

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE
APPROVING AGENCIES FOR
VETERANS EDUCATION & TRAINING



FY2019 NASAA ANNUAL REPORT



Protecting and Promoting the
GI Bill® for Veterans & Their Families

NASAA Believes in Supporting Our Troops



The National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) helps make the GI Bill® work. NASAA facilitates the efforts of its member State Approving Agencies in promoting and safeguarding quality education and training programs for veterans, ensuring greater education and training opportunities for veterans, and protecting the integrity of the GI Bill.

NASAA works hand-in-hand with other organizations to make the GI Bill the best possible educational assistance program for our nation's veterans. NASAA members work with government agencies, Congress, schools, and employers to ensure that veterans have access to well-managed, ethical programs they can trust to help them achieve their goals.

Special thanks to our brave men and women who have sacrificed and who are sacrificing their comfort to fight for our freedoms everywhere.

Executive Summary



The National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) is an organization comprised of the State Approving Agencies (SAAs) for GI Bill® Education and Training Programs. State Approving Agencies were established by Congress to work in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure that education and training programs funded under the GI Bill are of quality and represent value to veterans, their families and dependents, and the U.S. taxpayers. This annual report summarizes the activities of NASAA in FY 2019.

The year 2019 brought the 75th Anniversary of the GI Bill, signed into law on June 22, 1944 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The GI Bill is considered one of the most significant pieces of federal legislation ever produced. It was dubbed the GI Bill of Rights because it offered federal aid to help veterans buy homes, seek employment, pursue an education, and overall helped them to adjust to civilian life again.

NASAA President Annie Walker's message explains the importance of NASAA's responsibility to the men and women who have served our country to receive the GI Bill benefits and to the protection of the GI Bill. She also identifies the needs for the future and the importance of a strong relationship with the Department of Veteran's Affairs, other organizations, and legislators.

NASAA by the Numbers shows relevant data for the NASAA Core Functions and emphasizes the Technical Assistance action and the visits to education and training institutions. During the fiscal year of 2019 Approval Actions and Liaison Actions showed increases compared to FY2018 while the remaining Core Functions showed a slight decrease.

Looking Forward relates to the ongoing legislative agenda that is proactive in its support for congressional initiatives that enhance, preserve and protect the VA education benefits that our veterans, service persons, family members, and dependents rely upon to meet their education and training goals.

Awards, Honors, and Recognitions recognizes the NASAA members who performed outstanding service for the Association during FY2019.

It is an honor to protect and serve our veterans and their families

Respectfully submitted,
James Henley, USN(Ret), MO-SAA

"GI Bill ®" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U. S. government website at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

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In Memory of Art Craig, KY SAA



NASAA's members will greatly miss Art Craig, who was the SAA Director of the Kentucky State Approving Agency before retiring in 2010. He passed away November 26, 2019, in Versailles, KY. Art is remembered as a generous family man, his southern gentleman personality, and for his great leadership as the Chair of the Contract Committee.

Message from the NASAA President Annie Walker



This year, as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the GI Bill®, it is truly an honor to serve as President of the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA). As a proud Army veteran, I fully understand that the ultimate goal of NASAA has been and always will be to protect and strengthen the GI Bill. It is our responsibility ensure that the brave men and women who unselfishly serve and protect our nation today are assured that they will continue to receive the same and expanded benefits, services and protections of the GI Bill as did the millions of other veterans who served before them in the past three-quarters of a century.

NASAA exists to safeguard these federally-funded benefits by approving educational, vocational, and professional programs in every state so that our Veterans may obtain the skills and training to transition into secure and fulfilling positions in the civilian workforce.

As President, I will focus on identifying and implementing the tools and processes that can help make NASAA more effective as an association. NASAA has been blessed with rock-solid and innovative leadership and a committed membership base since its founding 70 years ago. We are proud of what we have accomplished but understand the need to embrace strategies for sustained innovation to keep us strong and viable as we look towards the decades ahead.

We can only fulfill our mission by continuing to strengthen our partnerships with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, our Veterans Services Organizations, and our state and federal legislators. As President, I am committed to working with our leadership, our members, and our many partners to join our minds, hands and efforts toward the good of this Association and most importantly, for the good of the millions of Veterans and their families that are the reason we exist.

I hope you learn more about NASAA on our website and I invite you to visit us on Facebook to stay abreast of how our Association is working daily for America's veterans.

Annie Walker
Deputy Commissioner
Virginia Department of Veterans Services
President
National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA)





Photos top to bottom:
The Honorable Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
Paul R. Lawrence, Under Secretary for Benefits,
Charmain Bogue, Executive Director Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Paul R. Lawrence, Deputy Undersecretary for Economic Opportunity
Charmain Bogue, Executive Director of Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration

State Approving Agencies (SAAs) primarily work with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Education Service Unit. The Under Secretary for Benefits, the Deputy Undersecretary for Economic Opportunity, and the Director of Education Service, make up the VA chain of command. Charmain Bogue, Executive Director of Education Service leads a dedicated staff in the VA Central Office (VACO) and the Regional Processing Offices (RPOs) to implement the full range of GI Bill® programs. Each RPO has a Chief Education Liaison Officer (CELO) who directs the work of the Education Liaison Representatives (ELRs) within its region's states and oversees the coordination of the work contracted to the State Approving Agencies. The Chief Education Liaison Officers are:

- 1] East: Michele Mendola - Buffalo, NY
- 2] Central: Ben Berck - Lincoln, NE
- 3] South: Jerome Marshall - Atlanta, GA
- 4] West: Michael Marks - Muskogee, OK

VA Partners

These dedicated individuals represent the VA in the annual Joint Peer Review Group (JPRG) to evaluate the performance of the State Approving Agencies. They and their staff also provide VA systems training to enable SAAs to conduct compliance surveys and to utilize Salesforce's shared online platform, EForce, to upload Approval and Compliance information to the VA.

A positive working relationship between the State Approving Agencies and the Education Service Unit is a vital part of the delivery of educational services to eligible veterans, service persons, and dependents.



Stakeholders

SAAs coordinate and collaborate with many other entities in providing services to veterans and their families.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| American Council on Education Veterans Programs | MYCAA- Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts | Troops to Energy |
| American Legion | National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators | Troops to Teachers |
| AMVETS National Services Foundation | Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges | United Service Organizations |
| Association of Veterans Education Certifying Officials | State Departments of Economic Development | U.S. Department of Defense Voluntary Education |
| Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support | State Departments of Education | U.S. Department of Education |
| Disabled American Veterans | State Departments of Labor | U.S. Department of Labor |
| Federal Aviation Administration | State Departments of Veterans Affairs | Veterans Commission |
| Helmets to Hardhats | State Veteran Educators Organizations | Veterans Education Success |
| HillVets | Student Veterans of America | Veterans of Foreign Wars |
| Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans of America | Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors | Vietnam Veterans of America |
| Military Officers Association of America | | Western Association of Veterans Education Specialists |
| | | Workforce Development |
| | | Warrior Scholar Project |

Acknowledgements

A publication of this type is never completed in isolation. The efforts of several State Approving Agencies' staff members went into the production. Many thanks to all who assisted with this project. Here are some who have contributed time and effort to the project:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
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Dan Webster (CO) |



2018-2019 Year in Review Highlights

August 2018

- 2018 NASAA Summer Training and Business Meeting - Anaheim, CA
- School Certifying Official Training at Washington State Criminal Justice Training Center - Burien, WA

