Presidents Comments

Jim Golgart, President

As we enter into 2015 new horizons are upon us as the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to move forward with D2D and filing of electronic claims. Some CVSO’s will jump right on board and welcome the change with open arms as others will sit back and continue to file paper claims. I will admit that if you asked me 10 years ago if the VA was ever going complete the transition from paper claims to paperless claims I would have said no way. They are way too big and will never get it done. I would have been wrong. Over the past 2 years the VA has worked very hard to make this transition. Have there been obstacles, yes but by working with the National Service Organizations to include NACVSO changes have been made and will continue to be made. One of those changes are CVSO’s having access to VBMS and having the ability to obtain a PIF card which makes it easier to gain access to VBMS and SEP. For those CVSO’s who do not have VBMS Access or a PIF card you need to reach out to your Regional Offices and find out the procedures for gaining access. Some will ask why I need access. Access will allow you to follow each claim closer and you will be able to sit in your office and print the award letter and rating decision as soon as it is posted to VBMS. You will no longer have to wait for it to be mailed from the NSO’s or the Regional Offices. In fact most NSO’s and Regional Offices are no longer mailing rating decisions or award letters to the CVSO’s.

With that being said NACVSO is also looking at not mailing rating decisions or award letters to CVSO’s in the future. To help you better understand the current process and the delay in getting them, let me explain what is happening right now. When you file a claim using NACVSO POA, the claim is processed and once completed the rating decision and award letter is posted into VBMS and then the Regional Office will mail it to our address in Washington DC. Once a week the mail is forwarded to a member of the E-Board and then mailed out to the States. This is time consuming and delays the CVSO’s in getting the copy by about 1 to 2 months. There are times we get award letters and ratings decisions on veterans that we have no idea who is assisting the veteran. This also causes additional delays. All of this can be prevented if the CVSO had access to VBMS. I ask each and every member who does not have access to reach out to your Regional Office and start the process. If you run into roadblocks with the RO please let me know and I will do whatever I can to assist.

Over the last couple of months we have read about CVSO’s or other Service Officers who have committed offenses involving filing of false claims, charging veterans for the work they do or not filing paperwork with the VA in a timely manner. The problems is that a few individuals are causing additional problems for the CVSO’s out there who working very hard to assist our veterans. I recently reviewed some of the past NACVSO newsletter and I would like to share part of Past President Tom Martins article from spring of 2001 where he wrote; “We all profess to adhere to the principles of dedicated advocacy through professionalism, compassion and continuing education. For us, there is no compromise when it comes to representing our veterans. We are the best at what we do—or are we??? Being the best means a total dedication to our profession. We cannot be the best if we do not totally and passionately believe that what we are doing is right and we are doing it in the very best manner possible. We should all review those words from time to time and ask ourselves why...
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For article submissions, contact:
Richard Hutchins
NACVSO Editor
e-mail: richard.hutchins@co.bastrop.tx.us

If any corrections need to be made for the next newsletter please forward them to me

2014—2015 NACVSO Officers & E-Board

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(507) 357-2251
jgolgart@co.le-sueur.mn.us

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ezackery@medinacountyveterans.org

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Treasurer
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nicole.companion@co.hancock.oh.us

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Jim Young, WI
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jyoung@nacvso.org

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Chaplain
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(712) 243-6662
mholmes@casscoia.us

NACVSO Conference 2015
Appleton, WI

The 2015 Conference will be held from May 30 to June 6

at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel,
located at 333 W. College Ave.,
in the wonderful city of Appleton, WI
54911 Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-333-3333
President, Jim Golgart

No Picture Available

Secretary, Tami Saleska

No Picture Available

NSD, Rich Dumancas

Executive Dir., Darlene McMartin

Executive Committee Members

Jane Roland

Michael Flores

Julia Encalade

Marty Caraway

Women's Veterans Advocate, Nicole Coleman

Judge Advocate, Ed Vos

Immediate Past President Jim Young

1st Vice, Ed Zackery

Treasurer, Sarah McGinty

Legislative Advocate

2nd Vice, Bennie Spain
we are doing what we do. I know that I am doing what I do for the right reasons.

