last months American Legion Magazine. It was an honor to have NACVSO be invited to such a historic event and I was glad that Marty could attend. Between Past President Jim Golgart and myself, Marty spent the most time and effort working on the bill with our colleagues. You can see the picture on page 7.

We have included a brief explanation of the RAPID APPEALS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (RAMP) on page 8 & 9. Stay tuned to the forum and the website for more details.

We have opened talks with the Military of Purple Hearts (MOPH) and the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) on new MOU’s and we hope to have these completed by the end of the year. I am very confident we will be able to come to an agreement with both organizations that are beneficial to our members and the organization as a whole.

On training, our training team is conducting audits of three member states of their Continuing Education (CEU’s) that they receive and submit to us each year. This is IAW the VA that we ensure our

Continued on page 20
1st Vice

Ah San Diego. It was great to get back to my Marine Corps birthplace and home. Thank you to everyone in the CACVSO that worked so hard to put that conference together.

NACVSO continues to push forward making differences in how we are able to advocate for our veterans. It was a great honor and privilege for me to attend the Appeals Modernization bill signing on behalf of NACVSO. This was the culmination of many long days and travel with then President Jim Golgart. Like in our advocacy, we don’t seek the glory in the results of our work. We take pride in doing good work so that the veterans we serve may have a better life. As you can imagine this sort of devotion is not easily found in DC outside of the veteran industry.

We are continuing to work with Congress on some bills that may have direct positive impact in the operations of our offices. Because the bills haven’t been “dropped” (submitted to the floor of the respected chamber) I won’t get into specifics but do want you to know our legislative team is grinding it out.

NACVSO has been working closely with NASDVA (National Association of State Directors) to identify ways that we can better collaborate. We now have MOU’s with Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota to allow cross accreditation for CVSO’s in those states and those states to NACVSO. The purpose of this is so that we have some Regional Office representation for NACVSO cases. We continue to have the discussions with state CVSO associations to determine if their respective state is working with the association to make things better. We recognize that not every state department of veteran’s affairs plays nicely with their CVSO’s.

Leadership Summits are going well. There has been some confusion as to who should be attending. This is a series designed to bring in local leaders of a specific geographic area so that we may all collectively identify discrepancies in ability to best advocate and serve our veteran constituency. We are working to identify actions items after each summit with the hopes of creating legislative or regulatory action items for the NACVSO team to rectify the aforementioned discrepancies.

I look forward to continuing the efforts in the coming months. The executive board will convene in January in Reno, NV. If there is any action items that you feel should be brought to the executive board please let one of us know.
PLEASE JOIN US AS WE DISCUSS:

- VA PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES UPDATE
- PARTNERSHIPS WITH STATE & COUNTY VETERAN DIRECTORS & COMMISSIONERS
- STORYTELLERSX PROGRAM - VETERANS SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH THEIR COMMUNITY
- VETERAN-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY APPRECIATION LAUNCH
- LIVE INTERACTION Q&A

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

HONORABLE DAVID J. SHULKIN M.D.
SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SPEAKERS

- DR. LYNDA DAVIS
  VA VETERANS EXPERIENCE
- BILL RAUSCH
  GOT YOUR 6
- VERDIE BOWEN
  NASDVA
- ED ZACKERY
  NACVSO
- JIM WARTSKI
  VA VETERANS EXPERIENCE

LIVE FROM VA CENTRAL OFFICE
NOVEMBER 8TH - 1-3PM EST
JOIN ONLINE:
https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/89/23074
President Donald Trump signed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization bill on stage at the 99th American Legion National Convention in Reno, Nevada. NACVSO and The American Legion were two of several groups that supported the overhaul.

Marty Caraway our 1st Vice President who did much work on the project was invited by the Legion to be present for the historic event.

During a speech before the signing, Trump touted the legislation as “historic.”

