

# NASAA

## NEWSLETTER

FY21 | Q1

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### PG. 2

---

An Overview of H.R. 7105

### PG. 3

---

2021 Mid-Winter Conference Updates

### PG. 4

---

Social Media: A Source of Community

### PG. 5

---

VP Corner

### PG. 6

---

Committee Updates



# Help Wanted

## TREASURER

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NASAA is seeking a qualified candidate for Treasurer. The individual will shadow current Treasurer, Frank Myers, in learning the responsibilities of the role. Duties include the record and deposit of all money received and payment of all expenses incurred; bookkeeping; preparation of the NASAA annual budget, and coordination of annual dues payments. Additionally, the Treasurer serves on the Honors & Awards and Conference Planning Committees. Members interested in the role of Treasurer are asked to contact [Frank Myers](#).



# An Overview of H.R. 7105

## KEY AREAS OF THE JOHNNY ISAKSON & DAVID P. ROE, M.D. VETERANS HEALTH CARE & BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020

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**Fry Scholarship Expansion** – Allows children of certain deceased service members to qualify for the Fry Scholarship.

**In-state Tuition Expansion** – Expands eligibility for in-state tuition to all GI Bill students. Allows for disapproval of any school that does not provide certain information on these requirements.

**VA Education Benefit Dual and Monthly Certification** – Creates a dual certification system where schools would certify students' enrollment at the beginning of the term, and then students would electronically verify their continued enrollment every month after that.

**Post-9/11 GI Bill Dependent Transfer Expansion** – Clarifies that foster children may qualify for transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits

**FSA Participation Requirement** – Requires that schools participate in the Federal Student Aid program to receive VA education benefits but allows VA to waive this in certain circumstances.

**Law School Accreditation** – Requires law schools to receive special legal accreditation by a body like the American Bar Association to receive VA education benefits.

**Principles of Excellence Codified** – Codifies the requirements of the Principles of Excellence Program (Executive Order 13607).

**School Responsibility for Benefit Overpayment** – Asserts that schools would be financially responsible for tuition and fee overpayments made by VA when the school fails to report certain course information related to student discontinuances, interruptions, and absences.

**Closed School Restoration of Benefits** – Restores GI Bill entitlement to eligible student veterans whose school closed in the middle of a semester without the ability to transfer credits to another school.

**For-profit Conversion Oversight** – Requires schools converting from for-profit to non-profit status to undergo a risk-based survey every year for three years after conversion.

“The Conference Planning Committee has planned surprises to ensure the event is – in true NASAA fashion – not only informative but fun!”

## 2021 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE UPDATES

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The 2021 Mid-Winter Conference is fast approaching! The virtual event will be held from Monday, February 8 to Friday, February 12, 2021. While we're saddened to not yet be able to convene again in-person, the Conference Planning Committee has been hard at work to make sure the event will be a success.

Monday will feature a presentation from Education Services Executive Director Charmain Bogue and Deputy Director James Ruhlman. There will also be a legislative panel discussion with representatives from the American Legion; VFW; NAVPA; NASDVA; TAPS, and more! On Tuesday, Dr. Joe Wescott and Project Manager Meghan-Joy Woodall will provide an update on the Lumina Grant Risk-Based Survey Project. Wednesday will include an awards ceremony and congressional staff presentation. On Thursday, Education Services Assistant Director Tom Alphonso will facilitate a VA regulation and workgroup discussion. The Professional Development Committee will also be offering a training session. The conference will conclude with a meeting of the Executive Board on Friday.

The Conference Planning Committee has planned some surprises to ensure the event is – in true NASAA fashion - not only informative but fun! The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 02/09/21 at 2:00 PM EST. If you're interested in joining, please contact [Michelle Hill](#) for details.

Registration  
information will be  
emailed by RVPs.  
Check your inbox!



“It is humbling that what was once a seed of an idea has blossomed into a podcast enjoyed across the globe.”

