

Marriott Knoxville Downtown, 525 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

October 2 - 4, 2023

| Monday | Day 1 – October 2, 2023 | Location | Speaker | Speaker Contact Information |
|--------------------|--|---|--|---|
| 12:00 am – 1:00 pm | Networking and Partner Availability | Pre-Function Space | | |
| 12:00 am – 1:00 pm | Registration | Pre-Function Space | Regional Directors | |
| 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm | Welcome, Introduction, Opening Remarks | Royston Clark | Tommy Baker, Commissioner, TDVS | tn.veterans@tn.gov https://www.tn.gov/veteran.html |
| 1:30 pm – 1:45 pm | Break (Coffee & Water) & Transition to Break Out Rooms | | | |
| 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm | Veterans Health Administration Updates from Across Tennessee Question & Answer Availability | Catchment Area Break Out Memphis – Hope Tennessee Valley – Royston/Clark Mountain Home - Wiley | Michael Renfrow, Acting Executive Director, Tennessee Valley Health Care System Dean Borsos, Executive Director, Mountain Home VA Health Care System Joseph Vaughn, Executive Director, Lt. Col Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center | https://www.va.gov/mountain-home-health-care/ https://www.va.gov/tennessee-valley-health-care/ https://www.va.gov/memphis-health-care/ |



2023 TDVS Annual Training "Serving Those Who Served"

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|-------------------|--|--|---|--|
| 2:45 pm – 3:00 pm | Break (Coffee & Water & Light Snack) & Transition | | | |
| 3:00 pm – 3:15 pm | Nashville VA Regional Office Welcome | Royston Clark | Charles Moore, Executive Director, Nashville Regional Office | https://www.benefits.va.gov/nashville/ director.vbanas@va.gov |
| 3:15 pm – 3:45 pm | Break Out Sessions | | | |
| | Tennessee County Veterans Service Officers Association Time (County Service Officers) | Royston Clark | TN County Service Officer Association Leadership | |
| | Regional Director Time (TDVS Employees) | Break Out Room(s) Region 1 – Hope Region 2 – Milani Region 3 – Armstrong Region 4 - Wiley | Regional Directors | |
| 3:45 pm – 4:30 pm | Regional Director Time (TDVS Employees and County Service Officers) | Break Out Room(s) Region 1 – Hope | Regional Directors | |

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| | | Region 2 – Milani | | |
| | | Region 3 – Armstrong | | |
| | | Region 4 - Wiley | | |
| 4:30 pm – 4:45 pm | Break (Coffee & Water) & Transition | | | |
| 4:45 pm – 5:00 pm | Introduction to NVLSP and TDVS Partnership | Royston Clark | NVLSP | https://www.nvlsp.org/ richard@NVLSP.org margaret.costello@NVLSP.org |
| | Day 1 Events Complete | | | |
| Tuesday | Day 2 – October 3, 2023 | Location | Speaker | Speaker Contact Information |
| 6:30 am -8:00 am | Breakfast – American Breakfast Buffet | Fulton | | |
| 8:00 am - 8:15 am | Welcome, Introductions Opening Remarks Partner Presentation – State Veterans Cemeteries | Royston Clark | M. Kevin Knowles Director, East Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries, TDVS | Michael.knowles@tn.gov |
| 8:15 am – 9:45 am | The PACT Act: A Primer for Veterans Advocates | Royston Clark | Rick Spataro | richard@NVLSP.org |
| 9:45 am – 10:00 am | Break (Coffee & Water) | | | |
| 10:00 am – 11:30 am | Claims for VA Benefits for Mental Disability | Royston Clark | Peggy Costello | margaret.costello@NVLSP.org |
| 11:30 am -1:00 pm | Lunch – The Picnic Buffet | Fulton | | |
| 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Appeals Modernization Act Practical Exercise | Royston Clark | Rick Spataro | richard@NVLSP.org |

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| 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm | VA Benefits for Survivors of Veterans | Royston Clark | Peggy Costello | margaret.costello@NVLSP.org |
| 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm | Break (Coffee & Water & Light Snack) & Transition to Break Out Rooms | Pre-Function Space | | |
| 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm | Break Out Sessions | Break Out Room(s) | | |
| | Track A: VA Benefits for Survivors of Veterans: <u>Practical Application Session</u> | Armstrong | Travis Murphy Assistant Commissioner, Appeals & Accreditation Division, TDVS Kelli Brown CVSO Montgomery County | travis.murphy@tn.gov kjbrown@mcgtn.net |
| | Track B: How Involvement with the Criminal Justice System Impacts VA Benefits | Milani | Rick Spataro | richard@NVLSP.org |
| | Track C: Assisting Survivors with Claims for VA Benefits Associated with Military Sexual Trauma | Wiley | Peggy Costello | margaret.costello@NVLSP.org |
| | Track D: Pension: <u>Practical Application Session</u> | Hope | Suzanna Ellis Training Officer, Appeals & Accreditation Division, TDVS Jeff Oakey CVSO | suzanna.ellis@tn.gov joakey@sumnercountyttn.gov |

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| | | | Sumner County | |
| | Day 2 Events Complete | | | |
| Wednesday | Day 3 – October 4, 2023 | Location | Speaker | Speaker Contact Information |
| 6:30 am – 8:00 am | Breakfast – Continental Breakfast | Fulton | | |
| 8:00 am – 8:15 am | Welcome, Introduction, Opening Remarks Partner Presentation – ARNG Survivor Outreach Services | Royston Clark | Cindy Humphrey ARNG Survivor Outreach Services | chumphrey@sri-hq.com |
| 8:15 am – 8:30 am | Break (Coffee & Water) & Transition to Break Out Rooms | | | |
| 8:30 am – 9:45 am | Break Out Sessions | Break Out Room(s) | | |
| | | Wiley | Ron Dvorsky Training Director Appeals & Accreditation Division, TDVS Liza Quinn Appeals Advocate, Appeals & Accreditation Division, TDVS | ronald.dvorsky@tn.gov liza.quinn@tn.gov |
| | Track A: Reviewing a Claims File & VA Systems (VBMS/Caseflow) Tips | | | |
| | Track B: Legal Research for Lay Advocates | Milani | Rick Spataro | richard@NVLSP.org |
| | Track C: Effective Advocacy Before VA – Higher Level Reviews and TDVS Written Advocacy | Armstrong | Rebecca Gallion, Quality & Appeals Specialist, | rebecca.Gallion@tn.gov |

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| | | | Appeals & Accreditation Division, TDVS | |
| | Track D: Common VA Errors | Hope | Peggy Costello | margaret.costello@NVLSP.org |
| 9:45 am – 10:00 am | Break (Coffee & Water) & Transition | | | |
| 10:00 am – 10:30 am | Closing Comments, Announcement of 2024 Conference Dates and Location, Publication of 2024 Training Schedule | Royston Clark | Tommy Baker, Commissioner, TDVS | tn.veterans@tn.gov https://www.tn.gov/veteran.html |
| | Annual Conference Events Complete | | | |
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**All Times Are EST