

The 49th Annual Florida Veteran Affairs/Florida Association of Veteran Education Specialists (FAVES) Conference

“Stacking the Deck for Veteran Success by Doubling Down on Excellence”

June 1st-June 4th, 2026 | St. Pete Beach, Florida

Saturday May 30th, 2026 (Pre-Conference)

4:00-7:00	Pre-conference workday for Board Members (pre-registration workroom)
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Sunday May 31st, 2026 (Pre-Conference)

12:00-2:00	Board Meeting – Overview of Conference Responsibilities	Snowy Egret
3:00-6:00	Early Registration – Dinner on your own	

Monday June 1st, 2026

General Session – Island Grand Ballroom

7:00-8:30	Registration continues – Continental Breakfast (<i>Ticket Required</i>)	
8:30-8:45	Opening Remarks Colors Presented by Color Guard National Anthem Pledge	Mike Mitchell, President FAVES MacDill Honor Guard
8:45-9:00	Introduction FAVES Board	Mike Mitchell, President FAVES
9:00 -9:15	Introduction of SAA Reps	Betsy Wickham, Bureau Chief
	Introduction of Guest Speakers for the week	
9:15-9:45	Keynote Speaker	
9:45-10:10	Service Award Announcement	
10:10-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:00	Student Veterans of America (SVA)	
11:00-11:30	Student Veteran Panel	
11:30-12:00	Sponsored Group “Helping Hands for Heroes”	
12:00-1:15	Lunch Provided – Money Jackpot Monday (<i>Ticket Required</i>)	

General Session – Island Grand Ballroom

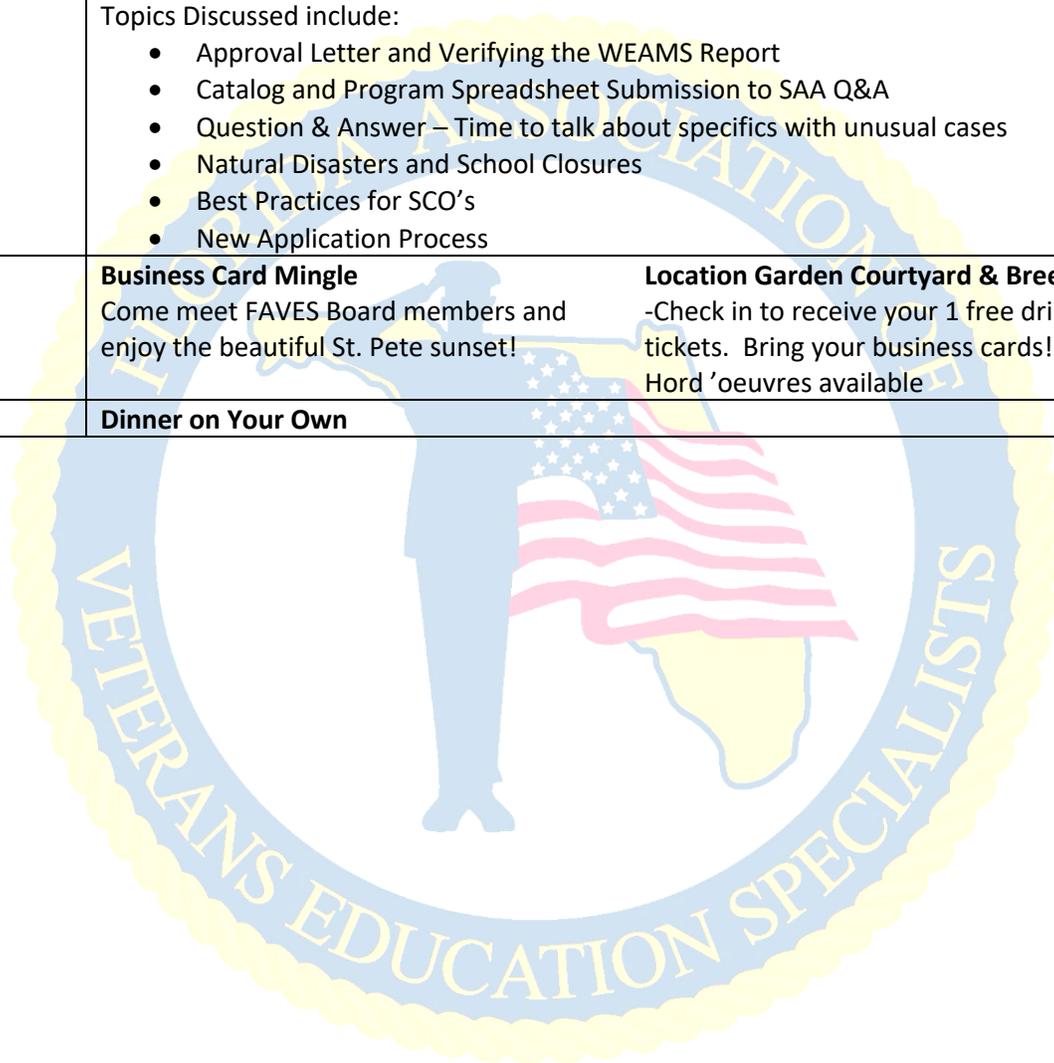
1:15-1:30	VA Name Game Kahoot’s with Prizes	Sandra Torres Pintos & Melissa Ludlam
1:30-3:00	SAA Updates	Betsy Wickham, Bureau Chief
3:00-3:30	Break – Snack Break (<i>Ticket Required</i>)	

