



Building partnerships



Supporting our Veteran Business Owners



Identifying training opportunities



Creating valuable networking relationships

MVO TASK FORCE CONNECT NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, February 2024



WELCOME:

New MVO Task Force Member

Bugle

THIS ISSUE:

Featured MVO Task Force Members



Welcome to the MVO Task Force Connect!

I trust you had a wonderful holiday season and a fabulous New Year's celebration. I'm so excited for the MVO Task Force as we roll into 2024. We are starting out strong with 62 MVO Task Force partners and I'm looking forward to the Task Force's continued growth in this upcoming year.

I am hoping to expand our reach into the military and veteran community, as we develop new partnerships thus opening the doors to reach as many veteran entrepreneurs and business owners as possible.

As the Task Force grows so does our opportunity to connect and partner with a vast array of different organizations that serve our servicemembers, veterans and military families as a whole. Don't you agree?

The possibilities of new Task Force partners bring growth and expansion to services available to our military community. Despite the fact I'm currently in talks with about a half dozen military & veteran service organizations discussing opportunities and partnerships, I could definitely use your help. Are you up for a challenge? Is there an MSO or VSO that your organization partners with or maybe one you work closely with that you would consider making an introduction? Do you know of an organization that would be a good fit for our Task Force? Let's work together to grow this Task Force!

A special thanks goes out to our Task Force partner Meta Mereday with VEDI, Inc. She took the initiative recently introducing me to Ryan Johnson with Bugle. That introduction led to Bugle coming on board as our newest Task Force partner. Thanks Meta! Welcome Ryan! So, what do you say? Moving forward into the new year let's set a goal of doubling our Task Force. **Who's in?**

Together we can achieve more for America's Heroes.

Happy New Year!
Kathryn M. Poynton, LTC (ret)
Director, MVO TF
NVBDC Board of Directors



JOIN NOW



NVBDC.ORG | 888-CERTIFIED | NVBDCTASKFORCE.ORG



Resources and Opportunities to Help Veteran Entrepreneurs Succeed in Business

As the original certification organization that is dedicated to promoting and supporting service-disabled and veteran-owned businesses NVBDC strongly believes that entrepreneurship is another form of employment and that helping veterans succeed in business can have a positive impact on not just the individual veterans, but also their families and the communities in which they reside.

There are many reasons why entrepreneurship is an attractive option for veterans. For one, it allows veterans to use the skills and experience they gained in the military to create their own businesses.

Additionally, entrepreneurship can provide veterans with a sense of purpose and fulfillment, which can be difficult to find in traditional employment settings. Moreover, entrepreneurship can provide veterans with a greater degree of control over their work and their lives, which can be especially appealing for those who have experienced the rigidity and structure of military life.

Despite these advantages, starting a business can be challenging for veterans. Some of the obstacles many veterans will face are navigating the complex world of entrepreneurship and a lack of business connections and networks. This is where the NVBDC comes in.

NVBDC offers a range of resources and services to help veterans start and grow their businesses. These include Certification, training, education opportunities via the NVBDC Services Learning Forum.

\$4.3 BILLION
BILLION DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS IN 2023 SPENT MORE THAN \$4.3 BILLION* WITH NVBDC CERTIFIED SD/VOB'S

GET CERTIFIED TODAY

- \$4.3B TIER 1***
As a result of the partnership, Billion Dollar Roundtable members have spent \$4.3 Billion with NVBDC Certified SD/VOB's
- THE AUTHORITY**
NVBDC was recognized as the only accepted Veteran Business Certification Organization accepted by the members of the B2B.
- ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY**
Get NVBDC certified to gain access and opportunity to participate in a \$272 billion Supplier Diversity Marketplace

Additionally, NVBDC provides a network of support for veteran-owned businesses via its MVO Task Force. Another important way that NVBDC helps veterans is by organizing two annual events, the Federal Reserve Matchmaker and the National Veteran Matchmaking Conference.

These events provide an unparalleled opportunity for veteran-owned businesses to connect with potential buyers and partners, and include a variety of panel discussions, educational sessions, networking opportunities, and of course 1:1 matchmaking with supplier diversity professionals that can lead to long-term business relationships.

NVBDC's belief that entrepreneurship is another form of employment is not just a theoretical concept, but a practical approach to helping veterans succeed in business.

By providing resources and support to veteran-owned businesses, we are proud to fuel economic opportunities for veterans, their families, and their communities, while inspiring a new generation of veteran entrepreneurs.



READY TO UNLOCK Your SD/VOB's True Potential?

NVBDC Certification Provides Access and Opportunity for Certified SD/VOBs To Participate in a \$122 Billion Supplier Diversity Marketplace.



NVBDC.ORG

THE ORIGINAL



We are the nation's original third party authority for certification of veteran-owned businesses of all sizes and the corporations wanting to engage them. Established to address the unique challenges faced by veteran entrepreneurs, NVBDC aims to provide support, networking opportunities, and access to resources that empower veteran-owned businesses to thrive. Through its rigorous certification process, NVBDC ensures that businesses claiming veteran ownership meet the necessary criteria, thus fostering trust and promoting economic growth within the veteran business community.



