



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

NASAA

FY21 ANNUAL REPORT

National Association of State Approving Agencies for Veterans Education & Training



Executive Summary

The National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) is an organization comprised of the State Approving Agencies (SAAs) for each state plus several territories. There are a total of 53 SAAs. 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 2021.

NASAA continued to meet the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. It was another year of virtual conferences and meetings instead of in person. The SAAs worked together to ensure business continued in order to review and approve programs so that veterans and their families could receive their GI Bill benefits.

NASAA President Michelle Hill's message describes how the organization works together to accomplish the mission of defending the integrity of the GI Bill. She discusses the passing of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 and how it improved NASAA's oversight of the Veterans Education Benefits programs. Her message emphasizes the importance of improving communication strategies and new approaches to improve the quality of education and training programs.

NASAA by the Numbers shows relevant data for the NASAA Core Functions and emphasizes the technical assistance actions and the SAA visits to education and training institutions. During the fiscal year of 2021 Approval Actions were up in most Core Functions compared to FY2020.

Looking Forward references numerous pieces of legislation passed recently and how this has changed how we approve training and educational facilities for GI Bill benefits. The importance of partnerships with Veteran Service Organizations and the United States Department of Veteran Affairs is discussed as well as the importance of ensuring NASAA's voice is heard when it comes to the future of the GI Bill.

- President
Michelle Hill
Veterans Education Manager
Department of Veterans Service
101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 546-2975
- Vice President
Rebecca Ryan
SAA Director
Postsecondary Commissioner
State Approving Agency
560 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 200, Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 736-1164
- Secretary
Katherine Snyder
Program Consultant
New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services
State Approving Agency
5201 Eagle Rock Ave. NE, Suite 2A, Albuquerque, NM 87113
(505) 280-1047
- Treasurer
Frank Myers
Assistant Director/Program Manager
South Carolina Commission on
Higher Education State Approving Agency
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300, Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 737-2282
- Judge Advocate
Everette Jackson
Associate Director of Veterans Affairs
Maryland Higher Education Commission
6 N. Liberty Street, 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 767-3095
- Legislative Director
David Salgado
Director
State Approving Agency for Veterans Education
Utah Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
700 Foothill Blvd., Salt Lake City, UT 84113
(801) 584-1793
- Central Region Vice President
Marisol (Baquerizo) Birth, PhD
Director
Private Postsecondary Career School
Approval and Veterans Education/SAA
Office of Accountability Accreditation & Program Approval
P.O. Box 94987, Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 326-4519
- East Region Vice President
Jennifer St. Jean
Education Consultant
Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Education and Training Program
State Approving Agency
118 State St., Drawer 20, Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 736-1164
- South Region Vice President
Cleophus Wallace
Director/Deputy Assistant Secretary
State Approving Agency
Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs
602 North 5th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
(225) 219-5012
- West Region Vice President
Leanna DeKing
Director
State Approving Agency
Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
3839 N. 3rd Street, Suite 209, Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 653-9026



NASAA & The GI Bill

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.



Awards, Honors, and Recognitions recognizes the NASAA members who performed outstanding service for the Association during FY2021.

It is an honor to protect and serve our veterans and their families. Respectfully submitted,

James Henley

James Henley, USN(Ret), MO-SAA
Public Affairs Liaison

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 <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

Contents

FY21 NASAA Annual Report

5

Message from the
NASAA President

6

VA Partners

7

Stakeholders/
Acknowledgements

8

Changes to Veterans
Education Benefits

9

NASAA
Mission & History

10-11

State Approving
Agencies

12

Core Functions

13

NASAA 2021-2022
Officers



14-16

NASAA by the Numbers

17

NASAA Regions/
Committee Summaries

18-19

Permanent Committees

20-21

Special Committees

22

FY 2021
NASAA Moments

23

Looking Forward

24-28

State Approving
Agencies Directory

29

Awards, Honors,
and Recognitions

30

Executive Board
Members



Retirees:

From Ohio: Kevin Edwards & Deborah Shinall – both in August 31, 2021
Loretta Fennewald retired March 31, 2021 after 31 years with the State of Missouri.

A Message

From the NASAA President

Even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, The National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) remains strong in our commitment to safeguard and protect the GI BILL® benefits programs. As our nation faces challenges our partnerships and dedication remain strong in protecting quality education and training for those brave men and women that have served our country.

NASAA represents over two-hundred members from over fifty agencies from across the country with one common goal: Defend the integrity of the GI BILL as advocates for quality education and training programs for our nation's veterans. As a family we work as a collected group of professionals who dedicate countless hours to improving processes, promoting legislative goals, communicating concerns, and providing technical assistance to the programs that we oversee. The strength of our organization lies solely within our mission and the reliance of our membership and united in their willingness to volunteer. Our oversight includes programs of education, training, flight, on-the-job training, apprenticeship, and license/certification.

Even as the pandemic continued, 2021 presented many positive moments to include the passing of the Jonny Isakson and David P. Poe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 was passed in January 2021. Within this bill, several legislative improvements were enacted and supported by NASAA to further improve the oversight of the Veterans Education Benefits programs. Simultaneously, NASAA worked to develop a new Risk-Based Survey Model with our partners from LUMINA Foundation and Education Counsel. Within this model, new methods were developed to improve capacity concerns in oversight goals and create a more robust review of the programs of education and training.

In embracing adversity and change we create strength and become part of the history of tomorrow. NASAA continues to demonstrate this ability throughout our history and will remain forward-thinking in improving and protecting the GI =BILL.



As President, I am proud to lead an amazing organization and am dedicated to both our mission and helping meet the needs of our membership. State Approving Agencies remain committed to equal opportunities for all and ensure approved programs represent the quality that is expected. NASAA's goals remain strong and include not only our core mission but also improving communication strategies and leaning forward on new approaches to improve the quality of education and training programs. Most of all serving veterans and their families are more than a mission, it is our dedication and is a reflection of the work we do each and day. "A journey of thousand miles start with a single step-Lao Tzu." We stand united and ready for the next challenges while welcoming all opportunities to serve.

Michelle Hill,
NASAA President

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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, 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: James Garrison -Atlanta, GA
- 4] West: Michael Marks - Muskogee, OK

VA Partners

These dedicated individuals and their staff provide VA systems training 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.