“Veterans will receive timely updates, and they will get decisions much more quickly in a fraction of the time,” Trump said. Veterans will have more options to appeal denied claims for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits – a process that now leaves veterans waiting an average of five years.
Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP) gives Veterans the opportunity for early participation in the new supplemental claim and higher-level review lanes. As a RAMP participant, you will benefit from:

- Early participation in the new, more efficient review process
- Potentially faster decisions and early resolution of disagreements
- Multiple review options
- The same potential effective date for your benefits regardless of the review option that you choose
- A new requirement that VA must have clear and convincing evidence to change any findings favorable to you in a VA decision

**Which Appeals are Eligible for RAMP Processing?**

Your appeal must be for a disability compensation-related claim, and pending in one of the following appeal stages at the time of election:

- Notice of Disagreement (NOD) has been filed
- Form 9, Appeal to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (Board), has been filed
- Certified to Board (but not activated)
- On remand from the Board

Compensation-related appeals certified to the Board and “activated” through formal placement on the Board’s docket are excluded and will remain pending in the current appeals process. The Board will have notified you in writing if your appeal has been formally placed on the docket.

**Which Review Lane Is Right For You?**

- **Supplemental Claim Lane**
  - Select this option if you have additional evidence that is *new and relevant* to support granting your benefit claim. VA’s goal is to complete these supplemental claims in an average of 125 days.
  - VA will assist you in gathering new and relevant evidence to support your claim.
  - VA’s review will include any new and relevant evidence submitted since we last decided your claim.
  - If necessary, you can continue to submit supplemental claims with new and relevant evidence or use the Higher-Level Review Lane after you receive a decision in the Supplemental Claim Lane by making an election for further review within one year of the date on your decision notice.

- **Higher-Level Review Lane**
  - Select this option if you have no additional evidence to submit in support of your claim but you believe that there was an error in the initial decision. VA’s goal is to complete these higher-level reviews in an average of 125 days.
  - A Higher-Level Review consists of an entirely new review of your claim by an experienced claim adjudicator.
  - Factual findings that are favorable to you cannot be changed unless there is evidence to the contrary that is clear and convincing.
− The Higher-Level Reviewer will only consider evidence that was in VA’s possession at the time you opt-in. You and/or your representative will NOT be able to add new evidence during this process.
− VA cannot assist you in developing additional evidence. However, if the Higher-Level Reviewer discovers an error in VA’s duty to assist in the prior decision your claim will return to initial decision makers for additional processing to correct the error.
− You or your representative can request an optional one time telephonic informal conference with the Higher-Level Reviewer to identify specific errors in the case. Requesting an informal conference may cause some delay in the processing of your higher-level review.
− If necessary, you can use the Supplemental Claim Lane after you receive a decision in the Higher-Level Review Lane, by making an election for further review within one year of the date on your decision notice.

What It Means to Opt-In

If you choose to opt-in to one of the new review lanes, we will no longer process your compensation appeal in the current process. VA will conduct a new review and provide you with a decision. Please note that the effective date for any benefits that VA may award will be based on the date that would have been available had your currently pending appeal been granted – switching to the new process does not change your potential effective date.

Choosing one review option now does not prevent you from submitting another supplemental claim or choosing another review option after receiving an initial decision in RAMP. In addition, you will have the ability to appeal to the Board if you determine that further review of VA’s decision is necessary. However, the Board will not process your appeal under the new streamlined process until the new law becomes effective no earlier than February 2019.

When appealing to the Board, you may submit additional evidence and/or request a hearing before a Veterans Law Judge (VLJ). You may also choose for the Board to review your claim without any additional evidence or a hearing, which will likely lead to a faster decision. By selecting one of these options, the Board will place your appeal onto a list for consideration in the order it was received, depending on the hearing and evidence submission elections you make.

What It Means to Stay in the Current Appeals Process

If you choose not to participate in RAMP, you do not need to respond to this letter. Your appeal(s) will remain in the current appeals process. If you no longer wish to pursue your appeal(s), consult your representative (if you have one) or contact us in writing.

