

FY2022 ANNUAL REPORT

National Association of State Approving Agencies for Veterans Education and Training



NASAA

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





NASAA Midwinter Training and Business Meeting Opening Ceremony

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>.

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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 2022.

President Myers' message discusses the passing and implementation of Public Law 116-315. He mentions how this law enhances or expands education benefits for Veterans, Service members, families and survivors. He also mentions that every educational institute must be held accountable and with NASAA's new role in conducting risk based surveys, we will be able to ensure educational institutes adhere to Public Law 116-315 and other requirements.

NASAA by the numbers shows another year of increased actions in most Core Functions for SAAs. These numbers clearly show no slowing down for NASAA. Instead, finding ways to improve and increase our activity.

Looking Forward discusses NASAA's relationships with Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) and Congress in order to create legislation that will better serve veterans education and training. Also discussed is how NASAA's new Risk Based Surveys were created and how they will assist the SAA. Ideas to expand and enhance the programs under the GI Bill are also discussed.

Awards, Honors and Recognitions recognizes the NASAA members who performed outstanding service for the Association during FY 2022.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Henley".

James Henley, USN(Ret), MOSAA
Public Affairs Liaison





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Past President Hill, VA and Ray Baker, IN

RETIREES

Ray Baker of the Indiana State Approving Agency retired September 1, 2022 after 15 years of service

Gary Hartel of the Nebraska State Approving Agency retired July 31, 2022

Tom Morrison of the Tennessee State Approving Agency retired December 15, 2021 after 22 years of service

Troy Tissue of the Michigan State Approving Agency retired July 2022 after 11 years of service

IN MEMORY OF

LaTrenda Jackson of the Arkansas State Approving Agency

MESSAGE FROM THE NASAA PRESIDENT



FRANK MYERS | NASAA PRESIDENT

With the implementation of Sections 1010 through 1020 of Public Law 116-315 and the rising cost of tuition and fees each academic year, the GI Bill® could be a primary focal point for many for-profit educational institutions to launch various media advertisements to attract and persuade veterans and their family members to use their GI Bill Benefits at their institutions.

Every educational institution must be held accountable not only for the enrollment of VA recipients, but for all students' financial contributions. Accountability to hold each educational institution responsible for their mischievous actions is less than a favorable return for our tax-payers' dollars and more importantly, for the investment that our veterans have made to this great country.

On January 5, 2021, the President signed the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (P.L.116-315) into law. This new law brings significant changes to Veterans' education benefits. Many of the changes enhance or expand education benefits for Veterans, Service members, families and survivors and provide for the improvement and/or expansion of various GI Bill programs.

On October 1, 2022, the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) began transitioning from conducting compliance surveys to risk based surveys. NASAA looks forward to our new role and our ongoing collaboration with our VA partners and various veteran service organizations to ensure educational institutions adhere to Public Law 116-315. As a result of the implementation of Public Law 116-315, Sections 1010 through 1019 will help in reducing the amount of over and underpayment to veterans and their family members.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Education is the key to eliminating gender inequality, to reducing poverty, to creating a sustainable planet, to preventing needless deaths and illness, and to fostering peace (Nelson Mandela).”

Freedom is not free. Veterans have protected our freedom and democracy, and many have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. As the gatekeepers for existing and new educational institutions to become approved to offer veterans education and training, NASAA will take the appropriate actions necessary against those entities that attract veterans and their family members that use advertising, sales, enrollment practices, or candidate handbooks that are erroneous, deceptive, or misleading by actual statement, omission, or intimation.

NASAA was established in 1948 and will celebrate its 75th anniversary during the 2023 NASAA Summer Conference that will be held in Stowe, Vermont.

NASAA is comprised of 53 State Approving Agencies with over 200 professional and support staff members. As President, I am grateful to have this opportunity to lead and serve NASAA to ensure veterans and their family members continues to receive quality education and training.

I am elated to have this opportunity to work with such phenomenal people in NASAA, our VA partners, and veteran service organizations to continue to protect the integrity of the GI Bill Educational Benefits!

