

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



“Heading to 100 Years”

Veterans Service Committee and VAVS/VSO Programs

*By: Chris Slawinski, NSD
FRA PRPEC*

Email: vafra@fra.org, Telephone: 703-683-1400ext. 115

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



HISTORY

- Founded in 1924
- Representing Veterans since 1927
- Congressionally Chartered VSO in 1996
- Full Member of Veterans Day National Committee in 2007
- Active in the VAVS Program and NAC
- Opened membership to Sea Service Veterans in 2005

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



Veterans Service Committee

- Established at 88th National Convention
- Consists of 8 Regional Representatives:
Who are either FRA VSO Accredited or FRA Local VAVS Representatives/Deputy Representatives
- NSD serves as Chairman
- Provides outreach/awareness for FRA's Veterans Service Programs
- Meet via Conference Calls

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Program

Supports Claimants through the VA process

Benefits include:

- Service connected compensation, pension, educational, burial, home gratuity and insurance benefits, and Survivor Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VSO PROGRAM

To become Accredited as a FRA VSO:

- Demonstrate knowledge of VA programs, laws, rules and policies
- Proficiency through successful completion of VA approved course
- Courses available through partner VSO's, CVSO's, State Veterans Programs, NVLSP and VA

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VSO PROGRAM

To become Accredited as a FRA VSO:

- Prior military service not necessary, but general knowledge of DOD structure helpful
- Experience in processing claims
- Submit FRA VSO application and VA Form 21 “Application for Accreditation as Service Organization Representative”

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VSO PROGRAM

To become Accredited as a FRA VSO:

- Completed application and VA Form 21 returned to FRAHQ
- VA Form 21 processed and forwarded to VA General Counsel Office (GCO) for consideration
- NEW... VA GCO no longer provides an “Accreditation Card”

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VSO PROGRAM

Once Accredited as a FRA VSO:

- Assist ALL claimants with properly executed/filed VA Form 21-22 “Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant’s Representative” (FRA) with their claim
- Keep current with VA rules and regulations
- Recertification every five years

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VSO PROGRAM

Once Accredited as a FRA VSO:

- REMEMBER, you are representing the Fleet Reserve Association... DO NOT make promises or statements about claims that are submitted to the Department of Veterans Affairs for consideration...

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS) PROGRAM

- The VAVS Program is the largest volunteer program in the Federal Government.
- Since 1946, VAVS Volunteers have donated more than 700.8 million hours of service with more than 350 national and community organizations.

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VAVS PROGRAM

- There are more than 154 VA Medical Centers, and more than 192 VA Medical Facilities with VAVS Programs
- FRA Currently has representation (Local Rep/Dep) in 19 facilities: Associate Service Member Status (Non-voting)

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VAVS PROGRAM

National Advisory Committee Categories:

- Service Member: Minimum representation in 25 facilities (voting)
- Associate Service Member: Minimum representation in 15 facilities (non-voting)
- Donor (30), Assoc. Donor (15) and Adjunct Member (less than 15) (non-voting)

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VAVS PROGRAM

Local Advisory Committees:

- Meet quarterly
- Provides recommendations to local VA leadership to improve policy, and procedures within facilities
- Provide outreach, donor and volunteer opportunities
- Keep informed of latest changes within the VA facility

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VAVS PROGRAM

Local Advisory Committee Requirements:

- Designated from National as either a Local Representative or Deputy Representative
- Branch sends request to NSD Attention, include facility, whether Rep/Dep
- Letter of designation sent to Rep/Dep, Branch and facility VAVS Chief

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VAVS PROGRAM

Local Advisory Committee Requirements:

- Contact the VAVS Program Manager or designee upon receiving letter of certification
- Complete orientation; register in Voluntary Timekeeping System
- Attend quarterly VAVS Committee meetings and share meeting information (Donation Needs List and Volunteer Assignments) to Branches
- Conduct Annual Joint Review

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



VAVS PROGRAM

Local Advisory Committee:

VOLUNTEER opportunities at:

- VA Medical Centers
- VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics
- VA Poly-Trauma Centers
- Fisher House Foundation
- State Veterans Homes
- Vet Centers, National Cemeteries
- A Youth Volunteering (Parke Scholarship)

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



Challenges facing FRA

- Shrinking membership base
- Name recognition (What is FRA?)
- Why should I join?
- What's in it for me?
- Old culture, "We've always done it that way..."

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



Challenges facing FRA

- Recruiting younger members... then KEEPING THEM
- Getting involved with the community
- Ensuring your voice is heard
- Finding your “Right Fit”
- Starting “New” Traditions

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



What FRA provides

- Members Stay informed
- Being a voice in the legislative process
- Involvement in the local community (VSO/VAVS)
- Access to Subject Experts
- Qualifying for FRA Scholarships
- Networking opportunities
- Social Comradery and MORE...

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/

Fleet Reserve Association

Your Mission • Your Voice



Questions?

Chris Slawinski, PRPEC

(NSD, VSO Programs,

VAVS Nat. Rep., Claims, BVA)

vafra@fra.org 1-800-FRA -1924 ext. 115

Be sure to follow us on



Twitter: twitter.com/FRAHQ, Facebook: www.facebook.com/FRA.org and Instagram: www.instagram.com/fra_hq/