



FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

NASAA

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

National Association of State Approving Agencies for Veterans Education and Training

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>

INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/nasaa_vetsed/

TWITTER: https://twitter.com/nasaa_vetsed

NASAA STORYTELLERS PODCAST | SPOTIFY: https://open.spotify.com/show/7lYzh1Cf3TOSpglGdf79A1?si=zy06i_v3R72rjwPszmBKoQ

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



JAMES HENLEY | PUBLIC AFFAIRS LIAISON

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 Veteran Affairs (VA) to ensure that education and training programs funded under the GI Bill® are of quality and represent value to veterans, their family members and dependents, and the U.S. taxpayers. This annual report summarizes the activities of NASAA in FY 2023.

President Myers' message discusses how more and more students are turning to online programs so that they can continue with their employment at the same time. He also mentions the importance of the State Approving Agencies to approve quality online programs. With the return of Supervisory Visits to State Approving Agencies, President Myers mentions the opportunity this will present to reestablish a stronger presence within the educational community. He also discusses the great partnership we have with the Department of Veterans Affairs and how, together, it will lead to greater success for all involved.

NASAA by the numbers shows another year of increased actions in most Core Functions for State Approving Agencies, including a 25% in Approval Actions. These numbers clearly show no slowing down for NASAA. Instead, we are finding ways to improve and increase our activity.

Looking Forward discusses how NASAA's involvement with legislation that effects veterans education and training is so important. State Approving Agencies oversight also helps provide the protection that our veteran students need from bad actors. A new form of this oversight, Risk Based Surveys, is also discussed.

Awards, Honors and Recognitions recognizes the NASAA members who performed outstanding service for the Association during FY 2023.

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

James Henley, USN(Ret), MO-SAA

Public Affairs Liaison

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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.

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>.

RETIREES

Laura Bach of the Washington State Approving Agency retired September 30, 2023 after 19 years of service

Colleen Thayer of the California State Approving Agency retired April 2023 after 30+ years of service

Michael Dommer of the Iowa State Approving Agency retired March 20, 2023 after 12 years of service

Luke Suereth of the Pennsylvania State Approving Agency retired September 22, 2023 after 6 years of service

MESSAGE FROM THE NASAA PRESIDENT



FRANK MYERS | NASAA PRESIDENT

In today's world of educational ambience and platforms, there are so many choices as to how a student can elect to receive their education from an institution. As more and more students are working and living from paycheck to paycheck, as they enroll in an educational institution to obtain their collegiate credentials, receiving an online degree, diploma, or certificate may be the best avenue for them to pursue rather than attending the traditional college campus.

Educational institutions across the nation are competing for student enrollments. We've learned from past experiences that educational training institutions seeking approval and those that are approved for veterans' education and training will, in some cases, go to great

lengths in seeking veteran enrollments. As State Approving Agencies continue to approve education institutions for independent study and distance learning, we must ensure that these institutions, whether they be for-profit, nonprofit, or public, are providing true and correct quality training to our veterans and those eligible to receive VA education benefits.

With the rebirth of Supervisory Visits, State Approving Agencies will have the opportunity to schedule and conduct site visits at educational institutions to ensure they are following both federal and state approval criteria.

Moreover, State Approving Agencies will reestablish a stronger presence within the educational community to further ensure that veterans, those eligible to receive VA education benefits, and our taxpayers' dollars, are well protected from the education pirates.

Through a collaborative effort, much has been accomplished in FY23 by the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) and the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). As a result of this collaborative effort, and under the leadership of Mr. Joseph Garcia, Executive Director, Education Service Veteran Benefits Administration, VA and NASAA have revitalized our partnership. Inasmuch, for FY24, this renewed partnership with VA will lead to greater success for educational institutions, training establishments, veterans, and those eligible to receive VA education benefits.

I encourage each SAA member to exercise greater education and training opportunities that meet the changing needs of our nation's most precious commodity, our Veterans.

It has truly been an honor to serve and work with so many amazing SAA members across the nation in FY23. I would like to thank each of you for what you do for our veterans, those eligible to receive VA education benefits, and for your trust and support in allowing me, as the NASAA President, to lead you in FY24.

Sincerely,

Frank G. Myers, Jr.

Frank G. Myers, Jr.
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 Executive Director of Education Service, make up the VA chain of command. Joseph Garcia, Executive Director of Education Service leads a dedicated staff in the VA Central Office (VACO) and the Regional Processing Offices (RPOs) to implement the full range of GI Bill® programs. Each region 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: Josh Martin, Acting - Lincoln, NE
- 3] South: Wayne Rhoades – Atlanta, GA
- 4] West: Tina Keeter - 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 risk-based surveys and to utilize Salesforce's shared online platform, E-Force, 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.