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Monday June 1st, 2026

SAA Area Breakouts

3:30-5:30	<p align="center"><u>SAA Area North</u> <i>Long</i></p>	<p align="center"><u>SAA Area South</u> <i>Sawyer</i></p>	<p align="center"><u>SAA Area East</u> <i>Tarpon</i></p>	<p align="center"><u>SAA Area West</u> <i>Indian/Bird</i></p>
<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	<p>Business Card Mingle Come meet FAVES Board members and enjoy the beautiful St. Pete sunset!</p>		<p>Location Garden Courtyard & Breezeway: -Check in to receive your 1 free drink tickets. Bring your business cards! Light Hord 'oeuvres available</p>	
<p>Dinner on Your Own</p>				



Tuesday June 2nd, 2026

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	Successful Coaching Practices as an SCO for Military Affiliated Students TBD	How to Survive being an SCO? TBD	NCD Programs -	VR&E Counselor to SCO views in EM and Tungsten best practice
9:20-10:20	TA and EDD Army Ignited and	GI Bill and Financial Aid – TBD	VA Work Study Programs –	How to Leverage AI as an SCO? Danyell
10:20-10:30	Break			
10:30-11:15	Bursar/Business office troubleshooting payment issues with DMC - Virtual	How to Obtain Military Transcript & Review Jan	Vocation & IHL Flight programs-	VA S.A.V.E. – Four ways you can support a Veteran in Crisis–Elizabeth Newsome, LCSW-QS VA Bay Pines VA HealthCare System
School Troubleshooting Breakout Sessions				
11:20-12:15	IHL with NCD/NCD Troubleshooting	Flight Troubleshooting	Public IHL Troubleshooting	Private IHL Troubleshooting
12:15-1:30	Lunch Provided – High Roller Tuesday (<i>Ticket Required</i>)			

Tuesday June 2nd, 2026

<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	Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) Training – Andrew MacPherson, St Petersburg College	Enrollment Manager-	Computer Software Systems – Bring Your Laptop – TBD -Banner -Workday -VA Works -Salesforce -PeopleSoft
3:00-3:30	Break - Snack Break (<i>Ticket Required</i>)		
3:30 – 4:30	Creating a Successful SVA Chapter Vanessa Ryan, Vice President of Chapter and Community Engagement	Yellow Ribbon programs	SVA- Legislative Landscape

The Annual Tuesday Night SIZZLE Social Reception

6:00 – 10:00 (Pavilion)

FAVES Has Gone Viva Las Vegas!

Join us starting at 6:00 PM for an evening of mixing and mingling while enjoying a full dinner. Then, as the lights dim, the dance floor comes alive from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM—get ready to light up the night! Talk with your Peers and Presenters while enjoying great food, entertainment, and refreshments.

This year's SIZZLE features a Las Vegas theme!

Come dressed in your favorite Vegas glam attire and get ready to light up the night in style.

A “Vegas Rat Pack” themed buffet will be provided, with live entertainment including, a dance area, free photo booth, caricature artists, gaming tables, and more!!! Professionals will mix drinks and a wide range of soda and other refreshments will be available for a \$ donation to the Helping Hands for Heros Organization, a 501c3 charity.

