



## Presidents Corner

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As we prepare for our 2014 Fall Training Conference in Clemmons, there many changes in the way we operate. This is not only in how we submit claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs but how the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs is organized and structured. Many of us are not comfortable with change and have a difficult time accepting it. Our Education team has put together a great agenda that will help address dome of the changes we face as CVSOs.

I attended the NACVSO Conference in Grand

Rapids, Michigan in June representing NCACVSO. It was a great week of training and getting to know other CVSOs from across the country. Emphasis in training from the Department of Veterans Affairs centered on the use of ebenefits, SEP, & fully developed claims. In case that you are not aware, Debt Management in St. Paul has a dedicated VSO hotline. This number is NOT to be shared with veterans. The number is 612-970-5737.

If there is any way that we can improve training or training you would like to

see, please let the NCACVSO leadership team know so we can schedule the training at upcoming conferences. Also please share with us any ideas on improving outreach in our counties. We could all use a few great ideas to improve our programs in our counties.

Again thank you for all you do for the Veterans of North Carolina.



VILLAGE INN  
EVENT CENTER  
*Featuring the Crystal Ballroom*

## The Word from the Chaplain

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John 15:9-17 (NIV)

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love

each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made

known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.”

See you at the Prayer Breakfast.

## Hospitality

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Wednesday the 17th of September will be our Hospitality Night for our conference. This years theme will be **Madi Gras**.

Ever wonder how the official Mardi Gras colors - purple, green and gold - were chosen? Selected the official Mardi Gras colors in 1872 to honor the visiting Russian

Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovich Romanoff, whose house colors were purple, green and gold. The 1892 Rex Parade theme "Symbolism of Colors" affirmed the colors' meaning. Purple represents Justice, Green represents Faith, Gold represents power. During the festival period, locals dress up and attend social events

throughout the city.

The Hospitably Committee and I look forward to seeing you all.

John Sandrock



## DoD issues guidance for Veteran discharge upgrade requests

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CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. – The Department of Defense announced on Wednesday that some veterans may be allowed an upgrade of “less than honorable” discharges if undiagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) may have been a factor in problems during their time of service.

“This is our responsibility and the right thing to do for veterans,” said Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel.

“This new guidance reflects our commitment to those who served our country during times of war many decades ago.”

Supplemental guidance will be issued to Military Department Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCM/NR) when considering petitions for discharge upgrades made by veterans claiming PTSD.

Vietnam veterans especially have petitioned BCM/NR to upgrade discharges based on unrecognized PTSD, which may not have been diagnosed until decades following the veteran’s period of service. According to DoD, “This supplemental guidance was issued to help review boards ensure fair and consistent results across the military

services and ease the application process for veterans who are seeking redress. It is not intended to interfere with, or impede the boards’ statutory independence to correct errors or remove injustices through the correction of military records.”

The supplemental guidance can be found at

<http://www.defense.gov/news/OSD009883-14.pdf>.

**The Leaf-Chronicle** 2:44 p.m.  
CDT September 3, 2014

# NCACVSO Leadership

## ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: ERIC TRUES-  
DALE

VICE PRESIDENT JIM PROSSER

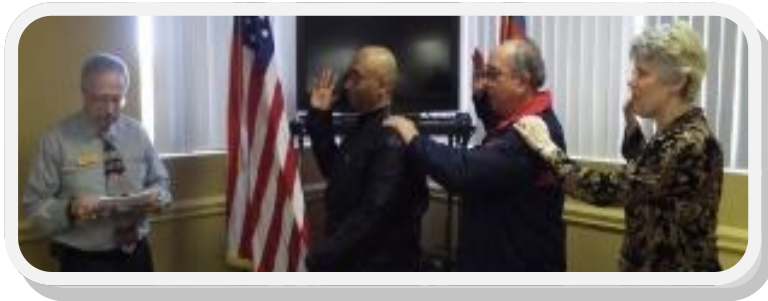
SECRETARY LORI HINSON

TREASURER TERESA BALL



## APPOINTED POSITIONS:

MEMBER-AT-LARGE	JIMI SOWELL
	AMELIA GRISSETT
CHAPLAIN	GARY RAIFORD
JUDGE ADVOCATE	LARRY TOWN- SEND
NEWSLETTER	JIM PEDERSEN
HISTORIAN	VICTOR ALSTON
WEBSITE EDITOR	ERIC TRUESDALE
CONFERENCE COORD.	TERESA BALL
NATIONAL DELEGATES	ANN KNOWLES
TRIBA/NAIA REP	LARRY TOWNSEND
PHOTOGRAPHER	