JOSHUA JACOBS

SENIOR ADVISOR FOR POLICY
PERFORMING THE DELEGABLE
DUTIES OF THE UNDER
SECRETARY FOR BENEFITS



**THE HONORABLE DENIS
RICHARD MCDONOUGH**

SECRETARY OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS FOR BENEFITS



JOSEPH GARCIA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATION SERVICE, VETERAN
BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

STAKEHOLDERS

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

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)

American Council on Education Veterans Programs (ACE)

American Legion

AMVETS National Services Foundation

Association of Veterans Education Certifying Officials (AVECO)

Council of College and Military Educators (CCME)

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES)

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Helmets to Hardhats (H2H)

HillVets

Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

MYCAA- Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts

National Association of State Directors of Veteran Affairs (NASDVA)

National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA)

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC)

State Departments of Economic Development

State Departments of Education

State Departments of Labor

State Departments of Veterans Affairs

State Higher Education Executive Officers

State Veteran Educators Organizations

Student Veterans of America (SVA)

The State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

Troops to Energy

Troops to Teachers (TTT)

United Service Organizations (USO)

U.S. Department of Defense Voluntary Education

U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Labor

Veterans Commission

Veterans Education Project (VEP)

Veterans Education Success (VES)

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Western Association of Veterans Education Specialists (WAVES)

Workforce Development

Warrior Scholar Project (WSP)Warrior Scholar Project (WSP)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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CHANGES TO VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS

On December 29, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (PL-117-328) was signed into law by the President of the United States. This law (in section 215) altered 38 USC 3501 such that Chapter 35 beneficiaries would no longer be able to receive their five months of free entitlement at secondary schools on or after August 1, 2026. The following section (section 216) created 38 USC 3691A, which contained requirements that could force a school to return to VA all monies paid (to include the housing allowance) on behalf of any beneficiary that withdrew from their program after receiving orders to enter a period of covered service.

On January 5, 2023, the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (PL-117-333) was signed into law by the President of the United States. This legislation codified the methodology used to charge educational assistance benefits, explained how entitlement periods could be extended, and provided direction for work-study payments, during emergency situations. PL-117-333 also addressed the restoration of benefits following a school closure during such emergencies. Additionally, this law also required VA to utilize a Uniform Application for the approval of new courses of education on or after October 1, 2023.

RESPONSIBLE EDUCATION MITIGATING OPTIONS AND TECHNICAL EXTENSIONS (REMOTE) ACT (PL 117-76)

The primary goal of this legislation was to extend the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 from December 21, 2021 to June 1, 2022, allowing veterans using CH 33 benefits to continue receiving full MHA for courses converted from in-person to distance education.

The REMOTE Act continued the allowance for non-accredited schools to certify distance learning courses due to the ongoing health and safety concerns of the Coronavirus from December 21, 2021 to June 1, 2022.

Additionally, the legislation included the following amendments to address some of the concerns in FY21's Isakson & Roe Act.

- Allows the VA Secretary the ability to grant a waiver of verification of enrollment (dual enrollment) for educational institutions that use a flat tuition and fee structure that would make the use of a second verification unnecessary.
- Adds limitations on the SAA's authority to disapprove courses when schools pay for the recruitment of foreign students residing in foreign countries who are not eligible to receive Federal student assistance. as long as the recruitments meet the regulations and guidance of the Department of Education.
- Clarifies the "rounding out" rule for eligible veterans who are pursuing a program of education on a less than a half-time basis during their last semester, term, or academic period prior to completing the program of education. If the veteran is enrolled in, or has completed, every course offered by the program of education they can enroll in additional courses that are not required for the program and these courses can be certified in order for the beneficiary to collect benefits at the full-time rate of pursuit.

ENSURING THE BEST SCHOOLS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2022 (PL 117-174)

Educational institutions that meet the following requirements are exempt from submitting the 85/15 reports to the VA.

(A) The majority of courses offered by the educational institution are approved under section 3672 or 3675 of Title 38 and

(B) the total number of veterans and persons receiving assistance under Title 38 or under chapter 1606 of Title 10 who are enrolled in the school equals 35 percent or less of the total student enrollment at such institution.
or

(i) the majority of courses offered by the educational institution are approved under section 3676 of Title 38; and

(ii) the total number of veterans and persons receiving assistance under Title 38 or chapter 1606 Title 10 who are enrolled in the school equals 35 percent or less of the total student enrollment.

However, on a case by case basis, the Secretary may require an 85/15 report if the Secretary has reason to believe that the enrollment of veterans may be in excess of 85 percent of the total student enrollment in a course of study.

The 35% exemption is done on a biennial basis to verify that the school continues meeting the requirements.

Additionally, the 85/15 reporting requirements do not apply in programs of education for which fewer than 10 students are having all or part of their tuition, fees, or other charges paid to or for them by the educational institution or by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 75th 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 75 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 an 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.

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.



East Region NASAA Members in Stowe, Vermont

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 TESTIFIES BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

On September 20, 2023, the NASAA Legislative Director, Dr. Joseph W. Wescott II, accompanied by the NASAA President, Frank Myers, testified before the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Committee on Veterans' Affairs United States House of Representatives on the subject of "Less is More: The Impact of Bureaucratic Red Tape on Veterans Education Benefits." Included among the many points discussed by NASAA were the past and present role of the State Approving Agencies, NASAA's recently improved partnership with VA, difficulties experienced by the facilities as well as NASAA during the initial rollout of Risk-Based Surveys, unnecessary red tape and bureaucratic overreach, and NASAA's hope for a real partnership with VA and a renewed focus on veteran success. In addition to the testimony offered by NASAA, Joseph Garcia, Director of Education Services, Dr. Jan Del Signore, President of the National Association of Veterans Program Administrators, Joe Rasmussen, Veteran Services Director with the University of Wisconsin – Madison, Anne H. Meehan, Assistant Vice President of Government Relations with the American Council on Education, and William Hubbard, Vice President for Veterans & Military Policy at Veterans Education Success, also testified before the subcommittee.

It should be noted that, shortly after the hearing on September 20, 2023, the VA began discussing a mid-year reduction in the number of Risk-Based Surveys that they had assigned to the State Approving Agencies for Fiscal Year 2024.



NASAA Members & VA Partners in Stowe, Vermont

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.