You may experience long processing delays if you decide to remain in the current appeals process. Although each individual case is different, in 2016, Veterans in the current process waited an average of 3 years for resolution of their appeals, and those that received a decision from the Board waited an average of 6 years from the date that they filed their NOD.

How You Can Opt-In

You can choose to have your compensation claim placed into one of the new review lanes by selecting one of the options on the attached RAMP Opt-in Election document; dating and signing where indicated; and returning it to us with the attached cover sheet on top. If you do not want your claim to stay in the current appeals process and wish to participate in RAMP, please respond within 60 days from the date of this letter. Send the RAMP Opt-in Election document and cover sheet to the address listed on the document.
They have memories to share.

Hearing loss is one of the most prevalent and serious challenges facing veterans today. As a Veterans Service Officer, you have likely seen how hearing loss can disconnect veterans from family, friends, or even healthcare providers.

“I've been working with the Heroes With Hearing Loss’ program since 2015, and I recommend it to every veteran I see with hearing loss. It's very easy and has proven enormously beneficial – even life-changing.”

Jim Golgart, Former President - National Association of County Veterans Service Officers

As VSOs across the country have done, you too can now reconnect your clients with the latest captioned telephone technology provided by Hamilton® CapTel®. There's no cost* and all you have to do is complete a simple Certificate of Hearing Loss/Order Form – now available on-line!

*Independent, third-party professional certification is required.

Join the conversation for more information:
Visit: HeroesWithHearingLoss.org/vso-certify
Call: 800-974-1517
E-mail: Info@HeroesWithHearingLoss.org

Have a demo phone yet?

Facebook.com/HeroesWithHearingLoss Twitter.com/HwHVeterans
The National Veterans Intermediary is for communities to harness the potential of collective impact to serve all Veterans and their families across the country. Sign up today to be counted in the Veterans ecosystem and connect to other collaborative efforts in your community.

National Veterans Intermediary Launch Locations

As of May 2017

COMMIT TO COLLABORATE TODAY
WWW.NVI.ORG
Did you know you have 120 days to file your veteran’s appeal?  
Act now, save time, and use this new tool to file online.

If your veteran has a denial from the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), this online application provides an easy way to appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, as well as apply for Pro Bono Program help. The application also allows you to request our help if your veteran’s case is already at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Remember, you have only 120 days to appeal a denial from the BVA so use this link and apply online today. Take advantage of this online tool if your veteran meets the following criteria:

- is a veteran (or qualifying family member of a veteran),
- has received an adverse decision (denial) from the BVA, and
- is not already represented by an attorney.

**STEP 1:**
www.vetsprobono.org
Click on the "Click Here to Apply Online" button.

**STEP 2:**
If you are a veteran, family member, survivor, or caregiver, click the "I am Appealing" button.

OR

If you are a Veterans Service Officer representing a veteran, family member, or survivor, click the "I am Helping File the Appeal" button.

You will be prompted through a series of questions in our user-friendly online form.

Need help filling out this online webpage? Call us at 855-446-0678 during business hours (9am – 5pm Mon – Fri EST), and we will be happy to assist you.
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO EMPOWER VETERANS.

America's Warrior Partnership brings the necessary & unifying resources to communities, making it easier for the men & women who served our nation to lead the lives they deserve. We empower through:

WarriorServe™

The 4th Annual Warrior Community Integration Symposium

Community Integration

AmericasWarriorPartnership.org
Veterans Law Group has created the VSO Resource Center to better serve you.

Get the most benefits for your veterans with on-demand training webinars and resource guide, free to VSOs. Current and upcoming topics include:

- Understanding Claim Types
- Reviewing and Evaluating a Rating Decision
- Appeals 101
- Effective ways to establish PTSD stressors
- Effective Representation at Hearings
- How to challenge unfavorable C&P exams
- Understanding TDIU

You need the most up-to-date information about filing and processing disability claims for veterans and their dependents. We’re here to help.

Visit www.veteranslaw.com and go to the VSO / VSR Resource Center to get started today.

Delta Dental is proud to serve military Veterans through our federal dental programs.