As this newsletter is going to print Jim Young, Marty Caraway and I will be in Washington DC for the NACO Legislative Conference. During this conference we will have the opportunity to talk with County Commissioners from around the US along with talking to Legislators about benefits for our veterans. With the change in Congress we have our work cut out for us but I am confident in the NAVCSO Legislative Committee chaired by Marty Caraway. I know that one his priorities are to continue to push the CVSO access bill. If you have ideas or would like to assist with the committee please reach out to Marty.

The Executive Board recently concluded our conference planning session in Appleton, WI. I can spend the next several pages talking about all of the things there are to see and do in the Appleton area because my wife grew up in the area and I have seen the area change from a farming community to a thriving metropolis. I know that the Wisconsin Delegation have some amazing things planned. Jim Young has assured me that this will be the best conference ever. The Radisson Paper Valley Hotel is located in downtown Appleton and there are numerous restaurants and bars within walking distance of the hotel. I look forward to seeing you all in Appleton.

As I close I would like to address a rumor that has been going around in regards to the Executive Board Members and Trainers getting a paycheck from NACVSO. Let me assure everyone that we are all volunteers and do not receive a paycheck for the work we do. We do get reimbursed for our travel expenses and included in that is a per diem which is based on the area that we are traveling to. The per diem rate NACVSO uses is the GSA Per Diem rate. There are many times that the per diem rate does not cover the expenses we incur while traveling. If anyone would like to review the vouchers please let me know and I will be glad to show them to you.

Thank you for all you do to assist the veterans of this Great Nation.

Jim Golgart
President

Delegates Luncheon

There will be a Delegates Meeting on Wednesday, June 3rd at 11:30. It is a mandatory meeting for all delegates and their alternates. Lunch will be provided by one of our sponsors “Heroes for Hearing Loss” with a brief personation.
Hello Everyone,
Where has the time gone? I hope to see everyone in Appleton Wisconsin for our upcoming conference. We will be staying at the Radisson Paper Valley; they have a shuttle that runs every 30 minutes from the Appleton airport. It is located right outside the baggage claim.

If for some reason you have to cancel your reservation; please call me before you cancel in order for that room to go for our room block.

Also, I handle NACVSO conference affairs on Fridays only. I ask that you please be patient with me. My email address is: vetoff2@co.harrison.ms.us

I am hoping to see you all in Appleton, WI.

Sincerely,

Julia M. Encalade, NACVSO
With the holidays, all but past and frigid weather upon us I hope this newsletter finds you snug and warm with loved ones. As dedicated professionals, I know we get involved with our work and it becomes more than a job but our life. At times, it can be quite stressful and even consume every waking minute. We forget about family, friends and our own personal time. It is this reason that I hope you all were able to take some much-needed down time and relax over the holidays with family and friends. Refreshed, relaxed, and rejuvenated? Okay let’s get back to work now!

With the current capabilities and access to VA records CVSO’s have, one might ask do we simply file claims or do we manage them? Years ago we filled out a claim application, licked a stamp and stuck it in the mail. Four months later, our Veteran walked in with a duty to assist letter (DTA) letter. He or she signed it, we licked another stamp and mailed the VCAA along with whatever else the VA requested back to the VA. If we were lucky, one year later that same veteran returned to our office with an award letter and big smile on their face or a crow-bar in their hand and we went from there. We were clueless pretty much throughout the entire process except for the myriad of phone calls we would make and 4138’s we would send in requesting information on the claim.

Thankfully, today we have the capability to manage the claim throughout the entire process. We still have to fill out the claim form in some instances unless we enter it through SEP. At that point, we can check to see that every document we have submitted has been received just by looking in VBMS. In addition to seeing what we sent, we can also see Compensation & Pension exams, SMR’s and in some cases the Veteran’s complete military file. We can review the entire case file and almost know exactly what the decision should be before it’s even made by the rater. As soon as the award letter is available, we can view it instantaneously. If there is a piece of evidence in the record that the VA missed, we can automatically call the VA and show them exactly where it is in the file. We can check on the claim and see the notes every day, every 30 days or every 90 days. Whatever makes sense for you and your office to manage the Veteran’s claim.