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: Ben Berck - Lincoln, NE
- 3] South: Wayne Rhoades - Nashville, TN
- 4] West: Judy Galluzzi - 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 compliance 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

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

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Council on Education Veterans Programs
American Legion
AMVETS National Services Foundation
Association of Veterans Education Certifying Officials
Council of College and Military Educators
Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support
Disabled American Veterans
Federal Aviation Administration
Helmets to Hardhats
HillVets
Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans of America
Military Officers Association of America
MYCAA- Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts
National Association of State Directors of Veteran Affairs
National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators
Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges
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
The State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
Troops to Energy
Troops to Teachers
United Service Organizations
U.S. Department of Defense Voluntary Education
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Labor
Veterans Commission
Veterans Education Project
Veterans Education Success
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Western Association of Veterans Education Specialists
Workforce Development
Warrior Scholar Project



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 21, 2021, the Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions (REMOTE) Act (PL-177-76) was signed into law by the President of the United States, extending expiring provisions made during the Covid-19 pandemic. On August 26, 2022 the Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022 (PL 117-174) was signed into law by the President of the United States, amending the 85/15 requirements under Title 38 and Title 10.

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 an 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 74th 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 74 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 a 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.



NASAA Membership San Antonio, Texas

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.



Joseph Sharpe-American Legion; Dr. Jan Del Signore-NAVPA President; David Salgado-NASAA Legislative Director Texas; Michelle Hill -Past President Virginia; Justin Hauschild-SVA; Will Hubbard-VES; Ashlynn Haycock-TAPS; Emily DeVito-VFW.

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.

August 26, 2022 saw the passing of the Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022 (PL 117-174). The act amends the 85/15 reporting requirements in the following ways:

- ❖ 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 Midwinter Conference, Arlington Virginia

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.

COMPLIANCE VISITS TO SCHOOLS AND TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS:

Conduct on-site visits to approved educational institutions, training establishments, and flight schools to determine continued compliance with appropriate state and federal laws and VA regulations. The on-site visit consists of reviewing policies and practices of the institution to include approved programs, facilities, branch locations, 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.

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE:

Fulfill all VA contract 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.



South Region Membership

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	Marisol Birth (NE)	Central Region Vice President
Rebecca Ryan (RI)	Vice President	Jennifer St. Jean (VT)	East Region Vice President
John Murray (WA)	Secretary	Cleophus Wallace (LA)	South Region Vice President
Tramaine Carroll-Payne (VA)	Treasurer	Katherine Snyder (NM)	Western Region Vice President
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James Henley (MO)	Public Affairs Liaison	Everette Jackson (MD)	East Region Alternate
Joseph Wescott (NC)	Legislative Director	Bobby Davis (GA)	South Region Alternate
		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

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 Laura Bach (WA)



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, compliance visits, other visit activity, technical assistance, outreach, and liaison actions.

FY2022 brought a 1% decrease in Approval Actions from FY2021. All other Core Functions had increased activity for FY2022.

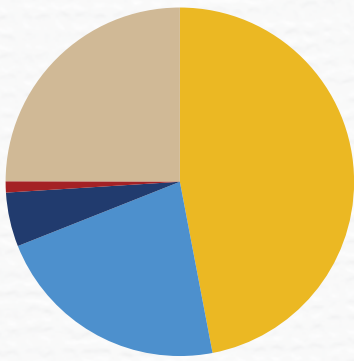
Total approval actions number 304,256 when including the 20,288 disapproval actions reported in FY 2022. Total reported actions for all core functions equal 411,428 for FY 2022.

YEAR	TYPE OF FACILITY	IHL	NCD	APP	OJT	CORR	FLT	LIC/CERT
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
2019	Technical Assistance Actions	28,442	20,363	3,569	5,680	38	916	203

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.

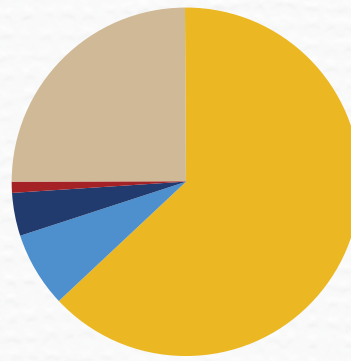
Source: FY2019-FY2022 quarterly reports provided to NASAA & VA by SAAs





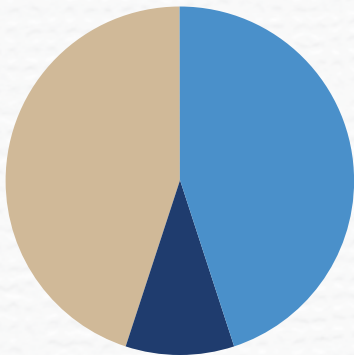
NON COLLEGE DEGREE

- 47% Compliance
- 22% Inspection
- 5% Other Visits
- 1% DVA Request
- 25% Technical Visits



