

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES

2024 Midwinter Business & Training Meeting Draft Agenda

Saturday, February 10th - Wednesday, February 14th

CRYSTAL CITY MARRIOTT, ARLINGTON, VA



*Celebrating 75 Years of Service to
Veterans Education and Training*

nasaa-vetseducation.com

CONFERENCE INFORMATION & POLICIES



COVID PROTOCOLS

The safety of all our registrants and conference attendees is of utmost importance to NASAA. By attending the 2024 Midwinter Business & Training Meeting in Washington, DC, you agree to abide by and engage in all health and safety practices recommended by the Center for Disease Control while attending the in-person meeting. We encourage not attending the event if you are ill or have been recently exposed to COVID-19. Masks will be available for anyone who does not have their own and wishes to wear one. We also have a limited number of Covid tests available if you are feeling symptomatic and wish to test.

EMERGENCY CONTACT



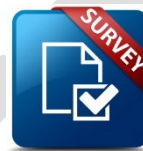
On the back of your name badge please write name(s), phone number(s) for the person(s) who we may contact in case of an emergency.



PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO RECORDING

If you do not wish to be photographed, please mark a large “X” on your name badge. Audio and video recording, streaming, or broadcasting of any type during any part of our program is prohibited unless expressly consented to in writing by NASAA. Photography is permitted unless explicitly prohibited by a presenter at the commencement of their session. By appearing at or attending the Conference, Attendee agrees that NASAA and its authorized representatives may conduct interviews and may take photographs

and/or record video directly or indirectly of you at any time during the event. You authorize NASAA all rights necessary to record Attendee during the event and to use any or all portion of such photographs or video recordings at any time in the future for educational, informational, commercial or any other business and in any form and waive right or approval of the uses and any claim for compensation.



EVENT SURVEYS

Please complete the surveys daily. Survey links are on the back of the program booklet. You may also contact any member of the Conference Planning Committee with feedback and suggestions.



CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Use the following event Hashtags: #nasaawinter

Facebook:

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

LinkedIn:

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

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

PROGRAM, ACTIVITY OR EVENT CHANGES

NASAA reserves the right to make policy, program, event and schedule changes, additions or cancellations for any reason. Speakers are confirmed when listed but may be subject to change due to illness or other unexpected conflicts.

AGENDA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024

Travel Day for members needing to travel from the West Coast, etc. Sleeping rooms are available at the conference rate.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024

Meeting Rooms located on Mezzanine Level
(Business Casual Attire)

2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Conference Planning Rebecca Ryan (RI) <i>Room: Salon E</i>	Constitution and Bylaws Andrew Martin (WI) <i>Room: Salon F</i>	
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	BREAK		
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Honors & Awards Judy Schuler (TX) <i>Room: Salon F</i>	Professional Development Gwen Hacker (KY) <i>Room: Salon D</i>	Archives & History Lisa Deneen (OR) <i>Room: Salon E</i>

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Meeting Rooms located on Mezzanine Level
(Business Casual Attire)

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration & Liaison Activity <i>Potomac Ballroom Foyer</i>		
8:15 am - 10:15 am	Contract/Cooperative Agreement Stephen Rudnick (OK) <i>Room: Salon D</i>	Apprenticeship/OJT Tara Monk (TX) <i>Room: Salon E</i>	
9:00 am - 10:00 am	New Member Orientation Gwen Hacker (KY) Bill Schroeder (OH) <i>Room: Salon F</i>		
10:00 am - 10:30 am	BREAK <i>Potomac Ballroom Foyer</i>		
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	IHL/NCD David Salgado (TX) <i>Room: Salon D</i>	Communications Lily Snyder (GA) <i>Room: Salon F</i>	Flight Deb O'Neill (WSAC) <i>Room: Salon E</i>