Thomas J. Murphy
Acting Under Secretary for Benefits



The Honorable Denis Richard McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs



Charmain Bogue
Director of Education Service,
Veterans Benefits Administration

Stakeholders

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

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

Project Managers

- Michelle Hill
- James Henley
- Lily Snyder

Editors

- Annie Walker
- Stephen Rudnick
- Leanna DeKing

Content

- Lisa Deneen
- Tara Eggen
- Kathy Snyder
- NASAA Executive Board & Committee Members

Data

- Ray Baker

Art Director

- Leslie Neese

SAA Retirees

- Kevin Edwards (OH)
- Loretta Fennewald (MO)
- Deborah Shinall (OH)

Changes to Veterans' Education Benefits

On January 5, 2021 Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-315) was signed into law by the President of the United States, bringing with it significant change to Veterans' education benefits.

Section 1001: Expands the eligibility of Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program for those enrolled in dual secondary degrees and healthcare professionals completing clinical training to become licensed to practice in a State or locality. Also, ensures that the STEM program is not subject to months of entitlement.

Section 1002: Expands the eligibility of the Frye Scholarship to include children or spouse of a veteran who dies in the line of duty; Selected Reserve member who dies from a service connected disability on or after September 11, 2001.

Section 1003: Extends the time for an individual to make their selection under the the All-Volunteer Educational Assistance Program.

Section 1004: Phase out the Montgomery GI Bill® starting September 30, 2030.

Section 1005: Removes the requirement for the beneficiary to enroll in a course at a public institution within three years of being discharged as well as the announcement of a public database explaining beneficiary benefits to be created in the future.

Section 1006: Expanding the work of work-study activities to include outreach.

Section 1007: Restores entitlement to Chapter 31 recipients in the event of a school closure or disapproval.

Section 1008: Clarifies eligibility for Yellow Ribbon Program.

Section 1009: Clarification on military housing assistance (MHA) for individuals who attend school while on active duty. Section 1010 – Requires a dual certification of enrollment. First by School Certifying Official after the add-drop date and from the student every month thereafter.

Section 1011: Expands transfer of entitlement under Post 911 GI Bill to include certain unmarried children in the legal custody of the service member.

Section 1012: Expands reasons of disapproval to include that the school is at the risk of losing accreditation from proper accreditor.

Section 1013: Introduces the development of risk-based surveys between the partnership of Secretary of Veteran Affairs and State Approving Agencies (SAAs) over educational institutions.

Section 1014: Requires the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to provide SAAs notice of any Federal, State or accreditation agency taking action against a educational institution.

Section 1015: Requires accredited educational institutions

to participate in Federal Student Aid through Title IV to be eligible to receive GI Bill benefits.

Section 1016: Requires law schools to be accredited by specializing accrediting agency for legal programs to be approved by the GI Bill.

Section 1017: Defines that a program can be disapproved for GI Bill enrollments, if the institution does not comply with a risk based survey.

Section 1018: This section purposefully codifies the requirements of the Principles of Excellence.

Section 1019: Requirements add that schools and training facilities financially responsible.

Section 1020: Refines the limitations on facility advertising, sales and enrollment practices.

Section 1021: Gives VA authority to restore GI Bill entitlement to students who lost credit due to school closure or disapproval.

Section 1022: VA requires SAA to conduct Risk Based Survey on facility that went from for profit to non profit educational institutions.

Section 1023: Clarifies SAA ability to do outreach events.

Section 1024: Guidelines for SAA that are housed within a state institution. SAA can no longer be housed within as a safeguard of conflict of interest.

Section 1102: Continuation of educational assistance benefits during COVID 19.

Section 1103: Overall entitlement will not be charged for closures or disapprovals due to COVID-19

Section 1104: Withdrawal due to COVID-19 will be viewed as mitigating circumstances.

Section 1105: Extends delimiting date due to COVID for entire period of March 1, 2020 – December 22, 2021.

Section 1106: Veterans enrolled in a APP or OJT program who are unable to fulfill the 120 hour requirement due to COVID-19 will not be negatively impacted. Hours can be rolled over from previous months.

Section 1107: Includes training establishments in certain provisions related to COVID-19.

Section 1108: Under student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act that a student's entitlement and are not charged.

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 73rd 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 73 years ago.

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

The scope of responsibility: high schools, adult education centers, employers providing a 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, 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.



NASAA Membership Omaha, NE Summer 2019 Conference

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 53 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 departments of labor, state departments of veterans affairs, and standalone agencies. SAA professionals bring a wealth of formal education, training, and experience to the approval of programs for veterans benefits.



NASAA

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. 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.



NASAA Works In Cooperation With Its Partners

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

January 5, 2021 saw the passing of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, Public Law 116-315. The Act enhanced and expanded education benefits and programs for veterans, service members, families and survivors. The 340-page bill addressed many needs for the veteran community as well addressing a global pandemic and the effects on veterans and their families. Highlights include:

- ❖ Improvement to the STEM Scholarship Program
- ❖ Expands the eligibility for the Fry Scholarship to a child or a spouse of a veteran who has died in line of duty or member of Selected Service who has died from a service-connected disability on or after September 11, 2001
- ❖ Clarifies eligibility for participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program
- ❖ Requires a dual certification of enrollment for veteran students by the educational institution
- ❖ Expands reasons courses of education can be disapproved
- ❖ Post-9/11 GI Bill® transfer of entitlement expanded
- ❖ Oversight of educational institutions with approved programs, implementing risk-based surveys
- ❖ Schools and training facilities are financially responsible, instead of the student, for benefits paid directly to the educational institutions
- ❖ VA requires SAA to conduct a Risk Based Survey on a facility that goes from a for profit to nonprofit educational facility
- ❖ Authorizes State Approving Agencies to conduct outreach events

- ❖ Continuation of education benefits during COVID-19 if a student is negatively impacted with authority to continue house payments for four weeks
- ❖ Addresses the effects of the modification of courses and the closure of educational and training facilities due to COVID 19. If a school closes, cancels training, or has training disapproved: certain entitlement will not be charged against overall entitlement and student will maintain full time student status regardless of rate of pursuit
- ❖ SAAs can no longer be housed within a state educational institution
- ❖ Requires VA to view a student's withdrawal from a school as result of COVID-19 as acceptable mitigating circumstances
- ❖ Extends delimiting date due to COVID-19 if using GI Bill® from March 12020 – December 21, 2021. For a dependent, the date would not be extended the full 661 days but rather extended for the period of time they are prevented from training as a result of closure
- ❖ Veterans enrolled in an Apprenticeship or On the Job Training program who are unable to fulfill the 120- hour requirement due to COVID-19 will not be negatively impacted. Allows a veteran to roll-over hours worked in excess of 120 hours from previous month to the subsequent month to achieve the required 120 hours for the entire COVID-19 period

Still to Come

- ❖ Phase out Chapter 30

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



Core Functions

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

Approval of Programs:

Review, evaluate, and approve quality programs of education (secondary & 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.