October 2018

- NASAA National Training Institute (NTI) - Oklahoma City, OK
- National Association of Veterans Program Administrators (NAVPA) Conference - Orland, FL
- North Carolina Association of Coordinators of Veterans Affairs All-Schools Meeting - Thomasville, NC
- Home Base Iowa Partners Summit - Camp Dodge, Johnston, IA
- Oklahoma Veteran Education Specialist Association (OVESA) Conference - Tulsa, OK

November 2018

- National Apprenticeship Week - Several SAAs hosted and participated in events
- Virginia Military and Veteran Education Summit - Hampton, VA

January 2019

- Outreach Event at Vermont State Police Academy - Pittsford, VT
- Certifying Officials Training at Plumbers & Pipefitters Training Center - Albuquerque, NM
- Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Professional Development Symposium - Austin, TX

- Student Veterans of America National Conference - Orlando, FL

February 2019

- NASAA Mid-Winter Conference - Arlington, VA
- OJT and Apprenticeship Outreach partnership with MN Department of Labor, MN
- School Certifying Officials Workshop at Tacoma Community College - Tacoma, WA
- NASPA Military Connected Student Symposium - Las Vegas, NV
- Flight Summit for Vocational Flight Schools - Olympia, WA

MARCH 2019

- Certifying Official Training Conference - Lawton, Oklahoma City, & Tulsa, OK

April 2019

- Certifying Official Workshops - Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, & Camp Dodge, IA
- Nevada Annual Conference - Las Vegas NV

May 2019

- Certifying Official Training - Bellevue & Omaha, NE

June 2019

- Annual Maine SCO Workshop - Randolph, ME
- Certifying Officials Workshop at Avista Corporation - Spokane, WA

- Certifying Official Training Conference - Albuquerque, NM
- Virginia State Approving Agency 75th Anniversary of the GI Bill Celebration - Richmond, VA
- Washington State School Certifying Officials Workshop held at Spokane Community College

July 2019

- Certifying Official Training at Las Cruces Police Department - Las Cruces, NM
- Western Association of Veterans Education Specialists (WAVES) Conference - New Orleans, LA
- Association of Veterans Education Certifying Officials (AVECO) Conference - Cleveland, OH

August 2019

- NASAA Summer Conference - Omaha, NE



Marylin Dykman, NM SAA and Michael Marks Chief Education Liaison-West.

Mission & History

The primary responsibility of the State Approving Agencies (SAAs) is to ensure the quality and integrity of programs of education and training for the use of GI Bill® benefits. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the State Approving Agencies and their mission to serve veterans and their families.

State Approving Agencies:

In many ways, the fundamental mission of State Approving Agencies is the same today as it was when they were founded over 70 years ago.

- > Promote and safeguard quality education and training for veterans;
- > Certificate, diplomas, and degree levels of post-secondary education;
- > Ensure greater educational and training opportunities to meet the changing needs of veterans; and
- > Assist the VA in preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in the administration of the GI Bill.

The primary responsibility of State Approving Agencies is to ensure the quality and integrity of programs of education and training for the use of GI Bill benefits. The scope of responsibility: high schools, adult education centers, employers providing on-the-job training and apprenticeship training, license and certification testing, vocational training, as well as all certificate and degree levels of post-secondary education.

Essentially, in order for someone to receive GI Bill benefits, an SAA has approved his or her program of study or training. Several years after the passage of the 1944 GI Bill of Rights, Congress added State Approving Agencies to the law in 1947. SAAs were the answer to the problems of abuse experienced by the new program. Congress believed that the states' control of education and approval of programs was the best avenue to safeguard both veterans and institutions.

As state entities acting on behalf of the federal government, SAAs have been an outstanding example of the workability of the federal-state partnership, allowing federal interests to be pursued at the local level while preserving the identity, interests, and sovereignty of states' rights in education. Under Title 38, United States Code, each governor designates a state bureau or department as the State Approving Agency for the state. Today there are 54 State Approving Agencies with 200 professional and support personnel, supervising over 10,000 active facilities and over 200,000 programs.

SAAs are located in various state offices, including: state departments of education, higher education boards, state university systems, state departments of labor, state departments of veterans affairs, and stand alone agencies. SAA professionals bring a wealth of formal education, training, and experience to the approval of programs for veterans benefits.



June 2019- Washington State School Certifying Officials Workshop held at Spokane Community College

The National Association of State Approving Agencies

In 1948, the State Approving Agencies (SAAs) saw a need to coordinate their efforts nationwide and gathered to form the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA). NASAA works hand-in-hand with other organizations to make the GI Bill® the best possible educational assistance program for our nation's veterans. NASAA members work with government agencies, Congress, schools, and employers to assure that veterans have access to well-managed, ethical programs they can trust to help them achieve their goals. This relationship has been a critical component in the successful administration of the GI Bill.

With the formation of NASAA, the SAAs began to create professional standards for themselves. The organization established a forum for the exchange of ideas, the promotion of high professional standards, policies, and ethical practices among its members, and representation on mutual interests or issues coming before the membership. It also worked to protect both the schools and the veterans from fraud, waste, and abuse. The organization continues to work to develop and maintain uniform standards for all SAAs. NASAA encourages, supports, and fosters the collaboration of all agencies concerned with the administration of education and training programs for those eligible to receive VA benefits.

Committees in specific areas, Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs), Apprenticeship/On-the-Job-Training (APP/OJT), Flight Schools, contracting, etc., have been created to focus on particular areas of approval and supervision in order to create more effective and efficient processes for the SAAs.

The organization works to ensure that the greatest number of quality programs are available to those eligible for education and training benefits. Through the efforts of the SAAs and NASAA, states are better able to serve those who are eligible to receive veterans' education and training assistance benefits.



Tramaine Carroll-Payne, Chair, Audit Committee, Trish Gordon-McCown, Chair, Legislative Committee, Annie Walker, President



Betsy Wickham, Director FL SAA, Bryan Mitchell, CT SAA; Jen St. Jean, VT SAA



APP/OJT Committee meeting at the 2019 Summer Business and Training Conference in Omaha, NE

The National Association of State Approving Agencies Works in Cooperation with Its Partners:

NASAA Representatives frequently appear before Congress to testify on veterans' education issues. NASAA members work closely with the VA to resolve concerns over regulations and frequently appear before Congress to testify on veterans' education issues.

In 2017 NASAA worked with Congress and Veterans Service Organizations to pass the Harry W. Colmer Veterans Educational Assistance Act also known as the "Forever GI Bill®," which brought significant changes to veteran's education benefits.

The law was named after the American Legion national commander who drafted the original GI Bill language in 1944 which allows more veterans to use the GI Bill and more time to use it.

The majority of the changes to enhance or expand education benefits for veterans, service members, families, and survivors have already been implemented over the last two years.

Some key changes that went into effect with the passing of the Forever GI Bill include:

- Ends 15-year limit on GI Bill usage, allowing all veterans who exited service in 2013 or after go to school anytime;
- Provides GI Bill eligibility for reservists mobilized under selected reserve orders for preplanned missions in support of the combatant commands or in response to a major disaster or emergency (12304b, 12301h, 12301g);
- Provides GI Bill eligibility for reservists undergoing medical care;
- Provides full GI Bill benefits for Purple Heart recipients regardless of length of service;
- Extends Yellow Ribbon Program benefits to Fry scholarship recipients;
- Restores used GI Bill benefits to students who experience permanent school closures while enrolled;
- Allows the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA/BAH) to be calculated based on where the student attends the majority of their classes;
- Increases GI Bill payments by \$2,300 per year for veterans with less than 12 months of active service;
- Creates pilot program for high-technology and

computer programming courses;

- Expands education benefits for veterans pursuing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degrees;
- Increases amount of fees paid to schools for certification of student veteran enrollments;
- Improves GI Bill information technology system to fully automate claims;
- Increases monthly amount of educational assistance for survivors and dependents of disabled veterans;
- Increases funding for state approving agencies to conduct oversight of schools;
- Allows GI Bill use for distance courses in technical and career education institutions; and
- Allows to prorate to the amount for the actual cost of the test, instead of using a month of entitlement for certain licensure and certification tests such as a national test (GMAT, GRE, CLEP) or a test required for state licensing.