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	LUNCH (on your own)			
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Legislative Joseph Wescott (NC) Room: <i>Salon D</i>	Automation & Technology Melissa Triplett (OH) Room: <i>Salon F</i>	Military Transition Assistance Torrence Joseph (LA) Room: <i>Salon E</i>	
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	BREAK <i>Potomac Ballroom Foyer</i>			
3:15 pm - 4:45 pm	Region Meetings South Lily Snyder (GA) Room: <i>Salon D</i>	West Kathy Snyder (NM) Room: <i>Salon E</i>	East Everette Jackson (MD) Room: <i>Salon F</i>	Central Ed Godfrey (MN) Room: <i>Lincoln Room</i>
4:45 pm - 5:00 pm	BREAK			
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Executive Board Meeting Frank Myers, NASAA President (SC) Room: <i>Salon F</i>			

Superbowl Viewing Party



Everyone Welcome!!
 Sunday, February 11th 6 PM @ the Bell20 Restaurant
 (Hotel Lobby)

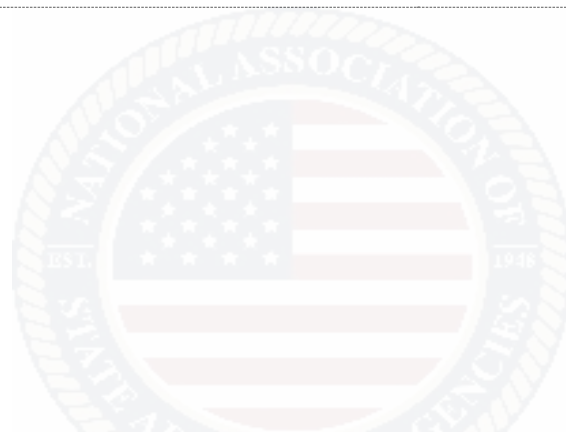
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Potomac Ballroom located on Mezzanine Level
 (Business Attire)

8:00 am - 9:00 am Registration & Liaison Activity
Potomac Ballroom Foyer

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

9:00 am - 9:30 am	Opening Ceremony	Frank Myers (SC) NASAA President
	Presentation of the Colors	USMC Color Guard
	Pledge of Allegiance	Lily Snyder (GA)
	Invocation and Moment of Silence	Cleo Wallace (LA)
	Remarks	Frank Myers (SC) NASAA President
	Welcome Message	TBD
9:30 am - 10:15 am	Education Service Update	Director Joseph Garcia U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
10:15 am - 11:00 am	VA Performance Review/Biannual Report	Janice Fisher (DVA) Michael Marks (DVA)
11:00am - 11:15 am	BREAK	
11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Legislative Panel	Joseph Wescott (NC) Moderator NASAA Legislative Director Kevin O'Neil, American Legion VFW Tammy Barlet, SVA Ashlynn Haycock-Lohmann, TAPS Will Hubbard, VES Dr. Jan Del Signore, NAVPA
12:15 pm - 1:30 pm	LUNCH (on your own) / Past President's Lunch	Michael Criscuolo (CT)
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	24-Month Re-Approvals	Janice Fisher (DVA) Stephen Rudnick (OK)
2:45 pm - 3:30 pm	Statute and Regulations	Tom Alphonso (DVA)
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	BREAK	
3:45 pm - 4:45 pm	RBS Experiences Training/Panel Discussion	Ken Hanson (TN) Moderator Penny Starr (TN) Shannon Patenoude (ID) Crystal Standifer (SC) Rebecca Ryan (RI)



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Potomac Ballroom located on Mezzanine Level
(Business Attire)

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Liaison Activity <i>Potomac Ballroom Foyer</i>	
8:30 am - 10:00 am	NASAA Business Meeting (Members Only) Committee Report Outs schedule on page 7	Frank Myers (SC) NASAA President Committee Chairs
10:00 am - 10:15 am	BREAK	
10:15 am - 12:00 pm	Committee Report Outs (Members Only)	Committee Chairs
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	LUNCH (on your own) and Travel to Capitol Hill	
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Congressional Staff Presentation/ Question and Answer Session Cannon 360	Joseph Wescott (NC)
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Congressional Liaison / Break	
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Congressional Reception Cannon 360	

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Salon F located on Mezzanine Level
(Business Casual Attire)

8:00 am - 11:00 am	Executive Board Meeting Elected Officers and Committee Chairs	Frank Myers (SC) NASAA President
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Liaison with Congressional Representatives	