Compliance Visits To Schools And Training Establishments:

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®.

Technical Assistance:

Directly assist facility officials or businesses with any aspect of the approval process, veteran student certification process, and clarification of statute or policy changes.

Outreach:

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.

Liaison:

Collaborate with government, veteran, and educational entities to resolve issues, identify and formulate training needs, share best practices, and identify opportunities for success.

Contract Compliance:

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.



NASAA 2021-22

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

Michelle Hill (VA)	President	Jennifer St. Jean (VT)	East Region Vice President
Rebecca Ryan (RI)	Vice President	Cleophus Wallace (LA)	South Region Vice President
Kathy Snyder (NM)	Secretary	Leanna DeKing (AZ)	Western Region Vice President
Frank Myers (SC)	Treasurer	Brigitte Hayes (KS)	Central Region Alternate
Everett Jackson (MD)	Judge Advocate	Everett Jackson (MD)	East Region Alternate
James Henley (MO)	Public Affairs Liaison	Tom Morrison (TN)	South Region Alternate
David Salgado (UT)	Legislative Director	Cheryl Iannello (CA)	West Region Alternate
Marisol Birth (NE)	Central Region Vice President	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 Committee
 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

Ed Godfrey (MN)
 James Henley (MO)
 Melissa Triplett (OH)
 Lily Snyder (GA)
 Rebecca Ryan (RI)
 Everette Jackson (DC)
 John Murray (WA)
 Deb O’Neil (WA)
 Andy Pieper (IL)
 Christopher Link (VA)
 David Salgado (UT)
 Torrance Joseph (LA)
 Annie Walker (VA)
 Leanna DeKing (AZ)
 Lisa Deneen (OR)

Vice-Chair

Tara Monk (TX)
 Cheryl Iannello (CA)
 James Thompson (AL)
 Tara Eggen (IN)
 Sue Jevning (TX)
 Vavant
 Rebecca Ryan (RI)
 Bill Schroeder (OH)
 Bobbie Blakely (VA)
 Rachael Summary (MO)
 Gwen Hacker (KY)
 Ken Hanson (TN)
 Mike Criscuolo (CT)
 Laura Bach (WA)
 Paula Plum (MN)

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.

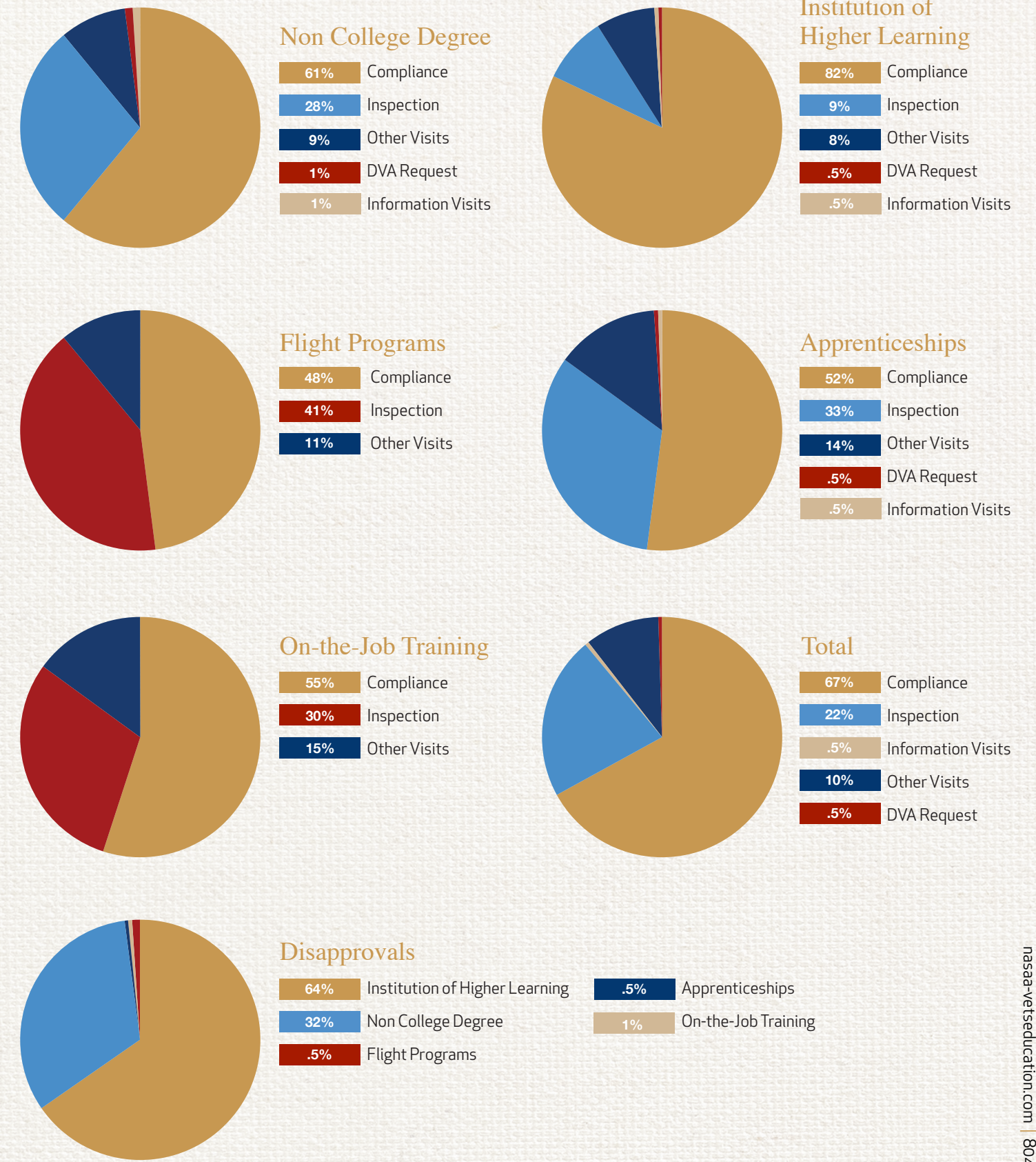
FY2021 brought an 11% increase in Approval Actions from FY2020. All other Core Functions except Outreach had increased activity as well. Outreach had a 4% decrease for FY2021.