Still to come:

- Effective Date, August 1, 2020 Increased Eligibility for National Guard and Reserve Members
- Effective Date, August 1, 2020 Consolidation of Certain Eligibility Tiers for National Guard and Reserve Members
- Effective Date, August 1, 2022 Yellow Ribbon for Armed Forces Serving on Active Duty will allow certain members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty to be eligible in The Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program.

Hubbard, W.J. (2017) Things to know about the Forever GI Bill PDF Presentation. Student Veterans of America https://svet.studentveterans.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Things-to-Know-About-the-Forever-GI-Bill_SVA-1.pdf



Michael Criscuolo, NASAA President, Joe Wescott, Charmain Bogue, Director, VA Ed Services, NASAA Legislative Liaison with VBA and VACO leadership, Veterans Services Officers and Student Veterans

Core Functions

To Achieve Our Mission,
We Engage in Six Core Functions:

<p>Approval of Programs:</p>	<p>Review, evaluate, and approve quality programs of education (secondary and postsecondary, public and private) and training utilizing pre-established state and federal criteria. Programs leading to a standard college degree at an accredited public or non-profit institution of higher learning are “deemed approved” in accordance with PL 111-377 and PL 114-315.</p>
<p>Compliance Visits to Schools and Training Establishments:</p>	<p>Conduct on-site visits to approved educational institutions, training establishments, and flight schools to determine continued compliance with appropriate state and federal laws and VA regulations. The on-site visit consists of reviewing policies and practices of the institution to include approved programs, facilities, branch locations, equipment, instructional staff, and administrators, along with a detailed review of a random sampling of the veteran student files, which includes reviewing transcripts of grades, records of previous education, granting of appropriate credit, other relevant records, and VA payments under the Post 9/11 GI Bill®.</p>
<p>Technical Assistance:</p>	<p>Directly assist facility officials or businesses with any aspect of the approval process, veteran student certification process, and clarification of statute or policy changes.</p>
<p>Outreach:</p>	<p>Promote the increased usage of GI Bill benefits through briefings and presentations, mass media marketing, and networking with a wide variety of stakeholders, to include providers of education and training, employers, military installations, and veterans groups.</p>
<p>Liaison:</p>	<p>Collaborate with government, veteran, and educational entities to resolve issues, identify and formulate training needs, share best practices, and identify opportunities for success.</p>
<p>Contract Compliance:</p>	<p>Fulfill all VA contract requirements on time and on target. These requirements include submission of reimbursement invoices and quarterly activity reports and completing annual security and privacy training requirements.</p>

NASAA 2019-2020 Executive Board Officers

The Officers of the Association are elected by the Association Membership or appointed by the President of the Association. Officers manage and administer the affairs of the Association through the Executive Board and the Committee system. The Association, through Association Membership, votes on rulings or rules at the Annual and Mid-Winter Business and Training meetings and has full and complete authority over the officers and committee members.

The Officers of the Association shall perform duties as generally defined in Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised and as specifically defined in the articles of the Constitution and the Bylaws.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

Annie Walker	(VA)	President
Mandy Dykman	(NM)	Vice President
Amber Mertens	(IN)	Secretary
Frank Myers	(SC)	Treasurer
John Ayres	(PA)	Judge Advocate
James Henley	(MO)	Public Affairs Liaison
Trish Gordon-McCown	(MD)	Legislative Director
Melissa Triplett	(OH)	Central Region Vice President
Rebecca Ryan	(RI)	East Region Vice President
Cleophus Wallace	(LA)	South Region Vice President
Leanna DeKing	(AZ)	West Region Vice President
Ray Baker	(IN)	Central Region Alternate
Jennifer St. Jean	(VT)	East Region Alternate
Tom Morrison	(TN)	South Region Alternate
David Salgado	(UT)	West Region Alternate
Joseph Wescott	(NC)	NASAA Legislative Consultant

COMMITTEE CHAIRS COMMITTEE

Apprenticeship and OJT Committee
Audit Committee
Automation & Technology Committee
Communications Committee
Conference Planning Committee
Constitution & Bylaws Committee
Contract/Cooperative Agreement
Flight Training Committee
Honors, Awards, Membership & Alumni Committee
IHL & NCD Committee
Legislative Committee
Military Transition Assistance Committee
Past President’s Council /
Nominating Committee
Professional Development Committee
Archives and History

CHAIR

CHAIR: Sue Jevning (TX)
CHAIR: Tramaine Carroll-Payne (VA)
CHAIR: Melissa Triplett (OH)
CHAIR: Michelle Nash (NV)
CHAIR: Mandy Dykman (NM)
CHAIR: John Ayres (PA)
CHAIR: John Murray (WA)
CHAIR: Deb O’Neil (WA)
CHAIR: Andy Pieper (IL)
CHAIR: Martina Murray (VA)
CHAIR: Trish Gordon-McCown (MA)
CHAIR: Gwen Hacker (KY)
CHAIR: Mike Criscuolo (CT)
CHAIR: Dan Wellman (IL)
CHAIR: Christine Maher (MA)

VICE-CHAIR

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Vice Chair: James Henley (MO)
Vice Chair: James Thompson (AL)
Vice Chair: Meghan-Joy Woodall (NC)
Vice Chair: Sue Jevning (TX)
Vice Chair: Bill Schroeder (OH)
Vice Chair: Rebecca Ryan (RI)
Vice Chair: Bill Schroeder (OH)
Vice Chair: Bobbie Blakely (VA)
Vice-Chair: Rachael Summary (MO)
Vice Chair: Michelle Nash (NV)
Vice Chair: David Salgado (UT)
Vice Chair: Laura Bach (WA)
Vice-Chair: Charles Rowe (NJ)
Vice-Chair: Open

NASAA by the Numbers

This data was taken from NASAA aggregated quarterly reports for all SAAs. Selected for inclusion are program approvals, other approval actions, compliance visits, other visit activity, technical assistance, outreach, and liaison actions. Note: compliance survey visits on the NASAA quarterly report summaries are reported as supervisory visits. Limitations with the NASAA IT contractor have prevented the re-titling of this section.

FY2019 brought a 10.6% increase in Approval Actions from FY2018. Liaison Actions were up in FY2019 with an 18.8% increase from FY2018. The remaining Core Functions showed slight declines from FY2018.

Total approval actions number 278,650 when including the 25,542 disapproval actions reported in FY 2019. Total reported actions for all core functions equal 356,305 for FY 2019.