I have heard several NSO’s tell veterans I will help you file a claim, but it’s still your claim. Yes, it is still the veteran’s claim and they need to have an active part in the process. However, as professionals we should be managing the process through the VA and ensure the process is completed correctly. Today we have that capability. Yes, improvements still need to be made but waiting for it to be perfect before we start utilizing the access and capabilities serves no one.

Lastly we as an organization have grown and continue to grow, not just in numbers, but also in influence and...
abilities. With any growth, there are growing pains. As an organization, our main commitment continues to be education and accreditation of CVSO's around the country. Nevertheless, we also need to reach out and work with our stakeholders. The VA has asked us to do more, other states have asked us to collaborate with them and businesses have sponsored our efforts because they recognize and respect the work we do. We must continue to work However, it can also be very hard for our CVSO’s and part- tiring and stressful. We all
ners that share a common love what we do on the e-goal and supports our efforts board and none of us do it for as an organization. ourselves.
If you have questions, ask Warm wishes to everyone as your e-board. We are always hopefully spring will be here willing to talk to you about soon and we will see you all in what our organization is do-

Appleton. ing? What we do when we travel? Why we need to meet with people? Why we do what First Vice we do as your elected body? Roger out! It’s no secret, it’s no club and yes it can be fun at times.

2015 –2016 Nominations for Elected NACVSO Offices

Jim Young, Past President

1. President: 1 year term (Mr. Jim Golgart is running for re-election).
2. 1st Vice President: 1 year term (Mr. Ed. Zackery is running for re-election).
3. 2nd Vice President: 1 year term, Vacant. (Interim 1st Vice President Mr. Bennie Spain is running for that position), also, Mr. Marty Caraway, and Mr. Michael Flores have said they will run as well.
4. Treasurer: 3 year term, Vacant, Ms. Sarah McGInty' (interim Treasurer is running for that position).
5. Secretary: 3 year term, Vacant, Mrs. Tami Saleska (interim Secretary is running for that position).
6. Judge Advocate: 1 year term, Vacant, Mr. Ed, Vos (Interim Judge Advocate is running for that position).
7. 2 Executive Board positions are open.

Nominations will close at the end of the business meeting on Monday, 1 June 2015 and will not be called for on Election Day.

If you are interested in running for office please e-mail me your information at jyoung@vernoncounty.org, or before the business meeting ends on Monday, June 1st 2015.

Thank you

James P. Young

Immediate Past President
Agent Orange Residue on Post-Vietnam War Airplanes

Some Air Force Reservists who were crew members on C-123 Provider aircraft, formerly used to spray Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, have raised health concerns about exposure to residual amounts of herbicides on the plane surfaces.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. Air Force used C-123 aircraft to spray Agent Orange to clear jungles that provided enemy cover in Vietnam. At the end of the spraying campaign in 1971, the remaining C-123 planes were reassigned to reserve units in the U.S. for routine cargo and medical evacuation missions spanning the next 10 years.

Responding to these concerns, VA asked the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to study possible exposure and increase in adverse health effects in C-123 crew members.

IOM released its report, Post-Vietnam Dioxin Exposure in Agent Orange-Contaminated C-123 Aircraft, Jan. 9, 2015. VA appreciates IOM’s extensive review. We have assembled a group of clinical and other subject matter experts to review and respond to the report.

If you have health concerns, talk to your health care provider or local VA Environmental Health Coordinator.

How Reservists may have been exposed: TCDD, the toxic substance in Agent Orange, may be inhaled as an aerosol or ingested by contaminated food or water or from hand-to-mouth transfer.

