Vietnam Veterans of America  
2024 National Leadership & Education Conference  
Silver Legacy Resort, Reno, Nevada

**TUESDAY, (August 20, 2024)**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>8:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Situation Room</td>
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<td>8:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>VVA/Media Office</td>
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<td>8:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>AVVA Office</td>
<td>Silver Baron B</td>
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<td>8:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>Pre-Registration only</td>
<td>Gold/Silver Rooms</td>
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<td>9:00am – 11:59am</td>
<td>CSCP Meeting</td>
<td>Silver Baron D/E</td>
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<td>9:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Veterans Mall</td>
<td>Expo A</td>
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<td>1:00pm – 5:00pm</td>
<td>On-site registration</td>
<td>Gold/Silver Rooms</td>
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<td>4:00pm – 6:00pm</td>
<td>BOD Meeting</td>
<td>Silver Baron A</td>
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<td>6:00pm – 9:00pm</td>
<td>Welcome Home Party</td>
<td>Mandalay Ball Room</td>
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<td>(Food service 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Entertainment 7:30pm – 9:00pm)</td>
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**WEDNESDAY, (August 21, 2024)**

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<td>8:00am – 5:00pm</td>
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<td>8:00am – 6:00pm</td>
<td>Registration (closed during opening ceremony)</td>
<td>Gold/Silver Rooms</td>
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<td>8:45am – 10:30am</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
<td>Expo B</td>
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Invocation – Michael L. Swift PRP, CPP-T, VVA Parliamentarian  
Presentation of Colors – VVA Chapter 989  
National Anthem –  
Pledge of Allegiance – Hotel employees (Veterans)  
Introduction of VVA Officers  
Welcome – Jack McManus, VVA President  
Welcome – Nevada State Council President  
Welcome – Sharon Hobbs, AVVA President  
Welcome – Reno VA (TBD)  
Keynote Speaker –Brittanie Ngo
Announcements – Wes Guidry, Director of Meetings

11:00am – 5:00pm  Veterans Mall  Expo A

11:00am – 12:30pm  Healthcare in the Aging Veteran  Expo B

The purpose of the lecture is to improve your health and well being by explaining the different VA services available to you. The information is to empower the Veteran and caregiver that the future does not have to be so uncertain if you are proactive in your decisions. Veterans, Spouses & Caregivers are encouraged to attend

Presenter: Dr. Molly McGaughey, Charles George VA Medical Center

12:30pm – 1:45pm  VVA/AVVA Officers Luncheon  Expo C

Open to Past or Present, Chapter or State Council Officers & Board Members + Guests
(Advanced Tickets Required!)

2:00pm – 3:30pm  Veterans and Aging: What you need to know about Elder Law  Silver Baron 1-6

As we age, we need to know what we can do to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our assets. In this seminar you will learn about powers of attorney (for healthcare and asset management); different trusts and their benefits and costs; what benefits the VA has available to support you and your family; and what you can do now to ready yourselves for an uncertain future.

Presenter: Richard P. Schulze, Esq

2:00pm – 3:30pm  Prioritizing the Issue of the Vietnam War Missing  Silver Baron A

Presentation of the history of the POW/MIA issue including educational awareness and public education.

Presenters: Grant T. Coates, Chairman, VVA POW/MIA Committee
Mokie Porter, VVA Director of Communications

2:00pm – 3:30pm  Veterans Incarcerated  Silver Baron D/E

(1) Veteran Treatment Courts, Veterans Incarcerated, and Veterans Released, how you can mentor. (2) Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The heavy weights soldiers carry home.

Presenters: Dominick Yezzo, Esq, Chairman, VVA VINJUS committee
Gary Newman, Committee Member, VVA VINJUS committee
Justin Latini, Committee Member, VVA VINJUS committee

3:45pm – 5:15pm  Ask a Top Gun VSO  Silver Baron 1-6
VSOs available to answer questions from VVA/AVVA conference attendees. A panel of Senior VSOs answering general questions from the audience. No personal cases will be discussed as the VSOs can be contacted separately for those matters.

