



## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Between



National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA)

And

National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA)

### **I. PURPOSE:**

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is entered into between the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA), 1700 North Congress Ave., Suite 800, Austin, TX 78701 and the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA), James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond VA 23219, collectively referred to as the "Parties." This MOA sets forth a structure in which both entities will work in a mutually beneficial manner on a common mission to serve America's Veterans, their family members, and survivors.

NASDVA and NASAA, through collaboration and coordination, will encourage a seamless approach to increased awareness of the accessibility of education and training opportunities for the Veterans they serve.

NASDVA and NASAA share a common goal to promote and safeguard quality education and training for America's Veterans. The hallmarks of this relationship will be effective communication, exchange of ideas and information, identification of emerging needs, and continuous reevaluation of existing programs.

### **II. BACKGROUND:**

#### *National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs*

The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) is an organization with a history dating back to 1946. In the aftermath of World War II, many Veterans earned both federal and state benefits requiring coordinated efforts to assure authorized entitlements were received. Thus, states and territories developed a Department or Agency designated as the "Office of Prime Responsibility" for Veterans services and programs. NASDVA was established to coordinate these efforts among the states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.

State Directors, as leaders of governmental agencies, are tasked by their respective Governors, State Boards and/or Commissions with the responsibility to address the needs of Veterans regardless of age, gender, era of service, military branch or circumstance of service. Collectively, states contribute more than \$10 billion annually to our nation's Veterans and their families. We are connected by the bonds of honorable service and united by our common goal to make a positive difference in the lives of our Veterans.

The NASDVA members represent all fifty states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Nationally, NASDVA members are the second largest provider of benefits and services to Veterans and their families, and their role continues to expand.

#### *National Association of State Approving Agencies*

State Approving Agencies (SAAs) were created during the early days of World War II after the establishment of the GI Bill of Rights. The NASAA soon formed and assisted states in developing efforts to provide approval, disapproval, and oversight of programs of education and training that could be pursued with the GI Bill. NASAA and SAAs represent a state and federal partnership that allows federal intent to be carried out at the local level while preserving the identity, interest, and sovereignty of state's rights in education.

Today, NASAA is made up of more than 50 state agencies nationwide that oversee education and training programs for veterans in their respective states and territories. The agencies review and oversee tens of thousands of programs of education and training each year in an effort to protect the integrity of the GI Bill.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

#### *National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs:*

1. Participate in NASAA annual conferences to any extent possible;
2. Ensure joint meetings occur between the NASAA executive committee and NASDVA's Veterans Education/SAA Subcommittee on at least a quarterly basis;
3. Collaborate with NASAA on legislative priorities, new initiatives, outreach, and other efforts so that veterans' interests are better served;
4. Engage with NASAA in reciprocal discussions and deliberations on potential responses and solutions to challenges faced by NASAA in execution of its mission of which NASDVA may be of assistance;
5. Identify and share best practices that can be adopted to improve services provided to Veterans and their families.

*National Association of State Approving Agencies:*

1. Participate in NASDVA annual conferences to any extent possible;
2. Ensure joint meetings occur between the NASAA executive committee and NASDVA's Veterans Education/SAA Subcommittee on at least a quarterly basis;
3. Collaborate with NASDVA on legislative priorities, new initiatives, outreach, and other efforts so that veterans' interests are better served;
4. Engage with NASDVA in reciprocal discussions and deliberations on potential responses and solutions to challenges faced by NASDVA in execution of its mission of which NASAA may be of assistance;
5. Identify and share best practices that can be adopted to improve services provided to Veterans and their families.

**IV. OBJECTIVES:**

The NASDVA and the NASAA share a common goal to facilitate accessible, timely, and quality services for America's Veterans. Collaboration between the Parties will be mutually beneficial as they work together to achieve this goal. This MOA sets forth a framework of intent and cooperation between the Parties to achieve the following objectives:

1. Increase direct involvement of NASDVA and its members with NASAA and its members.
2. Increase communications between NASDVA and NASAA.

**POINTS OF CONTACT:**

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**VI. APPROVALS:**

National Association of State Directors  
of Veterans Affairs



President  
National Association of State  
Directors of Veterans Affairs

Date: 9/13/2021

National Association of State Approving Agencies



President  
National Association of State  
Approving Agencies

Date: 9/7/2021