Research studies on Agent Orange Research on the health effects of Agent Orange has been extensive and it continues. Diverse populations have been studied, including herbicide sprayers and manufacturers, other Vietnam-era Veterans, and those exposed during industrial accidents. This information helps us to determine what potential health effects may be related to different levels of exposure.

Find out more about research on health effects of Agent Orange.

Health concerns? If you have health concerns about Agent Orange, talk to your health care provider or local VA Environmental Health Coordinator.

Not enrolled in the VA health care system? Find out if you qualify for VA health care.

Compensation benefits for health problems: Veterans may file a claim for disability compensation for health problems they believe are related to exposure to Agent Orange residue on post-Vietnam C-123 airplanes.

Veterans must show on a factual basis that they were exposed in order to receive disability compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure. VA decides these claims on a case-by-case basis.

Women Veterans

It is my honor to serve as your NACVSO Women Veterans Representative and I appreciate your confidence in me to fill this role. My husband and I have been out of the service for 17 years and I missed putting the uniform on every day until I became a CVSO. We are so blessed as CVSOs to get to serve veterans for a living.

During my time in the service I had the opportunity to experience what it’s like to be deployed with a husband and baby at home; I also had several times when I was the one at home with the baby while my husband was deployed and I still performed my duties in the Air Force at our base. I understand what it’s like to be in both of those positions and how taxing it can be on the family. When I came home from deployments I had to jump right back into my family responsibilities but that was not different for my husband. He also had to resume his household responsibilities and return to his work on base.

I will continue to say that it is important for us to thank the women who have led the way for women to serve in various roles in the military. But, let us not forget to thank the men who have served alongside us during all of these transitions. The first three supervisors I had as a security policeman in the Air Force had never had female troops before and they handled that transition with respect and dignity.

I hope during my time as the NACVSO Women Veteran Representative I can provide resources and perspectives that will help CVSOs to assist in working with the women veterans they work with. I also hope that the information will also prove to be valuable when helping male veterans.

The VA Health System has come a long way in improving the specialized health services for the growing number of veterans who are women. We as CVSOs need to keep encouraging these veterans to trust the VA with their healthcare needs.

Remember when you have a couple in your office don’t assume the male is the veteran. Even if you know he is be sure to ask the woman with him if she is a veteran. I can’t tell you the number of times I have went into a veteran’s organization to ask for information about their membership and they give me an auxiliary application without even asking me if I’m a veteran. Don’t make assumptions that will put a wall between you and the veteran before you even get to help them. A veteran is a veteran – don’t separate us!
National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Inc
25th Annual Training Conference and Business Meeting
May 30th-June 6th 2015
The Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
333 West College Ave
Appleton, Wi 54991

Conference Registration Form and Payment
Must be received by May 8th, 2015
Make your own Reservations
Contact anyone of the Hotels on the attached sheet

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE
NAME: __________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS: ______________________________________County__________________________
CITY: ________________________State __________________Zip Code ____________________
EMPLOYER_______________________________ PHONE NUMBER ( ____ ) _________________

Conference Registration Fees (make checks payable to NACVSO)
____ NACVSO Member $300.00 ____ NACVSO Member $350.00 (after May 9th)
____ Non-Member $400.00 ____ Non-Member $450.00 (after May 9th)

Meal Choices for Banquet on Thursday Evening. Put the number of meals needed
Beef____________ Chicken____________ Special Diet (Please Specify)___________________________

**Mail this form with Registration Fees to: Hennepin County Veterans Service Office
Sarah McGinty, NACVSO Treasurer
300 S 6th St
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0013
612-578-8995 (payment questions)

TRAINING CLASSES OFFERED – CHOOSE ONLY ONE
____ Accreditation Training (32 hours mandatory)
Attendance is mandatory from 8 a.m. Monday thru 4 p.m. on Friday – No exceptions granted.
____ Continuing Education Training (CEU) (Maintaining Accreditation)
____ Certified Veterans Advocate (CVA)
(Class limit 35 students) (Contact: Clark Barnes at 309-944-3674)
NACVSO will NOT refund registration fees after May 15th, 2015.