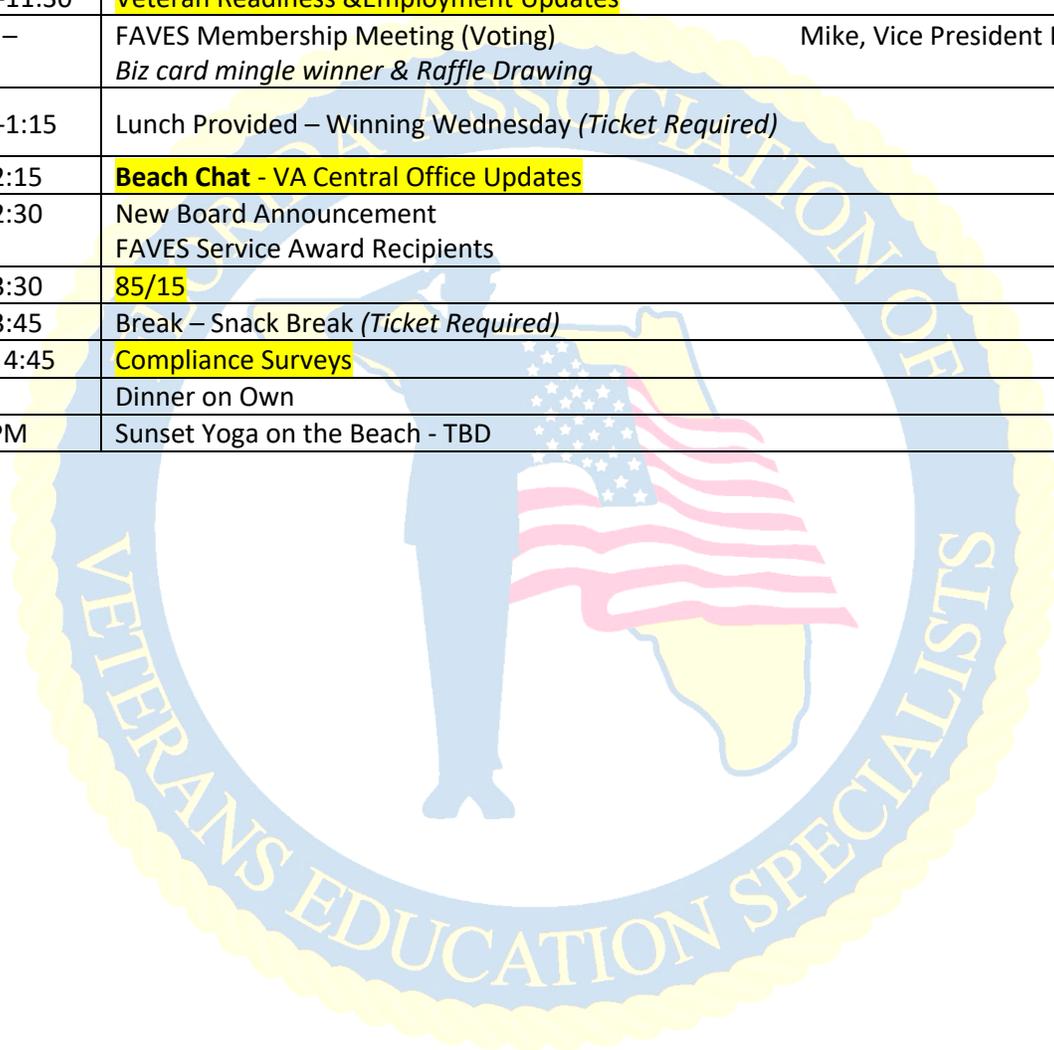
SIZZLE is free for all conference registrants, and FAVES members may bring up to one guest for free. All others must pay \$55 at the door to enjoy the festivities.

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 3th, 2026

7:00-8:30	Full Breakfast (<i>Ticket Required</i>)	
General Session – Island Grand Ballroom		
8:30-9:30	SCO Training Requirements	
9:30-10:30	NAVPA Updates	
10:30-10:40	Break	
10:40-11:30	Veteran Readiness & Employment Updates	
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 – Winning Wednesday (<i>Ticket Required</i>)	
1:15-2:15	Beach Chat - VA Central Office Updates	
2:15-2:30	New Board Announcement FAVES Service Award Recipients	
2:30-3:30	85/15	
3:30-3:45	Break – Snack Break (<i>Ticket Required</i>)	
3:45 - 4:45	Compliance Surveys	
	Dinner on Own	
7:30 PM	Sunset Yoga on the Beach - TBD	



Thursday June 4th, 2026

7:00-8:30	Breakfast on your own	
General Session		
8:30-9:30	Debt Management: How to Prevent School Debt	
9:30-9:45	Grand Prize Giveaway – Must be Present to win!	
9:45- 10:15	Florida Department of Veteran Affairs Updates	
10:15-10:45	Break (Reminder: Check out of Room!)	
10:45-11:45	Risk Based Survey and Supervisory Visits	
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	Snowy Egret

Friday June 5th, 2026 (Post-Conference)

9:00-1:00	Board Meeting (Final Debriefing) (New Board)	
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SCO Training Credits:

FAVES June 2025- SCO training requirements
FAVES June 2025-Enrollment Manager
FAVES June 2025-NCD programs
FAVES June 2025-Vocational & IHL Flight Programs,
FAVES June 2025-Work Study Programs
FAVES June 2025-Yellow Ribbon Programs

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!