

*Empowering Native American Veterans
to Speak with One Voice to Shape Policy*



2014 Southwest Regional Veterans Conference

co-hosted by the

Southwest Native American Veterans Association

and the

Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Association

www.SWNAVA.org

September 22-24, 2014
Isleta Resort & Casino
Pueblo of Isleta, New Mexico



WELCOME

Greetings Honorable Veterans, Tribal Leaders, State and Government Officials and Guests:

On behalf of the Southwest Native American Veterans Association (SWNAVA) and Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Association (POIVA), we welcome you to our inaugural **2014 Southwest Regional Veterans Conference**. This is a first-of-its-kind conference hosted for Native American Veterans and their families in New Mexico. We hope that you will take the time and opportunity to listen to all the speakers, presenters and attend all the sessions, including the Honoring of Veterans Gourd Dance. We have a long history of warriors in our communities, and we come together this week for what we hope will be an annual event to honor, show gratitude and inform those who gave so much of themselves for this country.

As you all answered the call to serve, you did so willingly with courage and dignity. We gather here to help you and your families obtain those benefits you earned for your service. We know that there are many challenges, but we hope that SWNAVA can help you gain that voice with top officials to air your concerns or perhaps change policy. Our goal is to strengthen relationships with those entities and among ourselves as we grow as an organization.

Thank you again for your service and welcome.

SWNAVA Board of Directors



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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Introduction of Leadership, Veterans Benefit Administration, and National Cemetery Administration

0730 - 1600	Registration and Information in the Ballroom Foyer	
0800 - 1600	Veterans Expo in the Ballroom Foyer, Ballroom C, Hotel Lobby	
0800 - 0945 Showroom	Opening General Session Marvin Trujillo, Jr., SWNAVA Secretary/Treasurer, Pueblo of Laguna, 1st LT USMC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posting of Colors: Inter Tribal Color Guard • Invocation: E. Paul Torres, Governor, Pueblo of Isleta • Grand Entry: Laguna Eagle Dance Group and Drum Group 	
	Welcome and Introduction of Guests E. Paul Torres, Governor, Pueblo of Isleta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congressional, State and Tribal Leadership • Southwest Native American Veterans Association Board • Office of Tribal Government Relations - David Montoya • Center for Minority Veterans - Earl Newsome • Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Veterans Services - Timothy Hale • Acting Director, New Mexico VA Health Care System - Dr. Skye McDougal • Director, Albuquerque VA Regional Office - Christopher Norton • Director, Santa Fe National Cemetery - James Sanders • Director, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service - RADM Richie Grinnell 	
	Reaching Out... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Administration Reaching Out to Native American Veterans - Congressman Steve Pearce • Purpose of Office of Tribal Government Relations - David Montoya • Purpose of Center for Minority Veterans - Earl Newsome 	
0945 - 1000	Veterans Expo & Refreshment Break	
1000 - 1045	Breakout Session 1	
	Filing for Service Connection • Ken Anaya, Albuquerque VA Regional Office	Ballroom A
	VA Pensions, Medals and Records • Tom Snell, Military Order of the Purple Heart	Ballroom B
	Montgomery and Post 911 GI BILLS • NMDVS	Rio Grande
	Arizona State Tax Exemption for Veterans • Gila River Veterans Association	Bosque
	Burial at National Cemeteries - Decedent Affairs • Marita Smith, Santa Fe National Cemetery	Monzano
	VSO Assistance • VARO, NMDVS, MOPH & DAV	Sunrise
	Veterans Administration and Tribal Leadership Consultation - OTGR Objectives • David Montoya and LoRae Homana Pawiki, Office of Tribal Government Relations	Seminar
1045 - 1100	Veterans Expo & Break	