NASAA also works with our partners in education, such as the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) and student groups, such as Student Veterans of America.

December 21, 2021 saw the passing of the Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions (REMOTE) Act (PL-177-76). The Act extended the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 from December 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022.

Highlights include:

- ❖ Veterans using CH 33 benefits to continued receiving full MHA for courses converted from in-person to distance education.
- ❖ Continued the allowance for non-accredited schools to certify distance learning courses due to the ongoing health and safety concerns of the Coronavirus.
- ❖ Adds limitations on the SAA's authority to disapprove courses when schools pay for the recruitment of foreign students residing in foreign countries who are not eligible to receive Federal student assistance.
- ❖ Institutions that are approved under section 3672, 3675, or 3676 of Title 38 and the total number of veteran beneficiaries enrolled in the school equals 35 percent or less of the total student enrollment at such institution.
- ❖ Additionally, the 85/15 reporting requirements do not apply in programs of education for which fewer than 10 students are having all or part of their tuition, fees, or other charges paid to or for them by the educational institution or by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- ❖ The 35% exemption is done on a biennial basis to verify that the school continues meeting the requirements.



NASAA Executive Board in Washington DC

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.

RISK BASED SURVEYS VISITS TO SCHOOLS AND TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS:

Conduct on-site visits to approved educational institutions, training establishments, and flight schools to assess various legislative and Department determined risk factors, as well as, continued compliance with appropriate state and federal laws and VA regulations. The on-site visit is a holistic review consisting of reviews of policies and practices of the institution, to include 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.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT COMPLIANCE:

Fulfill all VA cooperative 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.



Central Region NASAA Members in Stowe, Vermont

NASAA 2022-23

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

Frank Myers (SC)	President	Ed Godfrey (MN)	Central Region Vice President
Rebecca Ryan (RI)	Vice President	Everette Jackson (MD)	East Region Vice President
John Murray (WA)	Secretary	Lily Snyder (GA)	South Region Vice President
Tramaine Carroll-Payne (VA)	Treasurer	Katherine Snyder (NM)	Western Region Vice President
Chris Garcia (TX)	Financial Secretary	Chris Kratochvil (ND)	Central Region Alternate
Everette Jackson (MD)	Judge Advocate	Emily Butler (PA)	East Region Alternate
James Henley (MO)	Public Affairs Liaison	Torrence Joseph (LA)	South Region Alternate
Joseph Wescott (NC)	Legislative Director	Cheryl Iannello (CA)	West Region Alternate

COMMITTEE CHAIRS COMMITTEE

Apprenticeship and OJT Committee
Archives and History
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

CHAIR

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Cheryl Iannello (CA)
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Rachael Summary (MO)
Dan Wellman (IL)
Ken Hanson (TN)
Bill Schroeder (OH)



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, Risk-Based Surveys, other visit activity, technical assistance, outreach, and liaison actions.

FY2023 brought a 25% increase in Approval Actions from FY2022. Most other Core Functions had increased activity for FY2023.