## Get Involved—Join A Committee

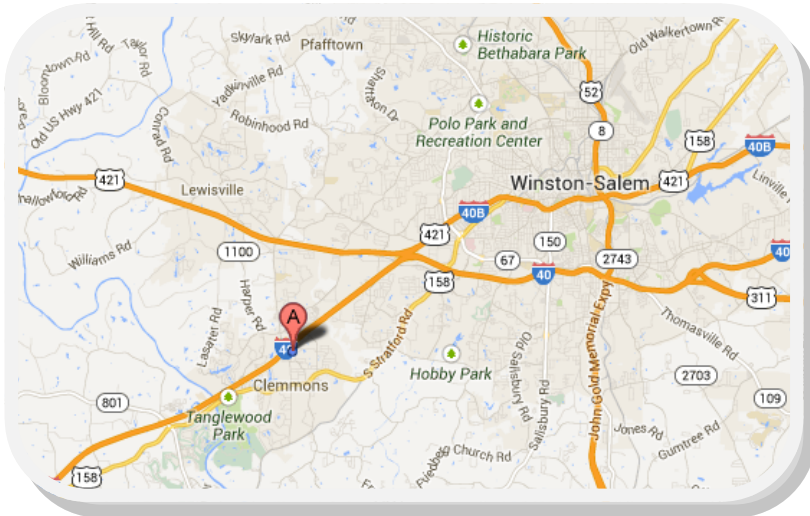
At our last training conference, Daren Graves, Nominations Chairman, reminded everyone that they must have served on a Committee to be eligible to hold an office in NCACVSO. Before I work on adding members to our committees,

I would like to ask one more time who would like to serve on a Committee in NCACVSO. Please email me prior to the Fall Conference if possible your desires.

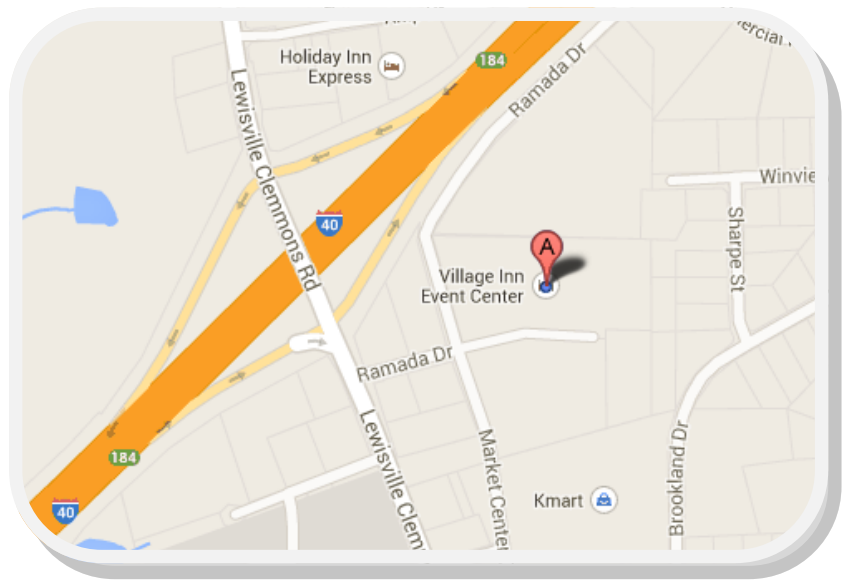
Our standing committees are as follows:

- Education
- Scholarship
- Budget & Finance
- Legislation
- Women Veterans
- Nominations
- Hospitality
- VISN 6
- By-Laws & Policies & Procedures
- Membership