Current Association Membership and Accreditation Training is mandatory for NACVSO accreditation

Any questions please contact Sarah McGinty at 612-578-89951 or nacvso.treasurer@gmail.com for payment issues
Any conference/hotel questions please contact Julia Encalade, Conference Director at 228-236-7391 or vetoff2@co.harrison.ms.us
Additional Appleton, WI Hotels

**Holiday Inn**
150 South Nicolet Road
Appleton, WI 54911
920-735-9955

**Copperleaf Boutique Hotel and Spa**
300 West College Ave
Appleton, WI 54911
920-749-0303

**Country Inn and Suites**
355 Fox River Drive
Appleton, WI 54911
920-830-3240

**GrandStay Hotel**
300 North Mall Drive
Appleton, WI 54911
920-993-1200
### NACVSO 2015 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

**Appleton, Wisconsin**

**CEU TRAINING CLASS AGENDA (Tentative)**

Monday June 1, 2015 to Friday June 5, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MONDAY</strong></th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 – 8:00</td>
<td>Delegates Meeting</td>
<td>NSD Rich Dumancas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00 – 11:00</td>
<td>General Business</td>
<td>President Golgart</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:30 – 1:20</td>
<td>Justice for Vets</td>
<td>Dave Myers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:30 – 2:20</td>
<td>My Healthy Vet</td>
<td>Susan Hadairy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:30 – 3:20</td>
<td>Pending</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:30 – 4:30</td>
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<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 – 8:50</td>
<td>D2D</td>
<td>Chris H/Frank Brycal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00 – 9:50</td>
<td>D2D</td>
<td>Chris H/Frank Brycal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:30 – 1:20</td>
<td>Womens Issues</td>
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<td>1:30 – 2:00</td>
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<td>2:00 – 2:20</td>
<td>CRSC/CRDP</td>
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<td>2:30 – 3:20</td>
<td>Substantive Issues common</td>
<td>Cheryl L. Mason</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:30 – 4:30</td>
<td>in appeals at BVA</td>
<td>BVA, Chief Veterans Law Judge</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>NACVSO Elections</td>
<td>President Golgart</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td>NSD Info/CEUs/ACC</td>
<td>NSD Rich Dumancas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:30 – 1:20</td>
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### 2015 CEU TRAINING CLASS AGENDA (Cont)

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<tr>
<th><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1:30 – 2:20</td>
<td>Pension/Fiduciary</td>
<td>Dave McLenachen</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30 – 3:20</td>
<td>Pension/Fiduciary</td>
<td>Dave McLenachen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:30 – 4:30</td>
<td>Compassion for Caregivers/Vets Home</td>
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<th><strong>THURSDAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 – 8:50</td>
<td>Debt Management</td>
<td>Gene Freier</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00 – 9:50</td>
<td>VHA</td>
<td>Patricia Murray</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00</td>
<td>VHA</td>
<td>Patricia Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:30 – 2:20</td>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td>Katrina Eagle Esq.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:30 – 3:30</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 – 11:00</td>
<td>BANQUET/AUCTION</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>FRIDAY</strong></th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 – 8:50</td>
<td>VA Central Office Updates</td>
<td>Tom Murphy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 – 9:50</td>
<td>VA Central Office Updates</td>
<td>Tom Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00</td>
<td>VA Info</td>
<td>Danny Pummell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:30 – 1:30</td>
<td>Pending</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 – 2:30</td>
<td>General Business Meeting</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30 – 4:30</td>
<td>Accreditation Class Graduation</td>
<td>E-Board/Education Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Each class will be 50 minutes followed by a 10-minute break**