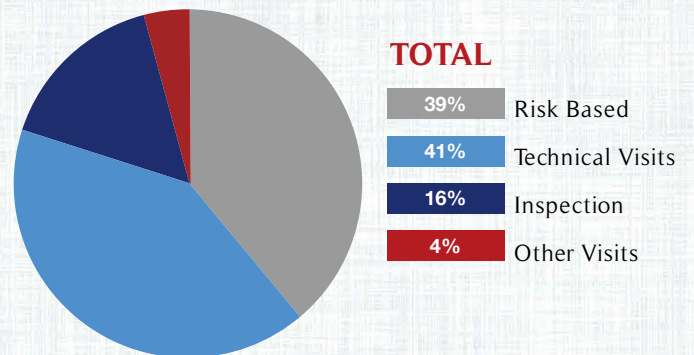
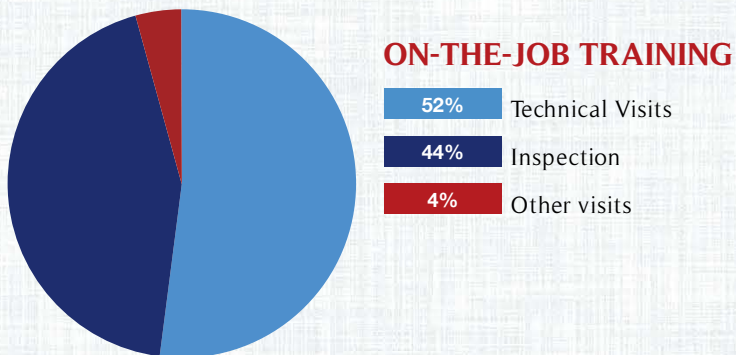
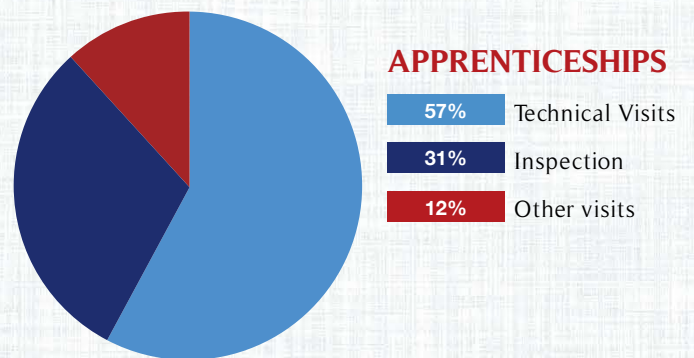
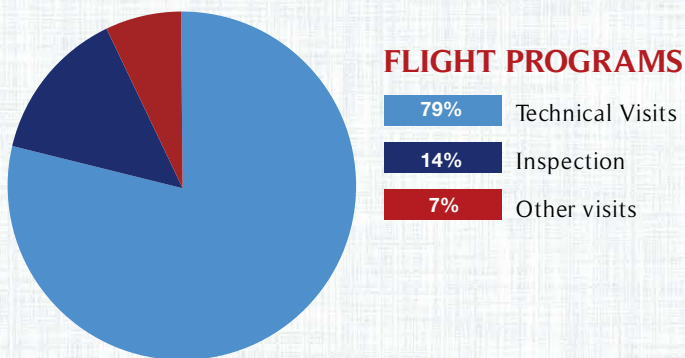
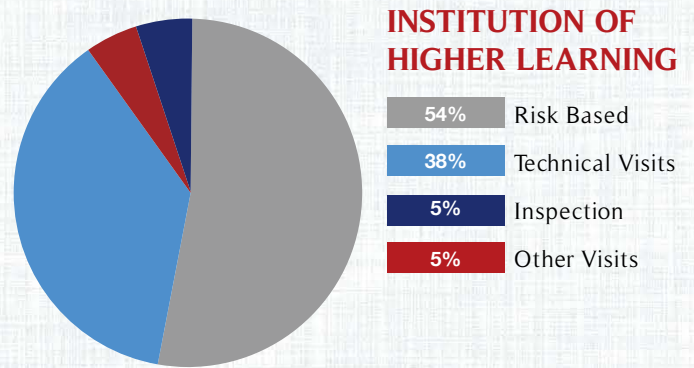
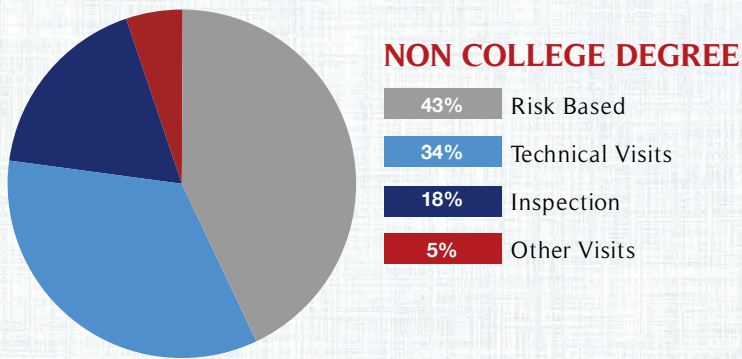
Total approval actions number 379,563 when including the 22,033 disapproval actions reported in FY 2023. Total reported actions for all core functions equal 489,585 for FY 2023.

YEAR	TYPE OF FACILITY	IHL	NCD	APP	OJT	CORR	FLT	LIC/CERT
2023	Technical Assistance Actions	40,038	28,036	5,713	6,458	47	1,716	315
2022	Technical Assistance Actions	46,038	29,897	4,575	6,829	37	2,101	223
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

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: FY2020-FY2023 quarterly reports
provided to NASAA & VA by SAAs*

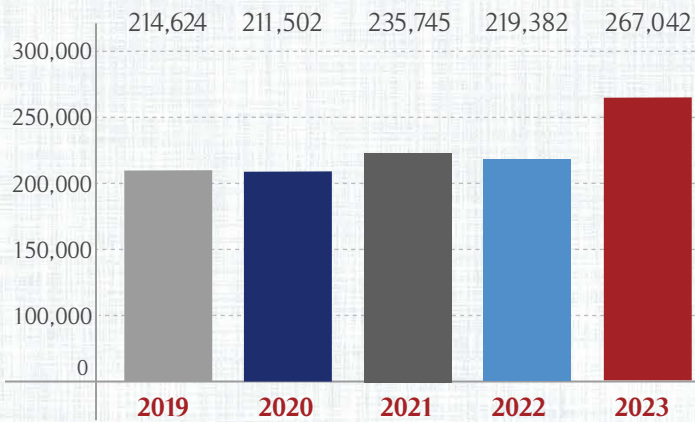




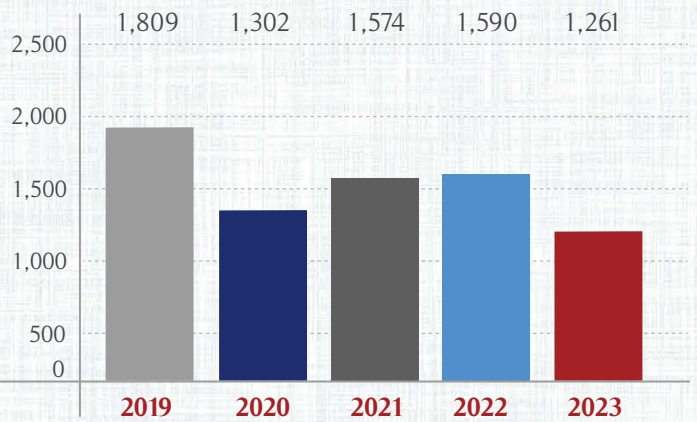
Source: FY2023 quarterly reports provided to NASAA & VA by SAAs