Total approval actions number 308,4535 when including the 22,869 disapproval actions reported in FY 2021. Total reported actions for all core functions equal 405,934 for FY 2021.

Year	Type of Facility	IHL	NCD	APP	OJT	CORR	FLT	LIC/CERT
2021	Technical Assistance Actions	44,560	24,947	5,177	5,954	119	2,244	223
2020	Technical Assistance Actions	26,022	18,150	4,862	5,961	13	1,318	288
2019	Technical Assistance Actions	28,442	20,363	3,569	5,680	38	916	203
2018	Technical Assistance Actions	37,237	18,914	4,180	7,550	104	1,051	286

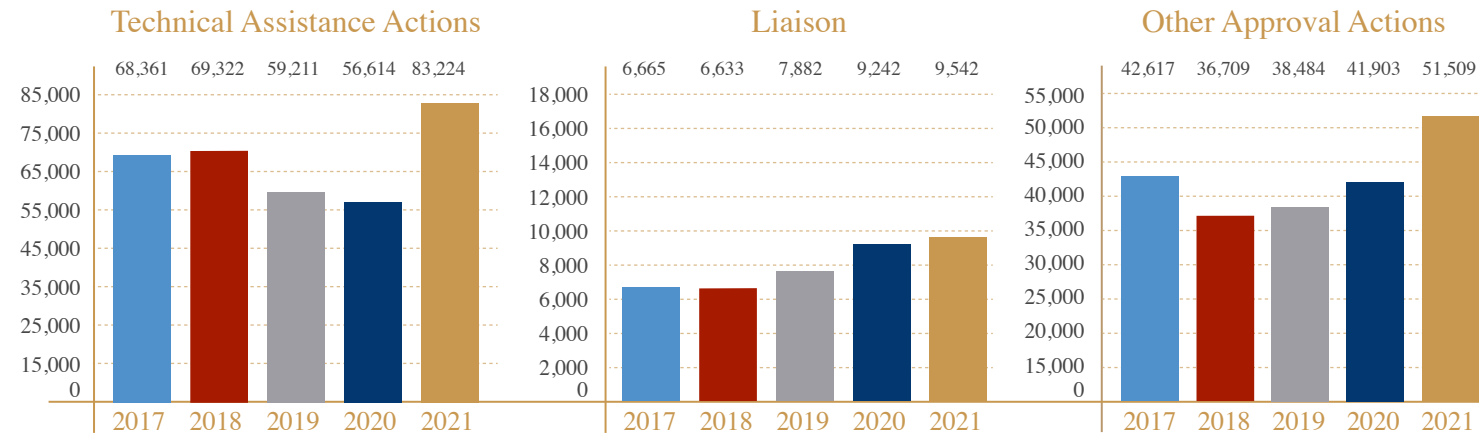
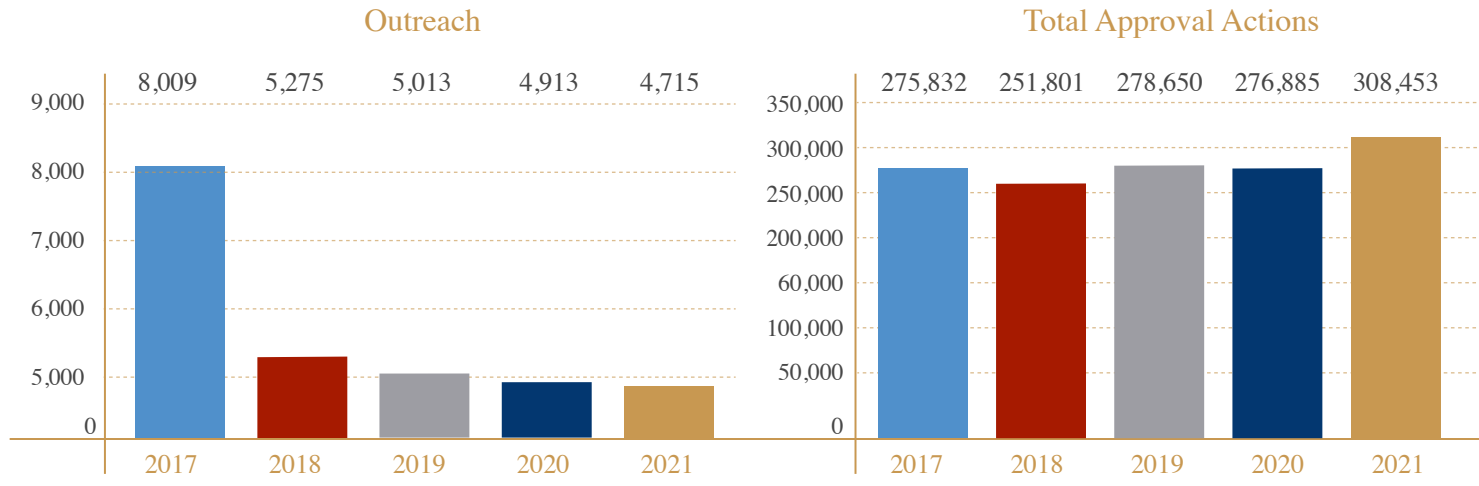
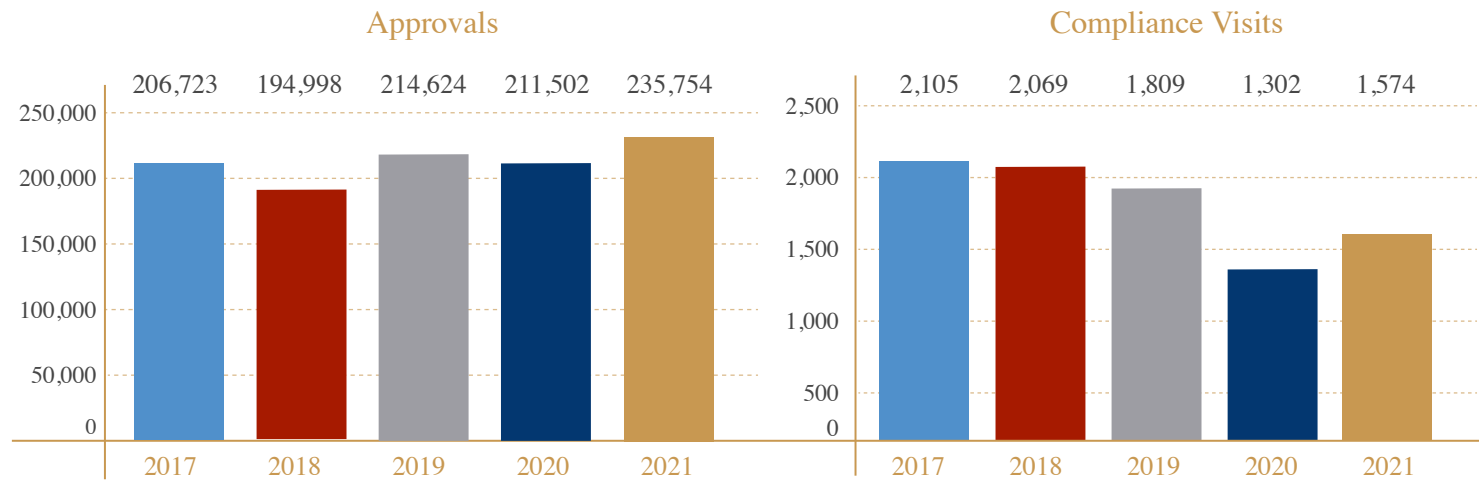
Technical assistance is any interaction designed to assist an individual, a school, or training site personnel with any portion of the approval function. Assistance could be rendered either before or after initial approval.

