

The 48th Annual Florida Veteran Affairs/Florida Association of Veteran Education Specialists (FAVES) Conference

“Exploring New Frontiers With FAVES, Saddle Up”

June 1st-June 5th, 2025 | St. Pete Beach, Florida

Saturday May 31, 2025 (Pre-Conference)

4:00-7:00	Pre-conference workday for Board Members (pre-registration workroom)
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Sunday June 1st, 2025 (Pre-Conference)

12:00-2:00	Board Meeting – Overview of Conference Responsibilities
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3:00-6:00	Early Registration – Dinner on your own
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Monday June 2nd, 2025

General Session – Island Grand Ballroom

7:00-8:30	Registration continues – Continental Breakfast	
8:30-8:45	Opening Remarks Colors Presented by Color Guard National Anthem Pledge	Denise Asselta, President MacDill Honor Guard Jonathan Pintos
8:45-9:00	Introduction FAVES Board	Denise Asselta, President FAVES
9:00 -9:15	Introduction of SAA Reps	Betsy Wickham, Bureau Chief
	Introduction of Guest Speakers for the week	
9:15-10:00	Keynote Speaker	Retired Rear Admiral Christopher Asselta
10:00 -10:15	Service Award Announcement	Mike Mitchell, FAVES Vice President
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:00	Student Veterans of America (SVA)	Jared Lyon, National President & CEO
11:00-11:30	Student Veteran Panel	TBD
11:30-12:00	Sponsored Group “Camp McCormick” https://register.campmccormick.com/	TBD
12:00-1:15	Lunch Provided –Mediterranean Monday Theme <i>(Ticket Required)</i> Spaghetti Western	

General Session – Island Grand Ballroom

1:15-1:30	VA Name Game Kahoot’s	Sandra & Melissa 3 prizes
1:30-3:00	SAA Updates	Betsy Wickham, Bureau Chief
3:00-3:30	Break – Snack Break <i>(Ticket Required)</i>	

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Monday June 2nd, 2025

SAA Area Breakouts

3:30-5:30	<u>SAA Area North</u> <i>Long</i> Sondra Goodman & Ingrid Abernathy	<u>SAA Area South</u> <i>Sawyer</i> Dale Towery, Madeline Mendez, & Doris Torres	<u>SAA Area East</u> <i>Tarpon</i> Brad Gilkes & Kelli Colborne	<u>SAA Area West</u> <i>Indian/Bird</i> Nate Knight & Bill Graydon
	<p><i>See Above for your Breakout Location</i></p> <p>Topics Discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval Letter and Verifying the WEAMS Report• Catalog and Program Spreadsheet Submission to SAA Q&A• Question & Answer – Time to talk about specifics with unusual cases• Natural Disasters and School Closures• Best Practices for SCO's• New Application Process			
6:00	Business Card Mingle Come meet FAVES Board members and enjoy the beautiful St. Pete sunset!		Location Garden Courtyard & Breezeway: -Check in to receive your 1 free drink tickets. Bring your business cards! Light Hord 'oeuvres available	
	Dinner on Your Own			

Tuesday June 3rd, 2025

Breakout Training Series

7:00-8:30	Breakfast on your Own			
Rooms	<u>Bird/Indian Key</u> <u>126</u>	<u>Sawgrass 60</u>	<u>Tarpon/Long/Sawyer</u> <u>Key 318</u>	<u>Jasmine/Palm/Sable</u> <u>150</u>
8:30-9:15	VR&E Counselor to SCO views in EM and Tungsten best practice Ayleen Alago & Victoria Antoinette	TA and EDD Monica Wiesmann-Hirchert, Army Ignited and Glenn O'Brian, EDD	NCD -Virtual	Round Table Topics - TBD
9:20-10:20	TA and EDD Monica Wiesmann-Hirchert, Army Ignited and Glenn O'Brian, EDD	Round Table Topics - TBD	New SCO- Virtual	Suicide Awareness PTSD toolbox – VA Bay Pines VA HealthCare System TBD
10:20-10:30	Break			
10:30-11:15	Bursar/Business office troubleshooting payment issues with DMC - TBD	SVA- Legislative Landscape Tammy Barlet, VP of Government Affairs	Experienced SCO - Virtual	VR&E Counselor to SCO views in EM and Tungsten best practice Ayleen Alago & Victoria Antoinette
School Troubleshooting Breakout Sessions				
11:20-12:15	IHL with NCD/NCD Troubleshooting	Flight Troubleshooting Edwin H?	Public IHL Troubleshooting	Private IHL Troubleshooting
12:15-1:30	Lunch Provided – Tasteful Tuesday (<i>Ticket Required</i>)			