We make it easy to take care of your oral health with great benefits, affordable rates, and a large network of dentists nationwide. Find out why 68 million people trust their smiles to Delta Dental.

Visit deltadentalins.com/feds or our conference booth to learn more.
The members only portion of the NACVSO website has valuable tools to help you as CVSO’s and members of NACVSO. We are continually trying to make this section more applicable to our members when helping their veterans. The sub folders in the “Members Only Section” are listed to the right.
Contract Training will be conducted at the following locations in 2017 & 2018:

- No contract training is planned at this time

Host Training

Persons or groups interested in scheduling Contract Training must contact:

The Education chair is Robert Ward at rward@nacvso.org. Please contact Robert for more information.
Where is God?

As I’m writing this, Houston is cleaning up after Hurricane Harvey and the even-larger Hurricane Irma is slamming the Caribbean and threatening Florida.

The question inevitably comes up: Why does God allow natural disasters?

Such tragedies cause many people to question God’s goodness. It’s interesting that natural disasters are often called “acts of God,” while God receives no “credit” for good weather (which is an act of God too).

God didn’t create the universe to be this way. He created it to be pure, and that the different elements in the universe would work together in perfect harmony.

But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they brought sin into God’s perfect universe. Sin grew to the point that God destroyed all living creatures except Noah’s family and a pair of each species of animal.

Therefore, sin caused the changes in God’s perfect universe and the laws God established for nature to operate. Most natural disasters are a result of these changed laws at work.

Hurricanes and tornados are the results of divergent weather patterns colliding. Earthquakes are the result of...
shifts in the Earth’s plate structure. Volcanoes erupt when magma pressure builds up too much.

In much the same way that God allows evil people to commit evil acts, God allows the Earth to reflect the consequences that sin has had on creation. And God sometimes uses natural disasters as a judgment against sin (Numbers 16).

The fall of humanity into sin had effects on everything, including the world we inhabit. Everything in creation is subject to “frustration” and “decay.” Sin is the ultimate cause of natural disasters just as it’s the cause of death, disease, and suffering.

We can understand why natural disasters occur. What we don’t understand is why God allows them to occur.

Natural disasters cause millions of people to re-evaluate their priorities in life. Hundreds of millions of dollars in aid is sent to help the people who are suffering.

But in the midst of such disasters, many amazing miracles occurred during the course of natural disasters that prevented even greater loss of life.

Churches are usually filled after disasters as people realize how tenuous their lives really are and how life can be taken away in an instant. Many think about where they will spend eternity.

Christian ministries and charities have the opportunity to help, minister, counsel, pray, and show God’s love on a personal level. God can, and does, bring great good out of terrible tragedies.

Rom 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

What we do know is this: God is good, even in the midst of calamity.
members are receiving the necessary training each year in order to maintain accreditation. It also validates that the training is to the standard NACVSO and the VA require.

We are looking into possibly providing CEU training as part of a contract-training package if the need is out there. We have been approached by some states for this service. We are also looking into collaborating with other organizations so that our members can utilize their training for CEU purposes only. Nothing will change with the requirement to attend our accreditation course for accreditation. We feel as though we have the best accreditation course anywhere. That process will not change.

A few notes about membership, please make sure your membership checks are accompanied by a 2018 membership application. We receive several checks from counties without an application. We have no idea who to apply that check to. Your membership is tied to your accreditation so it is very important that we know who has paid and who has not. The process of updating your account takes about thirty days from the time we receive your payment so please allow this processing time before you look on the website for your new updated membership card.

Edward Zackery
1SG, U.S. Army (retired)
President
NACVSO

PRODUCT SALES

This past year has been super exciting for Product Sales, we are now on the website and able to supply members with products throughout the year. Since this is the first year we have had some bumps along the road, but we are slowly but positively ironing those wrinkles out.

New this year we have introduced pullovers (not that they are needed in San Diego), but for those offices like mine that are pretty cold they are greatly needed in the cool weather. For those of you in the warm weather we have moisture wicking polos available.