Source: FY2018-FY2021 quarterly reports provided to NASAA & VA by SAAs



Source: FY2021 quarterly reports provided to NASAA & VA by SAAs

2017-2021 Comparison



NASAA Regions

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| West | Central | South | East |
| Alaska | Illinois | Alabama | Connecticut |
| Arizona | Indiana | Arkansas | Delaware |
| California | Iowa | Florida | District of Columbia |
| Colorado | Kansas | Georgia | Maine |
| Hawaii | Michigan | Kentucky | Maryland |
| Idaho | Minnesota | Louisiana | Massachusetts |
| Montana | Missouri | Mississippi | New Hampshire |
| New Mexico | Nebraska | North Carolina | New Jersey |
| Nevada | North Dakota | Oklahoma | New York |
| Oregon | Ohio | Puerto Rico | Pennsylvania |
| Utah | South Dakota | South Carolina | Rhode Island |
| Washington | Wisconsin | Tennessee | Vermont |
| Wyoming | | Texas | |
| | | Virginia | |
| | | West Virginia | |

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

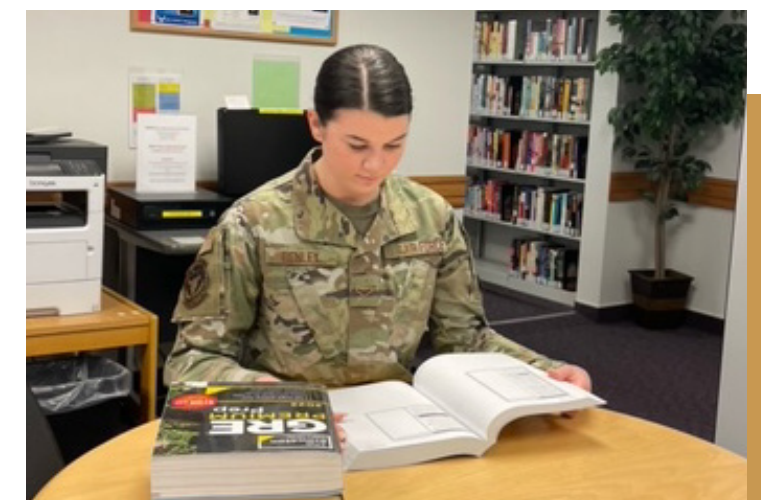
6. Military Transition Assistance Committee Responsibilities:

- 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



Airman First Class (A1C) Nevaeh Henley, stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls Montana. She's attending Columbia College online.

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 2021 NASAA Moments



Annie Walker, NASAA Past President



Michelle Hill, NASAA President



Michelle Hill (VA SAA), Annie Walker (VA SAA)



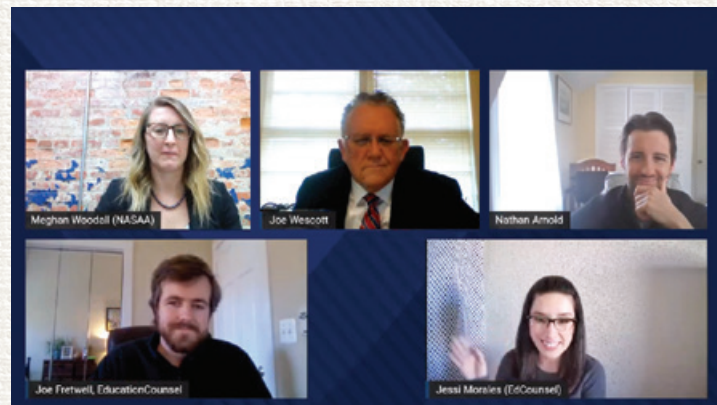
Meghan-Joy Woodall (Lumina Grant), Joe Wescott (NASAA Legislative Consultant), Michelle Hill (VA SAA)



NASAA Midwinter Virtual Conference 2021.



