“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
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/
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

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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)
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
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”
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”
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
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...
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.
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)
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)
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
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
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

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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)

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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...”
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
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...
Questions?

Chris Slawinski, PRPEC
(NSD, VSO Programs,
VAVS Nat. Rep., Claims, BVA)

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