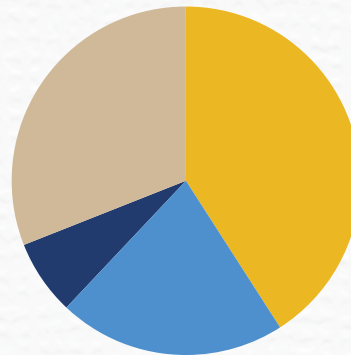
INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING

- 63% Compliance
- 7% Inspection
- 4% Other Visits
- 1% DVA Request
- 25% Technical Visits



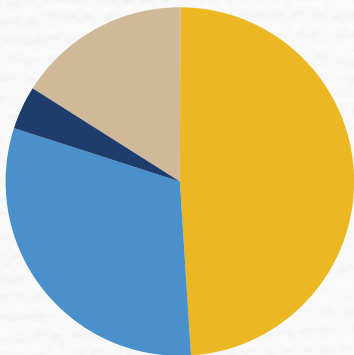
FLIGHT PROGRAMS

- 45% Inspection
- 10% Other Visits
- 45% Technical Visits



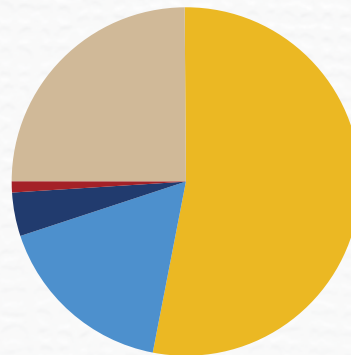
APPRENTICESHIPS

- 41% Compliance
- 21% Inspection
- 7% Other Visits
- 31% Technical Visits



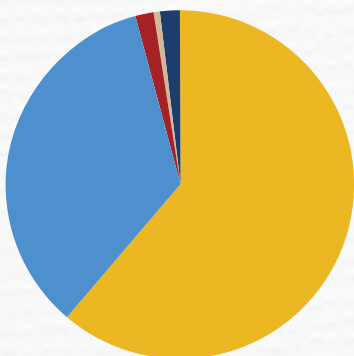
ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

- 49% Compliance
- 31% Inspection
- 4% Other Visits
- 16% Technical Visits



TOTAL

- 53% Compliance
- 17% Inspection
- 4% Other Visits
- 1% DVA Request
- 25% Technical Visits



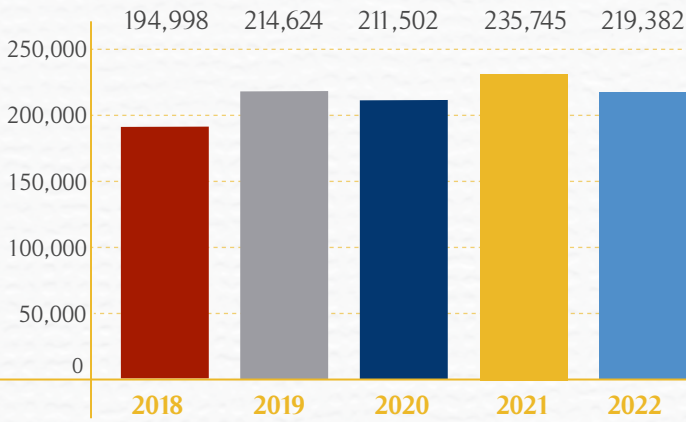
DISAPPROVALS

- 64% Institution of Higher Learning
- 33% Non College Degree
- .5% Flight Programs
- .5% Apprenticeships
- 2% On-the-Job Training

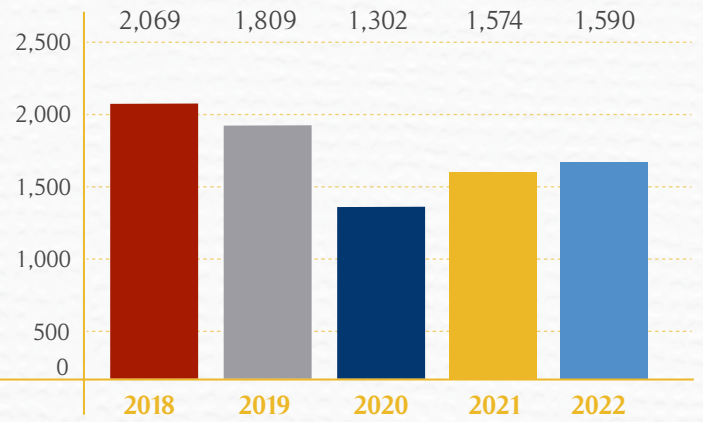
Source: FY2022 quarterly reports provided to NASAA & VA by SAAs

