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

Draft #13

TUESDAY, (August 11, 2026)

8:00am – 5:00pm	Situation Room	Boardroom 1 - 3rd Floor
8:00am – 5:00pm	VVA/Media Office	Boardroom 4 - 3rd Floor
8:00am – 5:00pm	AVVA Office	Boardroom 3 – 3rd Floor
8:00am – 12:00pm	Pre-Registration only	Grand Foyer – 2nd Floor
9:00am – 5:00pm	Veterans Mall	Grand Ballroom 4 – 2nd Floor
1:00pm – 5:00pm	On-site registration	Grand Foyer – 2nd 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 1-3 – 2nd Floor

WEDNESDAY, (August 12, 2026)

8:00am – 5:00pm	Situation Room	Boardroom 1 - 3rd Floor
8:00am – 5:00pm	VVA/Media Office	Boardroom 4 - 3rd Floor
8:00am – 5:00pm	AVVA Office	Boardroom 3 – 3rd Floor
8:00am – 6:00pm	Registration	Grand Foyer – 2nd Floor
8:45am – 10:30am	Opening Ceremony	Conference Center A– 3rd Floor

Invocation – Liz Cannon
Presentation of Colors – Florida State Council
National Anthem –
Pledge of Allegiance –
Introduction of VVA Officers
Welcome – Tom Burke, VVA President
Welcome – Florida State Council President
Welcome – Sharon Hobbs, AVVA President
Speaker from DPAA
Marsha Four video
Keynote Speaker – Phil Napoli
Announcements – Wes Guidry, Director of Meetings

11:00am – 5:00pm	Veterans Mall	Grand Ballroom 4 – 2nd Floor
11:00am – 12:30pm	**Mission 75 Presentation** Presenter: Tom Burke, VVA President	Conference Center A– 3rd Floor
12:30pm – 1:45pm	VVA/AVVA Officers Luncheon	Grand Ballroom 1-3 – 2nd Floor

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

2:00pm – 3:30pm **Chapter Transition Strategy** Conference Center A– 3rd Floor

Presenter: Dominick Yezzo, VVA General Counsel

3:45pm – 5:15pm **Empowered Aging: Navigation Community and VA Resources** Conference Center B– 3rd Floor

Presenting the resources available from the community and the VAMC that are essential for empowering the aging Veteran specific for the individual goals of the Veteran and caregiver

Presenter: Dr. Molly McGaughey, Certified medical director, certified in family medicine, hospice and palliative care medicine and Certified Geriatrician

3:45pm – 5:15pm **Six Choices for VVA's Future** River Terrace 1 – 3rd Floor

VVA's future will most likely be decided at the 2027 National Convention. VVA has six options to consider before then. This seminar will address the definitions, explore the facts, discover the pros, and uncover the cons of each possibility. Information can bring you choices and choices can bring you power. Educate yourself about options and alternatives.

Presenters: Leslie DeLong, VVA Constitution Chair

Sharon Hobbs, AVVA Nat'l President

Charlie Montgomery, VVA Region 3 Director

6:00pm – 9:00pm Wednesday Event Grand Ballroom 1-3 – 2nd Floor
Music by "Chrome 57 Band"
(Food service 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Entertainment 7:30pm – 9:00pm)

THURSDAY, (August 13, 2026)

8:00am – 1:00pm	Situation Room	Boardroom 1 - 3rd Floor
8:00am – 1:00pm	VVA/Media Office	Boardroom 4 - 3rd Floor
8:00am – 1:00pm	AVVA Office	Boardroom 3 – 3rd Floor
8:00am – 1:00pm	Registration	Grand Foyer – 2nd Floor
9:00am – 1:00pm	Veterans Mall	Grand Ballroom 4 – 2nd Floor

9:00am – 10:30am **VVA Legacy Task Force -- The Road Ahead** Conference Center B– 3rd 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, Senior writer for The Veteran & Arts Editor

9:00am – 10:30am **Suicide Prevention** River Terrace 1 – 3rd Floor

Methods, tools and techniques for disrupting suicide in veterans, family members and friends

Presenter: Dr. Thomas Hall, Ph.D

10:45am – 12:15pm	**Amending the Governing Documents of an Affiliate Organization, the Chapter**	Conference Center B– 3rd 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.