CERTIFICATION



EVENTS



SERVICES



ADVOCACY

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@nvbdc | bit.ly/NVBDC



Bugle's Mission

Volunteering doesn't have to be so complicated. Although 1 in 4 Americans volunteer annually, there are limited software solutions that make volunteering and organizing volunteering events a simple process. We're changing that!

At Bugle, we believe that helping others shouldn't be hard, so we develop software that makes it easy.



"We believe that helping others shouldn't be hard, so we're building software that makes it easy." Ryan Johnson



Bugle, led by CEO Ryan Johnson and Co-Founder James Smith, is a platform designed to facilitate volunteer management. The company emerged from Johnson's personal experience while stationed in North Carolina. During the Thanksgiving holiday, Mr. Johnson was tasked with coordinating volunteer efforts alongside his 'battle buddies', and found limited volunteer options in the community. Upon discovering volunteer opportunities, the Bugle CEO recognized the challenges event organizers face in coordinating events.

This realization prompted him to advocate for a centralized platform aimed at cutting the time required to organize volunteering events by 50%, ensuring volunteers had more accessible opportunities.

This ultimately led to a partnership with NC State's Computer Science department, eventually evolving into Bugle—a comprehensive solution for volunteer event organizations.

The Bugle platform currently serves veteran service organizations and nonprofits, offering an enterprise volunteer management solution. Mr. Johnson highlighted how Bugle aims to make the process of organizing and participating in volunteering events seamless. The platform enables organizations like 'Operation Stand Down' in Nashville to efficiently run their events, benefiting the veterans they serve.

Mr. Johnson, a West Point graduate and former Green Beret, shared Bugle's mission to double volunteering in the US by 2030 and worldwide by 2036.

He emphasized Bugle's plan to introduce a marketplace component next year, allowing individuals to find and share their volunteering opportunities easily.

The organization is dedicated to simplifying and enhancing the volunteering experience for veterans and the broader community. As Bugle moves towards its goals, Johnson and his team remain committed to positively impacting the landscape of volunteerism.

Bugle offers a user-friendly solution. Any nonprofit has the privilege of hosting events on the Bugle platform completely free of charge. Larger organizations seeking advanced features, such as automated data transfer to CRM or analytics, may opt for premium services at a cost. Bugle emphasizes that the essential functionality of running events, whether a single occasion or 50, remains entirely cost-free.

Bugle's commitment lies in eliminating barriers to charitable endeavors, reinforcing the notion that helping others should be uncomplicated and accessible to all.

Bugle's focus on eliminating barriers to volunteerism aligns with their belief that helping others should not be difficult. Looking ahead to 2024, Bugle aims to bring 300 nonprofits onto their platform and continues to offer a strong freemium model for nonprofits, ensuring cost-effective access to their volunteer management solutions.

22VETS Mission

22Vets was created as a Support Mission to END Veteran Suicide!

Owned and Operated by Military Veterans, our Mission is to increase Veteran value by donating a majority of earned revenue to the lifesaving programs for our Veterans that we have provided over the past ten years.



Every time that you buy from 22Vets, you're making a social impact for our veterans."
-Rob Purcell



Their story began in 2013 when Veterans R&R began as a veteran service organization and nonprofit dedicated to serving military veterans and their families. However, the year 2020 brought unprecedented challenges with the pandemic, causing a severe impact on funding. Mr. Purcell was determined to keep the programs running and veterans supported which is why he co-founded 22Vets.

Rob Purcell explained, "As military veterans, we didn't want to walk around with our hands out and keep asking for money. We wanted to get to work and earn it ourselves." To achieve this, 22Vets was created as a for-profit company, specializing in cyber and physical security services with a focus on identity and access management. 22Vets operates as a solution integrator, providing essential services in cyber and physical security, particularly in the K-12 education and commercial space. Rob proudly shared the organization's success, highlighting that this year alone, the company donated over \$200,000 to their nonprofit by providing services to school districts and commercial companies.

Rob emphasized the importance of self-sufficiency, stating, "We can handle it ourselves and we are unapologetic about it."

Supporting our Veterans is our primary mission." This shift allowed them not only to generate revenue but also to become the primary funder for their nonprofit, Veterans R&R.

The conversation shed light on 22Vets' innovative approach to not only supporting veterans but also creating a sustainable funding model for its nonprofit arm. One distinctive aspect of 22Vets' approach is the integration of philanthropy into its business model. The organization commits to donating a minimum of 10% of its net profits quarterly to its nonprofit, Veterans R&R.

The co-founder shared his passion for making a broader social impact on the community. He discussed the Veterans Day Project, an educational curriculum on "What it means to be a Veteran" created for K-12 students to instill a deep understanding of veterans' experiences.