If you are interested in volunteering to be part of the Product Sales Team please get with me and we will make arrangements for that to happen...

Tami Saleska
Product Sales Chairman / Executive Board Secretary
Serving veterans and their families

For over 10 years the Mesothelioma Center at Asbestos.com has been providing free resources and services to our veterans.

- Connecting veterans with top doctors and specialists across the country.
- Assistance with accessing travel grants and free lodging during treatment.
- Provide guidance on obtaining many types of financial assistance.
- Emotional support such as our monthly support group.

Call Now 877-672-8731
www.asbestos.com/vet-help/
I would like to start out by saying that it was absolutely wonderful seeing everyone at the 2017 NACVSO Conference in San Diego a few months ago. There was a lot of good information and many resources were made available in addition to meaningful networking opportunities.

Our Women’s Reception was positively perceived and we were able to connect with each other on both professional and personal levels. The information and topics of discussion are available on the website under the “Women Veterans” section, but here are three highlights: First, we have seen some change in the way VA employees operate in asking “if we are the veteran or calling on behalf of the veteran”. This is a refreshing change as previous questions such as “may I have your husband’s last four?” were commonly asked. Second, communication of Women’s Health Services needs to be made more known. As CVSOs, it is our responsibility to be familiar with all services to all veterans and to further assist veterans while keeping in mind the variables that may affect their benefits and resources. As NACVSO grows, so does our eminence. We should all take the personal responsibility to research, educate, and inform ourselves and each other of the benefits and resources available to women veterans (and veterans as a whole).

Please visit my section of the NACVSO website for women specific information, and also visit the Center For Women Veterans section on the va.gov site. Lastly, privacy at VA Medical Centers has also been a concern and recognized as an issue that needs to be addressed. Curtains are not available in some situations and some exam tables are positioned towards doors. The Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes this and is actively addressing it.

In more recent news, I was planning to attend the first National Women Veterans Summit since 2011 in late August. There was a two day event full of resources and information specific and detailed to women veteran’s needs (gerontology, legal, LGBTQ needs of women veterans, etc). Unfortunately, the summit was affected by Hurricane Harvey and essentially ended before I could attend. Information will be available on the Center for Women Veterans site soon, and I will post their information on the website, forum, and social media as soon as it becomes available.
Since we are on the topic of summits, Service Women Action Network is looking for female service members, past and present, to take their annual survey! Their November summit and policy agenda will reflect answers provided. Their theme is Military Women and Mental Wellness. This survey is relatively short and won’t take up much of your time. Please visit www.bit.ly/servicewomensurvey.

I hope everyone is doing well, and if there are any concerns regarding women veteran issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at olaschober@nacvos.org. I have truly enjoyed hearing from CVSOs throughout the year and look forward to hearing from you.
The Veterans Consortium Discharge Upgrade Program

Do you have an Other Than Honorable Discharge?

Free Legal Assistance For Your Discharge Upgrade Application!

Contact us at: (202) 733-3324
e-mail: upgrades@vetsprobono.org

Visit Our Website www.vetsprobono.org

The Veterans Consortium believes that our veterans—our nation’s defenders—deserve the benefits and compensation they were promised and the best legal services, free of charge, to meet their challenges and needs.
About DataSpec, Inc.

DataSpec, Inc. is owned and operated by Ann Carrier and Tina Roff. We are proud to be an all-American owned and operated company.

Our veteran claims management software, VetraSpec, was designed with the veterans advocate in mind.

VetraSpec was designed and developed to meet the needs of the veterans advocate, now and in the future.

We, and our clients, feel VetraSpec is the best product on the market. The on-line Knowledge Base along with the outstanding telephone support makes this program an excellent choice for any veteran advocate.

We know the importance of the work you do and we hope to become your partner by assisting you in serving our nations veterans through the VA benefits process. Thank you for your interest.

Contact Us

We would love to hear from you!
By phone: (810) 650-9974, or toll free, 1-877-568-7732
By e-mail: sales@vetraspec.com
Tech support:
(810) 650-9974, or toll free, 1-877-568-7732 or help@vetraspec.com

What our customers are saying ...