Kelsey Baron (Professional Staff Member), Simon Coon (Professional Staff Member), Jon Clark (Staff Director), Justin Vogt (staff Director)



Meghan-Joy Woodall (Lumina Grant), Joe Wescott (NASAA Legislative Consultant), Nathan Arnold (Education Counsel), Joe Fretwell (Education Counsel), Jessi Morales (Education Counsel)



NASAA Midwinter Virtual Conference 2021

Looking Forward, We Must Not Forget the Past

Protecting The Integrity Of The GI Bill – Our Most Solemn and Significant Mission

As State Approving Agencies we all understand that the only constant is change. This cannot be more evident than a number of major pieces of legislation that have been passed over the last couple of years. These pieces of legislation have significantly changed how we go about the process of approving a mom and pop apprenticeship to flagship public institutions of higher learning and everything in between.

Rather than pushing for new laws to be passed, it is time for us to assess if previous legislation is having the effects that Congress intended. We will look toward our valued partners in Veteran Service Organizations and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to assist us in identifying unintended consequences that have impacted educational institutions, State Approving Agencies and those using the GI Bill®. Only by shedding light on these areas of concern through collaboration can the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) affect change.

Due to the dedication of the members of NASAA this work has already begun. One need look no further than the effort of the NASAA committees that continue to identify areas of improvement and make recommendations for solutions. We agree not every issue needs a legislative fix and can many times be resolved through best practices, training or clarification of interpretation. However, in collaboration with our many partners, we stand ready to bring these matters to Congress if necessary.

This is not to say that we will stop advocating for improvements to the GI Bill® in the form of new laws when opportunities arises and track those bills that are currently working their way through Congress. Together, we will work diligently with our legislative consultant Joe Wescott, to ensure NASAA's voice continues to be heard. Only by having a seat at the table can we have an impact on the future of the GI Bill®, even if that means we must first address the past.



Year-End Highlight Events

February
NASAA Midwinter Conference and Training, Virtual

July
WAVES Conference-Virtual

August
NASAA Summer Business Meeting-Virtual

September
Virginia Military and Education Summit, Virtual Webinar

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 FY21 there were 53 state approving agencies covering all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Washington State is now the only state with 2 SAAs. There are 30 SAAs in state veteran affairs agencies, 13 in state higher education agencies, 4 in state post-secondary education agencies, 2 in elementary and secondary education agencies, and 4 in state workforce development agencies.

SAA Directory

Alabama

Alabama State Approving Agency
Alabama Community College System
James A. Thompson: Director
135 South Union Street
P.O. Box 302130
Montgomery, AL 36104
james.thompson@accs.edu
Phone: 334-293-4664
Fax: 334-293-4663

Alaska

Office of Veterans Affairs
State of Alaska
Delma Chapa: SAA Director
4600 Debarr Rd., Ste. 180
Anchorage, AK 99508
delma.chapa@alaska.gov
Phone: 907-334-0871
Fax: 907-334-0869

Arizona

Arizona Department of
Veterans' 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

Arkansas State Approving Agency for
Veterans Training
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

CalVet
Michael Magee: Assistant Deputy
Director
csaaveinfo@calvet.ca.gov
Phone: 916-503-8317

Colorado

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

Connecticut

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

Delaware

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

Florida

Bureau of State Approving for Veterans'
Training
Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
Betsy Wickham: Bureau Chief
9500 Bay Pines Boulevard, Room 214
Bay Pines, FL 33744
wickhamb@fdva.state.fl.us
Phone: 727-319-7402
Fax: 727-319-7781

SAA Directory

Georgia

Georgia Department of Veterans
Service
State Approving Agency
Bobby Davis: 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

Hawaii State Approving Agency
Curtis Washburn, PhD: Director, Hawaii
State Approving Agency
3949 Diamond Head Road
Building 300, Room 14
Honolulu, HI 96816
curtis.washburn@hawaii.edu
Phone: 808-956-2236

Idaho

Idaho Division of Veterans Services
State Approving Agency
Tonya Erhardt-Spencer: Program
Specialist
4514 Thomas Jefferson Street
Caldwell, ID 83605
tonya.erhardt@veterans.idaho.gov
Phone: 208-780-1334
Fax: 208-780-1331

Illinois

Department of Veterans' Affairs
Dan Wellman: Administrator
833 South Spring Street
P.O. Box 19432
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9432
Dan.wellman@illinois.gov
Phone: 217-782-7838
Fax: 217-524-8394

Indiana

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs
Raymond Baker: SAA Director
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2738
RBaker@dva.IN.gov
Phone: 317-234-6061
Fax: 317-234-8744

Iowa

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

Kansas

Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs
Office
Eric Rohleder: KCVAO Deputy Director
700 Southwest Jackson Street, Ste. 1004
Topeka, KS 66603-3714
Eric.Rohleder@ks.gov
Phone: 785-296-3976
Fax: 785-296-1462

Kentucky

Kentucky Approving Agency for
Veterans Education
Gwen Hacker: Director
300 North Main Street
Versailles, KY 40383
gwen.hacker@kctcs.edu
Phone: 859-256-3352
Toll Free: 877-528-2748
Fax: 859-256-3123

Louisiana

Louisiana Department of
Veterans Affairs
Cleophus D. Wallace: Director
602 N 5th Street
P.O. Box 94095 Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095
cleophus.wallace@la.gov
Phone: 225-219-5013
Fax: 225-219-5590

Maine

State Approving Agency for Veterans
Education Programs
Maine Bureau of Veterans Services
Kevin Rousseau: Deputy Director
117 State House Station
Augusta, MA 04333-0117
mesaa@maine.gov
Phone: 207-441-9750

Maryland

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Everette Jackson, Jr.: Associate Director,
Veterans Affairs
6 N. Liberty Street, 10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
vaeducationbenefits.mhec@maryland.gov
Phone: 410-767-3301

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Department of Higher
Education
Office of Veterans Education
George O'Connor: Assistant
Commissioner for Academic and
Veterans Affairs
One Ashburton Place, Room 1401
Boston, MA 02108
George.O'Connor@mass.gov
Phone: 617-994-6925
Fax: 617-727-0955

SAA Directory

Michigan

Michigan State Approving Agency
Michigan Department of Labor and
Economic Opportunity – Workforce
Development
Shaftone Dunklin: Higher Education
Consultant
Victor Office Center; 3rd Floor
201 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913
dunklins@michigan.gov
Phone: 231-463-6417
Fax: 517-241-9825