2019	Type of Facility	IHL	NCD	APP	OJT	CORR	FLT	LIC/CERT
	Technical Assistance Actions	28,442	20,363	3,569	5,680	38	916	203

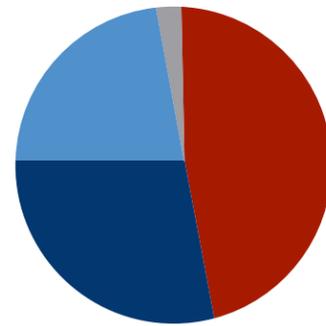
2018	Type of Facility	IHL	NCD	APP	OJT	CORR	FLT	LIC/CERT
	Technical Assistance Actions	37,237	18,914	4,180	7,550	104	1,051	286

2017	Type of Facility	IHL	NCD	APP	OJT	CORR	FLT	LIC/CERT
	Technical Assistance Actions	34,431	18,620	5,316	7,994	76	1,640	284

2016	Type of Facility	IHL	NCD	APP	OJT	CORR	FLT	LIC/CERT
	Technical Assistance Actions	28,077	16,753	4,800	7,192	36	1,272	313

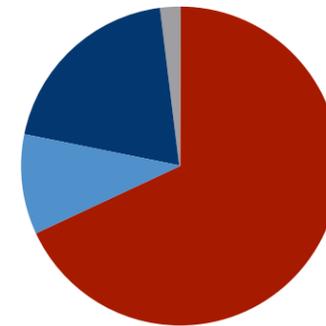
Technical assistance is any interaction designed to assist an individual, a school, or training site personnel with any portion of the approval function. Assistance could be rendered either before or after initial approval.

Source: FY2016-FY2019 quarterly reports provided to NASAA @ VA by SAAs



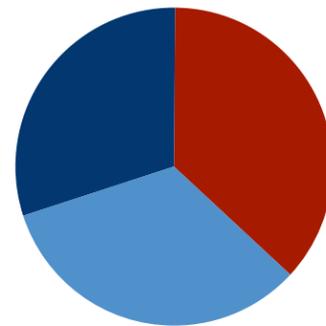
NON COLLEGE DEGREE

- 47% Compliance
- 28% Inspection
- 22% Other Visits
- 3% DVA Request



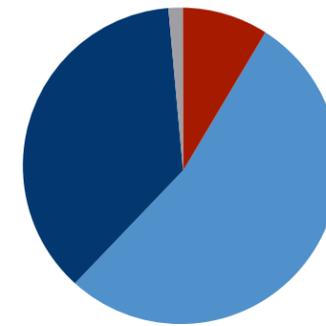
INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING

- 68% Compliance
- 10% Inspection
- 20% Other Visits
- 2% DVA Request



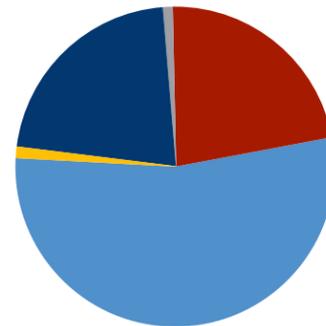
FLIGHT PROGRAMS

- 37% Compliance
- 33% Inspection
- 30% Other Visits



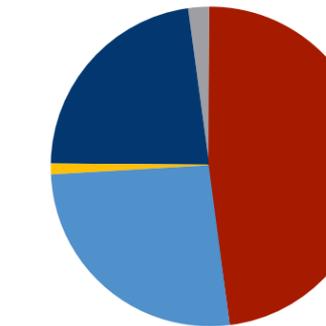
APPRENTICESHIPS

- 9% Compliance
- 53% Inspection
- 37% Other Visits
- 1% DVA Request



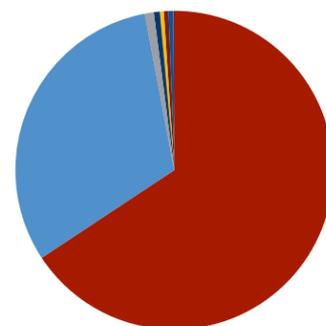
ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

- 22% Compliance
- 54% Inspection
- 1% Information Visits
- 22% Other Visits
- 1% DVA Request



TOTAL

- 48% Compliance
- 26% Inspection
- 1% Information Visits
- 23% Other Visits
- 2% DVA Request



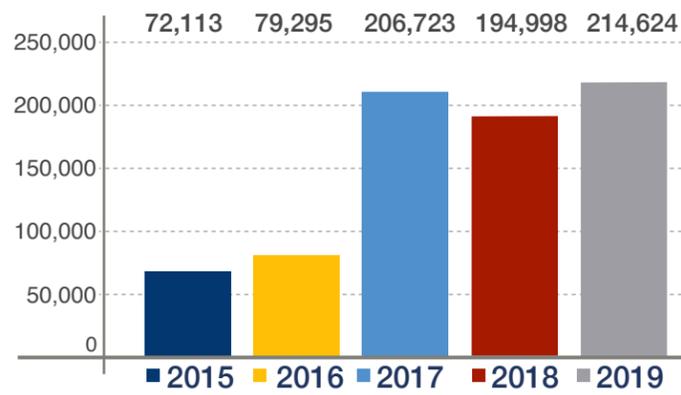
DISAPPROVALS

- 65% Institution of Higher Learning
- 31% Non College Degree
- .5% Flight Programs
- .5% Apprenticeships
- 2% On-the-Job Training
- .5% Correspondence
- .5% Licensure & Certification

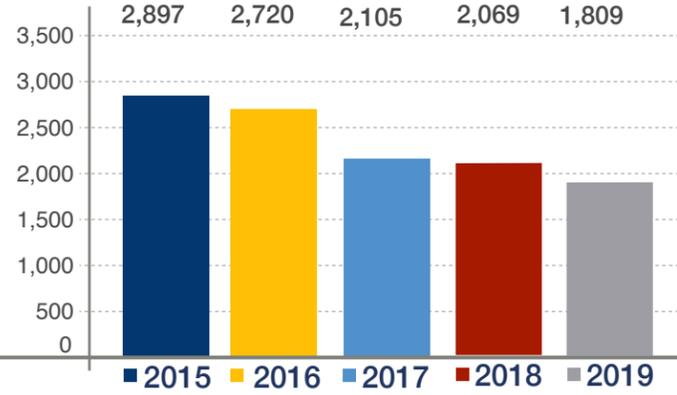
Source: FY2016-FY2019 quarterly reports provided to NASAA @ VA by SAAs