"I'm loving it so far. It is much more user friendly than [another program]."
Clare County, MI

DataSpec, Inc. | PO Box 244, Sandusky, MI 48471 | www.dataspecinc.com | 1-877-568-7732
Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you all doing well. It seems like yesterday we were in San Diego, CA for our annual conference.

The 2018 Conference will be held from June 2nd to June 8th at the Silver Legacy Resort, located at 407 N. Virginia Street, in the Biggest Little City of Reno, NV. (Room rates: Sunday through Thursday $69.00 plus fees, and taxes, Friday through Saturday $129.00 plus fees, and taxes) All members are strongly urged to register during registration, which is open after our E-Board meeting in January. Conference Registration forms are available online starting in February.

Until when,

Julia
Greetings! The NACVSO Washington Liaison Team attended the recent VSO Quarterly Forum in D.C. on August 29th. The agenda and PowerPoint presentations are posted on the website. The morning brought updates on Center for Woman Veterans, the Forever GI Bill, and VA Life Insurance. The entire afternoon was devoted to Compensation Services with open discussion, review of the Pre-Discharge Redesign, Decision Ready Claim Initiative, VA Schedule for Ratings, and Medical Disability Exam Contracts. It has been said before and it’s worth saying again, the Washington D.C. Liaison Team is your voice at the VBA. You are represented at this meeting. If you have questions or concerns, please email kshalloo@nacvso.org

Membership Dues & Application 2018

Barry Johns, Treasurer

A new membership form is now available on our website. Dues paid after July 1st will count for the following year. So anything paid after July 1, 2017 will be CY 2018 dues.

Dues will no longer be transferred from one member to another. The dues are paid for the member/person and not the county or state. We have had to do this so that we can link accreditations to the members dues in our system. This is very important for us to be able to report to OGC who is maintaining accreditation. According to our by-laws and our agreement with OGC you cannot be accredited if you are not a member in good standing. Therefore if your membership is delinquent on June 30 we will have to notify OGC that you no longer are a member and they will revoke your accreditation.

Furthermore the mailing address will change for all dues paid after July 1, 2017 to a PO Box so please use the new form and pay attention to where it is to be sent. Believe it or not we still have members sending there membership to past treasurers who have not ben on the e-board for several years.

If you need a W2 in order to pay your dues it is also available on our website. Furthermore if you are a current member you can log in and pay your membership dues online via credit card.

If you have any questions concerning membership please bring them up to myself or the president.

Confidential help for Veterans and their families

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1
County Veteran Service Officers serve veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and are the principal advocate in ensuring that they receive the much needed benefits they have earned.

As of April 1, 2017:
- Comprised of 36 States and Two Native American Tribes
- 1,863 Members
- 1,718 Accredited Reps
- 200 est. State Service Officers
- 850 Counties Nationwide, one-third of the Nation.
- 2 Native American Tribes
- 8,379,550 Veterans

- Directly responsible for more than $22 Billion Dollars in Compensation and Pension benefits being paid directly to Veterans in County's that have NACVSO representation, in direct monetary benefits nationwide to veterans and there dependents.
- With healthcare and ancillary Benefits those same county's receive more than $52 Billion Dollars worth of benefits.
HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

On September 21, 1989, County Veterans Service Officers from eight states, California, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Indiana, Iowa and Colorado, met at the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at Fort Snelling, Minnesota; these CVSO's discussed the need to form a “National Association”. Those present elected Jack Stewart, President, Pee Wee Douthit, Secretary, Harold Novotny, Treasurer, and Dea Thornton, Marty Durray, and Lew Schulz as Executive Board members and charged them with forming the association. These officers went to work on formalizing the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers and scheduled the inaugural organizational conference for the following June.

