



NATIONAL VETERAN
SMALL BUSINESS
COALITION

FIRST CALL

SEPTEMBER 2026

NEWSLETTER

PRESENTED BY

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A Changing Contracting Landscape—and Why Staying Connected to NVSBC Matters

First, if you are an active member of NVSBC and have not yet voted on the proposed reorganization of NVSBC as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, please take a few minutes to do so. Your vote matters, and the future strength of this organization depends on participation from the veteran business community we serve.

As a Government Contracts Attorney representing SDVOSBs and VOSBs for more than 20 years, I can attest that the one constant is change. Witness the evolution from SDVOSB/VOSB Self-Certification to VA VIP Verification to SBA VetCert Certification as we now know it. However, for veteran-owned small businesses competing in the federal marketplace, the pace of change has rarely been greater. For example, on August 20th the SBA proposed significant changes to its size standards that could alter which businesses qualify as “small” across numerous industries/NAICS codes – with the SBA proposing some increases between 200% and 1000% of current size standards (you read that correctly!). At the same time, the SBA has been taking a much closer look at its socioeconomic contracting programs, focusing on the 8(a) program with intensive eligibility reviews and new standards for certification, and recently expanding its scrutiny to the WOSB/EDWOSB program as well.



At the same time, for our members serving DoW and the broader defense industrial base, CMMC has introduced another layer of uncertainty. DoW has paused the implementation of CMMC Phase II while conducting a 60-day review—but the underlying cybersecurity obligations have not simply disappeared.

While SDVOSB and VOSB companies appear well-positioned among the SBA’s socio-economic set-aside categories, all these developments highlight the reality that the rules are changing, and understanding those changes can directly affect your company’s ability to compete, comply, and grow.

Continued on next page

Author: Brad Reaves is a Government Contracts Attorney with [Reaves GovCon Group](#), and a Member of the NVBSC’s Board of Directors

Lead Article (cont)

A Changing Contracting Landscape

This is where NVSBC can make a difference. The NVSBC is a community of veteran entrepreneurs, advocates, experts, and government-contracting professionals working together to help veteran-owned businesses navigate an increasingly complicated federal marketplace. At our engagement events in DC and across the country, and at our headline event – VETS27 in New Orleans – NVSBC provides timely information, resources, access, and advocacy.

Whether the issue is certification, size, compliance, financing, acquisition policy, advocacy, or finding the next opportunity, staying connected has never been more important.

Finally, one more reminder – NVSBC Members, please cast your vote [here](#) on the NVSBC reorganization and then stay engaged. Your business, and the veteran small-business community as a whole, are stronger when we work together.



Apply now for Goldman Sachs *10,000 Small Businesses*.

You Built Your Business. We'll Help You Grow It.

Goldman Sachs *10,000 Small Businesses* is a no-cost, 12-week business education program designed to help small business owners gain practical skills and access capital. For more than 15 years, our training program has helped entrepreneurs across the country grow their businesses and create jobs.



Learn more and apply at GS.com/10KSB
Contact us at 10ksb@icic.org

Around the NVSBC

Welcome to Our New & Renewed Member Organizations

New Members

[3 Squared Technology Group](#)

[Aurelus Solutions LLC](#)

[Communications Associates](#)

[Delta Summit, LLC](#)

[Duluth Travel](#)

[Dutch Ridge Consulting Group, LLC](#)

[Essen Kolbach](#)

[Gottfried Construction, LLC](#)

[Hokua, LLC](#)

[Lawless Collective LLC](#)

[M C Dean Inc](#)

[One Degree Financial](#)

[Radix-2 Technologies](#)

[Shadownet, Inc.](#)

[Standfast Systems](#)

[Testudo Logistics LLC](#)

[Veteran Brands, Inc.](#)



The National Veteran Small Business Coalition (NVSBC) offers 7 types of organization membership that support our mission and serve our constituents. If you have any questions about membership, please contact members@nvsbc.org. Click on the “Join NVSBC Today” button below and begin receiving access to the benefits of NVSBC membership.

Around the NVSBC (cont.)