2019-2023 COMPARISON

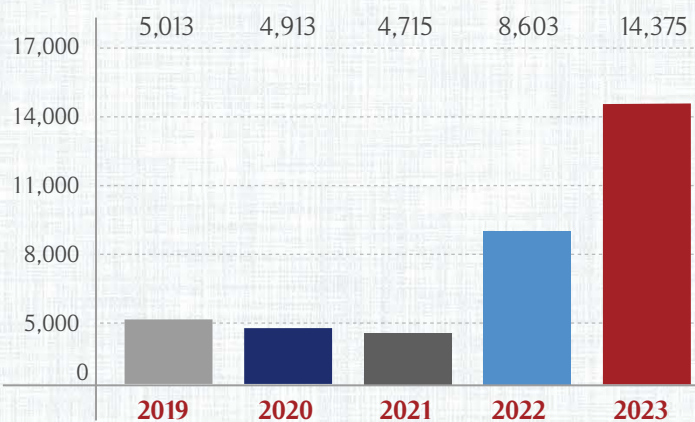
APPROVALS



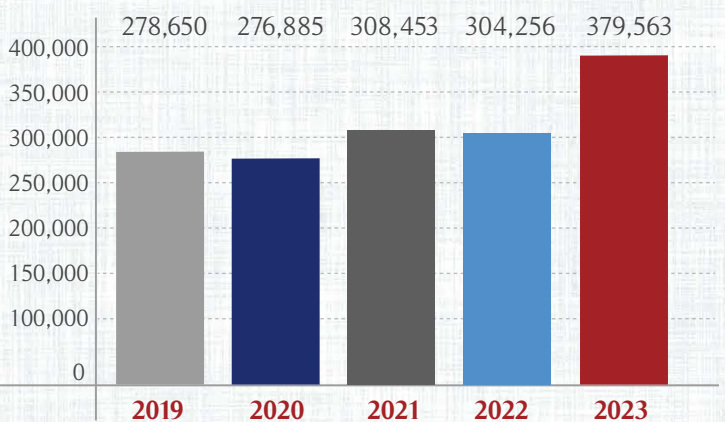
RISK BASED SURVEYS*



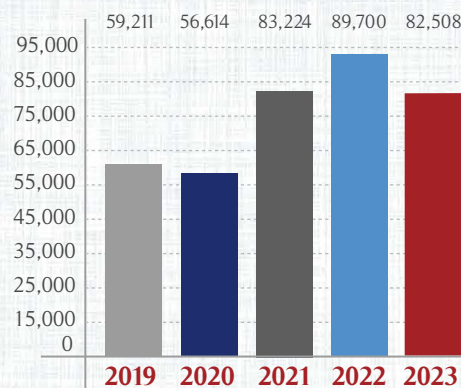
OUTREACH



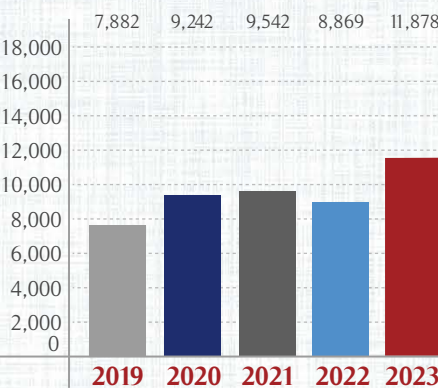
TOTAL APPROVAL ACTIONS



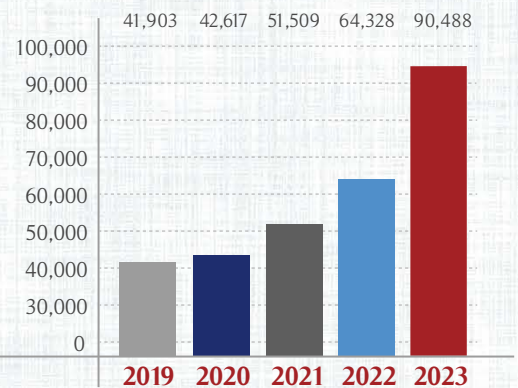
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIONS



LIAISON



OTHER APPROVAL ACTIONS



* As of FY2023, SAAs were tasked with Risk Based Surveys and no longer conducted Compliance Surveys.

NASAA REGIONS

WEST

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

CENTRAL

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

SOUTH

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
Puerto Rico
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

EAST

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

COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED ANNUALLY BY THE PRESIDENT

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



NASAA President and Regional Vice Presidents at Stowe, Vermont

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

APPRENTICESHIP AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING (OJT) COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1] Review and make recommendation on regulatory and procedural changes affecting the approval and supervision of Apprenticeship and On-The-Job Training Programs; seek review with Executive Board
- 2] Advise the Chair of the Legislative Committee on matters which the Committee determines 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

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

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND NON COLLEGE DEGREE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

FLIGHT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1] Review and make recommendations on regulatory and procedural changes affecting the approval and supervision of Flight Training Programs
- 2] Advise the Chair of the Legislative Committee on matters the Committee determines are within the purview of this Committee
- 3] Prepare reports and recommendations for submission to the Executive Board and Association

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1] Develop, maintain, publish, and manage the Legislative Agenda for the Association; seek review 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
- 7] Draft proposed legislation pertinent to State Approving Agency roles and responsibilities and submit to the President for action

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1] Exercise oversight for the training and education of professional State Approving Agency 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 specific activities
 - B] The recommendation of procedures in which education and training on a continuing basis can become a part of the annual evaluation process, be recognized in performance standards and professional qualification, and become a component of the annual contract
- 5] Represent the Association in meetings 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 of the Association



West Region NASAA Member in Stowe, Vermont

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

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, as a minimum, the following capabilities:
Training, News group / List serve, 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 and update a viable technology plan to be the blueprint for the acquisition and use of existing and future technologies