2015-2019 Comparison

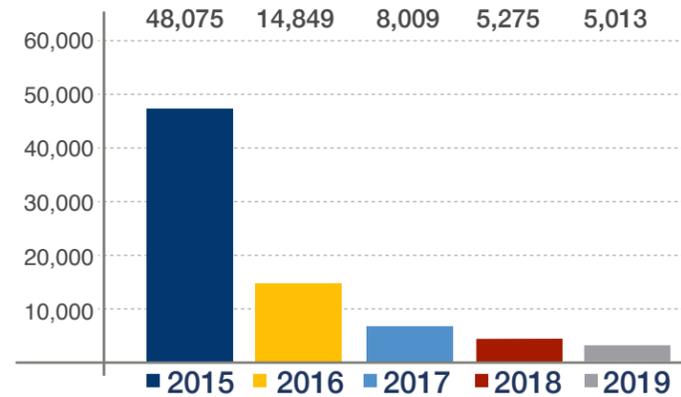
Approvals



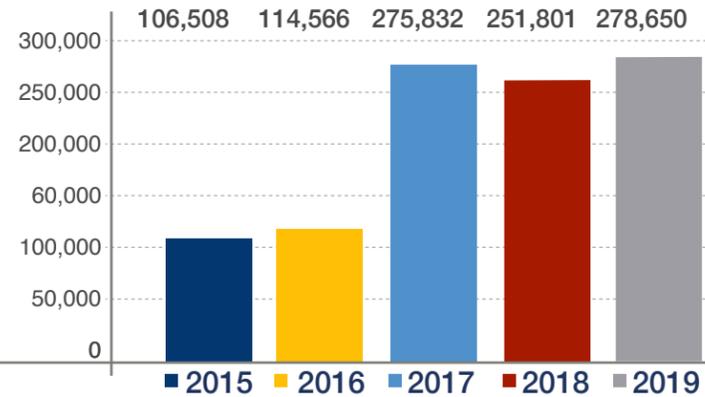
Compliance Visits



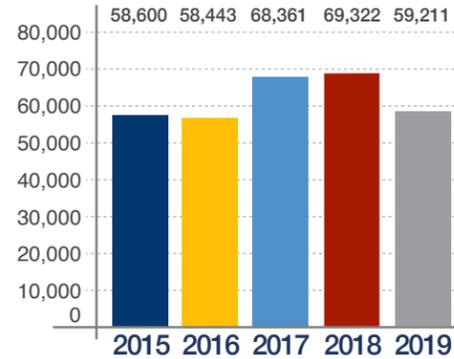
Outreach



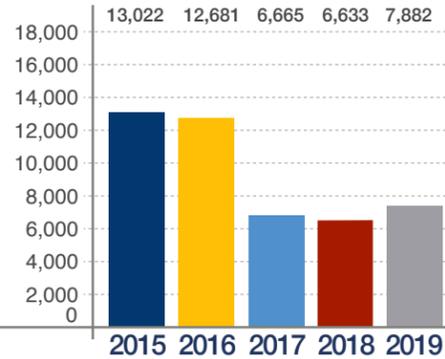
Total Approval Actions



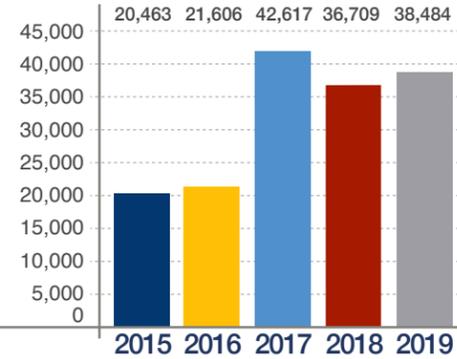
Technical Assistance Actions



Liaison



Other Approval Actions



NASAA Regions

Central

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

South

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
Puerto Rico
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia
U.S. Virgin Islands

East

Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

West

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
New Mexico
Nevada
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

Committee Summaries

Permanent Committees

- 1] Apprenticeship and On-The-Job Training Committee
- 2] Contract/Cooperative Agreement Committee
- 3] Institutions of Higher Learning & Non College Degree Committee
- 4] Flight Training Committee
- 5] Legislative Committee
- 6] Military Transition Assistance Committee
- 7] Professional Development Committee

Special Committees Constituted Annually By The President

- 1] Audit Committee
- 2] Automation and Technology Committee
- 3] Conference Planning Committee
- 4] Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- 5] Honors and Awards/Membership/Alumni Committee
- 6] Past President's Council
- 7] Archives and History Committee
- 8] Joint Peer Review Group
- 9] Communications Committee



Permanent Committees

1. Apprenticeship & On-The-Job Training Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Review and make recommendations on regulatory and procedural changes affecting the approval and supervision of Apprenticeship and On-The-Job-Training Programs; seek review, advice, and consensus with the Executive Board
- 2] Advise the Chair of the Legislative Committee on matters which the Committee determines are within the purview of this Committee
- 3] Prepare reports and recommendations for submission to the Association and the Executive Board
- 4] Conduct activities (workshops, telephone conference calls, etc.) which afford the opportunity for an open exchange of ideas concerning all aspects of Apprenticeship/On-The-Job Training

2. Contract/Cooperative Agreement Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Conduct general contract/Cooperative Agreement deliberations on behalf of the Association with the Department of Veterans Affairs; seek review with the Executive Board
- 2] Keep the Association informed of all modifications or changes to the contract/Cooperative Agreement; report to the Executive Board and the Association about the overall contract/Cooperative Agreement status

3. Institutions Of Higher Learning & Non College Degree Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Review and make recommendations on regulatory and procedural changes affecting the approval and supervision of Institutions of Higher Learning and Non College Degree Institutions
- 2] Advise the Chair of the Legislative Committee on matters which the Committee determines are within the purview of this Committee and will affect the Association
- 3] Prepare reports and recommendations for submission to the Executive Board and Association

4. Flight Training Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Review and make recommendations on regulatory and procedural changes affecting the approval and supervision of Flight Training Programs
- 2] Advise the Chairs of the Institutions of Higher Learning & Non College Degree Committee on matters which the Committee determines are within its purview
- 3] Prepare reports and recommendations for submission to the Institutions of Higher Learning & Non College Degree Committee for review and ultimate submission to the general membership

5. Legislative Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Develop, maintain, publish, and manage the Legislative Agenda for the Association; seek review, advice, and consensus with the Executive Board and direct approval from the Association
- 2] Secure, evaluate, and prepare recommendations on all proposed legislation pertinent to veterans' education and submit them to the President for action
- 3] Maintain liaison with appropriate Committees and Subcommittees of the Congress of the United States and their staffs
- 4] Maintain regular contact with members of the Association whose states have legislators on the Veterans Affairs Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives
- 5] Arrange for testimony at appropriate Congressional committee and subcommittee hearings
- 6] Involve all members of the Association in communication with their legislators on matters of vital concern to the Association

6. Military Transition Assistance Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Monitor, review, and make recommendations on regulatory and procedural changes affecting the participation of in-service military personnel in the Educational and Training Program under Title 38 and Title 10, U.S. Code
- 2] Work with the appropriate service-related organizations regarding the participation of in-service personnel in the use of Title 38 and Title 10, U.S. Code provisions
- 3] Advise the Chair of the Legislative Committee on matters under the purview of this Committee that are deemed appropriate for inclusion in the Legislative Agenda
- 4] Advise the Executive Board and Association on matters brought to the committee for review and possible inclusion in committee actions relating to Military Education and Transition Assistance
- 5] Prepare reports and recommendations for submission to the Executive Board and the Association

7. Professional Development Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Exercise oversight for the training and education of professional staff members
- 2] Advise the Executive Board and Association in matters related to professional development that may require action, impact the conduct of business, or affect the general welfare of the Association or its members
- 3] Act on the behalf of the Executive Board as directed in the development, implementation, administration, and monitoring of training and education requirements and provide oversight, along with the Regional VPs in the Mentoring of newly assigned State Directors and as requested by the State for all other members
- 4] Monitor the professional development of the members and make recommendations to the Association through the Executive Board about how to enhance or assure professional development through:

- A] the integration of education and training with the Association's routine or periodic activities to include the conduct of workshops at general or regional meetings
 - B] the recommendation of procedures by which education and training on a continuing basis can become a part of the annual evaluation process, be recognized in performance standards and professional qualifications, and become a component of the annual contract
- 5] Represent the Association in meeting with other organizations, agencies or individuals whenever the purpose of the meeting is primarily related to education and training, as approved or directed by the President
 - 6] Perform other duties related to education and training that may be assigned by the Executive Board or the Association



Governor of Arizona, Doug Ducey; Vice President of the United States, Mike Pence; AZ SAA Director, Leanna DeKing; US Senator from Arizona, Martha McSally

Special Committees

1. Audit Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Review the financial records of the Association at all national conferences
- 2] Make recommendations the Committee deems appropriate concerning the finances and accounting procedures of the Association

2. Automation & Technology Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Provide leadership in issues involving existing and future technologies
- 2] Promote technology as a tool to improve quality of service
- 3] Develop partnerships with other service providers to maximize NASAA technology resources
- 4] Develop and manage a viable internet web site for the Association and include, at a minimum, the following capabilities: training, news group / listserv, information dissemination, and outreach
- 5] Promote online approval capabilities with the VA
- 6] Develop and distribute information to the membership to improve understanding and usage of existing and future technologies
- 7] Develop a viable technology plan to be the blueprint for our future