1100 - 1145	Breakout Session 2	
	Office of Tribal Government Relations • LoRae Homana Pawiki, Office of Tribal Government Relations	Ballroom A
	Military Service Organizations (MOPH) DIC and Death Pensions • Tom Snell, Military Order of the Purple Heart & DAV	Ballroom B
	Veterans Educational Benefits • Brad Lakin, University of Phoenix	Rio Grande
	State of New Mexico Veterans Benefits • Theresa Zuni, NM Dept. of Veterans Services	Monzano
	VSO Assistance • VARO, NMDVS, MOPH & DAV	Sunrise
	Veterans Administration and Tribal Leadership Brief – Minority Veterans Program Coordinator (MVPC) Program • Earl Newsome, CMV and Oscar Hilman, ACMV BGEN	Seminar
1200 - 1300 Showroom	Keynote Luncheon: <i>New Mexico Congressional Delegation Messages</i>	
1315 - 1400 Showroom	Honoring and Recognition Ceremony featuring the Wisconsin Dells Singers	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Veterans in Attendance • Honoring the Fallen 	
1400 - 1415	Veterans Expo & Break	
1415 - 1500	Breakout Session 3	
	E-Benefits • Ken Anaya, Albuquerque VARO	Ballroom A
	Requesting for DD-214's and Military Health Records • Tom Snell, Military Order of the Purple Heart	Ballroom B
	Veteran Employment Assistance • Victor Baca, NM Work Force Solutions	Rio Grande
	Requesting Military Burial Honors, Headstones, American Flags, and Presidential Memorial Certificates • Theresa Zuni, NM Dept. of Veterans Services	Monzano
	VSO Assistance • VARO, NMDVS, MOPH & DAV	Sunrise
	NMDVS and Tribal Leadership Brief on NM State Veterans Benefits • Timothy Hale, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Veteran Services	Seminar
1500 - 1530	Veterans Expo & Break	
1530 - 1600 Ballrooms A/B	Summary of Events and Closing Prayer	
1800 - 2100 Ballrooms A/B	Honoring of Veterans Gourd Dance	

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Veterans Health Administration

0730 - 1600	Registration and Information in the Ballroom Foyer
0800 - 1600	Veterans Expo in the Ballroom Foyer, Ballroom C, Hotel Lobby