Presenter: Leslie DeLong RP, VVA Constitution Committee

10:45am – 12:15pm	**Ask a Top Gun VSO**	River Terrace 1 – 3rd 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
Paula Tuero-Flesch, VVA Veterans Benefits
Chuck Byers

12:15pm – 2:00pm	AVVA Luncheon Everyone is invited, VVA & AVVVA (Advanced Tickets Required!)	Grand Ballroom 1-3 – 2nd Floor
12:15pm until	Free Afternoon to enjoy the area	
2:00pm	AVVA Annual Meeting	Grand Ballroom 1-3 – 2nd Floor
2:30pm	Special VVA Board of Directors call meeting	River Terrace 1- 3rd Floor

FRIDAY, (August 14, 2026)

7:00am – 7:30am	POW/MIA Ceremony	TBD
8:00am – 5:00pm	Situation Room	Boardroom 1 - 3rd Floor
8:00am – 5:00pm	VVA/Media Office	Boardroom 4 - 3rd Floor
8:00am – 5:00pm	AVVA Office	Boardroom 3 – 3rd Floor
8:00am – 12:00pm	Registration	Grand Foyer – 2nd Floor
9:00am – 5:00pm	Veterans Mall	Grand Ballroom 4 – 2nd Floor
9:00am – 10:30am	**Basic Parliamentary Procedures, is it true? Frequently Asked Questions**	Conference Center B– 3rd 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.

Presenter: Leslie DeLong RP, Chairman, VVA Constitution Committee

9:00am – 10:30am **How to become an effective legislative advocate** River Terrace 1 – 3rd 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 Paton, 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– 3rd 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** River Terrace 1 – 3rd 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. Thomas Hall, Ph.D

12:15pm – 2:00pm Lunch On your own

2:00pm – 3:30pm **Duties of the Secretary** Conference Center B– 3rd 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.

Presenter: Leslie DeLong RP, Chairman, VVA Constitution Committee

2:00pm – 3:30pm **Caring Through the Journey** River Terrace 1 – 3rd Floor

The UPs and DOWNs of Caregiving for Parkinson's and Dementia"
She will be presenting on caregiving tips and lessons learned for Parkinson's Disease and Dementia

Presenter: Dr. Molly McGaughey, Certified medical director, certified in family medicine, hospice and palliative care medicine and Certified Geriatrician

3:45pm – 5:15pm **The 4 M's of Aging Well** River Terrace 1 – 3rd Floor

What Matters Most, Movement, Medications, and the Mind: A simple framework for Veterans, Caregiver and the "Veterans Helping Veterans

	Presenter: Dr. Molly McGaughey, Certified medical director, certified in family medicine, hospice and palliative care medicine and Certified Geriatrician	
3:45pm – 5:15pm	**Sustaining Veteran Advocacy: Building Enduring Impact Through Dual-Entity Leadership** How to leverage the advantages of both VVA, a 501(c)(19) and AVVA, a 501(c)(3) to maximize our organization's advocacy. Presenters: James McCormick, Executive Director VVA Government Affairs Michael Fimmano, Chief Legislative Officer, VVA Government Affairs	Conference Center B– 3rd Floor
6:00pm – 9:00pm	Friday night Event Music by "The Bushmen" (Food service 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Entertainment 7:30pm – 9:00pm)	Grand Ballroom 1-3 – 2nd Floor

SATURDAY, (August 15, 2026)

8:00am – 12:00pm	Situation Room	Boardroom 1 - 3rd Floor
8:00am – 12:00pm	VVA/Media Office	Boardroom 4 - 3rd Floor
8:00am – 12:00pm	AVVA Office	Boardroom 3 – 3rd Floor
9:00am – 12:00pm	Veterans Mall	Grand Ballroom 4 –2nd Floor
9:00am – 10:30am	**Mission 75 Wrap up** Presenter: Tom Burke, VVA President	Conference Center A– 3rd Floor
10:30am – 10:35am	What is VVOA Presenter: Marc McCabe, Strategic Advisor to the President	
10:35am – 12:00pm	Open Mic and Conference Wrap up	Conference Center A– 3rd Floor
12:00pm	Lunch (on your own)	
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Reception	Pre-Function Salon
7:00pm – 10:00pm	VVA Awards Banquet	Grand Ballroom 1-3 – 2nd Floor