Travel Day for some members. Note: There are limited sleeping rooms available for Wednesday night at the conference rate.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Travel Day for those members who need to travel to the West Coast, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORT SCHEDULE/CONTACT INFO (subject to change)

8:30 am - 8:40 am	New Member Introductions	Regional Vice Presidents
8:40 am - 8:50 am	Treasurer's Report/Financial Secretary's Report	Tramaine Carroll-Payne (VA) Tramaine.Carroll-Payne@dvs.virginia.gov Chris Garcia (TX) Chris.garcia@tvc.texas.gov
8:50 am - 9:00 am	IHL/NCD	David Salgado (TX) David.salgado@tvc.texas.gov
9:00 am - 9:10 am	Apprenticeship and OJT	Tara Monk (TX) Tara.monk@tvc.texas.gov
9:10 am - 9:20 am	Contract/Cooperative Agreement	Stephen Rudnick (OK) Stephen.Rudnick@odva.ok.gov
9:20 am - 9:30 am	Flight	Deb O'Neill (WSAC) debbieo@wsac.wa.gov
9:30 am - 9:35 am	Military Transition Assistance	Torrence Joseph (LA) torrence.joseph@la.gov
9:35 am - 9:40 am	Professional Development	Gwen Hacker (KY) gwen.hacker@kctcs.edu
9:40 am - 9:45 am	Audit	James Henley (MO) James.Henley@dese.mo.gov
9:45 am - 9:50 am	Automation & Technology	Melissa Triplett (OH) melissa.triplett@dvs.ohio.gov
9:50 am - 9:55 am	Communications	Lily Snyder (GA) saals@vs.state.ga.us
9:55 am - 10:00 am	Conference Planning	Rebecca Ryan (RI) Rebecca.Ryan@riopc.edu
10:15 am - 10:20 am	Honors, Awards, Membership & Alumni	Judy Schuler (TX) Judy.schuler@tvc.texas.gov
10:20 am - 10:45 am	Constitution & By Laws	Andrew Martin (WI) andrew.martin1@dva.wisconsin.gov
10:45 am - 10:50 am	Archives and History	Lisa Deneen (OR) lisa.deneen@odva.oregon.gov
10:50 am - 11:10 am	JPRG Report Out	Rebecca Ryan (RI) Rebecca.Ryan@riopc.edu
11:10 am - 11:30 am	Legislative	Joseph Wescott (NC) Joseph.Wescott@milvets.nc.gov



Scan this QR code to join a committee.

PRESENTER BIOS

Thomas Alphonso, Assistant Director of Policy and Procedure, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Mr. Alphonso serves as the Assistant Director for Policy and Procedures in the Veterans Benefits Administration's Education Service. In this role, he oversees legislative implementation, regulatory amendment development, and policy and procedure formulation for all VA educational assistance benefits programs (commonly referred to as "GI Bill" programs).

He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and served as an Army officer for six years in both the Infantry and Finance Corps. During his service, he was stationed at Fort Benning, GA; Fort Jackson, SC; and Yongsan Army Garrison, Republic of Korea.

Tom holds a B.S. in Philosophy and Literature from the United States Military Academy; an M.A. in Finance from Webster University; and a J.D. from Boston College Law School. He is currently an inactive member of the Massachusetts Bar and is a previous member of the New York Bar.

Tom currently lives in Washington, DC, with his wife, Meghan, who is a staff attorney with VA's Office of the General Counsel, Benefits Law Group, and his two daughters, Siobhan and Niamh. He is originally from Saint Bernard, LA, a suburb of New Orleans.

Tammy Barlet, Vice President of Government Affairs, Student Veterans of America

Tammy Barlet is Vice President of Government Affairs for Student Veterans of America.

She served eight years in the United States Coast Guard as an Operation Specialist Third Class Petty Officer. In 1998, she patrolled the Persian Gulf on the USCGC Chase (WHEC-718) for Military Interdiction Operations (MIO). During this patrol, USCGC Chase diverted four vessels in violation of United Nations Sanctions against Iraq, interdicted 1,527,740 gallons of fuel oil, and conducted eighty-six gunnery exercises. Her last duty station was the Vessel Traffic Service Houston/Galveston. She was awarded the Coast Guard Achievement Medal for de-escalating an incident that could quickly have become a Homeland Security Threat.

