National Association of State Veterans Homes
Winter Conference
Crystal Gateway Marriott - Arlington, VA
February 2 - February 6, 2026
Agenda

Day	Date	Time	Item/ Topic	Speaker	CEU's	Domains
Sun.	2/1/26		Travel Day			
Mon.	2/2/26	9:00 - 11:30	Executive Committee Meeting Open to all Association Members Salons D, E	Diane Lynch, LNHA, MBA President National Association of State Veterans Homes		
		11:30 - 1:00	Lunch - Executive Committee Only			
		1:00 - 4:00	Conference Registration Opens			
		1:00 - 3:00	NASVH/VA Liaison Committee Meeting Open to all Association Members Salons D, E	Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, LNHA, FACHCA Chairman, NASVH Liaison Committee Rhonda L. Toms, DNP, RN, CMGT-BC, GERO-BC National Director, Facility Based Care Programs Office of Geriatrics & Extended Care (12GEC) US Department of Veterans Affairs Lauren Crotts, MSN, MBA, RN, CLNC, GERO-BC, FNP-C Chief, State Veterans Homes Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care (12GEC) Veterans Health Administration U.S Department of Veteran Affairs		
		3:00 - 4:00	NASVH Administrator's Update Salons D, E	Ryan Engle 1st Vice President National Association of State Veterans Home	1	Domain 4 - Leadership & Strategy 4A Leadership 4A1 Organizational Structure 4B1 Mission, Vision, Value

		7:00 - 9:00	Welcome Reception & Vendor Preview	Grand Foyer A-G		
Tues.	2/3/26	6:30 - 8:00	Breakfast Buffet	Skyview Atrium		
		8:00 - 5:00	Conference Registration	Grand Registration Desk		
		8:00 - 8:30	Welcome and Opening Ceremonies Salons A-E	Diane Lynch, LNHA, MBA President National Association of State Veterans Homes		
		8:30 - 10:00	Thriving Through Challenges: The Art of Mental Focus and Resilience	Cam F. Awesome Motivational Speaker, Leadership Consultant & Former USA Boxing Champion	1.5	Domain 4 - Leadership & Strategy 4A Leadership 4A3 Organizational Behavior 4A4 Leadership Principles
		10:00 - 10:15	Break			
		10:15 - 11:15	The Evolving Landscape: Key Political and Regulatory Shifts in Long Term Care	Clif Porter President & CEO American Health Care Association Dana Ritchie, CAE Associate Vice President of Constituency Services & Workforce American Health Care Association	1	Domain 3 - Environment & Quality 3B Regulatory Compliance 3B2 - Government Programs

		11:15 - 12:00	The 2026 Legislative Update & NASVH Initiatives	Peter Dickinson Legislative Consultant Fred S. Sganga, FACHE NASVH Legislative Officer	0.75	Domain 4 - Leadership & Strategy 4A Leadership 4A6 Professional Advocacy and Governmental Relations
		12:00 - 1:30	LUNCH	SkyView Atrium		
		1:30 - 3:00	VA Updates: 1. State Home Per Diem Program Update 2. State Home Construction Grant Program Update 3. State Veterans Homes VA Survey Review 4. Nurse Recruitment & Retention Grant 5. Fall Prevention	Rhonda L. Toms DNP, RN, CMGT-BC, GERO-BC National Director, Facility Based Care Programs Office of Geriatrics & Extended Care (12GEC) US Department of Veterans Affairs Lauren Crotts, MSN, MBA, RN, CLNC, GERO-BC, FNP-C Chief, State Veterans Homes Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care (12GEC) Veterans Health Administration U.S Department of Veteran Affairs	1.5	Domain 2 - Operations 2A Financial Management 2A5 Revenue & Reimbursement Domain 3 - Environment & Quality 3B Regulatory Compliance 3B2 - Government Programs 3B4 Regulatory Survey and Inspection Process Domain 2 - Operations 2C Human Resources 2C12 Employee Retention Domain 1 - Care, Services, & Supports 1B Quality of Life 1B4 Care Recipient Safety
		3:00 - 3:15	Afternoon Break - Sponsored by Heroes with Hearing Loss	Grand Foyer A-E		
		3:15 - 4:00	Regional/POD Meetings			

		4:00 - 5:30	NASVH Business Meeting (Members Only)	Diane Lynch, LNHA, MBA President National Association of State Veterans Homes		
		5:30	Closing Comments for the Day	Diane Lynch, LNHA, MBA President National Association of State Veterans Homes		
		5:30-7:30	Friends, Food & Solutions at Med-Mizer - Tacos & Networking	Madison Room		Sponsored by Med-Mizer
		8:00 - 10:00	NASVH Networking Reception Sponsored by Powerlink	Pentagon Room		Sponsored by PowerLink
Wed.	2/4/26	9:00 - 5:00	Capitol Hill Visits			

