



(December 16, 2015)

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

~~~~~  
**In This Briefing:** Issues concerning the 2016 National VA Council's Safety Conference  
~~~~~

This is written to make you aware of the following concerns/issues that have come up concerning the 2016 National VA Council's Safety Conference that is scheduled for February, 2016. **A Grievance HAS BEEN FILED on this issue.**

1. The NVAC has signed a contract with the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas for the NVAC Safety Conference, to be held February 22, 2016 through February 26, 2016. We signed this contract in accordance to attachment (Exhibit 1).
2. We asked VA for support for this Conference in accordance to attachment (Exhibit 1).
3. In accordance to Exhibit 2, VA responded that they were willing to support the conference **IF** we held the conference in Phoenix **NOT** Vegas.
4. We informed VA that in order to cancel the contract, we would have to pay the cancellation penalty and lose approximately \$225,000 to the Tropicana Hotel.
5. Exhibits 3 & 4, (attached) are the responses from VA Central Office.

Here is where we are;

(1) We filed a grievance on the entire MOU, with emphasis on #1, #2, #3, #4, #6b and #7.

(2) Remedy requested in the Grievance is;

- a) Fully comply with the terms of the MOU;
- b) Pay travel, per diem, and conference fee for each employee authorized to attend the 2016 Safety Conference;
- c) Pay all costs incurred by NVAC to provide instructors, who otherwise would have been provided by VA;
- d) Any and all relief provided by law, regulations, and statute;
- e) The grievance will be amended to include official time, restoration of any annual leave used for this conference;
- f) Any and all costs incurred by the Council, due to lack of attrition, etc.