3. Conference Planning Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Plan and develop the agendas and programs for the Annual and Midwinter Meetings and for other general membership meetings, in cooperation with the President
- 2] Review and make decisions or make recommendations to the Association about bids received for general membership meetings at the Annual Business and Training Meetings

- 3] Make logistical and fiscal arrangements for general membership meetings, to include, but not limited to, hotel and meeting accommodations, invitations to guests, outreach and support activities, and administrative support
- 4] Make preliminary plans and arrangements for the succeeding Annual Business and Training Meetings, two years in advance

4. Constitution and Bylaws Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Review the Constitution and Bylaws and prepare amendments or revisions as necessary, either for clarity or Association administration; receive amendments from Association members, review and assess proposals, and present to the Association for consideration when they meet criteria established under the Constitution
- 2] Publish and distribute the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association; ensure publication is available through the web site
- 3] Members of the Committee will assist the Judge Advocate, as directed, in conducting the duties of the Judge Advocate and acting as Parliamentarian

5. Honors and Awards/Membership/ Alumni Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Ascertain names of members retiring during the year and prepare certificates of appreciation for presentation at the Annual Business and Training Meeting
- 2] Prepare recommendations for Honors and Awards which the Committee deems appropriate or as directed by the President, Executive Board, or Association; present recommendations to the Executive Board for approval; prepare certificates and ceremony for presentation at the Annual Business and Training Meeting

- 3] Encourage each State Approving Agency to maintain adequate representation and active participation in the Association
- 4] Advise the President about State Approving Agencies currently inactive; assist the President in determining the reasons for inactivity and any assistance the Association may offer to facilitate participation
- 5] Refer issues or problems to the President and Executive Board, as needed
- 6] Conduct the Annual Sustaining Membership Drive and present certificates to Sustaining Members at the Annual Business and Training Meeting
- 7] Maintain a list of NASAA Alumni members including mailing addresses; encourage Alumni to become members and participate in Association activities; extend invitations to general membership meetings of the Association
- 8] Prepare and coordinate activities for Alumni members attending general membership meetings of the Association
- 9] Provide support for, and coordination with, the Alumni Group

6. Past President's Council Responsibilities:

- 1] Serve as a resource of individuals with experience and expertise in matters related to the Association
- 2] Assist the President, at the discretion and specific request of the President, in matters which benefit the Association and are not generally and appropriately within the purview of other Committees of the Association
- 3] Serve as a complement to another committee, subcommittee, council or task force, at the request of the President and Executive Board, or at the request of the group, when appropriate and approved by the President and Board
- 4] Serve as the Nominating Committee with the Immediate Past President serving as Chair

- A] Present a slate of officers to the Association at the Annual Business and Training Meeting
- B] Recommend candidates for committee membership or office vacancies, as requested by the Executive Board

7. Archives & History Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Compile and maintain the Archive for documents and records; develop, maintain, and document the History of the Association; provide a secure depository for the collection
- 2] Collect information from the Secretary and other sources relating to NASAA activities for the year
- 3] Collate and deposit information in the NASAA Archives depository
- 4] Create historical reports or documents, as requested by the President

8. Joint Peer Review Group Responsibilities:

- 1] Meet, as the Joint Peer Review Group, when and where assembled by the Department of Veterans Affairs
- 2] Provide peer group review and evaluation of the State Approving Agencies' end of year reports
- 3] Assign joint peer review assessment for each SAA, in accordance with policies and procedures

9. Communications Committee Responsibilities:

- 1] Develop, implement, and manage NASAA's strategic communications plan
- 2] Prepare and disseminate news and public affairs items
- 3] Create and maintain an effective communications infrastructure
- 4] Provide input and support regarding the NASAA website
- 5] Develop social media outlets to connect and inform NASAA members

FY 2019 NASAA Moments



Margaret Shirley-Myers, VA- AL ELR, James A. Thompson, AL SAA, Kimberly Minniefield, AL SAA, Joan Johnson, AL SAA, Cleophus Wallace, LA SAA, Cathy McGruder-Jones, MS SAA, Ruth Braxton, MS SAA, and David Lewis, VA-LA ELR



Annie Walker, NASAA President (VA) and Trish Gordon-McCown, Legislative Director (MA)



Raymond Baker (IN), Mike Criscuolo (CT), Gina Welke (OK), Joe Wescott, Laura Bach (WA), Frank Myers (SC), Dan Wellman (IL)...Lumina Foundation Meeting



Fall 2019 Virginia Association of School Certifying Officials training



Frank Myers (SC), Laura Bach (WA), Dan Wellman (IL), Annie Walker (VA) NASAA President, Charlie Rowe (NJ) and Mike Criscuolo (CT)



Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Joe Wescott, NASAA Legislative Liaison, Julia Wilkie, wife of Secretary of Veterans Affairs



The South Region Group Picture-Omaha 2019



Trish Gordon-McCown, Legislative Director (MD), Everett Jackson Jr (DC), Everett Jackson (DC SAA), Angela Lee (Director, DC SAA), Jocelyn Harris (DC SAA)

Looking Forward



The National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the GI Bill®. This year marks 70 years of State Approving Agencies (SAAs) protecting the GI Bill for all Veterans and other eligible beneficiaries. We proudly accept the responsibility of safeguarding Veterans Education Benefits and Training programs. In addition, we understand the necessity to work collaboratively with our state and federal partners. Our valued partnerships include the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Services Organizations, Department of Labor & Workforce Development and our state and federal legislators. It is clear these partnerships will only serve our Veterans and other eligible beneficiaries ensuring equal participation and a firm commitment to be good stewards of the programs we protect.

The passage of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the “Forever GI Bill”, Valor Act of 2018 and Servicemembers Improved Transition through Reforms for Ensuring Progress Act or the “SIT-REP ACT”, demonstrate the commitment to provide protections for beneficiaries enrolled in approved educational and training institutions. NASAA played a critical role in the passage of these laws. We must focus on seeking additional protections to span across the various benefit programs to ensure beneficiaries are able to utilize their entitlements successfully as they enroll and graduate from quality education and training programs to become productive civilians across the nation.

Our SAAs are uniquely qualified to provide program approval and to promote quality in education and training programs. We will work with Congress, VA and other strategic partners to increase programs that meet workforce demands and support economic growth. Our priorities will focus on strengthening the approval criteria that mirror current education delivery methods and pedagogy. Our legislative priorities include, but are not limited to, identifying requirements for quality distance education programs, the expansion of on-the-job training (OJT) and apprenticeship opportunities and responsible allowances and protections for practical flight training programs. In addition, SAAs need the ability to provide meaningful outreach to our educational institutions and state partners to expand the knowledge of the various education and training programs.

Our partnerships demonstrate the strength of our commitment to provide a seamless process for our Veterans and a collegial spirit as we work with our partners for positive change. As we push forward together, it is imperative that all stakeholders focus on our continuous mission to “Protect and Serve” our Veterans and their family members.

State Approving Agencies Directory

Where are the State Approving Agencies?

The location of a State Approving Agency within a state's governmental structure varies from state to state. Some states separate the functions of school approvals and OJT/Apprenticeship approvals between different agencies. The decision of where to place a SAA within a state rests with the governor of that state.

