



(August 20, 2012)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee

National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: Important Hatch Act Guidance for Federal Employees**  
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Important Hatch Act Guidance for Federal Employees

This announcement triggers the need for a general reminder of the rules that [apply to](#) government employees under the Hatch Act, as amended, at 5 U.S.C. 7321, et seq. (Hatch Act). **To launch the training please see the deep TMS link and the VAKN CDN link in the e-mail below. This training will remind us of the current permitted and prohibited activities.**

For employees who use JAWS low vision software, attached is the power point used by the Office Of Special Counsel (OSC) for this training.

Hatch Act Training – For All Federal Employees

Welcome to a robust election season! Are you aware of how you can participate based on your employee status? **Do you understand the do's and don'ts?** This is a roundtable discussion about the Hatch Act presented by the Office of Special Counsel at the Office of Personnel Management in Washington, DC, which **offers important information about restrictions placed on the political activities of Federal Government employees.** These

limitations are in place so that Executive Branch Employees remain politically neutral when performing their official duties - and so that Government resources and appropriations are not expended for partisan political purposes.

VA Learning University, Office of General Counsel, Employee Education Service, Office of Special Counsel and Office of Personnel Management collaborated in bringing this video to all VA employees.

You can now [watch a video](#) of the OPM Hatch Act Round Table and earn 1.0 learning hours by accessing the link below.

https://www.tms.va.gov/plateau/user/deeplink_redirect.jsp?linkId=ITEM_DETAILS&componentID=3738158&componentTypeID=VA&revisionDate=1339600620000

(Click on "Launch Video") After the video is over, go back to the TMS screen and click "Back to Content" and then "Self Certify" to receive credit for watching the video)

To watch the video only click here to launch:

http://vaww.vakncdn.lrn.va.gov/cl_popup.asp?mode=popup&Media_ID=5342&M_Cat_ID=74

Learn how this important video can provide assistance and guidance on political, partisan, and non-partisan activities in this election season. For more information about the course or the event broadcast, please contact VALU [Education Program](#) Specialist Vickie Nitschke (Vickie.Nitschke@va.gov) at 202-632-7916 and OGC Ethics (GovernmentEthics@va.gov) .

[2012-HATCH ACT hot-topics PPT](#)