Society has been enamored with social media for years, but usage has seen a dramatic increase during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a Pew Research article, 43% of people surveyed reported spending more time using social media in 2020 than in years prior. In a time where in-person gatherings are happening less – if at all - it is understandable that people are longing for communication.

NASAA's social media accounts have seen similar rises in usage. We are so pleased to see a continued increase in likes and follows across platforms. We are also especially grateful to all who listen and share the inspiring stories featured on the NASAA Storytellers podcast. It is humbling that what was once a seed of an idea has blossomed into a podcast enjoyed across the globe. New episodes are coming soon. Stay tuned!

We hope that NASAA's social media presence serves as both a source of information and of community for our followers. The next Communications Committee meeting is scheduled for 02/09/21 at 9:00 AM EST. If you're interested in joining, please contact [Cody Tomblin](#) for details.

## Connect with us on social media

**Website** [www.nasaa-vetseducation.com](http://www.nasaa-vetseducation.com)

**Blog** [www.nasaavetseducation.wordpress.com](http://www.nasaavetseducation.wordpress.com)

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/NASAAVETSEducation>

**LinkedIn** <https://bit.ly/30QYnLo>

**Storytellers Podcast** <https://nasaastorytellers.buzzsprout.com>



# VP Corner

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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NASAA Members,

I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday season and celebrated the new year. With the end of 2020, we have wrapped up our first quarter of FY21 with compilation reports due February 1. As many of you have seen, H.R. 7105 has been signed into law. While there are many positive aspects to the legislation, there was, unfortunately, an impact on three of our SAA agencies. President Walker and Legislative Committee Chair Dan Wellman continue to work with those agencies and their congressional leaders to address the issues.

Your NASAA leadership remains busy and would like to provide some general updates and reminders.

### Reminders:

- The COLA is 1.3%.
- Please be sure that your agency maintains current directory information on the NASAA site. The Automation Technology committee can aid. This information is used in part to disseminate DOL notifications regarding new registered apprenticeships. There has been talk of RPO's using this information to send denial of benefit letters via email as opposed to mailing them.

### Continued NASAA Business:

- The 85/15 training and updates provided in October and November have been placed on hold. The SCO Handbook was reverted to prior language regarding the 85/15 calculating procedure. To date, NASAA has not received any further updates. The July 1, 2021 timeframe still stands to remove the current waivers. NASAA leadership will continue to monitor and provide updates as they happen.
- Risk-Based Surveys (non-pilot states): There have been many questions regarding RBS requirements. Many questions and concerns have been addressed through emails sent out over the quarter. Still, NASAA believes additional guidance is needed. To that end, training is scheduled for the upcoming NASAA Mid-Winter Conference.
- Approval Documentation Requirements: Guidance throughout the quarter has been sent through the regions to provide answers to the many questions that have been received. An updated National ELR checklist is being worked on and will be shared with NASAA once finalized. The hope is that the new checklist will provide a tool for both the ELR and SAA to work to use in ensuring program approval documentation is submitted appropriately.

- The checklist includes information from advisories, memos, and our agreements. As with anything, I do expect some members to have concerns with the checklist but do hope that the checklist is a step in a positive direction to help ELR's and SAA's work more in alignment with the same information. Please send me any questions or concerns. My email has been updated to [mmhill@detr.nv.gov](mailto:mmhill@detr.nv.gov).

#### **Upcoming NASAA Business:**

- The December meeting with Director Bogue was canceled and we are waiting for an updated schedule for January. Anticipated topics for the meeting include H.R. 7105 legislation, Duplication of Efforts Memo, and follow-up items from our prior meeting.

#### **Additional Items:**

- CIOFFI is working to update a Compliance Survey SOP. Several SAAs across the country were invited to participate in meetings to help answer questions regarding the current process and to offer suggestions for improvement.
- A working group has been established with the VA Central Office and several NASAA members to address the need for federal regulations. This group will also seek to ensure that advisories and current approval requirements are centralized and easily accessible.
- The NASAA Annual Report for FY20 has been finalized and will soon be shared with the membership and posted to the NASAA website.