In FY19 there were 54 state approving agencies covering all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. Washington State is now the only state with 2 SAAs. There are 25 SAAs in state veteran affairs agencies, 15 in state higher education agencies, 5 in state post-secondary education agencies, 4 in elementary and secondary education agencies, and 3 in state workforce development agencies. Department of Veteran Affairs staff perform the SAA duties in Hawaii, Oregon, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



NASAA Membership Omaba, NE Summer 2019 Conference

ALABAMA

State Approving Agency
Alabama Community College System
Joan Johnson: SAA Director
135 South Union Street Suite 449
P.O. Box 302130
Montgomery, AL 36104
joan.johnson@accs.edu
Phone: 334-293-4664
Fax: 334-293-4663

ALASKA

State Approving Agency
Office of Veterans Affairs
Delma Chapa: SAA Director
4600 Debarr Rd., Ste. 180
Anchorage, AK 99508
delma.chapa@alaska.gov
Phone: 907-334-0874
Fax: 907-334-0869

ARIZONA

State Approving Agency
Arizona Department of Veteran Services
Leanna DeKing: SAA Director
3839 North 3rd Street, Suite 209
Phoenix, AZ 85012
ldeking@azdvs.gov
Phone: 602-255-5395
Fax: 602-297-6675

ARKANSAS

State Approving Agency for Veterans Education
Arkansas Department of Workforce Education
Bill Dedner: Program Manager
Three Capitol Mall,
Luther S. Hardin Bldg., Room 308
Little Rock, AR 72201-1083
Bill.Dedner@adhe.edu
Phone: 501-324-9473
Fax: 501-324-9610

CALIFORNIA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Muskogee Regional Office
Bill Spruce: Acting Director
125 S. Main Street
Muskogee, OK 74401
CA-Approvals@va.gov
Phone: 202-632-8701

COLORADO

Colorado Office of Veterans Education and Training
Mike Roberts: SAA Director
9101 East Lowry Blvd
Denver, Colorado 80230-6011
michael.roberts@cccs.edu
Phone: 720-858-2814
Fax: 303-595-1621

SAA Directory

CONNECTICUT

State Approving Agency
Connecticut Office of Higher Education
Michael Criscuolo: SAA Director
450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 707
Hartford, CT 06103
Phone: 860-947-1816
Fax: 860-947-1310

DELAWARE

State Approving Agency
Delaware Department of Education
Patricia Keeton: SAA Director
35 Commerce Way, Ste. #1
Dover, DE 19904
patricia.keeton@doe.k12.de.us
Phone: 302-857-3313
Fax: 302-739-1770

FLORIDA

State Approving Agency for Veterans' Training, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
Betsy Wickham: SAA Director
9500 Bay Pines Boulevard, Rm. 214
Bay Pines, FL 33744
wickhamb@fdva.state.fl.us
Main Office Phone: 727-319-7402
Fax: 727-319-7781

GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Veterans Service
State Approving Agency
Bobby Davis: SAA Director
Floyd Veterans Memorial Bldg.
Suite E-970
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4800
saaga@vs.state.ga.us
Phone: 404-656-2306
Fax: 404-657-6276

HAWAII

State Approving Agency
University of Hawaii System
Curtis Washburn: SAA Director
2500 Campus Road
Bachman Annex 11-5
Honolulu, HI 96822
curtis.washburn@hawaii.edu
Phone: 808-956-2236

IDAHO

Idaho Division of Veteran Services
State Approving Agency
Doug Jacobson:
Veterans Education Bureau Chief
351 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702-4519
doug.jacobson@veterans.idaho.gov
Phone: 208-780-1334
Fax: 208-780-1331

ILLINOIS

State Approving Agency
Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
Dan Wellman: Administrator
833 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9432
Dan.wellman@illinois.gov
Phone: 217-782-7838
Fax: 217-524-8394

INDIANA

State Approving Agency
Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs
Ray Baker: SAA Director
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W469
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2738
RBaker@dva.IN.gov
Phone: 317-234-6061
Fax: 317-234-8744

IOWA

State Approving Agency
Iowa Department of Education
Michael Dommer: Education Consultant
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146
michael.dommer@iowa.gov
Phone: 515-281-3317
Fax: 515-242-5988

KANSAS

State Approving Agency
Kansas Commission on Veteran Affairs Office
Eric Rohleder: Interim Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office Deputy Director
700 SW Jackson Ave., Suite 1004
Topeka, KS 66603
Phone: 859-256-3235
Fax 785-296-1462
Eric.Rohleder@ks.gov

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Approving Agency for Veterans Education
Gwen Hacker: SAA Director
KCTCS System Office
300 North Main Street
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Phone: 859-256-3352
Fax: 859-256-3123

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs
Cleophus D. Wallace: Director
602 N 5th St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095
Phone: 225-219-5013
Fax: 225-219-5590

LOUISIANA Cont.

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs
Louisiana State Approving Agency
Cleophus D. Wallace: Interim Director
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Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095
cleophus.wallace@la.gov
Phone: 225-219-5012
Fax: 225-219-5590

MAINE

State Approving Agency for Veterans Education Programs
University of Maine System
Camden Ege: Director
147 Water St., Suite 2
Randolph, ME 04346
Camden.ege@maine.edu
Phone: 207-582-2100

MARYLAND

Associate Director of Veterans Affairs
Trish Gordon-McCown: Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
6 N. Liberty Street, 10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
trish.mccown@maryland.gov
vaeducationbenefits.mhec@maryland.gov
Office Phone: 410-767-3098
Main Office Phone: 410-767-3301

MASSACHUSETTS

State Approving Agency
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
George O'Connor: SAA Director
One Ashburton Place, Room 1401
Boston, MA 02108
goconnor@dhe.mass.edu
Phone: 617-994-6925
Fax: 617-727-0955

MICHIGAN

State Approving Agency
Talent Investment Agency
Shaftone Dunklin: SAA Director
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Lansing, MI 48913
dunklins@michigan.gov
Phone: 231-463-6417
Fax: 517-241-9825

MINNESOTA

State Approving Agency
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
Paula Plum: SAA Director
20 West 12th Street, 2nd Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155
paula.plum@state.mn.us
Phone: 651-757-1569
Fax: 651-296-3954

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Veterans
600 North Street, Suite 200
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Phone: 601-576-4867
Fax: 601-576-4868

MISSOURI

State Approving Agency, Veterans Education & Training Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
James Henley, Director
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Jefferson City, MO 65102
James.henley@dese.mo.gov
Office: 573-751-2571
Fax: 573.526-5710

MONTANA

Veterans Education
Montana Office of Public Instruction
John Stankowiak: SAA Director
Phone: 406.444.4122
Address: P.O.Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620

NEBRASKA

Private Postsecondary Career Schools and Veterans Education
Nebraska Department of Education
Marisol Birth: Program Director
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987
Marisol.birth@nebraska.gov
Phone: 402-471-4825
Fax: 402-742-1161

NEVADA

Commission on Postsecondary Education
Kelly D. Wuest: CPE Administrator/SAA Director
2800 E. St. Louis Ave
Las Vegas, NV 89104
kdwuest@detr.nv.gov
www.cpe.nv.gov
Phone: 702-486-7330
Fax: 702-486-7340

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Department of Education, Division of Educator Support and Higher Education, Bureau of Veterans Education Services and Career School Licensing
Jeffrey S. Newman: Administrator
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
Jeffrey.Newman@doe.nh.gov
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Fax: 603-271-1953

NEW JERSEY

State Approving Agency
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Charles Rowe: Bureau Chief
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charles.rowe@dmava.nj.gov
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Fax: 609-530-7196

NEW MEXICO

State Approving Agency for Veterans' and Training, New Mexico
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Marilyn M. Dykman: Director
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NEW YORK

State Approving Agency
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Fax: 518-474-5583