After returning home to Pennsylvania, Tammy was certified as a sterile compounding pharmacy technician and worked in the Lehigh Valley area for ten years.

Tammy holds a Master's Degree in Public Health from George Washington University, Washington, D.C., and a bachelor's in public health from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. While pursuing her studies, Ms. Barlet fulfilled her MPH practicum requirements at Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society as a State Policy Intern and The Mission Continues fellowship as a Policy Associate at Student Veterans of America. She received the Distinguished Undergraduate Internship Award from the College of Public Health at Temple University for her work during her internship in Alaska. In 2021, Tammy was awarded Temple University's Public Health Alumni award for her advocacy work to ensure veterans receive timely, high-quality health care.

As a 2019 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow, Ms. Barlet's proposal revolved around oral health as preventative care for the veteran population. The VFW used her research as a part of the written testimony for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health legislative hearing later that year.

To recognize Tammy's contribution to enhancing the lives of other veterans, service members, families, and caregivers, she has been named one of VA's Center for Women Veterans 2023 Women Veteran Trailblazers.

Ms. Barlet's knowledge and expertise in public health, higher education, and VA led her to testify before the House Veterans Affairs Committee and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on mental health, preventative care, reproductive health, women veterans, and education services.

Tammy resides in Maryland and enjoys quilting, kayaking, hiking, biking, and geocaching.

Kelsey Baron, Senior Benefits and Defense Policy Advisor, Ranking Member Jerry Moran (KS), Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Kelsey Baron has been with the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs since January 2020. She leads the Committee's benefits portfolio with a specific focus on military and veteran education, VA and DOD dual beneficiaries, compensation and pension benefits, survivor benefits, insurance, transition to civilian life matters, VA home loan benefits, accountability/labor issues at VA and veteran employment opportunities, including SCRA and USERRA protections for National Guard and Reservists. She is also the Committee's policy advisor on defense-related issues as well as the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Previously, she served as Senator James Lankford's (R-OK) Military and Veterans Legislative Assistant and advised him on military and veteran policy as well as Defense and MilCon/VA provisions in his role on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Prior to her work in the Senate, she served on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs (HVAC) as a Professional Staff Member on the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. On HVAC, she focused on oversight and legislation relating to improving veterans' education and vocational rehabilitation benefits, opportunities for veteran owned small businesses, veterans' employment, the Transition Assistance Program, VA's Loan Guaranty Program, and accountability for all VA employees. She has worked on various pieces of legislation that have been signed into law, including provisions related to VA accountability, veterans education and compensation benefits, transition assistance improvements, and several components of the NDAA. Kelsey graduated in 2012 from Auburn University in Auburn, AL, with a Political Science degree with a focus in International Relations. She currently resides in Washington, D.C. Kelsey got her passion for military and veterans' issues from her parents. Her mom served in the Navy for over 30 years, retiring as a Navy Nurse Corps Captain, and her dad recently retired from the Merchant Marines after two decades as a captain and after serving a decade in the Navy.

Michael Criscuolo, Director, Connecticut State Approving Agency

Mr. Criscuolo began working at the Connecticut Office of Higher Education (OHE)/State Approving Agency (SAA) in February, 2010. As SAA Director, he is responsible for the approval and oversight of institutions and their programs so qualified veterans, and their dependents, may use their VA educational benefits at their school or training facility. His agency participates in outreach and career fairs throughout the year to promote the use of the GI Bill®.

Mr. Criscuolo served the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) as President. He has served NASAA as Vice President, Chair of the Communications Committee, Vice-Chair of the Professional Development Committee, Chair of the Conference Planning Committee, East Region Legislative Committee Representative, NASAA's East Region Vice-President, a member of the Compliance Survey Redesign Working Group, and as a representative on the Joint Advisory Committee, which was established to provide a standing forum for the resolution of issues related to the mutual responsibilities of the VA and SAAs for the effective administration of educational benefits to veterans and their dependents.

