

Vietnam Veterans of America  
2026 National Leadership & Education Conference  
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville, FL

**Draft #3**

TUESDAY, (August 11, 2026)

8:00am – 5:00pm	Situation Room	Boardroom 1 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
8:00am – 5:00pm	VVA/Media Office	Boardroom 4 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
8:00am – 5:00pm	AVVA Office	Registration Office – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
8:00am – 12:00pm	Pre-Registration only	Grand Foyer – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
9:00am – 5:00pm	Veterans Mall	Grand Ballroom 5 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
1:00pm – 5:00pm	On-site registration	Grand Foyer – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
6:00pm – 9:00pm	Welcome Home Party Music by “Beach Bumz” (Food service 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Entertainment 7:30pm – 9:00pm)	Grand Ballroom 1-4 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor

WEDNESDAY, (August 12, 2026)

8:00am – 5:00pm	Situation Room	Boardroom 1 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
8:00am – 5:00pm	VVA/Media Office	Boardroom 4 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
8:00am – 5:00pm	AVVA Office	Registration Office – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
8:00am – 6:00pm	Registration	Grand Foyer – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
8:45am – 10:30am	Opening Ceremony	Grand Ballroom 1-3 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
	Invocation – Presentation of Colors – National Anthem – Pledge of Allegiance – Hotel employees (Veterans) Introduction of VVA Officers Welcome – Tom Burke, VVA President Welcome – Florida State Council President Welcome – Sharon Hobbs, AVVA President Keynote Speaker – Phil Napoli Announcements – Wes Guidry, Special Events Coordinator	
11:00am – 5:00pm	Veterans Mall	Grand Ballroom 5 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
11:00am – 12:30pm	<b>Mission 75 Presentation</b>	Grand Ballroom 1-3 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
12:30pm – 1:45pm	VVA/AVVA Officers Luncheon_ Open to Past or Present, Chapter or State Council Officers & Board Members + Guests (Advanced Tickets Required!)	Grand Ballroom 4 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor

2:00pm – 3:30pm	<b>Chapter Transition Strategy</b>	Grand Ballroom 1-3 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
3:45pm – 5:15pm	<b>TBD</b>	Conference Center B– 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
3:45pm – 5:15pm	<b>The VVA Constitution, Council Bylaws, and Chapter Bylaws</b>	Conference Center A– 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor

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 Councils' and Chapters' bylaws.

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

6:00pm – 9:00pm	Wednesday Event Music by "Chrome 57 Band" (Food service 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Entertainment 7:30pm – 9:00pm)	Grand Ballroom 1-4 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
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THURSDAY, (August 13, 2026)

8:00am – 1:00pm	Situation Room	Boardroom 1 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
8:00am – 1:00pm	VVA/Media Office	Boardroom 4 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
8:00am – 1:00pm	AVVA Office	Registration Office – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
8:00am – 1:00pm	Pre-Registration only	Grand Foyer – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
9:00am – 1:00pm	Veterans Mall	Grand Ballroom 5 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
1:00pm – 5:00pm	On-site registration	Grand Foyer – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
9:00am – 10:30am	<b>Provisions in the VVA Constitution that Control Council and Chapter Structures</b>	Conference Center B– 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor

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. Everyone is encouraged to ask questions and discuss the effects of no longer having a VVA Charter.

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

9:00am – 10:30am	<b>Suicide Prevention</b>	Conference Center A– 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
	Methods, tools and techniques for disrupting suicide in veterans, family members and friends	
	Presenter: Dr. Tomas Hall, Ph.D	

10:45am – 12:15pm	<b>Amending the Governing Documents of an Affiliate Organization, the Chapter</b>	Conference Center B– 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
	The 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 organizations. The seminar will cover the VVA Constitution, the Charter, the Group Letter, the Articles of Incorporation, the Letter of Determination, and the constituent bylaws.	

Everyone is encouraged to ask questions and discuss effects the governing documents have on the divisions of the VVA in the seminar and throughout the leadership conference.

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

10:45am – 12:15pm **Ask a Top Gun VSO** Conference Center A– 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

VSOs available to answer questions from VVA conference attendees. It will be 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, Facilitator

12:15pm – 2:00pm AVVA Luncheon Grand Ballroom 4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Everyone is invited, VVA & AVVVA  
(Advanced Tickets Required!)

12:15pm until Free Afternoon to enjoy the area

2:00pm AVVA Annual Meeting Grand Ballroom 4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

FRIDAY, (August 14, 2026)

7:00am – 7:30am POW/MIA Ceremony TBD

8:00am – 5:00pm Situation Room Boardroom 1 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

8:00am – 5:00pm VVA/Media Office Boardroom 4 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

8:00am – 5:00pm AVVA Office Registration Office – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

8:00am – 12:00pm Registration Grand Foyer – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

9:00am – 5:00pm Veterans Mall Grand Ballroom 5 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

9:00am – 10:30am **VVA Legacy Task Force -- The Road Ahead** Conference Center B– 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

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: Steve Williams, Chairman  
Marc Leepson

9:00am – 10:30am **How to become an effective legislative advocate** Conference Center A– 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

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.

Presenters: Bill Patton, VVA Government Affairs Chairman  
James McCormick, Executive Director VVA Government Affairs

10:45am – 12:15pm **You have been Elected President - Now what?** Conference Center B– 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

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: John Riling, National Vice President  
Chuck Odom, Mississippi State President, CSCP Chair  
Dan Stenvold, North Dakota State President, VVA Board of Directors

10:45am – 12:15pm      **PTSD/Substance Abuse: What You Need To Know Coping With Aging Stressors**      Conference Center A– 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

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

Presenter: Dr. Tomas Hall, Ph.D

12:15pm – 2:00pm      Luncheon      On your own

2:00pm – 3:30pm      **Duties of the Secretary**      Conference Center B– 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

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

2:00pm – 3:30pm      **TBD**      Conference Center A– 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

3:45pm – 5:15pm      **Duties of the Treasurer**      Conference Center B– 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

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: Dottie Barickman, National Treasurer

3:45pm – 5:15pm      **Basic Parliamentary Procedures, is it true? Frequently Asked Questions**      Conference Center A– 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

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

6:00pm – 9:00pm      Friday night Event      Grand Ballroom 1-4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Music by "The Bushmen"  
(Food service 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Entertainment 7:30pm – 9:00pm)

SATURDAY, (August 15, 2026)

8:00am – 12:00pm	Situation Room	Boardroom 1 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
8:00am – 12:00pm	VVA/Media Office	Boardroom 4 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
8:00am – 12:00pm	AVVA Office	Registration Office – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
9:00am – 12:00pm	Veterans Mall	Grand Ballroom 5 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
9:00am – 10:30am	<b>Mission 75 Wrap up</b>	Grand Ballroom 1-3 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
10:30am – 12:00pm	Open Mic and Conference Wrap up	Grand Ballroom 1-3 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
12:00pm	Lunch (on your own)	
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Reception	Pre-Function Salon
7:00pm – 10:00pm	VVA Awards Banquet	Expo B