**Lunches will be 1½ hours**
**NACVSO 2015 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE**
Appleton, Wisconsin

**CVA CLASS TRAINING SCHEDULE (Tentative)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 – 1:20</td>
<td>As the Courts Churn</td>
<td>Judge Clarke Barnes, Retired,</td>
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<td>1:30 – 2:20</td>
<td>As the Courts' Churn (Cont'd)</td>
<td>Henry County, IL, Veterans Service Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Presented in CVA classroom]</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 – 3:20</td>
<td>Issues common on appeals at BVA</td>
<td>Cheryl L. Mason</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 – 4:30</td>
<td>[Presented in CEU classroom]</td>
<td>BVA Chief Veterans Law Judge</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 – 4:30</td>
<td>Hearing before DRO or BVA</td>
<td>Katrina Eagle &amp; Judge Clarke Barnes, Retired</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travel Boards [Presented in CVA classroom]</td>
<td>Henry County, IL - Veterans Service Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 1:20</td>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td>Katrina Eagle, Atty, Veterans Law Advocate</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 – 2:30</td>
<td>Case Studies, cont’d</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 – 3:30</td>
<td>Ethics [Presented in CEU classroom]</td>
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(This schedule is subject to change at anytime throughout conference)

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**MAIN FLOOR LAYOUT**

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James 1:19-20 – Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. 20For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

We often experience hits in our walk in life. At times, it seems like the more we try to do what’s right, the more we’re bombarded by difficulties and temptations to stray and go our own way.

More times than not, when we venture and go our own way, we tend to go farther than we ever intended to go.

Have you ever heard the grass is greener on the other side? For the most part, that statement isn’t true. Think of Lot in the Bible.

Genesis 13 tells of a conflict that arose between Abraham and his nephew, Lot. They were in the cattle business together. They both were so blessed with cattle, but they had a problem with the two herds and their herdsman. So they divided the land and parted ways.

Abraham gave Lot first choice. If Lot choose the land to the left, then Abraham would take the land on the right. If Lot chose the land to the right, Abraham would go left.

Lot chose the land that was well watered and looked a lot like a garden of the Lord, the Bible tells us. There was only one problem. He set up camp near Sodom. The green grass had its lure, but it wasn’t greener. It turned out to be the worst decision of Lot’s life.

Whenever conflict raises its ugly head, don’t lash out in despair and say something you really don’t mean. When we experience an offense or conflict, we need to step back, take a deep breath, and cool off before responding irrationally.

Silence is golden when you’ve been offended. We tend to lash out and say things we don’t really intend to say. It’s very important to stay in God’s word and allow our spirit to be built up, so when the temptation arises to lash out, we’ll think twice.

Abraham could have allowed the conflict between his herdsman and Lot’s herdsman to escalate to an all-out family feud. But instead, he became the peacemaker. Abraham gave Lot the choice of land – a very humble and generous way to handle the conflict. Abraham took the high road and made the best of it.

When conflict raises its ugly head, take the high road, be encouraged, and listen to the spirit within.

Let’s have a great conference!

Mitch Holmes
NACVSO Chaplain
Fellow Members,

The current version of our Bylaws, dated June 2014 and our Policies and Procedures, dated January 2015 can be found on the NACVSO website.

**Here is how changes can be made to the Bylaws:**

**Article XV Amendments**

A. Any voting member in good standing may submit a proposed bylaws amendment to the Judge Advocate. The Judge Advocate shall review the proposed amendment for form and content. Any proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Executive Board to allow the Board to attach a recommendation at the annual meeting. The Judge Advocate shall cause such proposed amendments to be submitted to the general membership for review not later than 60 days prior to the next annual meeting.

B. The Secretary shall ensure that the proposed amendment is on the agenda for the next annual meeting.

C. The general membership shall vote, by delegate roll-call, as to whether or not to approve the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment must receive a two-thirds majority vote for approval.

D. This rule may be suspended by a two-thirds majority vote of members present without prior notice for consideration of amendments provided it is such immediate necessity that if it were not considered the purposes, goals, or objective of this association may be harmed, and provided that at least two-thirds of the state delegates are present.

**Here are the proposed changes for our June meeting:**

**Article V Membership**

A. Voting Members shall include:

3. State Associations. Any state association of County Veterans Service Officers, regardless of the association’s title, that is recognized by that state’s Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Change:*

Change ending period (after Department of Veterans Affairs) to a comma and add the following language “or is an officially registered county veterans service officer association within that state.”