Minnesota

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

Mississippi

Mississippi Veterans Affairs
Mississippi State Approving Agency
Cathy McGruder: Division Director
600 North Street, Suite 200
Jackson, MS 39202
cmcgruder@msva.ms.gov
Phone: 601-576-4867
Fax: 601-576-4868

Missouri

Veterans' Education & Training Section
Department of Elementary & Secondary
Education
James Henley: Director
3024 Dupont Circle
Jefferson City, MO 65109
James.henley@dese.mo.gov
Phone: 573-751-2571
Fax: 573-526-5710

Montana

Montana State Approving Agency
Department of Labor and Industry
John Stankowiak: Program Manager
PO Box 1728
Helena, MT 59624-1728
SAA@mt.gov
Phone: (406) 444-4122
Fax: (406) 444-1373

Nebraska

Private Postsecondary Career Schools
and Veterans Education
Nebraska Department of Education
Marisol (Baquerizo) Birth: Director
500 S. 84th St. 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611
Marisol.birth@nebraska.gov
Phone: 402-326-4519

Nevada

Commission on Postsecondary
Education
Kelly D. Wuest: CPE Administrator/SAA
Director
1860 E. Sahara Ave
Las Vegas, NV 89104
kdwuest@detr.nv.gov
Phone: 702-486-7330
Fax: 702-486-7340

New Hampshire

Department of Education, Division of
Higher Education
Bureau of Veterans Education Services
and Career School Licensing
Jeffrey Newman: Administrator
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
Jeffrey.Newman@doe.nh.gov
Phone: 603-271-7861
Fax: 603-271-1953

New Jersey

Department of Military and Veterans
Affairs/SAA
Debra Cho: SAA Bureau Chief
Eggert Crossing Road
P.O. Box 340
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340
Debra.cho@dmava.nj.gov
Phone: 609-530-6849
Fax: 609-530-7196

New Mexico

State Approving Agency for Veterans'
Education and Training
New Mexico Department of Veterans'
Services
Marilyn Dykman: SAA Bureau Chief
5201 Eagle Rock Ave NE, Suite 2A
Albuquerque, NM 87113
Marilyn.Dykman@state.nm.us
Phone: 505-383-2418

New York

Bureau of Veterans Education
William Clarke: Veterans Education
Program Manager
2 Empire State Plaza, 17th Floor
Albany, NY 12223
william.clarke@veterans.ny.gov
Phone: 518-474-7606
Fax: 518-474-5583

116 West 32nd Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-564-8414
Fax: 212-564-8443

North Carolina

North Carolina State Approving Agency
Timothy D. Freeman: Executive Director
68 TW Alexander Drive
PO Box 13628
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
tdfreeman@northcarolina.edu
Phone: 919-237-7932

SAA Directory

North Dakota

State Approving Agency
ND Department of
Veterans Affairs
Chris Kratochvil: Director
4201 38th Street South, Suite 206
Fargo, ND 58104-7535
ckratochvil@nd.gov
Phone: 701-298-4667
Fax: 701-239-7166

Ohio

Ohio Department of Veterans Services
State Approving Agency for Veterans
Education & Training
Samantha Erickson: Director
77 S. High Street, 7th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Samantha.erickson@dvs.ohio.gov
Phone: 614-466-9287
Fax: 614-397-7317

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Department of Veteran
Affairs
State Approving Agency
Brint Montgomery, PhD.: Agency
Administrator
2132 NE 36th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
brint.montgomery@odva.ok.gov
Phone: 405-522-8076
Fax: 405-523-4008

Oregon

Department of Veterans Affairs
Ebony Frederick-Pettway: SAA Director
700 Summer St NE
Salem, OR 97301
ODVA_OregonSAA@odva.oregon.gov
Phone: 503-373-7367
Fax: 503-373-2393

Pennsylvania

Division of Veterans/Military Education
Pennsylvania Department of Education
Denise Verchimak: Division Chief
Harrisburg Office
333 Market Street, 12th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
dverchimak@pa.gov
Phone: 717-787-2414
Fax: 717-772-3622
Pittsburgh Office
301 Fifth Avenue, Suite 204
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 412-565-5364
Fax: 412-565-5312

Pittsburgh Office

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:
Executive Director
P.O. Box 190759
San Juan, PR 00919-0759
torresrd@de.pr.gov
Phone: 787-773-3484
Fax: 787-773-1427

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Office of the
Postsecondary Commissioner
Rebecca Ryan: Program Manager
560 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 100
Warwick, RI 02886
Rebecca.Ryan@riopc.edu
Phone: 401-736-1164
Fax: 401-732-3541

South Carolina

Office of Student Services
South Carolina Commission on Higher
Education
Karen Woodfaulk: Director, Student
Services
1122 Lady Street, Suite 400
Columbia, SC 29201
kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov
Phone: 803-737-2260
Fax: 803-737-3610

South Dakota

Veterans' Education
South Dakota Department of Veterans
Affairs
Shane Olivier: Program Manager
425 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
shane.olivier@state.sd.us
Phone: 605-773-3648
Fax: 605-773-5380

Tennessee

Veterans Education
Tennessee Higher Education
Commission
Ken Hanson: Senior Director, Veterans
Education
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243
Ken.Hanson@tn.gov
Phone: 615-253-7449
Fax: 615-925-0089

Texas

Veterans Education
Texas Veterans Commission
Sue E. Jevning, Director, Veterans
Education
P.O. Box 12277
Austin, TX 78711-2277
Sue.Jevning@tvc.texas.gov
Phone: 512-463-3168
Toll Free: 877-898-3833
Fax: 512-463-3932

SAA Directory

Utah

State Approving Agency for Veterans Education
Utah Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
David Salgado: Director
700 Foothill Blvd.
Salt Lake City, UT 84113
dsalgado@utah.gov
Phone: 801-584-1973
Fax: 801-584-1964

Vermont

Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Education and Training Program/State Approving Agency
Jennifer St. Jean: Education Consultant
118 State St., Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-4414
jennifer.stjean@vermont.gov
Phone: 802-828-1082
Fax: 802-828-5932

Virginia

Virginia Department of Veterans Services
Virginia State Approving Agency
Tramaine Carroll-Payne: Deputy Director of Education Programs
James Monroe Building
101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
tramaine.carroll-payne@dvs.virginia.gov
Phone: 804-248-1239
Fax: 804-786-0809

Washington

State Approving Agency
Washington Student Achievement Council
Laura Bach: Associate Director
917 Lakeridge Way
P.O. Box 43450
Olympia, WA 98504-3430
laurab@wsac.wa.gov
Phone: 360-753-7821
Fax: 360-704-6239
Workforce Training and Education

Coordinating Board
State Approving Agency
Darlene Bartlett: Program Manager
128 10th Ave SW
P.O. Box 43105
Olympia, WA 98504-3105
darlene.bartlett@wtb.wa.gov
Phone: 360-709-4600
Fax: 360-586-5862

Washington, D.C.