Welcome to Our New & Renewed Member Organizations

Renewed Members

TRU2YOU COACHING, LLC
1Aardvark, LLC
Berry Law PC, LLC
CWH Group, LLC
CYBRILL LLC
EPCC/Contract Opportunities PTAC
FourFront Design, Inc.
Gentry Locke Attorneys
GV Solutions Inc
Hull IT Solutions & Services, LLC.
Intrepida Group Inc.
J & B Hartigan, Inc
MDC Global Solutions
Medical Place, Inc
MicroHealth, LLC

NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Paradigm Parachute & Defense Inc.
Pinnacle Cybersecurity Solutions
Planate Management Group
PROFITABLE WEATHER, LLC
Rule72 Financial LLC
SECURITY CONSULTANT AGENCY LLC
Semper Tek, Inc.
Strongbridge LLC
Syms Strategic Group, LLC (SSG)
SYNAPP
The Davinci Company, LLC
U R FIRST HOME HEALTH
Uncharted Territory Solutions
Vets2PM, LLC

SOSi

Around the NVSBC (cont.)

Engagement Meetings

The NVSBC hosted its San Diego Engagement Dinner on 12 August 2026. Our guest speaker with [Mr. Shannon Jackson](#), Executive Director, OSDDBUE, HHS and our spotlight was [Dustin Hayes](#), Ambassador for [Veterans in Business \(VIB\)](#) Network and Veteran business owner.



The NVSBC hosted its Dayton Engagement Lunch on 13 August 2026. Our guest speaker was [Dr. Tim Meixner](#), Chief, Air Force Sustainment Center (AFSC) Center Information Technology Office (CITO) and our spotlight was [Jon Selvaraj](#), Co-Founder, [Vista TechWerx LLC](#).



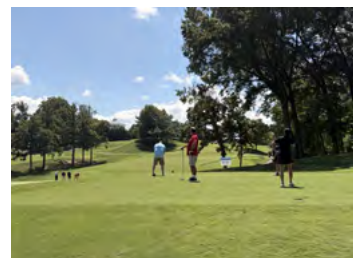
Around the NVSBC (cont.)

2026 Golf Tournament Recap

It was an awesome day on the golf course last month when NVSBC hosted its sold-out NVSBC-EF Charity Golf Tournament which supports Veteran-Owned Small Businesses in the federal marketplace! This sold-out event was filled with great golf, friendly competition, celebration, and camaraderie.

The NVSBC thanks our sponsors, players, members and supporters for their continued support of Veteran-Owned small business!

The NVSBC-EF Charity Golf Tournament brought together small business professionals from across government and contracting for a full day on the beautiful golf course of the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA in support of education and opportunities for Veteran-Owned small businesses.



Around the NVSBC (cont.)

Hampton Roads Finance Seminar

This NVSBC hosted its inaugural Hampton Roads Finance Seminar on 26 August 2026. Our Presenting Sponsor was, [Newport News Shipbuilding, A Division of HII](#) and Exhibit Sponsors, [BOOST LLC](#) and [Reaves GovCon Group](#).

Our speakers/panelists for the event were [Emily Basile](#), [Kary Jubilee](#), [Marvin Clark](#), [Vik Singh](#), [Steve Coppinger](#), [Daniel Colonna](#), and [Matthew White](#).



Around the NVSBC (cont.)

Calls to Action

September 2026

DC METRO ENGAGEMENT DINNER & TRAINING ACADEMY

WED | SEP 9 | 4:00 PM – 8:30 PM ET

SAN ANTONIO ENGAGEMENT DINNER

WED | SEP 23 | 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM CT

HUNTSVILLE ENGAGEMENT DINNER

WED | SEP 30 | 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM CT

October 2026

COLORADO SPRINGS ENGAGEMENT DINNER

WED | OCT 7 | 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM MT

PHILADELPHIA ENGAGEMENT DINNER

WED | OCT 7 | 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM ET

VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE AWARDS GALA

THU | OCT 15 | 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM ET

TAMPA ENGAGEMENT DINNER

THR | OCT 22 | 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM ET



NVSBC Ambassadors

Bridging Communities and Empowering Veteran-Owned Businesses

AMBASSADORS

Colorado Springs, CO
Charles Hargett, Blake Schwank

Dayton, OH
Richard Green, Bob Fudge

Huntsville, AL
Kimberly Hunter, Jerome Weston

San Antonio, TX
Robert Garcia, Irasema Harley Garcia

San Diego, CA
Adam Milliren, Bonita Hilliard

Philadelphia, PA
Hank Gillen, TBD

DC Metro Area
Mark Jones, Robert Hamlett

Tampa, FL
Natasha Velez, Matt Kodad

Hampton Roads, VA
Elgear "EG" Primus, Katina Adams, Ron Verostek, Arizone Hollis-Brown, John Lipscomb, Kary Jubilee

NVSBC
National Veteran Small Business Coalition

Our Ambassadors give their time, talent and treasure to support the mission of NVSBC, while serving as Ambassadors at engagement events and in the communities supporting Veteran Owned small businesses in the federal contracting ecosystem.