Add the following language;

When a state has more than one officially recognized State Association, the total number of votes for the state will be calculated and divided by the number of associations equal to the percentage of members in each respective organization by March 31st the calendar year of the conference. No NACVSO member shall be counted more than once, regardless of how many state organizations they belong to. It is the member’s choice as to which organization shall receive credit in respect to total votes; this determination must be made by March 1st in the calendar year of the conference.

I would encourage you to make the time to read our Bylaws/Policies and Procedures, before we come together in Appleton.

Ed Vos
Judge Advocate
National Association of County Veterans Service Officers
Membership Application

Your work or personal email address information is required to process your membership application completely. If you do not have an email address provide your mail address and membership number (if you have one).

Please type or print legibly.

Name: _________________________________ Membership Year: __________

Are there any changes from last year? Yes No

Office Name: ___________________________ Position: _________________

Are you a CVSO State Employee Volunteer Other ______________

Employer: ___________________________ Membership No: ______________

Address: _______________________________________________________

City: ___________________ County:________________________

State: _________________ Zip: _________+__________

E-Mail (required): __________________________________________________

Work Phone: ______________________ Fax: __________________

Please indicate the appropriate category:
Member State: Individual Membership $30.00 due by 1 Jan. 2015.
Payments received after 1 Apr. 2015 are considered delinquent and are $40.00.
Non Member State: Individual Membership $45.00 due by 1 Jan. 2015.
Payments received after 1 Apr. 2015 are considered delinquent and are $55.00.
2015 membership payments not received by December 31, 2015 will be removed from the NACVSO membership rolls.
Send Applications and Renewals to:
NACVSO
c/o Sarah McGinty
Veterans’ Service Representative
300 S 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487
# NACVSO Continuing Education Unit Report Form

Complete this form and send to the NSD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Compensation and Pension - 5 hrs minimum</th>
<th>Date of Training</th>
<th>Hours of Training</th>
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<td>Secondary S/C Conditions</td>
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<td>Pension Claims</td>
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<td>Claim Development</td>
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<td>Ratings SMC</td>
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<td>Other related issues (specify here)</td>
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Total hours from Compensation and Pension section

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<th>Appeal - 1 hr minimum</th>
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<th>Hours of Training</th>
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Total hours from Appeals section

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Total hours from Ethics section

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<th>Date of Training</th>
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<tr>
<td>Resources and References</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Title 38 USC - Title 38 CFR - M-21</td>
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<td>- Regional office updates/trends</td>
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<td>- Department of Military Affairs - Service Organizations</td>
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<td>- Mental Health Issues</td>
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<td>Home Loan Guarantee Program</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Women’s Issues</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>Retiree Issues/CRSC/CRDP</td>
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<td>Environmental Exposures</td>
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<td>State/Local Veteran Programs</td>
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<td>Employment Resources</td>
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<td>Reserve/Guard Issues</td>
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<td>Records (Discharges and Upgrades)</td>
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<td>Other related issues (specify here)</td>
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Total hours from Supplementary CEU Topic section

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<tr>
<th>Total Hours</th>
<th>Date of Training</th>
<th>Hours of Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Accepted: Yes No

Member Signature & Date: __________________________

Reviewer Initials ________

To maintain accreditation with NAVCSO, CEUs must total 16 hrs minimum.

It is the members responsibility to maintain a copy for their own record
Mission Statement
NACVSO’s membership will actively promote the rights of veterans and dependents of the United States through a progressive legislative platform. We will work collaboratively with the Department of Veterans Affairs and other nationally chartered veterans organizations to assure that veterans and their dependents receive the entitlements they deserve for the sacrifices they endured.

Vision Statement
NACVSO will continue to promote and protect the rights of veterans and their dependents through education, communication and technology.

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

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Your Address Could Be Here!
Become a NACVSO Member Today!