Locally, he serves as the Co-Chair of the Community Veterans Engagement Board and as a member of the Military & Veterans Support Coalition. In 2015, he was designated as the CT OHE's representative to serve on the Military

Occupational Specialty Task Force, responsible for developing recommendations to improve the acceptance of military training towards licensure requirements and college credit.

Dr. Jan Del Signore, President, National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators

Dr. Jan Del Signore presently serves as the Associate Vice Chancellor of Military Affairs at Keiser University, and is a strong advocate for veterans' educational benefits. Dr. Del Signore is the current President for the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA), Board member with the Florida Association of Veteran Education Specialists (FAVES) and served as President for the Florida Advisory Council for Military Education (FL-ACME). She serves on numerous military connected committees and councils. She is a Gulf War veteran and recipient of many military honors and distinctions. While serving her country, she became a military instructor for the Community College of the Air Force and achieved the status of Master Instructor.

Janice Fisher, Chief, Agreements & Federal Programs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Janice Fisher grew up in Niagara Falls, NY and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from State University of New York at Buffalo, Magna Cum Laude. She had an extensive Human Services career before beginning with VA at the Buffalo RPO as an Education Case Manager in 2001. Janice was promoted to Management and Program Analyst at VA Central Office in 2005 and moved to DC locality. She received a promotion to Chief, Contract Management Team in 2008 (name change of team to Agreements & Federal Programs several years ago). She lives in Pasadena, MD with her husband Bill; they have three children and four grandchildren. Janice enjoys reading, traveling, camping and watching suspenseful series like Jack Reacher and most recently Yellowstone in free time.

Joseph Garcia, Executive Director, Education Service, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Joseph Garcia was appointed as Executive Director of Education Service on August 1, 2022. He previously served in the higher education sector as a Vice President at William Jewell College in Missouri, Empire State College in New York, and The Citadel: Military College of South Carolina. He served in Senior Executive Service (SES) positions at Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/FEMA and at the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Food Safety Inspection Service. He also worked in the private and nonprofit sectors in Washington, DC. Garcia spent 28 years in the Air Force, including tours at the Pentagon, Air Force Academy, Germany and South Korea, and a Middle East deployment. He taught leadership courses at the Air Force Academy and The Citadel and has authored four leadership books. Among his awards are Male Boss of the Year from the Federal Woman's Program, CFO of the Year from the Kansas City Business Journal, and a superior mission achievement award from DHS.

Mr. Garcia holds an Executive Master's in Leadership from Georgetown University, a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Arizona.

Ashlynn Haycock-Lohmann, Deputy Director, Government & Legislative Affairs, TAPS

Ashlynn Haycock-Lohmann is the Deputy Director for Government and Legislative Affairs for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). She is the Gold Star daughter of SFC Jeffrey Haycock who died while training to deploy in 2002 and Air Force veteran Nichole Haycock who died by suicide in 2011.

Ashlynn has worked for TAPS for 10 years, primarily focusing on access to benefits for surviving spouses and children, including the expansions of benefits under the Forever GI Bill. She was also instrumental in finally ending the SBP/ DIC Offset, better known as the "Widow's Tax", in 2019. Ashlynn graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from American University in 2013 where she was one of the first Marine Gunnery

Sergeant John Fry Scholarship recipients. She resides in Virginia with her husband, a Navy veteran, and their two dogs.

Will Hubbard, Vice President for Veterans & Military Policy, Veterans Education Success (VES)

William Hubbard serves as the Vice President for Veterans & Military Policy at Veterans Education Success, focused on advancing higher education success for service members, veterans, and their families, and protecting the promise of federal education programs. Previously, he served as the Vice President of Government Affairs and Chief of Staff for Student Veterans of America. He has been frequently called to testify to Congress on a variety of topics related to higher education and veterans, and spearheaded the coalition that led to the unanimous passage of the Forever GI Bill.

Prior to his roles in higher education advocacy, Will worked as Federal Strategy and Operations Consultant at Deloitte, and spent several years serving government agencies to include the Department of the Navy, Department of State, and the State of Indiana Department of Revenue in his role. Also, as a National Executive Committee Member of Deloitte's Armed Forces Business Resource Group.

