

The Weekly Report

November 19th, 2021

INSIDE

Employment & Transition Meetings

Education, Licensing & Credentialing Meetings

Homelessness & Housing Meetings

Small Business Development Meetings

Legislation Tracking

National Veterans Employment & Education Commission



VE&E'S LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT



(Photo: clockwise: **Adam Treece** - *Employment & Education Policy Coordinator*, **James LaCoursiere** - *VE&E Commission Chairman*, **David Proferes** - *Employment & Education Policy Coordinator*, **Jacob Brostuen** - *Employment & Education Policy Coordinator*, **Joseph Wescott** - *National Higher Education Consultant*)

The Veterans Employment and Education Division staff met with Commission Chairman James LaCoursiere during his visit to the National D.C. Headquarters.

Staff presented the chairman with an overview of the VE&E Division portfolios:

- Employment & Transition
- Homelessness & Housing
- Education, Licensing & Credentialing
- Small Business & Government Contract

In addition to high priority program and policy objectives:

- Job Fairs
- Veterans Preference
- Higher Education Rulemaking
- Fly Vets Act
- REMOTE Act
- Veterans First Contracting Program
- Cybersecurity Protections for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses
- Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship
- Risk-Based Survey

Staff Meetings on Employment Topics

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division had an introductory meeting with Yoel Goldberg, Sales and Customer relations with 6Degrees LTD. The company is a veteran-owned startup headquartered in Tel Aviv, Israel, that has created the MyMove controller, which assists individuals with dexterity loss to utilize technological smart devices.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division virtually attended the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation hearing. Relevant legislation considered were **S.594 — Anti-Spoofing Penalties Modernization Act** and **S.2699 – American Cybersecurity Literacy Act**. S.594, introduced by Senators Collins, Peters, Cinema, and Warnock.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division virtually attended the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) hearing to consider 21 proposed pieces of legislation.

Staff Meetings on Education Topics

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with a representative from Student Veterans of America (SVA) to coordinate The American Legion's role in the upcoming 14th Annual SVA National Conference. VE&E will lead a breakout session during the conference on The American Legion and veterans in higher education.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division assisted a veteran and her children experiencing homelessness in California. VE&E staff connected the veteran with VA and local community resources that homelessness services. Staff will stay engaged and follow up with the veteran throughout the week.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division attended a legislative hearing by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC). Representatives from the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and the Inspector General provided testimony regarding veterans' education, health, and accountability.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division had multiple conversations with Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) and House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) on the Covid 19 protections extension bills and the continued controversy surrounding 85/15.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with representatives from Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA's) policy and operations departments. The topics discussed included risk-based surveys, lead generators, non-title iv programs, restoration of benefits, and program compliance.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division attended the monthly GI Bill Stakeholder meeting in which Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Education Service presented updates to Isakson and Roe implementations as well as other GI Bill topics.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with William Meadows, Strategic Advisor to the Under Secretary of Benefits, to discuss how The American Legion and VA can work more closely on issues related to veterans' education, employment, and VA home loans.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) staff to discuss the topic of the upcoming hearing on VA Home Loans. HVAC staff informed VE&E staff that the hearing will exclusively focus on issues faced by VA homebuyers during the housing boom and possible solutions.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with representatives from the Arnold Ventures Foundation as part of the monthly check-in. VE&E staff detailed recent activities related to the 90/10 rulemaking process, including the Oct 26th public hearing and public comments.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with a Representative Brown's office to discuss Rep. Brown's VA Home Loan GRACE Act. The American Legion initially opposed this draft bill but is working with Rep. Brown's office to recommend edits.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with Elizabeth Belcaster and Lisa Lutz to discuss veterans' credentialing opportunities. VE&E staff is coordinating with various stakeholders to organize a roundtable focusing on the role of veterans' credentialing in resolving the workforce gap.

**Staff Meetings on
Small Business Topics**

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division attended a virtual joint hearing hosted by the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and the Subcommittee on **Technology Modernization** titled “**Modernizing VA’s Medical Supply Chain: Progress Made?**” The meeting focused on deficiencies and challenges currently afflicting the VA supply chain.

The National Veterans Employment and Education & Legislative Divisions met with staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to discuss small business legislative priorities. Legion staff communicated the need to address issues within the VA supply chain, expand the Vets First Contracting Program to the U.S. Department of Defense, and increase access to capital through the GI Bill for Entrepreneurship.

Staff Meetings on Homelessness Topics

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division attended a briefing hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the **Master Plan 2022 Draft for the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System Campus**. The venue provided an outlet for veteran stakeholders to express their concerns regarding the project’s development and goals.

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