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Governor



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SUBJECT: Veterans Service Organizations Assistance, Cooperation, and Coordination
Date: 9/12/2018

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to outline the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) statutory responsibilities in relation to service organizations, and to establish the criteria for recognition by NDVS as a State Veterans Service Organization.

2. *NDVS Responsibilities in Relation to Service Organizations:*

a. Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 417 directs the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) to engage in a formal relationship with certain organizations.

- **NRS 417.090(b): The Director shall aid, assist, encourage and cooperate with every service organization recognized nationally or in this State insofar as the activities of such organizations are for the benefit of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen.** This duty does not require that the service organization (SO) be a "Veterans Service Organization (VSO)" or be solely focused on supporting veterans, just that the organization's activities are for the benefit of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen. Therefore, NDVS is charged to aid, assist, encourage and cooperate with organizations such as *Goodwill of America*, which supports a constituency larger than just that of veterans, when their activities benefit veterans and service members.
- **NRS 417.090(d): The Director shall coordinate activities of veterans' organizations.** This duty specifically outlines NDVS' responsibility to coordinate the activities of VSOs in Nevada, regardless of whether the VSO is nationally recognized or not.

b. There are many ways in which NDVS fulfills these duties. These include (but are not limited to):

- Assisting VSO/SOs communicate with veterans and their communities, using NDVS marketing and communication tools.
- Conducting events, convenings, summits, and symposium that bring together VSO/SOs to support Nevada veterans, service members, and their families.
- Sharing best practices among Nevada's VSO/SOs.
- Providing grant funding for VSO/SO activities that support Veterans Services and Programs. (NDVS financially supports VSO/SOs when their service or program supports a critical unmet need and when funds are available.)

3. *Recognition as a State Veterans Service Organization:*

a. To be considered for NDVS aid or assistance, a VSO must either be an organization chartered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or officially recognized by the Nevada Department of Veterans Services as a State Veterans Service Organization. The criterion for recognition as a State of Nevada VSO are:

- The organization's mission must include (as a primary focus) representing, advocating, or supporting military, veteran, or family member constituencies.
- The organization's activities will not serve the private interests, or private benefit, of any individual or organization more than insubstantially.
- The organization must operate under written guidelines and have a leadership hierarchy that is elected, or appointed, by competent authority.
- The organization cannot directly or indirectly participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate running for public office. The prohibition applies to all campaigns (federal, state, and local level).

b. Once recognized, State of Nevada Veterans Service Organizations will be listed on the NDVS Website under the "State of Nevada Veterans Service Organization" tab. They will remain as recognized organizations until removed by the Director, NDVS. VA chartered veterans service organizations will not be listed on the State of Nevada Veterans Service Organization webpage.