Presenters: Marc McCabe, Moderator, VVA Special Advisor Veterans Services  
Tom Jones, VVA Service Officer, Ohio  
Jeannie Ebert, VVA Service Officer, Washington State  
Steve Schulz, VVA Service Officer, Massachusetts  
Becky McFarlane, VVA Service Officer, Michigan  
Nick Easterling, VVA Service Officer, Michigan

3:45pm – 5:15pm  
Spousal & Survivor Benefits  
Silver Baron A

As veterans age, spouses and families need to be aware of the benefits due them now and after their Veteran passes. This seminar will be a two-step educational meeting. (1) To provide guidelines on how chapters may conduct community benefit meetings. (2) The VSO will end our session with information and updates on current benefits.

Presenters: Sharon Hobbs, AVVA President  
Beverly Pounds, Co-Chair of S&S Committee  
Jennifer Ellis, Co-Chair of S&S Committee

3:45pm – 5:15pm  
What Veterans need to know about Toxic Exposure and Health Consequences  
Silver Baron D/E

Review of the PACT ACT, updated legislative changes for toxic exposure, and latest health consequences for men and women veterans and their families.

Presenters: Sandie Wilson, Chairman, VVA Agent Orange Committee  
Dr. Linda Schwartz, Special Advisor to the President  
Kate O’Hare-Palmer, Chairman, VVA Women Veterans Committee

THURSDAY, (August 22, 2024)

8:00am – 1:00pm  
Situation Room  
Platinum Room

8:00am – 1:00pm  
VVA/Media Office  
Bronze Room

8:00am – 12:15:00pm  
AVVA Office  
Silver Baron B

8:00am – 1:00pm  
Registration  
Gold/Silver Rooms

9:00am – 12:00pm  
Veterans Mall  
Expo A

9:00am – 10:30am  
How to become an effective Legislative Advocate  
Silver Baron 1-6
The seminar is a nuts and bolts hand on experience where you will learn the basic procedures of working with your local elected officials including the “Do’s” and “Don'ts”

Presenter: Felix “Pete” Peterson, Chairman, VVA Government Affairs Committee

9:00am – 10:30am  Provisions in the VVA Constitution that control State Council and Chapter Structures.  Silver Baron A

The seminar will review the VVA Constitution and examine the rules stating the specific obligations the VVA, the Chapters, and the State Councils have toward each other. This seminar addresses the requirement of amending the Chapter’s governing documents in the event the Chapter is no longer chartered by the VVA. Every is encouraged to ask questions and discuss the effects of no longer having a VVA Chapter.

Presenters: Leslie DeLong RP, Chairman, VVA Constitution Committee
Michael L. Swift PRP, CPP-T, VVA Parliamentarian

9:00am – 10:30am  Suicide Prevention  Silver Baron D/E

Methods, tools and techniques for disrupting suicide in Veterans, family member and friends.

Presenter: Thomas C. Hall PhD, Chairman, VVA PTSD/Substance Abuse Committee

10:45am – 12:15pm  The Homeless Aging Veteran  Silver Baron 1-6

A look at what the VA is providing for the Aging Homeless Veterans. We will also look at what local and State services are needed and provided to this most fragile group of homeless Veterans. The cutting of programs is providing a most desperate situation for all Veterans experiencing homelessness.

Presenter: Sandy Miller, Chairman, VVA Homeless Veterans Committee

10:45am – 12:15pm  Basic Parliamentary Procedures, is it true? Frequently Asked Questions  Silver Baron A

This seminar will practice mock meetings presiding and conducting business in increasingly more complex situations using proper parliamentary procedures. There will be an open forum to discuss a series of questions of truth and frequently asked questions both with citations, and a discussion on the relationship between a set of convention rules and Internet rules.