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

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1] Plan and develop agendas and programs for the Annual, Midwinter and 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
- 5] Consult with the Alumni Group Coordinator to prepare and coordinate activities for Alumni Group members and extend invitation to attend the Annual Business and Training Meeting

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 the amendments or revisions 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

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] Refer issues or problems to the President and Executive Board, as needed
- 4] Conduct a Sustaining Membership Drive when authorized by the Executive Board and the Association, and present certificates to Sustaining Members at the Annual Business and Training Meeting
- 5] Coordinate database of NASAA Alumni members; encourage Alumni to become members and participate in Association activities
- 6] Serve as liaison to the Alumni Group Coordinator to provide support for, and coordination with, the Alumni Group

PAST PRESIDENTS 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 other 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

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1] Compile and maintain the Archive for documents and records; develop, maintain and document the History for the Association; provide a secured 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

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'



NASAA President Frank Myers, Jon Clark, and NASAA Legislative Director Joe Wescott

FY 2023 NASAA MOMENTS



Former South RVP Cleo Wallace (LA) & NASAA President Frank Myers (SC)



U.S. Representative Derrick Van Orden (WI) & NASAA President Frank Myers (SC)



Robert Haley (ME) & Former East RVP Jenn St. Jean (VT)



VA Secretary Denis McDonough & Maine SAA



Janice Fisher (VACO) & NASAA President Frank Myers (SC)



Joseph Garcia Executive Director of Education Service & Robert Kohutek (UT)



Dan Wellman (IL), NASAA President Frank Myers (SC), and Yolanda Norris, (CA)



Andrew Martin (WI) & NASAA President Frank Myers (SC)

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHT EVENTS

OCTOBER

NASAA National Training Institute (NTI) in Phoenix, AZ

FEBRUARY

NASAA Midwinter Conference and Training in Washington, DC
PACT ACT Resource Fair in Bangor, Maine

MARCH

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) Vietnam War 50th Commemoration Event at River Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

APRIL

Georgia Association of Veteran Certifying Officials (GAVCO) Conference in Young Harris, Georgia
Arizona Veterans Program Association (ACPA) Conference at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Arizona

JUNE

2023 Florida Association of Veterans Education Specialists (FAVES) Annual SCO Conference in St. Pete Beach, Florida
IHL SCO Training Session at Fitchburg State University in Fitchburg, Massachusetts

JULY

Association of Veterans Education Certifying Officials (AVECO) Conference in St. Louis, Missouri
Western Association of Veteran Education Specialists (WAVES) Conference, Reno, Nevada
Heritage Monument Dedication in honor of African-American service members at the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

AUGUST

PACT Act Resource Fair in Rumford, Maine
NASAA Summer Business Meeting in Stowe, Vermont

SEPTEMBER

2023 Veterans Stand Down at VA Home in Rocky Hill, Connecticut

LOOKING FORWARD, WE MUST NOT FORGET THE PAST

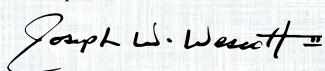
PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF THE GI BILL – OUR MOST SOLEMN AND SIGNIFICANT MISSION

NASAA has long been at the forefront of working for legislation that expands Veterans choices in higher education and training, while ensuring that we safeguard the GI Bill® and the quality of the programs we approved. As one former president was fond of saying of SAAs, “We are the engineers of excellence and the gatekeepers of quality.” As such, over the past decade, whether it was the passage of Isakson and Roe, the GI Bill Transparency Act, the Valor Act or any other bill involving veterans education and training, NASAA was usually at the table helping Congress and the VSO community better understand how program approval protects veterans from substandard programs/ training and how careful SAA oversight ensures bad actors do not take advantage of our student veterans. We continue to take our roles in this area, approving quality programs that lead to good paying jobs and better futures for our veterans while at the same time providing oversight to institutions to ensure they remain in compliance with federal and state requirements.

Last, State Approving Agencies began performing Risk Based Surveys at institutions with programs approved for the GI Bill. This new model of oversight, developed by NASAA with funding from the Lumina Foundation and at the behest of Congress, looks at meaningful metrics and outcomes to determine the quality of programs. This method of oversight is programmatic, veteran centric and outcome based. And designed in such a way that SAAs should be able to find schools whose programs are at risk, while at the same time sharing with other institutions best practices that will only better the chances of student veteran success. Next year we will continue to refine and enhance this new oversight method.

In Congress, we will continue to work with our friends and colleagues on the Hill, congressional staff and our VSO allies, to expand and enhance the programs available under the GI Bill. We hope to advance legislation to improve Apprenticeship and OJT participation and outcomes, encourage new programs in vocational and technical fields such as aviation science and cybersecurity training and shore up the safeguards in place to protect our student veterans. Likewise, we will take the lessons learned during the Covid pandemic and possibly expand education and training available on-line, while ensuring quality through more robust approval requirements and the oversight provided by the new RBS model. And in the years to come, SAAs will continue to lean forward to protect our nation’s most precious resources, our veterans, their families and their futures.