DC Higher Education Licensure Commission
Angela Lee: Executive Director
1050 1st Street, NE 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
Angela.lee@dc.gov
Phone: 202-727-6436

West Virginia

Office of Veterans Education and Training Programs
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
Cody Tomblin: Interim Director
1018 Kanawha Boulevard
Suite 700
Charleston, WV 25301
cody.tomblin@wvhepc.edu
Phone: 304-558-0263
Fax: 304-558-0089

Wisconsin

State Approving Agency
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
April Heim: Director
2135 Rimrock Rd
Madison, WI 53708-7843
SAAMail@dva.wisconsin.gov
Phone: 608-261-8771
Toll Free: 800-947-8387
Fax: 608-267-0403

Wyoming

State Approving Agency
Wyoming Military Department
Timothy Fisher: Wyoming SAA Director
5410 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009
timothy.fisher@wyo.gov
Phone: 307-777-8161
Fax: 307-777-8105



Awards, Honors & 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 FY2021 year!

President's Award

Frank Myers (SC)
Joseph Wescott (NASAA National Legislative Liaison)

2021 Annual Summer Business & Training Meeting Star Performer's

Marilyn Dykman (NM)
Meghan - Joy Woodall (Lumina Project Manager)

Certificates of Appreciation

Marilyn Dykman (NM)
Amber Mertens (IN)
Melissa Triplett (OH)
Leanna DeKing (AZ)
Dan Wellman (IL)
Rebecca Ryan (RI)
Tramaine Carroll-Payne (VA)
Frank Myers (SC) Lily Snyder (GA)
James Thompson (AL)
Kathy Snyder (NM)
Joseph Westcott (National Legislative Liaison)
Kimberly Minniefield (AL)
Wayne Holmes (MD)
Deb O'Niell (WA)
Bill Schroeder (OH)
Patricia Keeton (DE)
Troy Tissue (MI)
Denise Verchimak (PA)

Kelli Colborne (FL)
John Murray (WA)

2021 Annual Midwinter Business & Training Meeting Certificates of Appreciation:

Laura Bach (WA)
LeAnna DeKing (AZ)
Lisa Deneen (OR)
Marilyn Dykman (NM)
Tim Fisher (WY)
Patrice Jones (VA)
Christopher Link (VA)
Amber Mertens (IN)
Kimberly Minniefield (AL)
Deb O' Neill (WA)
Tiffany Perry (IL)
Eboni- Frederick (OR)
Derek Richert (WA)
Stephen Rudnick (OK)
Rebecca Ryan (RI)
David Salgado (UT)
Lily Snyder (GA)
Laura Taylor (AL)
Linda Alexander (TX)
Sue Jevning (TX)
Michelle Hill (NV)
Patricia Keenan (DE)
Martina Murray (VA)
Kathleen Vonk (NY)
Dan Wellman (IL)
John Murray (WA)

Katherine Snyder (NM)
Frank Myers (SC)
Joseph Westcott (Lumina Grant)
Meghan- Joy Woodall (Lumina Grant)
Leslie Neese (Annual Report- Graphic Arts Designer)

2021 Summer Business & Training Meeting Certificates of Appreciation:

Marilyn Dykman (NM)
Amber Mertens (IN)
Melissa Triplett (OH)
Leanna DeKing (AZ)
Dan Wellman (IL)
Rebecca Ryan (RI)
Tramaine Carroll-Payne (VA)
Frank Myers (SC) Lily Snyder (GA)
James Thompson (AL)
Kathy Snyder (NM)
Joseph Westcott (National Legislative Liaison)
Kimberly Minniefield (AL)
Wayne Holmes (MD)
Deb O'Niell (WA)
Bill Schroeder (OH)
Patricia Keeton (DE)
Troy Tissue (MI)
Denise Verchimak (PA)
Kelli Colborne (FL)
John Murray (WA)

Executive Board Members



Michelle Hill
President



Annie Walker
Immediate Past
President



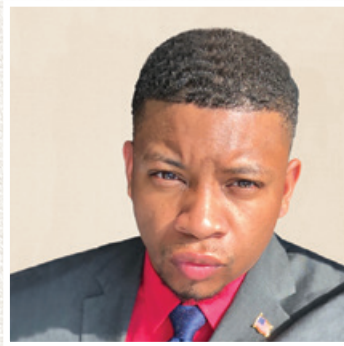
Rebecca Ryan
Vice President



Kathy Snyder
Secretary



Frank Myers
Treasurer



Everette Jackson
Judge Advocate



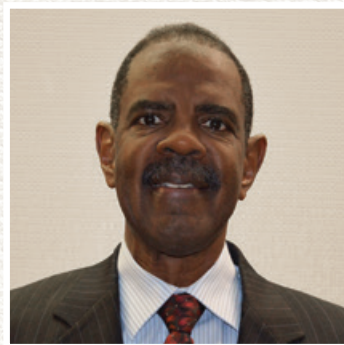
David Salgado
Legislation Director



James Henley
Public Affairs Liaison



Jennifer St. Jean
East Region
Vice President



Cleophus Wallace
South Region
Vice President



Leanna Deking
West Region
Vice President



Marisol Birth
Central Region
Vice President

Protecting the Gi Bill® Since 1947



Connect With Us

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 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.

Community

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

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/natl-assoc-of-state-approving-agencies>

NASAA Storytellers Podcast | Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/show/7lYzh1Cf3TOSpg1Gdf79A1?si=zy06i_v3R72rjwPszmBkoQ

Website: <http://www.nasaa-vetseducation.com/>





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

101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: (804) 225-2720
www.dvs.virginia.gov