2018-2022 COMPARISON

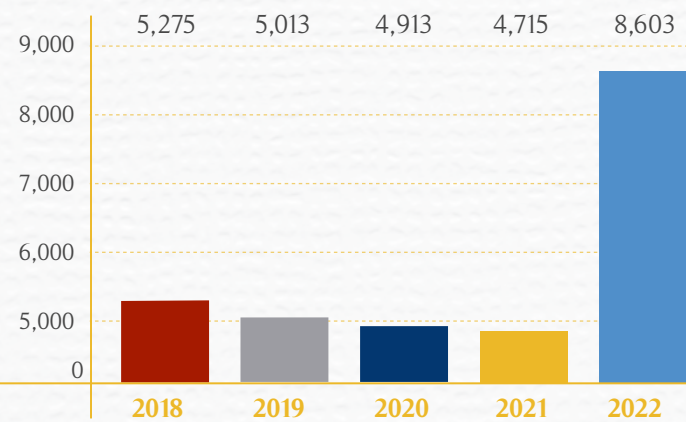
APPROVALS



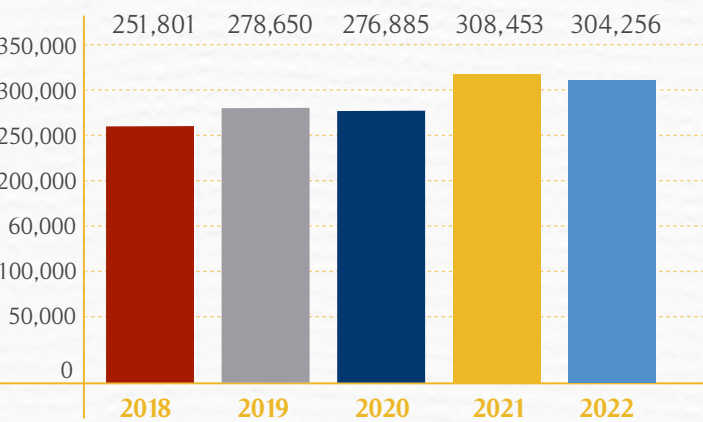
COMPLIANCE VISITS



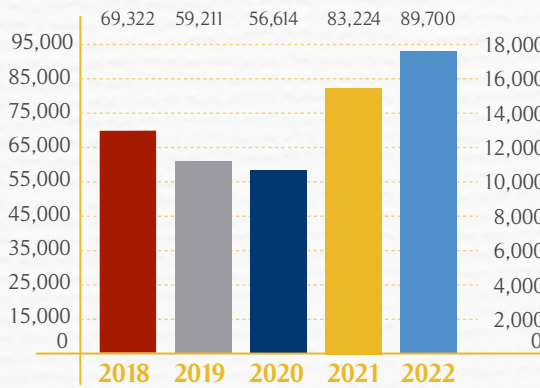
OUTREACH



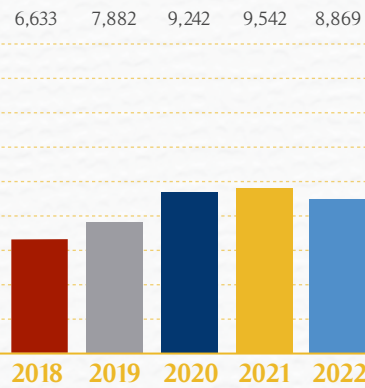
TOTAL APPROVAL ACTIONS



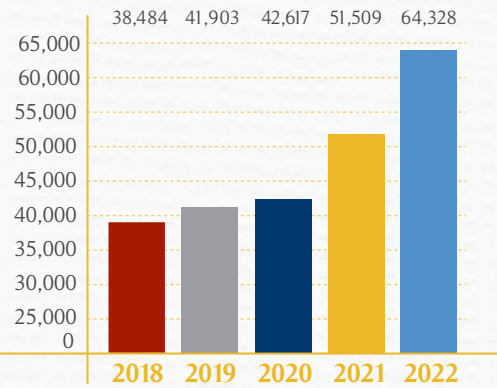
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIONS



LIAISON



OTHER APPROVAL ACTIONS



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
- 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



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] 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
- 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



Past President Hill, VA and Janice Fisher, VACO

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



West Region Membership, San Antonio TX

- 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' end-of-year reports
- 3] Assign joint peer review assessment for each State Approving Agency, in accordance with policies and procedures



FY 2022 NASAA MOMENTS



Tramaine Carroll-Payne, Past President Hill, Elita Robinson, VA SAA, and President Myers, SC SAA



President Myers, SC SAA



Past President Hill, VA & Everett Jackson, MD



Past President Hill, VA & Kathy Snyder, NM



Past President Hill, VA and James Thompson, AL



James Henley, MO



Past Presidents, Laura Bauch (WA) and Michelle Hill (VA)



Legislative Director, Dr. Joe Wescott (NC)

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHT EVENTS

OCTOBER

NASAA National Training Institute (NTI), Albuquerque, NM
Washington State SCO Conference
SAA via Zoom.

FEBRUARY

NASAA Midwinter Conference and Training, Washington, DC

MARCH

Florida Association of Veteran Education Specialist (FAVES)
NCD Conference – Virtual
Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs 2nd Annual Louisiana Women Veterans Symposium – Virtual

MAY

Washington State SCO Workshop via Zoom
SCO Conference, Zoom, May 24 & 25, 2022 Nevada

JUNE

Florida Association of Veteran Education Specialist (FAVES)
Annual SCO Conference

JULY

WAVES Conference, Portland, OR

AUGUST

NASAA Summer Business Meeting, San Antonio, TX
Maine Hire-A-Vet Campaign and Maine Bureau of Veteran Services Resource Fair

SEPTEMBER

2022 Gold Star Mothers and Families Recognition Ceremony at the Gold Star Monument in the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park, Baton Rouge, LA
Fifth Annual Suicide Prevention Summit at American Legion Post 38, Baton Rouge, LA
Virginia Military and Student Veteran Education Summit, September 22, 2022, William & Mary College, in-person
Washington DC Higher Education Licensure Commission interest meeting for IHLs and NCDs

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 always at the table helping the VSO community and Congress 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.

This year, 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 meaning 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.

In the coming 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 would take the lessons learned during the Covid pandemic and potentially 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.



NASAA Risk-Based Survey Working Group (Past President Hill, VA John Murray, WA Larry Graves, WI and VP Rebecca Ryan, RI

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 FY22 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 30 SAAs in state veteran affairs agencies, 13 in state higher education agencies, 4 in state post-secondary education agencies, 2 in elementary and secondary education agencies, and 4 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
Three Capitol Mall
Luther S. Hardin Bldg.
Room 308
Little Rock, AR 72201-1083
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
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Phone: 720-858-2814
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CONNECTICUT

State Approving Agency
Connecticut Office of Higher Education
Michael Criscuolo: SAA Director
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Phone: 860-947-1816
Fax: 860-947-1310

DELAWARE

Delaware State Approving Agency
Patricia Keeton: Director, State Approving Agency
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Phone: 302-8573313
Fax: 302-739-1770

FLORIDA

Bureau of State Approving for Veterans' Training
Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
Betsy Wickham: Bureau Chief
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Fax: 727-319-7781

SAA DIRECTORY

GEORGIA

State Approving Agency
Georgia Department of
Veterans Service
Bobby Davis: Executive Director
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saaga@vs.state.ga.us
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Fax: 404-657-6276

HAWAII

Hawaii State Approving Agency
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IDAHO

Idaho Division of Veterans
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Paul Spaccknebel: SAA Director
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gov
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ILLINOIS

Department of Veterans' Affairs
Dan Wellman: Administrator
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INDIANA

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IOWA

Iowa Department of Education
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Michael Dommer: Education
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KANSAS

Kansas Commission on Veterans'
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Eric Rohleder: Interim KCVA
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KENTUCKY

Kentucky Approving Agency
for Veterans Education
Gwen Hacker: Director
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LOUISIANA

Louisiana Department
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MAINE

State Approving Agency for
Veterans Education Programs
Maine Bureau of Veterans Services
Eileen Miazga: Director
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MARYLAND