NVSBC Ambassadors serve as the vital communication link between our members, supporters, friends, and prospects in their respective markets. They help coordinate outreach efforts and promote NVSBC membership and Programs.

An Ambassadors' presence is particularly valuable in areas where NVSBC seeks to expand its reach to Veteran Owned small businesses, Primes, Federal Agencies, Non-profits, and Service Providers across the nine Communities of Interest we serve.

Meet our NVSBC Ambassadors serving in your community:

Colorado Springs: [Charlie Hargett](#) and [Blake Schenck](#)

Dayton: [Bob Fudge](#) and [Richard Green](#)

DC Metro: [Mark Jones](#) and [Robert Hamlett](#)

Hampton Roads: [EG Primus](#), [Katina Adams](#), [Kary Jubilee](#), [Ron Verostek](#), [Arizone Hollis Brown](#), and [John Lipscomb](#)

Huntsville: [Jerome Weston](#) and Kimberly Hunter

Philadelphia: [Hank Gillen](#)

San Antonio: [Robert & Irasema Harley Garcia](#)

San Diego: [Adam Milliren](#) and [Bonita Hilliard](#)

Tampa: [Natasha Velez](#) and [Matt Kodad](#)

Around the NVSBC (cont.)

September/October Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2026

M	T	W	R	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17		19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2026

M	T	W	R	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

 Engagement Events
  Virtual Training
  Conferences
  Special Events
  Federal Holidays

Click on Event Dates to Link to Online Information.

Solve Operational Problems Before They Become Executive Problems

For government contractors, organizational transformation doesn't always begin with a major restructuring, new technology platform, or large-scale change initiative. Sometimes, it begins by fixing the operational problems teams encounter every day.

Missed handoffs. Unclear ownership. Manual workarounds. Communication gaps. Inconsistent processes.

Individually, these issues may seem minor. Left unresolved, they compound—creating schedule delays, increased costs, compliance risk, employee frustration, and eventually customer impact. What started as a process problem becomes a leadership problem.

For small businesses in the government contracting community, this matters even more. Resources are limited, customer expectations are high, and operational inefficiency can quickly erode margins and distract leaders from growth.

The solution is to **build continuous process improvement into the way your organization operates.**

Start with three practices:

1. Go see the work.

Spend time where processes actually happen. Talk with employees performing the work and understand where friction exists.

2. Fix problems at the process level.

Don't repeatedly solve symptoms. Identify root causes, clarify ownership, simplify handoffs, and eliminate unnecessary steps.

3. Look for patterns.

One workaround may be an inconvenience. Ten similar workarounds may signal a systemic problem requiring leadership attention.

Organizational transformation doesn't have to start at the top. Sustainable transformation occurs when organizations create the discipline to identify problems early, continuously improve processes, and prevent operational friction from becoming organizational risk.

Call to Action: Government contracting professionals: this month, choose one recurring operational problem your team has learned to "work around." Go see the process firsthand, identify the root cause, assign ownership, and fix it. Then repeat.

Small improvements today can prevent expensive problems tomorrow.



Author: [Brian Burdette](#), Vice President for Organizational Transformation and Practice Lead



Who We Are

At DuraBante LLC, we empower today's workforce to tackle tomorrow's challenges.

Our expertise spans compliance, training, risk, and change management, driven by a commitment to automation, efficiency, and continuous improvement. Recently, we partnered with an AI innovator to deliver strategic, AI-enabled solutions tailored to our clients' evolving needs.

What We Do

Risk Management & Business Continuity

Training, Design, Development, & Instruction

Cybersecurity Compliance Consulting

Optimizing Processes Through Automation & AI

DuraBante.com



Alicia Hinds | Vice President of Government Growth
888-678-2694 x 706 | bd@durabante.com

Joe Alvarez | Director of Sales & Marketing
888-678-2694 x 703 | bd@durabante.com

Capability Statement



Hokua

Welcome to Team NVSBC, Kyle!



Please join us in welcoming our newest team member to the National Veteran Small Business Coalition, [Kyle deCamp](#) WE are thrilled to have Kyle serve as our Communications Specialist!