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NORTH CAROLINA

Jay Fitzgerald
Executive Director
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NORTH DAKOTA

State Approving Agency
North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Chris Kratochvil: Director
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OHIO

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OKLAHOMA

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Fax: (405) 523-4008

OREGON

Department of Veterans
Kim Douthit: Interim SAA Director
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Fax 503-373-2392

PENNSYLVANIA

State Approving Agency
Harrisburg Office (Headquarters)
Division of Veterans/Military Education
Pennsylvania Department of Education
Randy McKinney: SAA Director
333 Market Street, 12th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
ramckinney@pa.gov
Phone: 717-787-2414
Fax: 717-772-3622

Pittsburgh Office

Veterans /Military Education
301 Fifth Avenue, Suite 204
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 412-565-5364
Fax: 412-565-5312

PUERTO RICO

State Approving Agency
Puerto Rico Department of Education
Doris Torres Ramis de Ayreflor: SAA Executive Director
P.O. Box 190759
San Juan, PR 00919-0759
torresrd@de.pr.gov
Phone: 787-773-3484
Fax: 787-274-1427

RHODE ISLAND

State Approving Agency
Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner
Rebecca Ryan: SAA Director
560 Jefferson Blvd. Suite 100
Warwick, RI 02886
Rebecca.Ryan@riopc.edu
Phone: 401-736-1164

SOUTH CAROLINA

Student Services
Division, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk: Director
Student Services 1122 Lady Street, Suite 300
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kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov
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Fax: 803.737.3610

SOUTH DAKOTA

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Department of Veterans Affairs
Shane Olivier: Program Manager
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Phone: 605.773.3648
Fax: 605.773.5380

TENNESSEE

Veterans Education
Tennessee Higher Education
Commission
Tom Morrison: Assistant Executive
Director
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TEXAS

Veterans Education
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U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

State Approving Agency
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UTAH

State Approving Agency for
Veterans Education
Utah Department of Veterans and
Military Affairs
David Salgado: Director

700 Foothill Blvd.
Salt Lake City, UT 84113
Phone: 801-584-1973
Fax: 801-584-1964

VERMONT

Vermont Office of Veteran Affairs
Veterans Education and Training
Program/State Approving Agency
Jennifer St. Jean: SAA Director
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VIRGINIA

Virginia State Approving Agency
Virginia Department of Veterans
Services
Director: Martina Murray
101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
saa@dvs.virginia.gov
Phone: 804-225-2298

WASHINGTON

State Approving Agency
Washington Student
Achievement Council
Laura Bach: Associate Director
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State Approving Agency
Workforce Training and Education
Coordinating Board
Jim Parker: Program Manager
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WASHINGTON, D.C.

DC Higher Education Licensure
Commission
Angela Lee: SAA Director
Jocelyn Harris: SAA
1050 1st Street, NE 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
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WEST VIRGINIA

Office of Veterans Education and
Training Programs
West Virginia Higher Education Policy
Commission
L.G. Corder: Director, Veterans
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1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East,
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WISCONSIN

State Approving Agency
Wisconsin Department of Veterans
Affairs
Ken Grant: Director
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WYOMING

State Approving Agency
Wyoming Veterans Commission
Timothy Fisher: Director
5410 Bishop Blvd.
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Awards, Honors and Recognitions

The success of NASAA relies on the hard work of our membership and their willingness to contribute their time through various leadership roles, committee work, and projects. Their devotion to our mission and to protecting the integrity of the GI Bill® not only is a reflection of the work our SAA members do each and every day within their states, but demonstrates a desire to be part of something greater than themselves.

In honor of these individual's voluntary work, NASAA makes every effort to recognize the exemplary contributions each year.

NASAA truly appreciates each of our members and is honored to recognize the following individuals for the FY 2019 year!



*John P. Murray
Program Specialist for Veterans Education Workforce
Training and Education Coordinating Board*

President's Award

John Murray (WA)

Lifetime Leadership Award

Jane Battey (WA)
John Hose (MO)
Joe Wescott (NC)

Star Awards

Melissa Triplett (OH)
John Hose (MO)
Martina Murray (VA)
Joe Wescott (NC)
Michelle Nash (NV)
John Ayres (PA)
Marisol Birth (NE)
Tim Fisher (WY)
Laura Bach (WA)
Rebecca Ryan (RI)
Cleo Wallace (LA)
Brigitte Hayes (KS)
Leanna DeKing (AZ)

Certificates of Appreciation

Brad Dirksen (NE)

2019 Mid-Winter

Business & Training Meeting:

Robert Haley (ME)
George O'Connor (MA)
Olyata Rigsby (MD)
William "Bill" Dixon (LA)
Melissa Triplett (OH)
Dan Wellman (IL)
Troy Tissue (MI)
Melissa Cushman (IL)
Andy Pieper (IL)
Amber Mertens (IN)
Marisol Birth (NE)
Bill Schroeder (OH)
Rachael Summary (MO)
Taniqua Griffin (IN)
Robert Kuckuk (WI)
David Salgado (UT)
Doug Jacobson (ID)
Tim Fisher (WY)
Jeff Escobar (AZ)
Renee Lamphear (AZ)
John Murray (WA)
Laura Bach (WA)
Michelle Nash (NV)

2019 Annual

Business & Training Meeting:

Rebecca Ryan (RI)
George O'Connor (MA)
Trish Gordon-McCown (MD)
John Ayres (PA)
Christine Maher (MA)
Gwen Hacker (KY)
James Thompson (AL)
Joan Johnson (AL)
LaTrenda Jackson (AR)
Mitch Currey (TN)
Meghan-Joy Woodall (NC)
Tramaine Carroll-Payne (NC)
Annie Walker (VA)
Martina Murray (VA)
Kent Ketter (IL)
Summer Tacy (IN)
Melissa Triplett (OH)
Dan Wellman (IL)
John Murray (WA)
Laura Bach (WA)
Shane Ferrebee (CA)
Michelle Nash (NV)
Tim Fisher (WY)
Alyssa Manguso (AZ)
Latanaya Johnson (CA)
Mandy Dykman (NM)
Kathy Snyder (NM)
Brad Dirksen (NE)

Executive Board Members



Annie Walker
President



Marilyn Dykman
Vice President



Amber Mertens
Secretary



Frank Myers
Treasurer



John Ayres
Judge Advocate



Trish Gordon-McCown
Legislation Director



James Henley
Public Affairs Liaison



Melissa Triplett
*Central Region
Vice President*



Rebecca Ryan
*East Region
Vice President*



Cleophus Wallace
*South Region
Vice President*



Leanna DeKing
*West Region
Vice President*



Joe Wescott
NASAA Consultant

Protecting the GI BILL® since 1947



Visit NASAA on Facebook

Social Media Goal and Purpose

To improve and promote branding of the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) including current projects, upcoming events, as well as provide resource information to the public and our veteran beneficiary population.

Content

NASAA uses social media to highlight its own materials, including programs, website updates, media topics from trusted sources, and reports. The information and views shared from outside media sources are not endorsed by the NASAA organization. The goal of sharing sites and media stories is to promote news in higher education and veterans' education/training. The NASAA-Vets Education site is an open group and there are no current restrictions for individuals wishing to share news articles or comment on the site. Anyone posting on the site will appear under their specific Facebook profile. Only specific individuals will be assigned to have the authority to post as NASAA directly.

Community

NASAA-Vets Education currently has 615 followers and growing. To view, share or follow the NASAA Facebook page, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/NASAAVETSEducation/>





**National Association of
State Approving Agencies, Inc.
for Veterans Education & Training**

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