Tuesday June 3rd, 2025

<u>Rooms</u>	<u>Bird/Indian Key 126</u>	<u>Tarpon/Long/Sawyer Key 318</u>	<u>Jasmine/Palm/Sable 150</u>
1:30:300	Round Table Topics - TBD	Enrollment Manager VA NTT Virtual	Suicide Awareness PTSD toolbox – VA Bay Pines VA HealthCare System TBD
3:15-3:45	Break - Snack Break (<i>Ticket Required</i>)		
3:30 – 5:00	Creating a Successful SVA Chapter TBD	SCO Handbook Updates and Questions VA NTT - Virtual	Round Table Topics - TBD

Sizzle 6:00 – 10:00 (Pavilion)

The annual Tuesday Night Sizzle Social Reception: Meet and greet with full dinner provided 6:00 to 8:00. Talk with your Peers and Presenters while enjoying great food, entertainment, and refreshments. The SIZZLE has "Gone Country" this year. Dress in your favorite western attire to sizzle the night away. Food will be provided, with live entertainment including, a dance area, free photo booth, caricature artists and more!!! Professionals will mix drinks, and a wide range of other refreshments will be available for \$3 a ticket or 4 tickets for \$10. Donation of drink tickets will go to Camp McCormick, a 501c3 charity. The lights go down and the dance floor intensifies at 8pm until 10pm.

SIZZLE is free for all conference registrants, and FAVES members may bring up to **one** guest for free. All other adult guests must pay \$60 on Whova or at the door with CashApp to enjoy the festivities.

Adults only please. Trade Winds offers childcare at the expense of the parents.

Sponsored in part by "Visit St. Pete", The Trade Winds and FAVES.

Wednesday June 4th, 2025

7:00-8:30	Southwest Breakfast	
General Session – Island Grand Ballroom		
8:30-9:30	GI Bill Benefits – Information schools can provide to students on how to use VA benefits.	TBD Virtual
9:30-10:30	NAVPA Updates	Dr. Jan Del Signore
10:30-10:40	Break	
10:40-11:30	V R&E Updates	TBD
11:30 – 12:00	FAVES Membership Meeting (Voting) <i>Biz card mingle winner & Raffle Drawing</i>	Mike, Vice President FAVES
12:00-1:15	Lunch Provided – Western Wednesday (<i>Ticket Required</i>)	
1:15-2:15	VA Central Office Updates	Virtual Kenneth Smith, Executive Director Education Service Veteran Benefits Administration
2:15-2:30	New Board Announcement FAVES Service Award Recipients	Denise, FAVES President Mike Mitchell, FAVES Vice President
2:30-3:30	Compliance Surveys	Virtual TBD
3:30-3:45	Break – Snack Break (<i>Ticket Required</i>)	
3:45 - 4:45	85/15	Virtual TBD
	Dinner on Own	
7:30 PM	Sunset Yoga on the Beach	TBD

Thursday June 5th, 2025

7:00-8:30	Breakfast on your own	
General Session		
8:30-9:30	Debt Management: How to Prevent School Debt	TBD
9:30-9:45	Grand Prize Giveaway – Must be Present to win!	
9:45- 10:15	Florida Department of Veteran Affairs Updates	Al Carte, Chief of Staff
10:15-10:45	Break (Reminder: Check out of Room!)	
10:45-11:45	Risk Based Survey and Supervisory Visits	Betsy Wickham, Bureau Chief
11:45-12:00	Closing Remarks: Mike, Incoming President FAVES	Adjourn – Safe Travels Home
12:30-5:00	Board Meeting (Working Lunch) Old and New Board	
Friday June 6th, 2025 (Post-Conference)		
9:00-1:00	Board Meeting (Final Debriefing) (New Board)	

SCO Training Credits:

FAVES June 2025-New SCO Responsibilities
FAVES June 2025-SCO Handbook & Matrix
FAVES June 2025-Enrollment Manager
FAVES June 2024-NCD What you need to know
FAVES June 2025 – Legislative updates- VA Central Office

FAVES June 2025 – Compliance Survey
FAVES June 2025- 85/15
FAVES June 2025 Debt Management- How to prevent School Debt
FAVES June 2025 Risk Based Survey and Supervisory Visits

We look forward to seeing you at Island Grand a Tradewinds Resort!