On June 27, 1990, 14 states, California, Florida, North Carolina, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Oregon, were represented at the conference. Twenty-three Service Officers met at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota and wrote the association's Constitution and Bylaws thus creating the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers. At this meeting, goals and objectives emphasizing professional development of County Veterans Service Officers were written. With this objective in mind, a National Training and Business Conference was scheduled for the following year. The 1st Annual NACVSO Training Conference and Business Meeting was held on June 26-28, 1991, in Springfield, Ohio. It was here that professional development and continuing education became a reality. County Veterans Service Officers from 14 states were present and over 60 individuals took part in the training. The wide variations in state-to-state training levels quickly became apparent so the membership moved to create a National Education.

Committee to establish a training agenda equitable for all. Cohesiveness in the association began to blossom while membership nationwide increased dramatically. With a firm education program in hand, the association directed itself to become fully accredited in the eyes of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. In order to accomplish this goal, an Accreditation Committee was formed; committee members distinguished themselves during many presentations to the VA Central Office Staff, and gained National Accreditation in time for the next annual conference. This became a major turning point for NACVSO which now was recognized nationally as a truly professional and accredited organization.

At the 3rd Annual Training Conference, held in Peoria, Illinois in June 1993, with an established training program and approved accreditation tests, the association was honored by the attendance of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober who personally congratulated attendees and distributed accreditation certificates. NACVSO's three-year struggle to gain national accreditation had been realized. At the end of the year, NACVSO had 605 members.

Three years later, in 1996 at San Diego, California, we were honored by the presence of Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown, Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober, and General Counsel Mary Lou Keener. Secretary Brown taught a class on Special Monthly Compensation; we would come a long way.

The National Association of County Veterans Service Officers is an organization made up of local government employees. Our members are tasked with assisting veterans in developing and processing their claims. A vast amount of the claims presented to the Veterans Administration each year, originate in a county veterans service office. Our members sit across from those men and women who wish to file a claim each day. They are our friends and neighbors members of our communities whom we see often daily. We exist to serve veterans and collaborate with the National Service Organizations and the Department of Veterans Affairs to serve veterans. Our Association focuses on outreach, standardized quality training, and claims development and advocacy. We are extension or arm of government, not unlike the VA itself in service to the nation’s veterans and their dependents.

Our workforce represents approximately 1,800 members from 36 states as well as Native American Tribes available to collaborate with the Department of Veterans Affairs to help speed the process of claims development and transition of our military personnel to civilian life.

As of April 1, 2017:
Comprised of 36 States and Two Native American Tribes, 30 Member States, 2 Member Native American Tribes, 1,863 Members, 1,718 Accredited Reps, 200 est. and State Service Officers.

***We are an accredited Veterans Service Organization/POA with the DVA.
Outreach and claims processing improvements are essential if we are to fulfill the obligation proclaimed by Abraham Lincoln ".To care for him, who shall have borne the battle and for his widows and orphans..." This is our motivation and passion.
July 6, 2017

To: All State CVSO Associations

From: NACVSO Membership Committee

Subject: State Association Membership dues for 2018

Our membership year is from January 1 to December 31. To avoid conflicts with individual membership status, we ask that your state dues for FY 2018 be paid as soon as possible. Please complete the application below and send it along with the prescribed dues amount to our treasurer, Barry Johns.

State Association Membership Application and Renewal

State Association Name:__________________________

State Association President’s Name:________________

Address:_______________________________________

City:___________________________________________State:________ZIP:________

Work Phone:__________________Fax:_________________

Email:__________________________________________

Treasurer Name:________________________________

State Association Dues Amount: $200.00

Remit to:

ATTENTION:

NACVSO
State Membership 2018
P.O. Box 878
Brunswick, Ohio 44212-9998
National Association of County Veteran Service Officers, Inc.
Membership Application for 2018

(This Form must be filled out in its entirety. Failing to provide an email address will result in no membership)
Check one: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Are there any changes from last year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Membership Year __________________

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<th>Personal Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Your Name</td>
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<td>Membership Number</td>
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<td>Mailing Address</td>
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<td>City</td>
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Office Information (the information below will be your contact information on the NACVSO.org website)