SAAs are encouraged to invite all of their team members to attend the upcoming Mid-Winter Business Meeting and Training. In the hopes of full membership participation, the Conference Planning Committee elected to charge one fee per state instead of charging per attendee. Please monitor your emails for registration instructions. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for all the work during the last year. 2020 was a year of many challenges and changes. As an organization, we remained strong, continued to advance our agenda, and most of all, we continued to support one another. I am proud to serve as your Vice President. I will continue to share updates not only in our newsletters but each day as information becomes available.

Take care and stay safe. I look forward to seeing each of you at the Virtual Mid-Winter Meeting!

Sincerely,

*Michelle Hill*

Nevada State Approving Agency

NASAA Vice President



# Member Committees

## **IHL/NCD**

Recent projects for the IHL/NCD Committee include the creation and implementation of a work-group to examine H.R. 3504 and CFR 21.4266(a)(1). The group has met several times and are in communication with Janice Fisher (VBA). The goal of the committee is to ensure that only quality preparatory courses are approved

## **APP/OJT**

The APP/OJT committee has been focused on several projects, including the VALOR Act Process Guide and an outreach tool for SAAs. The committee also continues to work in collaboration with the Legislative Committee on the development of stronger approval and administration requirements.

## **Cooperative Agreement**

The Cooperative Agreement Committee is continuing its negotiations on the FY 2022 agreement. Key areas of focus include a cap on RBS numbers, recalculation of the Allocation Model's weighted multiplier, and obtaining a functional copy of the allocation model. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 02/09/21 at 12:00 PM EST. If you're interested in joining, please contact [John Murray](#) for details.

## **Military Transition Assistance**

The primary project of focus for the Military Transition Assistance Committee at present is the AmeriCorps Grants for veterans resource centers that have been awarded to states. The committee seeks to assist SAAs with providing information about the grant to their appropriate points of contact.

### **Professional Development**

The Professional Development Committee was exceptionally active in 2020 with the creation and provision of several professional development sessions. Those efforts will continue in the new year with a focus on delivering additional virtual training, including a virtual National Training Institute. They are also focused on updating the National Training Curriculum.

### **Audit**

The Audit Committee is expected to review NASAA finances for the current fiscal year. They also are excited to welcome a new member to the committee, Cheryl Iannello from California.

### **Flight**

The Flight Committee remains focused on the development of a cumulative list of issues for discussion with VA pertaining to ELR flight checklists. Further, they seek to develop and collaborate with the VA to offer a virtual flight summit.

### **Legislative**

The Legislative Committee continues to monitor House and Senate bills, promote the NASAA legislative agenda, and pursue outreach funding for SAAs. Additionally, they are working to identify Federal regulations impacting the current cooperative agreement. Once identified, the information will be used to pursue data-driven decision making during upcoming legislative sessions.

### **Automation & Technology**

The Automation & Technology Committee is focused on collaborating with the VA to address system limitations and requirements pertaining to technology. They are also reviewing options to migrate and expand the NASAA website.

### **Honors & Awards**

The Honors & Awards Committee has been actively soliciting nominations for awards which will be presented during the upcoming Mid-Winter Conference. If you would like to nominate someone, please do so via this link: <https://cutt.ly/ejcFsrK>.

### **Constitution & By-Laws**

The Constitution & By-Laws Committee anticipates revisiting several proposed amendments to the bylaws which were previously postponed due to COVID-19.

### **Archives & History**

The Archives & History Committee is dedicated to the ongoing collection of new materials. A key project of focus are the ongoing past president interviews. Six interviews had been conducted as of 12/08/2020. Once edited, they will be uploaded to the NASAA website.

### **Past Presidents Council**

The Past President's Council has been reviewing systems and procedures for future virtual NASAA Elections. Additionally, the Council continues its work with the NASAA Mentorship Program.

**Thank you committee members for your dedicated efforts!**

**Check out the Committees page of the [NASAA website](#) to learn more about and join a committee.**