		1:00 - 3:00	Chief Financial Officers Breakout Meeting i. **Cost of Care** – Specialty Services: Who is responsible for payment? •Transportation (Special Mode Transportation & Beneficiary Travel) •Eligibility •Pre-authorizations •Primary Care/Behavioral Care/Speech Therapy •Hospice – Prescription drugs while under the care of hospice. •Dental ii. **Sharing Agreements** – including both obtaining them and availability of services iii. **VA Audits** – what to expect with future audits in following areas: •Grants: oHomes Per Diem oNursing R&R oSVH Construction iv. **Use of Artificial Intelligence** **Meeting Location - Salons A-E**	Terry Westhoff Chief Financial Officer Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs VHA Office of Geriatrics & Extended Care Alan Campbell Chief Financial Officer HMR Veterans Services, LLC Jason McArthur Chief Financial Officer Westcare Management, Inc Oregon State Veterans Home Graylen Peek, NHA, OTR/L Administrator Watkins-Logan Texas State Veterans Home Elohondroray Liggins Assistant Finance Director Tennessee State Veterans' Home		
		5:00 - 7:00	NASVH Legislator of the Year Award Presentation	Cannon House Office Building Room 360		
Thurs.	2/5/2026	6:30 - 8:00	Breakfast Buffet	SkyView Atrium		
		8:00 - 8:45	Transforming Care: VA's Vision and Priorities for 2026	John J. Bartrum, MBA, J.D. Under Secretary for Health Veterans Health Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	0.75	Domain 4 - Leadership & Strategy 4B Organizational Strategy 4B4 Business Development

8:45 - 9:45	Driving Excellence: Strategies to Improve CMS Quality Ratings at State Veterans Homes	Steven Littlehale, MS, RN, GCNS Chief Innovation Officer Zimmet Healthcare Services Group, LLC	1	Domain 3 - Environment & Quality 3B Regulatory Compliance 3B1 - Federal Healthcare Laws, Rules and Regulations 3B6 CMS Quality Measures
9:45 - 10:00	Break			
10:00 - 11:00	From Concept to Success: Crafting Effective VA Nurse Recruitment & Retention Grant Programs	Chris Brancato, PhD, RN, CDONA Director of Nursing Long Island State Veterans Home At Stony Brook University Patricia Bruckenthal, PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN Dean & Professor Stony Brook School of Nursing Russell Keogler Vice President of Operations HMR Veterans Services, LLC	1	Domain 2 - Operations 2C Human Resources 2C6 Professional Development 2C12 Employee Satisfaction, Engagement, and Retention
11:00 - 12:00	Congressional Panel Discussion - The Road Ahead: Veterans' Long-Term Care Policy and the 119th Congress	Abby Roubal, Professional Staff Member of the U.S. Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Hunter Thompson Professional Staff Member for U.S. Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Alexandra Lightfoot Professional Staff Member and Counsel – Subcommittee on Health House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Alexis C. MacDonald Staff Director, Subcommittee on Health U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs - Democrats	1	Domain 4 - Leadership & Strategy 4A Leadership 4A6 Professional Advocacy and Governmental Relations
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch	SkyView Atrium		

		1:30 - 2:30	CMS Regulatory Updates & Survey Trends: What You Need to Know	Holly J. Norelli, MHHS, LNHA Vice President, Quality and Regulatory Services American Health Care Association	1	Domain 3 - Environment & Quality 3B Regulatory Compliance 3B1 Federal Healthcare Laws 3B2 Government Programs
		2:30 - 2:45	Break			
		2:45 - 3:45	Crisis Communication / Reputation Management	Evan Nierman Chief Executive Officer Red Banyan	1	Domain 4 - Leadership & Strategy 4B Organizational Strategy 4B5 Public Relations and External Stakeholders
		3:45 - 4:15	Strategic Insights from Capitol Hill: Turning Advocacy into Action	Fred S. Sganga, FACHE NASVH Legislative Officer	0.5	Domain 4 - Leadership & Strategy 4A Leadership 4A6 Professional Advocacy and Governmental Relations
		4:15 - 4:30	Closing Ceremonies	Diane Lynch, LNHA, MBA President, National Association of State Veterans Homes		
Fri.	2/6/26		Travel Day			
Total CEU's					12	