# Directions to the Village Inn



6205 Ramada Dr.  
Clemmons, NC



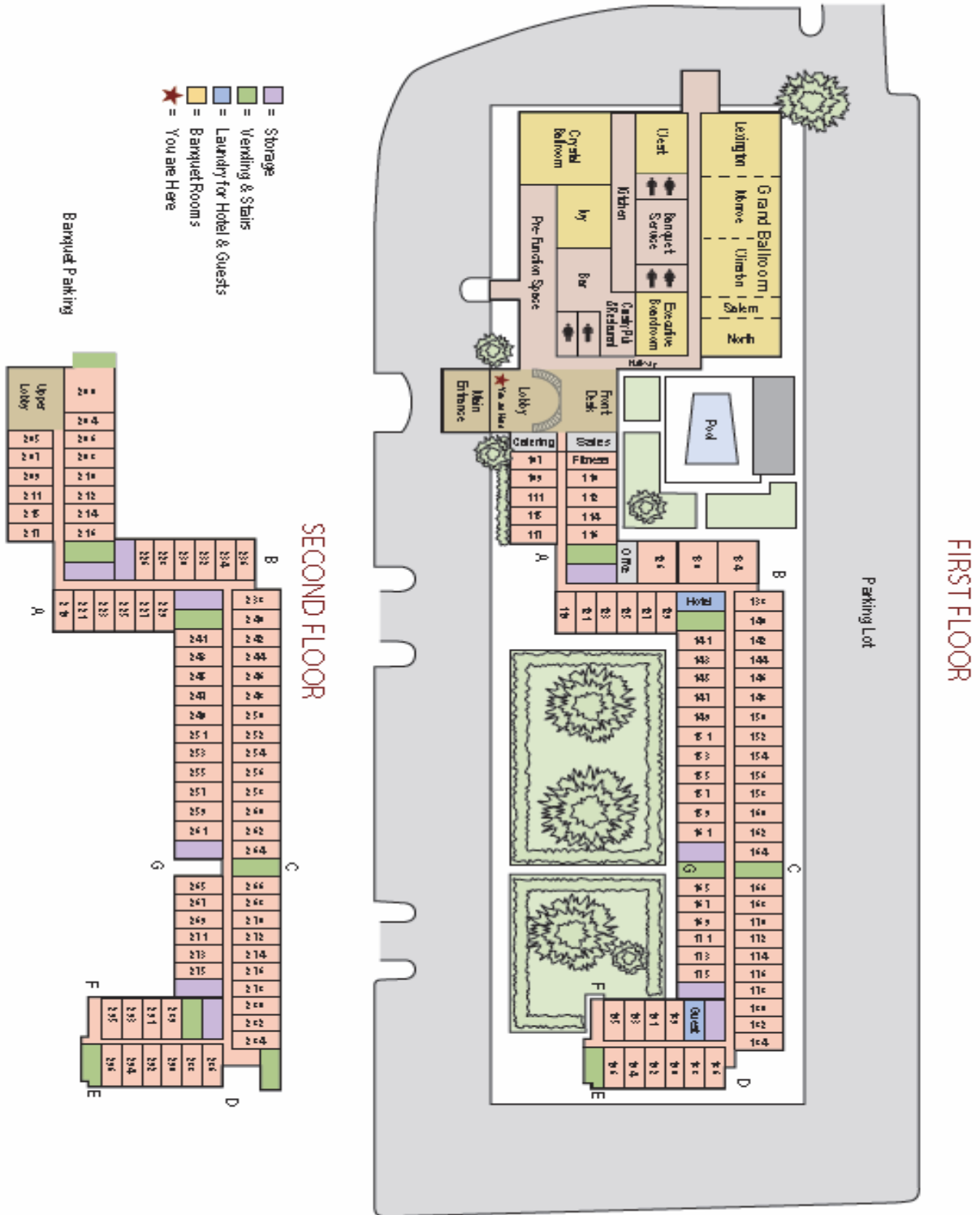
## Directions if you are traveling on: Interstate 40 East

- I - 40 East to Lewisville-Clemmons Road (exit 184).
  - At the end of the ramp make a right onto Lewisville-Clemmons Road.
  - Beside the Wilco-Hess Gas Station make a left onto Ramada Drive.
- Hotel will be on your left past the Super 8.

## Directions if you are traveling on: Interstate 40 West

- I- 40 West to Lewisville - Clemmons Road (exit 184.)
- At the end of the ramp make a left onto Lewisville-Clemmons Road.
- Beside the Wilco-Hess Gas Station make a left onto Ramada Drive.
- Hotel will be on your left past the Super 8.