Joseph W. Wescott II



NASAA Legislative Director



Past NASAA Presidents Mike Cruiscolo (CT), Laura Bach (WA), Dan Wellman (IL), Joe Wescott (NC) with current NASAA President Frank Myers (SC)

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 FY23 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 29 SAAs in state veteran affairs agencies, 14 in state higher education agencies, 6 in state post-secondary education agencies, 2 in elementary and secondary education agencies, and 2 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

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
Arizona State Approving Agency
Jeff Escobar: SAA Director
3839 North 3rd Street, Suite 209
Phoenix, AZ 85012
jescobar@azdvs.gov
Phone: 602-255- 5395
Fax: 602-297-667

ARKANSAS

Arkansas State Approving
Agency for Veterans Training
Arkansas Department of
Workforce Education
Bill Dedner: Program Manager
101 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 300
Little Rock, AR 72201
bill.dedner@adhe.edu
Phone: 501- 324-9473
Fax: 501-324-9610

CALIFORNIA

California State Approving Agency
for Veterans Education (CSAAVE)
Cheryl Iannello: Assistant
Deputy Secretary Chief of Private
Postsecondary Education
1227 O Street, Ste. 500
Sacramento, CA 95814
cheryl.iannello@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
Michael.Criscuolo@ct.gov
Phone: 860-947-1816
Fax: 860-947-1310

DELAWARE

Delaware State Approving Agency
Patricia Keeton: Director, SAA
35 Commerce Way
Dover, DE 19904
patricia.keeton@doe.k12.de.us
Phone: 302-8573313
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

State Approving Agency
Georgia Department of
Veterans Service
Bobby Davis: Executive Director
Floyd Veterans Memorial Bldg.,
Suite E-970
Atlanta, GA 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,
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Honolulu, HI 96816
curtis.washburn@hawaii.edu
Phone: 808-956-2236

IDAHO

Idaho Division of Veterans
Services, Idaho State
Approving Agency
Paul Spannkebel: SAA Director
351 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702
paul.spannkebel@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, IL 62794-9432
Dan.wellman@illinois.gov
Phone: 217-782-7838
Fax: 217- 524-8394

INDIANA

Indiana Department of
Veterans Affairs
Amber Mertens:
SAA Director
777 North Meridian Street,
Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2738
amertens@dva.IN.gov
Phone: 317-234-6062
Fax: 317-234-8744

IOWA

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

KANSAS

Kansas Commission on Veterans'
Affairs Office
Eric Rohleder: SAA Director
Jayhawk Towers
700 Southwest Jackson Street,
Ste. 1004
Topeka, KS 666033714
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
Fax: 859-256-3123

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Department
of Veterans Affairs
Cleophus Wallace: Director
602 North 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
Eileen Miazga: Director
117 State House Station
Augusta, MA 04333-0117
eileen.miazga@maine.gov
Phone: 207-430-6033

MARYLAND

Maryland Higher
Education Commission
Everette Jackson, Jr.: Associate
Director of Veterans Affairs
6 N. Liberty Street,
10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
everettjackson@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
goconnor@dhe.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
201 N. Washington Square,
3rd Floor
Lansing, MI 48913
dunklins@michigan.gov
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MINNESOTA

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

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Veterans Affairs
Mississippi State Approving Agency
Cathy McGruder-Jones: Division
Director
600 North Street, Suite 200
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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
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 5962 4-1728
saa@mt.gov
Phone: 406-444-4122
Fax: 406-444-3037

NEBRASKA

Private Postsecondary Career
Schools & Veterans Education
Nebraska Department of Education
Marisol Birth: Director
500 S. 84th St. 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611
marisol.birth@nebraska.gov
Phone: 402- 326-4519
Fax: 402- 560-0268

NEVADA

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Department of Veterans Affairs
Federal & State Approvals Team
New Hampshire SAA
nh saa.approvals@va.gov

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
Katherine Snyder: SAA Director
4801 Indian School Road, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
katherine.snyder@state.nm.us
Phone: 505-280-1047

NEW YORK

Bureau of Veterans Education
William Clarke: Veterans Education
Program Manager
2 Empire State Plaza,
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Phone: 518-474-7606
Fax: 518-474-5583

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

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina State
Approving Agency
Timothy D. Freeman:
Executive Director
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Research Triangle Park,
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tdfreeman@northcarolina.edu
Phone: 919-237-7932

NORTH DAKOTA

State Approving Agency
ND Department of Veterans Affairs
Chris Kratochvil: Director
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South Region NASAA Members in Stowe, Vermont

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 FY2023 year!



Laura Bach (WA) and Frank Myers, NASAA President (SC)

NASAA LIFETIME LEADERSHIP AWARD

Laura Bach (WA)
Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.)

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Andrew Martin (WI)
Cleophus Wallace (LA)

NASAA SERVICE AWARD

Jon Clark

STAR AWARDS

Laura Bach (WA)
Marisol Birth (NE)
Tramaine Carroll-Payne (VA)
Lisa Deneen (OR)
Shane Ferebee (CA)
Janice Fisher (USDVA)
Chris Garcia (TX)
Ed Godfrey (MN)
Gwen Hacker (KY)
Robert Haley (ME)
James Henley (MO)
Michelle Hill (VA)
John Hose (MO)
Everette Jackson (MD)
Torrence Joseph (LA)

Michael Marks (USDVA)
John Murray (WA)
Deb O'Neil (WA)
Andy Pieper (IL)
Stephen Rudnick (OK)
Rebecca Ryan (RI)
David Salgado (TX)
Kathy Snyder (NM)
Lily Snyder (GA)
Jennifer St. Jean (VT)
Judy Schuler (TX)
Crystal Standifer (SC)
Don Sweeney (ME)
Cleophus Wallace (LA)
Dan Wellman (IL)
Joe Westcott (NC)
Kathleen Vonk (NY)

2023 MIDWINTER BUSINESS & TRAINING MEETING CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:

Laura Bach (WA)
Tramaine Carroll-Payne (VA)
Kaleb Cornett (KY)
Leanna DeKing (AZ)
Terasita Edwards (DC)
Tim Fisher (WY)

