



2019 MASSACHUSETTS VETERAN SERVICES OFFICER ASSOCIATION WINTER CONFERENCE

DETAILED AGENDA

Breakfast served daily:	7 am – 8:30 am
Lunch served daily:	12 pm – 1 pm
Cocktail Hour:	5pm-6pm in Lobby Bar
Dinner served daily:	Monday /Wednesday 6pm in Main Ballroom
	Tuesday – MVSOA Banquet – 6:30pm

Monday, February 11, 2019 * Registration Opens at 8:00 am

Plenary Sessions – Main Ballroom

Welcome Remarks and Vendor Presentation

Speakers: President Jeff Chunglo
Time: 8:30 am – 9:00 am

MVSOA Membership Business Meeting: General Business & Committee Updates

Speakers: President Jeff Chunglo, Standing Committee Chairs, Area Presidents
Time: 9:00am – 12:00 pm ****Break 10:30 - 10:45am ****

Members in good standing within the organization are invited to participate in the General Membership Meeting. Standing Committees (Advisory, Legislative, 108 CMR) will give their updates as well as the additional committees (Training, Compliance, By-Laws, MMA Advisory, Veteran Protection). We will also do a call for proposals for Winter 2020 Conference – Proposals must be ready for presentation on Thursday when we will reopen business to vote – notify Jason Cox or Michael Raymond if you will be presenting a proposal no later than Wednesday at 11:00 am.

BRAVE Act: Overview and Adoption

Speakers: Hingham Director of Veteran Services Keith Jermyn
Time: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Governor Charlie Baker signed S.2632 (The BRAVE Act) into law. Known as the "BRAVE Act", the legislation provides additional support for members of the veterans' community and their families, including tax credits and enhanced educational opportunities.

**** Break 2:30 – 2:45 ****

BRAVE Act & Veteran Justice Outreach Program

Speakers: Caitlyn Aubuchon
Time: 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

Governor Charlie Baker signed S.2632 (The BRAVE Act) into law. Known as the "BRAVE Act", the Executive Office of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, to partner with a Massachusetts college or university to conduct a study relative to veterans and military members suffering from mental health or substance abuse issues related to their

military service and their needs in the criminal justice system. VJO office will discuss their role, what the programs are, how to work with them, and answer questions.

*** Break 3:45 – 4:00 ***

VA Homelessness Program

Moderator: TBD
Time: 4:00 pm– 5:00 pm

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 * Registration Opens at 8:00 am

Plenary Sessions - Main Ballroom

Welcome Remarks and Vendor Presentations

Speakers: President Jeff Chunglo
Time: 8:30 am – 9:30 am

Home Base

Speakers: Louis Chow, PhD.
Time: 9:30 am – 10:30 pm

Content will include:

- Introduction to military culture
 - How to recognize the invisible wounds of war (IWW)
 - Overview of the evidence-based therapies for IWW
 - Identify referral sources for evidence-based treatments in your community, including therapists trained by Home Base
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***Break 10:30 - 10:45am ***

VA MST Claims – Packaging

Speakers: TBD
Time: 10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Military Discharge Upgrading: Presentation

Speakers: Dana Montalto, Attorney & Clinical Instructor, Veterans Legal Clinic, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School
Evan Seamone, Clinic Attorney, Veterans Legal Clinic, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School & Major, Senior Defense Counsel, U.S. Army Reserve
Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Thousands of men and women who served our country were discharged less-than-honorably, sometimes because of undiagnosed mental health conditions related to combat or traumatic experiences. The military review boards provide one path to upgrading a less-than-honorable discharge, but their standards and processes are opaque. This training will present the fundamentals of discharge upgrade practice, including a step-by-step approach to putting together a persuasive discharge upgrade application and an overview of applicable law and procedures

***Break 2:30 - 2:45pm ***

Military Discharge Upgrading: How-to Workshop

Speakers: Dana Montalto, Attorney & Clinical Instructor, Veterans Legal Clinic, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School
Evan Seamone, Clinic Attorney, Veterans Legal Clinic, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School & Major, Senior Defense Counsel, U.S. Army Reserve

Time: 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

VA "Video Connect" Presentation

Speakers: Kathy Craig, RN., VA Primary Care Manager

Time: 4:00 pm -4:45 pm

This is a new program that will be implemented throughout all VA medical facilities and Community Out-Patient Based Clinics. This will allow veterans and family members the ability to access their VA medical providers via video conference, eliminating the need to travel to a VA facility. Access to video visits can be shared with family members, allowing them to participate in family care issues, eliminating the need for family members to accompany the veteran for a visit.