Will joined the Marine Corps Reserves in 2006 and continues his service, presently serving as a Consulting & Strategy Manager with the Marine Innovation Unit. His last overseas deployment was to Kabul City, Afghanistan, where he served in the Special Operations Joint Task Force as a member of a small cell of intelligence professionals. He also worked with Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) to conduct activities in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief in Haiti.

He serves as an Advocacy Ambassador Advisor for the National Marrow Donor Program, and was previously a member of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development and the American University President's Council on Diversity and Inclusion. He is a recipient of the American University Alumni Association's Rising Star Award for 2019.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in international studies from American University and has a certificate in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace from the University of South Florida. Will and his wife, Noelle, presently reside in Arlington, VA with their daughters, Lucy and Ruby.

Michael Marks, Chief, Approvals, Compliance & Liaison Team, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Michael Marks is the Chief of Approvals Compliance and Liaison Division overseeing strategically planning, operational and tactical procedures to ensure proper oversight of approved education and training programs.

Michael has had a very successful career at the Veterans Administration since 1999 as a Claims Examiner in Education Division. He has moved through progressively more responsible positions to reach the current position he holds today. During his career, he has served as a Compliance Survey Specialist; Education Liaison Representative for various states; Coach for Education Services Unit and the Work Study Team. Previously, he served as the Chief Education Liaison Officer for the West Region Approvals, Compliance & Liaison Division.

Michael joined the US Army and served from 1988 to 1992. After separation from active duty, he continued his military service with the Army Reserves until retiring in December 2008 at the rank of Master Sergeant.

Michael attended Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK graduating cum laude in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Michael, his wife Pauline, and daughter Torea live in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Frank Myers, NASAA President, South Carolina State Approving Agency

Frank Myers has worked for the South Carolina as the Program Manager and Assistant Director for the past 20 years. Frank graduated from Battery Creek High School located in Beaufort, South Carolina at the age of 17 and enlisted in the United States Army right after high school with his dad having to sign his enlistment papers. Frank is a Desert Storm veteran and retired from the Army in 2002. He was hired with the SC SAA just two days after his retirement from the military.

Frank holds an M.B.A. from Saint Leo University, a B.A from Excelsior College and an A.S from Rockland Community College.

Prior to his election as president, Frank served as NASAA treasurer from 2012-2022. He has held the office of NASAA Contract Committee Chair and Vice Chair and served as a member of the Conference Planning, Honors and Awards and Professional Development Committees. He has also served on 12 JPRG's with NASAA. He is the recipient of two NASAA Presidential Awards, two NASAA Star Awards, and multiple Certificates of Appreciation.

Kevin O'Neil, Senior Policy Associate, American Legion

Kevin O'Neil is a Senior Policy Associate for The American Legion's Veterans Employment and Education Division in Washington, D.C. He is a U.S. Air Force veteran who served eight years at military installations across the globe. He was abroad for more than half of his military career and carried out airfield operations in various capacities, including anti-terrorism and humanitarian operations. After his service, Mr. O'Neil used the Post-9/11 GI Bill to pursue his master's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. Mr. O'Neil also received his bachelor's degree—with honors—in international relations from the University of San Diego.

In his role at The American Legion's National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., he advocates for education and employment opportunities on behalf of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. In addition, he works with federal, state, and local stakeholders to increase licensing and credentialing opportunities for the military connected community. Moreover, he prepares congressional testimony before Congress and works with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and Department of Labor to improve transition benefits for our nation's servicemembers.

Stephen Rudnick, State Approving Officer, Oklahoma State Approving Agency

Stephen Rudnick serves in the role of a State Approving Officer with the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs State Approving Agency (ODVA SAA). Mr. Rudnick has served with ODVA SAA since it began operations in 2019 and served in the same capacity with the Oklahoma State Accrediting Agency (OKSAA) from 2017, until its sunset in 2019. During his time with ODVA SAA and OKSAA, Mr. Rudnick has strived to ease workloads, simplify challenging processes, and foster better communication between SAA, the VA, and the Veterans education community. Mr. Rudnick provides frequent training presentations to schools and professional organizations including Oklahoma Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (OASFAA), Oklahoma Veteran Education Specialist Association (OVESA), National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) and others.