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<tr>
<th>Your Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Office Name</td>
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<td>Your Position</td>
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Are you a: ☐ CVSO ☐ Employed by a county ☐ State Service Officer ☐ Employed by a state ☐ Volunteer

☐ Other (provide explanation) __________________

Please check the appropriate category:
☐ Member State: Individual membership $30.00 due by January 1, 2018. Payments received after April 1, 2018 are considered delinquent and are $40.00
☐ Non Member State: Individual membership $45.00 due by January 1, 2018. Payments received after April 1, 2018 are considered delinquent and are $55.00

***NOTICE: 2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL INCREASE $20.***
Membership dues not received and considered delinquent will be removed from the NACVSO membership rolls and have all applicable accreditations revoked.

Send applications and renewals to: Make checks payable to NACVSO
NACVSO
Membership 2018
P.O. Box 878
Brunswick, Ohio 44212-9998

---------------------------- Office Use Only ----------------------------

Member Type:
☐ County Veteran Service Officers and State Service Officers ☐ State Association ☐ Associate members
☐ Affiliate Members ☐ Honorary Members

Date Received __________________
National Veterans Advocacy and Leadership Summit: Recognizing Best Practices within Direct Veterans Services Provision

Winter 2018 Series: Orange County, CA; March 13 & 14, 2018
Tierney Center for Veteran Services
1231 Warner Ave, Tustin, CA 92780
## NACVSO Continuing Education Unit Report Form

*Complete this form and send to the Assistant National Service Director (NSD) nacvso ceu@nacvso.org*

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
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### Compensation & Pension – Minimum 5 Hours (recommended topics)
- Date of training
- Hours of Training
- Topic/Remarks
- Claim Development Comp/Pen, NSC and Survivors Pension, DIC, Secondary Condition, TDIU, Presumptive Conditions, SMC Rating, Other.

### Total Hours of Compensation & Pension
- NOD and Appeals – Minimum 1 Hour
  - Date of training
  - Hours of Training
  - Topic/Remarks

### Total Hours of NOD and Appeals
- Ethics – Minimum 1 Hour
  - Date of Training
  - Hours of Training
  - Topic/Remarks

### Total Hours of Ethics
- Supplementary CEU Topics – Minimum 9 Hours (recommended topics)
  - Topics of Training
  - Hours of Training
  - Topic/Remarks
  - Resources and References (i.e. Title USA 38 CFR – M21/M21R, Regional office updates/trends, Department of Military Affairs - Service Organizations) Mental Health Issues, Home Loan Guarantee Program, Education, Death Benefits, Women’s Issues, Debt Management, Insurance, Retiree Issues/CRDP/CRSC, Environmental Exposure, Homeless Veterans, Suicide, State and Local Veteran Programs, Employment Resources, Social Security Admin. & Medicaid, Reserve and Natl. Guard Issues, Records (Discharges and Upgrades), Other.

### Total Hours of Supplementary CEU Topics
- Total Hours of Compensation & Pension
- Total Hours of NOD and Appeals
- Total Hours of Ethics
- NACVSO Use Only
  - Accepted | Yes | No
  - Reviewer Initials/Date

### Total Hours
- Signature
- Date

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To maintain accreditation with NAVCSO, CEU’s must total 16 hours minimum. It is the member’s responsibility to maintain a copy for their own record.

NACVSO CEU Form 1.1  February 2017
MISSION
A National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, which aggressively pursues all, benefits for veterans and eligible family members through education, training and our advocacy programs.

PURPOSE
Train & educate CVSOs and veterans advocates in preparation, submission and representation of claims with DVA. Also to advocate on behalf of veterans and eligible family members to receive the benefits in which they are rightfully earned.

VISION
To have NACVSO trained CVSOs, veteran’s advocates in all 50 states.

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NACVSO
660 North Capital St. NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20001

E-Mail: webmaster@nacvso.org

"...To care for him, who shall have borne the battle and for his widows and orphans...". This is our focus and passion.

Become a NACVSO Member Today!