Get to know more about Kyle and the value that he is bringing to NVSBC at this link: [Kyle deCamp](#) –

Fiscal Year-End: Time to Invest in Your Growth

For many of our small business partners, September marks the end of the fiscal year, and with it, a time to evaluate budgets and consider where opportunities were made as well as where they were missed. As onerous (and sometimes painful!) a process as it is, it's necessary to help businesses stay competitive, invest wisely, and propel further success.

At NVSBC, we care deeply about creating opportunities for our partners to succeed, wherever they choose to invest. Whether it's a membership, so that entire teams can take advantage of discounted event tickets and partner deals, event tickets and program participation, or sponsorships, we welcome it all. Just getting your foot in the door, putting yourself out there, making that introduction, that's where it starts.

For those ready to take the next step and invest in marketing your company's offerings, we have opportunities at every level of engagement, from [newsletter advertising](#) to event exhibiting to sponsorship across our national and regional events.

The [Awards Gala](#) is around the corner, and we don't want you to miss out on celebrating the success of small businesses, small business advocates, and their partner primes and federal agencies.

We've also just gone live with [Exhibit Booths for VETS27](#), giving companies the chance to secure their ideal spot early. And don't forget about our [Finance Symposium](#), where we'll be debuting new sponsorship opportunities in just a few short weeks.

Whatever stage you're at, and whatever your fiscal year timeline looks like, there's no wrong time to invest in your company's visibility and growth. We'd love to help you find the right opportunity, so feel free to contact me at Adelaide.kahn@nvsbc.org, and let's talk about what makes sense for you this year!



*Adelaide Kahn is the
Development Director at NVSBC*

Featured Partner Deals

September 2026 Partnership Deals

NVSBC member organizations can take advantage of benefits where NVSBC has created partnerships that bring value to your business. If you would like NVSBC to consider a partnership with your business, please contact members@nvsbc.org with respective details.

Featured Partner Deals

EXCLUSIVE NVSBC PARTNER DEALS – JUST FOR MEMBERS!

Access special discounts and offerings with our NVSBC Partner Deals, available only to NVSBC member organizations and their teams. These Partner Deals feature essential products and services tailored specifically to support your business growth and success.

Are you a NVSBC Member organization wanting to offer special discounts or offerings on your products or services to fellow members? If so, contact: Janelle Askew at janelle.askew@nvsbc.org

NVSBC Members: Log into VetFedConnect now to see the exclusive offerings available to you.

Your NVSBC membership is your key to these exclusive benefits and offerings.

Federal Procurement Events

Grow your business through events provided by agencies within the Federal government including outreach, matchmaking, networking, training, and additional activities. If you have a Federal Procurement Event you'd like NVSBC to consider adding to this page, please contact members@nvsbc.org with respective details.

Member Spotlight

NVSBC Members, share your recent govcon successes with us! We want to celebrate your achievements from the past 6 months, such as awards, public recognition, new contracts, mentor-protégé relationships, new hires (especially veterans), or acquisitions.

**Complete this form to let us know about your triumphs at the [link here](#).
Your successes inspire our community, and we're excited to highlight them!**



The NVSBC logo is centered at the top, flanked by two celebratory graphics of a party horn and stars. Below the logo is a group photo of approximately 15 people, mostly wearing red NVSBC polo shirts, posing in a modern building lobby. The text below the photo reads: "The NVSBC would like to recognize and celebrate your GovCon success!"

Upcoming Events

Register, Sponsor, and Silent Auction



Registration is open, sponsorship opportunities are available, and the NVSBC Awards Gala Silent Auction is now accepting donations!

We are officially gathering standout items for the NVSBC Awards Gala Silent Auction in support of the NVSBC Education Foundation.

Help us build an exciting auction by contributing:

- Private golf club foursomes
- Luxury travel, resort, or spa packages
- Premium sports, concert, or theater tickets
- Signed memorabilia and collectible items
- Designer bags, fine jewelry, or high-end outdoor gear

If you have an item to donate or a connection to a business that might, we would love to hear from you. To submit your donation, contact Rebecca Kane at rebecca.kane@nvsbc.org by **September 25th**.

Donations will be featured in an online auction accessible to our entire community.

Access all the details you need to register and explore sponsorship opportunities for the NVSBC Awards at the link [here](#) or below.

Upcoming Events (cont)

EXHIBIT BOOTHS ARE NOW OPEN FOR VETS27!



The VETS27 Conference is coming back to New Orleans, 18–21 May 2027 after building on **2,000+ attendees** at the VETS26 Conference.