Presenters: Michael L. Swift PRP, CPP-T, VVA Parliamentarian
Leslie DeLong RP, Chairman, VVA Constitution Committee

10:45am – 12:15pm  VA Caregivers Support Program  Silver Baron D/E

Presentation will be an overall review which includes the general caregivers support services that are available to enrolled veterans and the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers that involves a monthly stipend.
Presenters:

12:15pm – 2:00pm  AVVA Luncheon  Expo C
Everyone is invited, VVA & AVVVA
(Advanced Tickets Required!)

12:15pm until  Free Afternoon to enjoy the area

2:00pm  AVVA Annual Meeting  Expo C

2:00pm – 3:30pm  Korean VVA Honorary members meeting  Silver Baron D/E

2:00pm until  The Movie “Sound of Freedom”  Silver Baron A

The incredible true story of a former government agent turned vigilante who embarks on a dangerous mission to rescue hundreds of children from sex traffickers (2 hrs. 11 min)

Presented by: Veterans against Drugs

FRIDAY, (August 23, 2024)

7:00am – 7:30am  POW/MIA Ceremony  Expo B

8:00am – 5:00pm  Situation Room  Platinum Room
8:00am – 5:00pm  VVA/Media Office  Bronze Room
8:00am – 5:00pm  AVVA Office  Silver Baron B
8:00am – 5:00pm  Registration  Gold/Silver Rooms
9:00am – 5:00pm  Veterans Mall  Expo A

9:00am – 10:30am  Veterans Benefits VSO Advanced Training
Morning Sessions (1 of 2)  Silver Baron 1-6
(Admission limited to VVA Veteran Service Officers only)

VSOs accredited by VVA will be given training on 1) The Caregiver Program including who qualifies, how to file, and how to appeal; 2) Claim sharks – information about predatory claim companies, how to help Veterans identify them, and resources to recover stolen benefits; 3) The Camp LeJeune Justice Act – how to help claimants decide whether to file a claim and overview of the process; 4) The Appeal Process – proper form use, deadlines, and when to choose a Supplemental Claim, Higher Level Review, and Notice of Disagreement (Direct, Evidence, or Hearing)

Presenters: Attorney from Bergmann and Moore, LLC
Marc McCabe, VVA Special Advisor Veterans Services
9:00am – 10:30am  You have been Elected President – Now what? Silver Baron A

This seminar will provide information to New/Current Chapter and State Council Presidents on duties of being President. Includes an understanding of reports and documents needed to carry out your position. Also provided will be a copy of State Council Presidents Handbook.

Presenters: Tom Burke, National Vice President
Dan Stenvold, North Dakota State Council President, At Large Director
National Board of Directors

9:00am – 10:30am  Federal Laws Covering Children with Disabilities Silver Baron D/E

This seminar discusses the current federal laws that cover children with disabilities. The key parts of each law are covered as well as pitfalls that you may encounter when attempting to access the services that the law mandates.

Presenter: Felix “Pete” Peterson, Chair, VVA Government Affairs Committee

10:45am – 12:15pm  Veterans Benefits VSO Advanced Training Silver Baron 1-6

Morning Sessions (2 of 2)
(Admission limited to VVA Veteran Service Officers only)

Presenters: Attorney from Bergmann and Moore, LLC
Marc McCabe, VVA Special Advisor Veterans Services

10:45am – 12:15pm  Duties of the Secretary Silver Baron A

This seminar will cover the eleven duties of the Secretary prescribed by Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised, along with the twenty-nine duties prescribed by the VVA Constitution.

Presenters: Leslie DeLong RP, Chairman, VVA Constitution Committee
Michael L. Swift PRP, CPP-T, VVA Parliamentarian

10:45am – 12:15pm  PTSD/Substance Abuse: What You Need to Know Coping with Aging Stressors Silver Baron D/E

PTSD/Substance Abuse remains a significant concern for our aging Veteran population. In our seminar we will identify stressors related to PTSD/Substance Abuse and explore healthy coping strategies to help Veterans and their family members deal with everyday life events impacting the family unit.