0800 – 0945 Showroom	<p>Opening General Session Ramus Suina, SWNAVA Chairman, Former Governor, Pueblo of Cochiti</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge of Allegiance: Christen Tenorio and Joshua Aragon • Invocation: Antonio Chewiwi, 1st Lt. Governor, Pueblo of Isleta • Grand Entry: Zuni Tribal Dance Group 														
	<p>Welcome and Introduction of Guests Fred Lujan, SWNAVA Vice-Chairman, Former Governor, Pueblo of Isleta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Indian Affairs – Arthur Allison • Acting Director, New Mexico VA Health Care System – Dr. Skye McDougal • Director, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service – RADM, Richie Grinnell 														
	<p>Veterans Administration/ Indian Health Service MOU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service – Dr. Leonard Thomas • Office of Tribal Government Relations – David Montoya • Advisory Committee for Minority Veterans – Oscar Hillman, Brigadier General, U.S. Army Retired • New Mexico Health Care Exchange – NMITCC - Ken Reid 														
0945 – 1000	Veterans Expo & Refreshment Break														
1000 – 1045	<p>Breakout Session 1: <i>Getting Started with the VA Health Care System</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 940 1075 974">Introduction to VA's Health Care System • Melissa Middleton, VAMC</td> <td data-bbox="1399 940 1528 974">Ballroom A</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 982 620 1016">Starter Clinics • VAMC Staff</td> <td data-bbox="1399 982 1528 1016">Ballroom B</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1024 1162 1058">VA/IHS MOU • Dr. Leonard Thomas - Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1024 1528 1058">Rio Grande</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1066 1286 1100">Boot Camp-Responsible Gaming for Veterans • Rosa Juarez – NM Responsible Gaming</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1066 1528 1100">Bosque</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1108 789 1142">Primary Care & Telemedicine • VAMC Staff</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1108 1528 1142">Monzano</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1150 1075 1184">Enrollment and Health Screening • VAMC Staff and CHR Association</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1150 1528 1184">Sunrise</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1192 1292 1276">Tribal Relationships with the VA Health Care System • Jim Toya and Jennifer DeWinnie, Veteran Affairs Medical Center</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1192 1528 1226">Seminar</td> </tr> </table>	Introduction to VA's Health Care System • Melissa Middleton, VAMC	Ballroom A	Starter Clinics • VAMC Staff	Ballroom B	VA/IHS MOU • Dr. Leonard Thomas - Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service	Rio Grande	Boot Camp-Responsible Gaming for Veterans • Rosa Juarez – NM Responsible Gaming	Bosque	Primary Care & Telemedicine • VAMC Staff	Monzano	Enrollment and Health Screening • VAMC Staff and CHR Association	Sunrise	Tribal Relationships with the VA Health Care System • Jim Toya and Jennifer DeWinnie, Veteran Affairs Medical Center	Seminar
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1045 - 1100	Veterans Expo & Break														
1100 – 1145	<p>Breakout Session 2: <i>Utilizing the VA Health Care System</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1415 834 1449">Ancillary Care and Specialty Care • VAMC Staff</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1415 1528 1449">Ballroom A</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1457 808 1491">VHA PTSD & Behavioral Health • VAMC Staff</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1457 1528 1491">Ballroom B</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1499 863 1533">Veterans Justice Program and STAR • VAMC Staff</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1499 1528 1533">Rio Grande</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1541 756 1575">Woman Veterans Services • VAMC Staff</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1541 1528 1575">Bosque</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1583 1211 1617">Patient Navigator Assistance for Veterans • Ken Reid and Dr. Ron Lujan - NMITCC</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1583 1528 1617">Monzano</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1625 1075 1659">Enrollment and Health Screening • VAMC Staff and CHR Association</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1625 1528 1659">Sunrise</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="305 1667 1260 1751">Tribal Health Program Agreements for Tribes • LoRae Homana Pawiki, Office of Tribal Government Relations</td> <td data-bbox="1399 1667 1528 1701">Seminar</td> </tr> </table>	Ancillary Care and Specialty Care • VAMC Staff	Ballroom A	VHA PTSD & Behavioral Health • VAMC Staff	Ballroom B	Veterans Justice Program and STAR • VAMC Staff	Rio Grande	Woman Veterans Services • VAMC Staff	Bosque	Patient Navigator Assistance for Veterans • Ken Reid and Dr. Ron Lujan - NMITCC	Monzano	Enrollment and Health Screening • VAMC Staff and CHR Association	Sunrise	Tribal Health Program Agreements for Tribes • LoRae Homana Pawiki, Office of Tribal Government Relations	Seminar
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Tribal Health Program Agreements for Tribes • LoRae Homana Pawiki, Office of Tribal Government Relations	Seminar														
1200 – 1300 Showroom	<p>Keynote Luncheon: <i>Recognition of Native American Code Talkers</i> • Judy Avila, Author of "Code Talker"</p>														

1315 - 1400 Showroom	Honoring and Recognition of Vietnam Veterans featuring the Wisconsin Dells Singers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Home • New Mexico Vietnam Veteran Memorial 	
1400 - 1415	Veterans Expo & Break	
1415 - 1500	Breakout Session 3: Geriatric and Extended Care Services	
	Geriatric and Extended Care Services • VAMC Staff	Ballroom A
	Home Based Primary Care - Home Health Aids • VAMC Staff	Ballroom B
	Hearing Aids and Prosthetics • VAMC Staff	Rio Grande
	Transportation Services provided by the VA • VAMC Staff	Bosque
	Enrollment and Health Screening • VAMC Staff and CHR Association	Sunrise
	Tribal Leadership - VA/IHS MOU • Dr. Leonard Thomas - Albuquerque Area IHS	Seminar
1500 - 1530	Veterans Expo & Break	
1530 - 1600 Ballrooms A/B	Summary of Events and Closing Prayer	
1700 - 1830 Isleta Lakes Resort	Military Cadence 1.5 mile Run/Walk *** Shuttle services available outside the hotel lobby	

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Veterans Housing and Business Expo