Prior to his role in SAA, Mr. Rudnick was a School Certifying Official at the University of Oklahoma - Outreach, where he served students in online programs and at campuses worldwide. Mr. Rudnick brings with him broad experience in higher education, technology & trade, private enterprise, and volunteerism. He enjoys a scholarly interest in the laws, regulations, and the policies and procedures that govern the administration of VA education benefits. Mr. Rudnick prides himself in being part of a community of Veteran's Education Specialists and is dedicated to serving School Officials.

When he isn't focused on VA Education, Mr. Rudnick spends his time providing a free youth archery program; being the PTA President's first Gentlemen and Watch D.O.G.s coordinator at his children's school; volunteering at Kerr Scout Ranch; attending his children's dance and Special Olympics competitions; and napping.

Rebecca Ryan, NASAA Vice President, Director, Rhode Island State Approving Agency

Rebecca was hired as the first full time SAA Director in Rhode Island in 2013 and her present title is Director of Compliance and Student Protection for the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner. She is proud to have developed an active and engaged SAA in the smallest state, even serving as the host for the Summer Business and Training Meeting in 2017. Over the years, Rebecca has served as member of the Archives and History Committee, Vice Chair of the Contract/Cooperative Agreement Committee, Alternate Vice President and Vice President for the East Region. As the NASAA Vice President, she currently serves as Chair of the Conference Planning Committee and the JPRG Committee and is a longstanding member of the IHL/NCD Committee. She is the recipient of multiple Certificates of Appreciation, NASAA Star Awards and the NASAA 2022 President's Award.

Prior to joining the SAA, Rebecca spent several years working as a certifying official at Johnson & Wales University. She has a B.A. in History and American Studies and an M.A. in American and Modern European History from Providence College. She is a lifelong Rhode Island resident and most enjoys spending time with her family.

Crystal Standifer, Program Coordinator, South Carolina State Approving Agency

Crystal Standifer joined the South Carolina SAA as a Program Coordinator in December of 2021. Prior to joining the SAA, she served her country for 22 years in the United States Air Force as an Education and Training Manager. Her final active duty assignment was with the 388th Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base, Utah where she was the F-35 Maintenance Training Superintendent. She currently serves as Chair of the RBS Special Committee. She has a M.A. in Executive Leadership, B.A. in Management and two A.S degrees. She resides in South Carolina with her husband, an Air Force veteran, and is the mother of two adult sons.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Conference Planning Committee Members

Rebecca Ryan	Committee Chair - NASAA Vice President	RI
Judy Schuler	Committee Vice Chair	TX
Ryan Rishling (NV)	Committee Vice Chair	NV
Darlene Bartlett	Committee Member	WA
Susan Beckett	Committee Member	NV
Tramaine Carroll-Payne	Committee Member - NASAA Treasurer	VA
Samantha Erickson	Committee Member	OH
Ed Godfrey	Committee Member	MN
Gwen Hacker	Committee Member	KY
Cheryl Iannello	Committee Member	CA
Angela Lee	Committee Member	DC
Josee Martin	Committee Member	AZ
Andrew Pieper	Committee Member	IL
Cleo Wallace	Committee Member	LA
Jason Wehry	Committee Member	MN
Joseph Wescott	Committee Member- NASAA Legislative Chair	NC
Kelly Wuest	Committee Member	NV

Special NASAA Guests

Daniel Enos, Special Events, Ceremonies and Outreach Directorate & USMC Color Guard Team

Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport

Katie Clark, Director of Event Planning & Operations
Lydia Nure, Group Housing Coordinator
Antonio Doy, A/V Coordinator
Glenda Hernandez, Senior Food & Beverage Coordinator

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Please use the camera on your mobile device to scan the QR codes to complete the 4-question survey anonymously. Your feedback helps us to continually improve our events and grow as an association.

Feb 10th & 11th



<https://forms.gle/TPrWELk6p6yS18s19>

Feb 12th



<https://forms.gle/PcupVu7tKKLJ2KDz9>

Feb 13th



<https://forms.gle/c9idy8WSbWMPxj4f9>

DRAFT