Maryland Higher
Education Commission
Everette Jackson, Jr.: Associate
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maryland.gov
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MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Department of
Higher Education
Office of Veterans Education
George O'Connor: Assistant
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SAA DIRECTORY

MICHIGAN

Michigan State Approving Agency
Michigan Department of Labor
and Economic Opportunity –
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MINNESOTA

Minnesota State Approving
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Paula Plum: State Program
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MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Veterans Affairs
Mississippi State Approving Agency
Cathy McGruder-Jones: Division
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MISSOURI

Veterans' Education
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Department of Elementary
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James Henley: Director
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MONTANA

Montana State Approving
Agency Department of Labor
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John Stankowiak: Program Manager
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NEBRASKA

Private Postsecondary Career
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Nebraska Department of Education
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NEVADA

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW JERSEY

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NEW MEXICO

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NEW YORK

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NORTH CAROLINA

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SAA DIRECTORY

OHIO

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OKLAHOMA

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PUERTO RICO

State Approving Agency
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Fax: 787-773-1427

RHODE ISLAND

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Fax: 401-732-3541

SOUTH CAROLINA

State Approving Agency
Office of Internal Operations and Administration
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Frank Myers: Director
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Tennessee Higher Education Commission
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SAA DIRECTORY

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West Virginia Higher Education
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NASAA Central Region, Midwinter 2022



Past President Hill (VA), Deputy Commander
Brigadier General Craig (Air force), and Vice
President Ryan (RI)



Andy Piper, Honors and Awards (IL)

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 FY2022 year!



*Past President Hill, VA and Vice President
Rebecca Ryan, RI*

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Rebecca Ryan (RI)

LIFETIME LEADERSHIP AWARD

James Thompson (AL)

STAR PERFORMER'S

Ray Baker (IN)
Shaftone Dunklin (MI)
Janice Fisher (USDVA)
Andrew Martin (WI)
Larry Grave (WI)
Gwen Hacker (KY)
Everette Jackson (MD)
John Murray (WA)
David Salgado (TX)
Kathy Snyder (NM)

2022 MIDWINTER BUSINESS & TRAINING MEETING CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:

Laura Bach (WA)
Kaleb Cornett (KY)
Leanna DeKing (AZ)
Tim Fisher (WY)
Michael Flynn (MO)

Ken Hanson (TN)
Everett Jackson (MD)
Torrence Joseph (LA)
Carlton Lawyer (AR)
Lee Maynard (AZ)
Michael Mullins (VA)
Frank Myers (SC)
Latisha Rothenbach (VA)
Rebecca Ryan (RI)
David Salgado (UT)
Tara Sienkiewicz (PA)
Ronnie Smith (KY)
Karol Scheetz (OH)
Kathy Snyder (NM)
Lily Snyder (GA)
Jennifer St. Jean (VT)

2022 SUMMER BUSINESS & TRAINING MEETING CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:

Ingrid Abernathy (FL)
John Ayers (PA)
Ray Baker (IN)
Denise Cheeks (USDVA)
Kaleb Cornett (KY)
Patrick Dworakowski (USDVA)
Timothy Freeman (NC)
Deborah Gardner (TN)

James Garrison (USDVA)
Brad Gilkes (FL)
Sondra Goodman (FL)
Brigette Hayes (KS)
Nathaniel Knight (FL)
Michael Marks (USDVA)
Madeline Mendez (FL)
Michele Mendoza (USDVA)
Amber Mertens (IN)
Frank Myers (SC)
David Salgado (TX)
Judy Schuler (TX)
Paul Smith (FL)
Ronnie Smith (KY)
Kathy Snyder (NM)
Cora Stagner (FL)
John Stankowiak (MT)
Penelope Starr (TN)
Chris Sutehrland (USDVA)
Jose Toro (FL)
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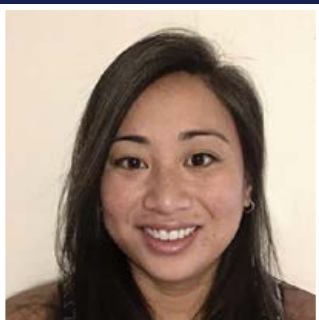
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To improve and promote branding of the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) including current projects, upcoming events, as well as provide resource information to the public and our veteran beneficiary population.

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COMMUNITY

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



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