Michael Flynn (MO)
Kevin Glears (SC)
Ken Hanson (TN)
Brigette Hayes (KS)
Everette Jackson (MD)
Torrence Joseph (LA)
Tara Monk (TX)
Frank Myers (SC)
Andy Pieper (IL)
Lex Ann Roach (NE)
Rebecca Ryan (RI)
David Salgado (TX)
Karol Scheetz (OH)
Ronnie Smith (KY)
Kathy Snyder (NM)
Crystal Standifer (SC)
Maia Turner (ME)

2023 SUMMER BUSINESS & TRAINING MEETING CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:

Laura Bach (WA)
Tramaine Carroll-Payne (VA)
Michael Criscuolo (CT)
Lisa Deneen (OR)
Myra Dollar (CO)
Bill Dwigins (TX)
Samantha Erickson (OH)

Ed Godfrey (MN)
Gwen Hacker (KY)
Wayne Holmes (MD)
Cheryl Iannello (CA)
Everette Jackson (MD)
Theodore Jimenez (CO)
Patti Keaton (DE)
Angela Lee (DC)
Andrew Martin (WI)
Josee Martin (AZ)
Jusup McChesney (PA)
Eileen Miazga (ME)
Tara Monk (TX)
Andy Pieper (IL)
Olayta Rigsby (MD)
David Salgado (TX)
Judy Schuler (TX)
Kathy Snyder (NM)
Jennifer St. Jean (VT)
Crystal Standifer (SC)
Laura Taylor (AL)
Jose Toro (FL)
Cleophus Wallace (LA)
George O'Connor (MA)
Kathleen Vonk (NY)
Joe Westcott (NC)
Denise Verchimak (PA)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



FRANK MYERS
PRESIDENT



MICHAEL CRISCUOLO
IMMEDIATE PAST
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**JOSEPH
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VICE PRESIDENT



**EVERETTE
JACKSON JR.**
EAST REGION
VICE PRESIDENT



**LILY
SNYDER**
SOUTH REGION
VICE PRESIDENT

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANNIE WALKER



In Memoriam

This Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Annie Walker, former Deputy Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Affairs and a member of NASAA for well over three decades. Annie served as President from 2019 until 2021. During her presidency, indeed throughout her life, this former Army drill sergeant was a tireless worker for Veterans and their families in her beloved Virginia and throughout the nation.

As President, Annie was a bold visionary and true servant leader. During her two terms, NASAA signed its first Memorandum of Understanding with the National Association of State Departments of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA), which established this important alliance for veterans and their families which remains even stronger today. Also during her Presidency, Annie oversaw the first national grant received by NASAA, almost half a million dollars that was used to establish a new national model of oversight which looks at meaningful measures and objectives to evaluate program quality across the nation, today's all important Risk Based Reviews. Finally, Annie led NASAA and its member SAAs into and through the uncharted waters of the COVID-19 pandemic. As NASAA held its first ever virtual conference, Annie was fearless in her support of the new role of SAAs and her leadership helped keep the doors open of these state agencies by embracing online methods of delivery and supporting our legislative efforts to ensure Veterans could continue to use their benefits in the new educational environment.

Her vision and leadership through difficult days and challenging times, will not be forgotten. And her example of selfless service will guide us in the decades that come. Thank you President Annie Walker. This one is for you!

Jospeh Wescott, NASAA Legislative Director, North Carolina SAA

I've had the pleasure to know and work with a great person and mentor, Annie Walker, NASAA's Past President, for almost two decades. Annie was a vibrant and a dedicated member in NASAA. Annie always answered my telephone calls to provide advice or just as a listening ear. I am deeply saddened by the loss of Annie. I will miss her radiant smile but I know that she is in a better place where there's no more pain, and no more sorrows. The memories that we've shared throughout the years will live on and for that, I thank you Annie. God has called his warrior home to be with him. We will see each other again where the streets are paved with gold. Rest in peace Annie, rest in peace...

Frank Myers, NASAA President

Annie was a brilliant and visionary leader who achieved national recognition for her work in the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA). She served several years in leadership positions in NASAA including two years as NASAA's President. She was passionate about providing quality education and training to our nation's veterans and eligible persons who use their GI Bill® educational benefits. We will long remember Annie's energy, tenacity and ability to solve complex issues.

Annie was the one I could always depend on to catch errors buried deep in spreadsheets. She would always assist me during my many years serving as the NASAA South Region VP, catching any missed topics during our regional meetings. Annie was my mentor and my friend who helped me recognize my potential and growth as a NASAA professional.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Annie's family, as we stand in solidarity to support them during this time of mourning. Annie, thank you and now it is time for you to take your eternal rest.

Cleo Wallace, Director, Louisiana State Approving Agency (SAA)

Ms. Annie Walker joined the Virginia Department of Education in 2004 as an Education Specialist for the State Approving Agency. When the SAA program was moved to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services in 2005, she then began her 18-year career with DVS. She officially retired 1 November 2023.

Additionally, Annie had a hand in the creation, launching, success and leadership of many of DVS' most successful programs including the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program, the Military Medics & Corpsmen (MMAC) Program, the Virginia Women Veterans Program, the Military Spouse Support Initiative, the Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) Program, and more.

For more on Annie's journey visit "My Stories" NASAA podcast. Listen to Annie in her own words about her life after the military, NASAA and family. <https://open.spotify.com/episode/7dzTlHvH9oe0LWLdD8uhd?si=d581cc9670ea4af1&nd=1&dlsi=3ddc65deec3472f>





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