Remarks from Secretary of Veteran Services Francisco Urena, DVS

Time: 4:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Break Out Sessions 2/12/2018 - Recommended for NEW VSO's

Office Practices I

Speaker: Jeff Chunglo, Director of Veteran Services – Arlington

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

This session is designed to assist VSOs in conducting intake screening along with providing a quick reference guide to assist the VSO in obtaining additional information. Areas that will be reviewed will include: basic military service, service disabilities, discharge upgrades, income and asset limits (state and federal), Social Security, healthcare and dental options, TRICARE, CHAMPVA, fuel and nutritional assistance, burial benefits, educational benefits, and other programs. We will also review "Spend-downs" for Chapter 115.

***Break 10:30 - 10:45am ***

Office Practices II

Speakers: Lisa Potts, Veteran Services – Hingham

Jolene Consant, Veteran Services – Leominster

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Topics to be covered in this session are as follows:

- Standard Operating procedures across offices, best practices
- DVS Office Audit & Record Keeping

***Break 2:30 – 2:45pm ***

Office Practices III

Speaker: Evan Makrinikolas – DVS

Time: 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Topics to be covered in this session are as follows:

- VSMIS: Filing, Amending, Verifying Reimbursements, Closing Months
- Breakdown Desktop Chart: Budget Categories, Shelter Allowances, REBA, etc.

4:00 pm: Return to main ballroom for VA "Video Connect" Presentation

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 * Registration Opens at 8:30 am

Plenary Sessions – Main Ballroom

Vendor Presentations

Speakers: TBD

Time: 9:00 am – 9:30 am

VA Caregiver Services

Speakers: Andrew Leonard

Time: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

***Break 10:30 - 10:45am ***

VA Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program

Speakers: Christopher Mackowiak, PhD

Time: 10:45 am – 11:45 am

Intimate Partner Violence is a public health problem that impacts veterans' lives in complex ways. Beginning in 2012, the VA began developing a national Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program that continues to expand today. This presentation will outline the roles and functions of IPVAP Coordinators stationed at each VA facility. It will also include a description and case examples from

Bedford VA's specialty IPV treatment and prevention clinic called the Safing Center.
(https://www.bedford.va.gov/services/The_Safing_Center.asp)

Veteran upward Bound – Suffolk University

Speakers: Alicia Reddin, M.Ed. & Abraham Pena-Talamantes, Ph.D.
Time: 11:45 am – 12:00 pm

We are a free pre-college program to help veterans develop the academic and personal skills necessary for success in a program of post-secondary education. There is one Veterans Upward Bound in Massachusetts, here at Suffolk University and we serve the following counties: Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk

VA LQTBQ Program

Speaker: Stephen Gresham
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 P

Program description to follow

VA Returning Veterans Program

Speaker: Elizabeth Price
Time: 2:00pm - 2:45pm

Program description to follow

***Break 2:45 – 3:00 pm ***

Social Security

Speaker: Sabrina Felecianno
Time: 3:00pm – 4:00 pm

Information on Social Security benefits and SSI

VA Women's Health Program

Speaker: Stephannie Copolino

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Program description to follow

Break Out Sessions Wednesday 2/13 - Recommended for new VSOs

Opioid Treatment and Services

Speakers: Marc Silvestri, Revere

Time: 9:00 am – 10:30 am

***Break 10:30 - 10:45am ***

Application and Eligibility for Tax Abatements

Speakers: Chis Wilcock

Time: 10:45 am – 12:00 pm

VA Disability Claim Packaging Basics

Speakers: Michael Raymond, Mansfield

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

***Break 2:30 – 2:45 pm ***

Return to main ballroom for Social Security Presentation

VSO Training Panel

Speaker: TBD

Time: 4:00 – 5:00pm

This will be an informal session designed to provide fellow VSOs with mentorship and guidance in managing challenging cases and best practices.

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Plenary Sessions

MVSOA Membership Business Meeting: Training Proposals for Summer 2019

Speakers: MVSOA President – Anyone else with a proposal to submit

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 am

Location: Main Ballroom

Follow up to Monday's general meeting, this session will allow anyone with a training proposal to present them and general membership will have the opportunity to discuss and vote for the location of the 2020 Winter Training Conference.

***Break 10:00 - 10:15am ***

VA Pension w/Aid & Attendance Packaging

Speakers: Richard Voutour, Leominster

Time: 10:15 am – 12:00 pm