Presenters: Thomas C. Hall PhD, Chairman, VVA PTSD/Substance Abuse Committee
Allan Perkal, Co-Chair, VVA Healthcare Committee

12:15pm – 2:00pm  Luncheon Expo C

2025 National Convention in New Orleans Preview
Veterans Benefits VSO Advanced Training
Afternoon Sessions (1 of 2)
(Admission limited to VVA Veteran Service Officers only)

VSOs accredited by VVA will be given training on: 1) Hearings – Higher Level Review calls. And BVA hearings, when to request one and how to make the most of face-to-face testimony; 2) TDIU – overview of the criteria for this benefit, both 4.16(a) and 4.16(b), and critical evidence that can make the difference; 3) Survivors Benefits – what are they and who qualifies for them.

Presenters: Attorney from Bergmann and Moore, LLC
Marc McCabe, VVA Special Advisor Veterans Services

Understanding Healthcare Eligibility and Benefits under the 2022 PACT ACT

Seminar will review eligibility for health care under the PACT ACT of 2022 Inclusive of the March 5, 2024 provision, for veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military.

Presenters:

The VVA Constitution, Council Bylaws, and Chapter Bylaws

This seminar will cover the VVA Constitution and its effects on the State Councils’ bylaws and the Chapters’ bylaws. What should, and should not, be in the State Councils’ and Chapters’ bylaws

Presenters: Leslie DeLong RP, Chairman, VVA Constitution Committee
Michael L. Swift PRP, CPP-T, VVA Parliamentarian

Veterans Benefits VSO Advanced Training
Afternoon Sessions (2 of 2)
(Admission limited to VVA Veteran Service Officers only)

Presenters: Attorney from Bergmann and Moore, LLC
Marc McCabe, VVA Special Advisor Veterans Services

Membership Info and Updates


Presenters: Dick Southern, Chairman of VVA Membership Committee
Nicole Kennedy, VVA Director of Membership

Duties of the Treasurer

Page 7 of 9
The seminar will cover the legal, Constitutional and practical responsibilities of a Treasurer at the Chapter and State levels. We will review the current “Treasurer’s handbook” for appropriate updates and revisions. Copies of the current State Council/Chapter Treasurer’s Handbook will be provided.

Presenter: Wayne Reynolds, National Treasurer

SATURDAY, (August 24, 2024)

8:00am – 12:00pm  Situation Room  Platinum Room
8:00am – 12:00pm  VVA/Media Office  Bronze Room
8:00am – 12:00pm  AVVA Office  Silver Baron B
8:30am – 10:00am  **Amending the Governing Documents of an Affiliate Organization, the Chapter**  Silver Baron 1-6

This seminar will consider the ranking of governing documents of a chapter and the effects the governing documents have from the top down on an affiliate organization. The seminar will cover the VVA Constitution, the Charter, the Group Letter, the Articles of Incorporation, the Letter of Determination and the constituent bylaws.

Presenters: Leslie DeLong RP, Chairman, VVA Constitution Committee
Michael L. Swift PRP, CPP-T, VVA Parliamentarian

8:30am – 10:00am  **What is Killing America’s Youth?**  Silver Baron A

We will discuss the ever-changing threat of Drug abuse and Drug Violence in America.

Presenters: Dave Simmons, Chairman VVA Veterans against Drugs Committee
Thomas C. Hall PhD, Chair, VVA PTSD/Substance Abuse Committee

8:30am – 10:00am  **VVA Legacy Task Force – The Road Ahead**  Silver Baron D/E

Explanations of the proposed process for telling VVA’s story and having our achievements properly archived. Also, discussion about options and participation by all VVA members.

Presenters: Jack Devine, Chair Legacy Task Force
Dottie Barickman, National Board of Directors
Charlie Hobbs, National Board of Directors
Marc Leepson, Arts Director of the Veteran

9:00am – 12:00pm  Veterans Mall  Expo A
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<tr>
<td>10:30am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
<td>Expo B</td>
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<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch (on your own)</td>
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<td>6:00pm – 7:00pm</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>Pre-Function Salon</td>
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<td>7:00pm – 10:00pm</td>
<td>VVA Awards Banquet</td>
<td>Expo B</td>
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