0730 - 1400	Registration and Information in the Ballroom Foyer
0800 - 1630	Veterans Expo in the Ballroom Foyer, Ballroom C, Hotel Lobby
0800 - 0945 Showroom	Opening General Session Howard Richards, Sr., SWNAVA Board Member, Former Chairman, Southern Ute Indian Tribe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge of Allegiance: Joe Martinez, Field Representative at Congressman Pearce's Office, Las Cruces • Invocation: Fred Lujan, SWNAVA Vice-Chairman, Former Governor, Pueblo of Isleta
	Welcome and Introduction of Guests Steve Abeita, CPT, U.S. Army, Pueblo of Isleta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Business Administration - John C. Woosley, Director • Veterans Business Resource Center - Joseph Long, Colonel, Retired, U.S. Marine Corps • American Indian Chamber of Commerce of NM - Russell Pedro • NM Indian Affairs Department - Arthur Allison & Jerry Sandoval • VA Regional Office Phoenix - Jeff Wilson • NM Mortgage Finance Authority - Eric Schmieder
	Reaching Out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Business and Indian Country - Ray Jardine, Colonel, Retired, U.S. Army • Honoring Native American Veterans in New Mexico - Stacey Corley, Grants Corley Ford • American Indian Veterans Memorial - Stephen Bowers, Seminole Tribe of Florida

0945 – 1000	Veterans Expo & Refreshment Break	
1000 – 1045	Breakout Session 1	
	Requesting for a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for the Native American Direct Loan • Jeff Wilson, Phoenix VA Regional Office	Ballroom A
	Mortgage Financing in Indian Country • Marvin Ginn and Eric Schmieder	Ballroom B
	Native American Businesses Assistance Programs for our Warriors, Our Veterans • Russell Pedro, AICCNM; Adolfo Vasquez, VTAP; Lovie McGee; and Shelia Belgrave	Rio Grande
	Veterans Business – Veterans Business Resources Center • Richard Coffell, NM Department of Veterans Services	Bosque
	Veterans Housing Brief – Tribal Leadership • OTGR – VA Regional Office Phoenix	Seminar
1045 - 1100	Veterans Expo & Break	
1100 – 1145	Breakout Session 2	
	Requesting for a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for the Native American Direct Loan • Jeff Wilson, Phoenix VA Regional Office	Ballroom A
	Building Veteran Homes on Trust Land • Marvin Ginn and Eric Schmieder	Ballroom B
	Veterans Business – Funding for Starting your Small Business Government Contracting • Josh Baca, Small Business Administration	Rio Grande
	Veterans Business Starter Tips • Ray Jardine, Native Hawaiian Businesses LLC and David Carlberg, UNM SBDC Valencia	Bosque
	Veterans Housing Brief – Tribal Leadership • OTGR, SBA, VBRC, NM IAD	Seminar
1200 – 1300	Lunch – on your own	
1315 – 1400 Ballroom A	Honoring and Recognizing our Returning Veterans featuring the Wisconsin Dells Singers	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American Women Veterans – Demetria Aragon, SFC, Retired, U.S. Army • Active Duty Service Members • Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn 	
1400 – 1415	Veterans Expo & Break	
1415 – 1500	Breakout Session 3	
	Utilizing Native American Direct Loan • Jeff Wilson, Phoenix VA Regional Office	Ballroom A
	Tribal Status Reports (TSR) • Marvin Ginn and BIA	Ballroom B
	Utilizing New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Funding for Veterans • Jerry Sandoval, NM Indian Affairs Department	Rio Grande
	Veterans Business – Funding for Starting your Business • Ivan Corrales, Small Business Administration	Bosque
	Tribal Leadership – Conference Summary • OTGR and NMDVS	Seminar
1500 – 1530	Veterans Expo & Break	
1530 – 1630 Ballrooms A/B	Summary of Events and Closing Prayer	

2014 REGIONAL VETERANS CONFERENCE SPONSORS



Special thanks to our hosts
Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Association
and the
Pueblo of Isleta



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