Ready to put your company at the center of the GovCon conversation?

The VETS27 Conference Exhibit Hall is the epicenter of activity—bringing together opportunities for networking, visibility, partnerships, and business development.

Exhibiting at VETS27 puts your organization in front of:

- Procurement Decision Makers
- Large prime contractors
- Procurement-ready small businesses
- 2,000+ attendees from across the government contracting ecosystem

This is your opportunity to showcase your company, brand, capabilities, and core services while building relationships with the people and organizations helping shape the federal marketplace.

Reserve your space today as Exhibit booths are available now at the link [here](#) or below.

NVSBC Board of Directors

Meet Your Board of Directors

The NVSBC Board of Directors upholds their duties of care, loyalty, and obedience, leveraging their collective knowledge, expertise, and wisdom to actively support the organization's mission and values with dedicated commitment and principled leadership.

When attending NVSBC events, don't miss the opportunity to connect with our board members. They are not only leaders in the field but also incredible resources for insight and inspiration. Be sure to introduce yourself, ask questions, and tap into their wealth of experience. The wisdom they share could spark new ideas and open doors for both your personal growth and your organization's success.

To learn more about our Board of Directors & Honorary Committee Members, visit the link [here](#).



Robert Betters
President



Scott Thompson
Vice President



Robert Santmyer
Treasurer



Neeraja Lingam
Secretary



Phillip (Phil) Panzarella



Nancy A. Langer



Irene Vaishvila Glaeser



Tim Ross



Dr. Robin Desmore, PhD



Akinwande Oshodi



Brad Reaves



Jason Windsor



isaias "Cy" Alba, IV



Melinda Pitchford



Edward Syms



Calvin J. Mitchell, Jr.

NVSBC Board of Directors Spotlight

Edward Syms: Founder, President and CEO of Syms Strategic Group, LLC, (SSG)



Here insights from Ed Syms, where he answers key questions that support and strengthen the small business community.

What quote guides you in challenging moments?

"Fall seven times, stand up eight." — Japanese proverb

What's one business lesson that's shaped how you show up professionally?

You don't really fail; you just found ways that didn't work so well

What military value or mindset do you carry into your work today?

Mission first

What impact do you hope to make during your board service?

To encourage more Veterans Entrepreneurs to take advantage of the great value and opportunities that NVSBC offers

What's one habit or practice that keeps you grounded and mission focused?

I always believe that someone, somewhere is counting on me to come through for them

Based on your experience, what do you see as the biggest opportunities and challenges facing Veteran-owned businesses in today's federal contracting landscape

Being able to afford the infrastructure and talent that you need to succeed in a highly competitive contracting environment.

If you're a business owner, please tell us about your business (name, services, NAICS code, and one accomplishment that you're proud of)

Syms Strategic Group (SSG). We provide professional services to include Cloud operations, DevSecOps and system development. Our primary NAIC code is 541512. As the owner of SSG, I am most proud of the outstanding accolades my employees routinely receive from our customers.

What's your best advice for today's business owners?

Don't give up, listen to those who came before you and stay engaged with the outstanding talent and opportunities that the NVSBC has made available to you!

What recent challenge taught you something valuable?

Sometimes it's best to walk away and seek new directions

What's a value you refuse to compromise on?

Honesty

Stay Focused. Stay Engaged.

As we enter the final month of the federal fiscal year, I want to recognize the tremendous effort being put forth across the veteran business community. September is often one of the busiest periods of the year as agencies work to execute priorities, meet mission requirements, and close out fiscal year objectives. Many of our members are working long hours supporting customers, pursuing opportunities, and positioning their businesses for the year ahead.

This is also a time when engagement matters.

The Small Business Administration has proposed updates to its size standards, and these changes could affect businesses differently depending on their industry, growth trajectory, and long-term strategy. Rather than viewing the proposal through a broad lens, I encourage every company to evaluate how the changes may affect its own circumstances, competitive position, and future opportunities.

Just as importantly, I encourage business owners and leaders to review the proposal for themselves and consider providing comments through the Federal Register process. Thoughtful feedback from those directly affected helps policymakers better understand the potential impacts across the small business community. Whether you support, oppose, or have questions about specific provisions, informed participation is an important part of the process.

As we close out the fiscal year, stay focused on execution, remain engaged in the issues that affect your business, and continue building relationships that will support future growth.

Thank you for all you do to strengthen the veteran business community.



Scott S. Jensen
CEO
NVSBC and NVSBC-EF