# Property Layout



**North Carolina Association of County Veterans Service Officers**  
**Fall Training Conference - Clemmons**  
**September 16-19, 2014**

**Tuesday September 16**

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Presenter</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
1:30 – 4:00	OPTIONAL Tour of VARO	Mike Ayers	Hotel Lobby
3:30 – 4:30	Scholarship Committee	Ann Knowles	Executive Boardroom
4:30 – 5:30	Education Committee Meeting	Jim Prosser	Executive Boardroom
5:30 – 7:00	Executive Board Meeting	Eric Truesdale	Executive Boardroom

**Wednesday September 17**

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Presenter</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
08:00 – 08:30	Registration	Teresa Ball	
08:30 – 08:45	Opening Remarks	Eric Truesdale	Lexington/Monroe Rm
08:45 – 10:15	NCDVA Reorganization Panel	Leadership Team	Lexington/Monroe Rm
10:15 – 10:30	Break		
10:30 – 11:30	Homeless Veterans Program	Jennifer Herb	Lexington/Monroe Rm
11:30 – 12:00	Ethics	Crystal Anderson	Lexington/Monroe Rm
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch		
1:00 – 3:00	Appeal Issues (Part 1)	Doug Rosinski	Lexington/Monroe Rm
3:00 – 3:15	Break		
3:15 – 4:15	Clothing Allowance Changes	Andre Junkins	Lexington/Monroe Rm
5:30– 7:00	Hospitality		North Room

**North Carolina Association of County Veterans Service Officers**  
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**Thursday September 19**

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Presenter</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
07:30 – 08:30	Prayer Breakfast	Gary/Jimi	Restaurant
08:45 – 09:00	Opening Remarks	Eric Truesdale	Lexington/Monroe Rm
09:00 – 10:00	Appeal Issues (Part 2)	Doug Rosinski	Lexington/Monroe Rm
10:00 – 10:15	Break		
10:15 – 11:15	Appeal Issues (Part 2) Cont.	Doug Rosinski	Lexington/Monroe Rm
11:15– 12:00	General Business Meeting	Eric Truesdale	Lexington/Monroe Rm
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch		
1:00 – 3:00	Secondary Conditions	Hans White	Lexington/Monroe Rm
3:00 – 3:15	Break		
3:15 – 4:15	Caregiver Support Program	Tara Zollicoffer	Lexington/Monroe Rm
6:00 – 8:30	Banquet/Auction	Darryl Crenshaw	Crystal

**\*Friday September 20**

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Presenter</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
8:30 – 8:45	Opening Remarks	Eric Truesdale	Lexington/Monroe R
8:45 – 9:45	W-S VARO Updates	Doug Chapman	Lexington/Monroe Rm
9:45 – 10:00	Closing Presentation of Certificates	Eric Truesdale/ Jim Prosser	Lexington/Monroe Rm

*\* Must Attend Friday to receive your CEU's*

## Tidbits

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**38 U.S. Code § 1154 (b)** In the case of any veteran who engaged in combat with the enemy in active service with a military, naval, or air organization of the United States during a period of war, campaign, or expedition, the Secretary shall accept as sufficient proof of service-connection of any disease or injury alleged to have been incurred in or aggravated by such service satisfactory lay or other evidence of service incurrence or aggravation of such injury or disease, if consistent with the circumstances, conditions, or hardships of such service, notwithstanding the fact that there is no official record of such incurrence or aggravation in such service, and, to that end, shall resolve every reasonable doubt in favor of the veteran. Service-connection of such injury or disease may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence to the contrary. The reasons for granting or denying service-connection in each case shall be recorded in full.

**38 U.S. Code § 5303 (b)** Notwithstanding subsection (a), if it is established to the satisfaction of the Secretary that, at the time of the commission of an offense leading to a person's court-martial, discharge, or resignation, that person was insane, such person shall not be precluded from benefits under laws administered by the Secretary based upon the period of service from which such person was separated.



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## Conference Raffle and Auction

The Fall Conference in Clemmons is almost here! For those of you attending the conference, don't forget about the raffle and auction. Both are held on the evening of the Banquet. Members attending the conference are asked to bring an item to be auctioned off. All sorts of items are auctioned off at each conference. Items can be of a mili-

tary nature, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, inspirational items, etc. No item is too big or too small..

This event helps support the scholarship fund.

Bring an Item and bring your Cash!