Releasing in 2024 is the Memorial Day Project educating on "What it means to be a Veteran Supporter", building a reinforcing support community.

Looking toward the future, he emphasized the importance of collaboration between organizations and individuals. Mr. Purcell is open to engaging in conversations, sharing resources, and working together to address challenges within the veteran community. With a vision to end veteran suicide, 22Vets continues to innovate, grow, and inspire change, creating a positive impact on veterans and communities alike.

Mr. Purcell is guided by an unapologetic 'mission-focused' approach in business, driven by the goal of supporting the veteran community.



IWEC MISSION

IWEC Foundation is a 501c(3) registered nonprofit organization with headquarters in New York City. As a global initiative, we provide market intelligence, networking, educational, and mentoring opportunities for successful women business owners. We support them in gaining and expanding access into international markets and in growing their visibility and brands. Our partners are chambers of commerce and global women business organizations.

“We want to be a resource. We appreciate everything that veterans have done and the sacrifices they make to serve and what they're doing for their country, and we just want to be there, and be more of a help to them.”

-Nancy Ploeger



Nancy Ploeger serves as the Executive Vice President and Executive Director of the IWEC Foundation.

The International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge (IWEC) Foundation focuses on empowering women entrepreneurs globally.

Ms. Ploeger's journey with the IWEC Foundation began through her role as the President of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. Her involvement started in 2007 when a partnership was established between chambers in New York, Barcelona, and India to support women business owners seeking international growth.

Nancy highlighted the foundation's four key pillars: market intelligence, education, connections, and visibility. These pillars serve as the backbone for supporting women in business, providing them with the resources and connections needed to thrive internationally.

While the IWEC Foundation primarily focuses on women entrepreneurs, Nancy shared how the foundation indirectly supports military spouses and women transitioning out of the service.

By providing market intelligence and connections, IWEC assists these women in exploring entrepreneurial opportunities or joining women-owned businesses. Expressing her desire to do more for veterans transitioning into the civilian workforce, Ms. Ploeger highlighted the need for increased education and support.



Nancy further emphasized the untapped potential within the veteran community, citing the diverse skill sets that can contribute to entrepreneurship, especially in advancing technologies.

Looking ahead, IWEC aims to continue its growth and expand its reach. Ms. Ploeger noted the foundation's plans for a conference in Washington DC, scheduled for November 10th, 2024.



The annual conference will serve as a platform for networking, education, and recognizing successful women entrepreneurs who have excelled in their international ventures. Moreover, she shared her passion for helping individuals navigate the complexities of starting and growing a business. The IWEC Foundation, under her guidance and leadership, continues to be a beacon of support for women entrepreneurs globally, fostering connections, providing education, and recognizing its tremendous achievements.

In conclusion, the IWEC Foundation stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and empowerment. Through their ongoing efforts, they are not only transforming the lives of women entrepreneurs but indirectly creating pathways for military spouses and veterans to explore new horizons in the business world.



If you would like to serve as a State Manager and join the NVBDC and Denny's with its commitment to these future leaders please email:

Sid E. Taylor, NVBDC JROTC Program Director at:

staylor@nvbdc.org



National Veteran Business Development Council's JROTC 50 State Scholarship Program is a unique initiative aimed at providing financial assistance to Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) students in all 50 states.

The program helps future leaders attain an education and helps the community at large by supporting the education and development of young leaders across the United States.

The 50 state JROTC Scholarship Program helps to create future leaders who are prepared to lead their communities. Our program is designed to develop leadership skills and promote citizenship.

By providing scholarships to JROTC students, NVBDC is helping to ensure that future leaders are well-educated and well-prepared to lead their communities. These students are taught discipline, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, which are essential for success in any field.

NVBDC's JROTC 50 State Scholarship Program is a valuable initiative that provides financial assistance to JROTC students across the United States. In fact, the program has awarded over \$100,000 in JROTC Scholarships to date.

We are elated to announce that NVBDC JROTC has recently partnered with Denny's, as part of the 2023/24 Hungry for Education (HFE) scholarship program with their major initiative to help bring communities together and promote education.

In line with their commitment, Denny's will now sponsor five JROTC scholarships for the 2024-25 program. This commitment and Denny's partnership memorializes the NVBDC JROTC program and its commitment to invest in these future leaders.

It is our belief that this investment in the education and personal development helps to create future leaders who are well-educated and well-prepared to lead their communities and our country.

CADET SPONSORSHIP - We are asking for Cadet sponsorships for 2024. Please consider sponsoring a JROTC Cadet for 2024, you will receive a professional designed plaque that will include a photo of the Cadet, their state, branch of Cadet service, name of their higher education institution and signatures of NVBDC leadership on the Plaque. It will be shipped to you to display in your office and share with your employees and staff.

We thank you in advance for your support and consideration.



VETERANBARGAINS MISSION

To honor and support our veterans, military and first responders. We are committed to providing a trusted platform that connects those who serve with an extensive list of valuable discounts, promotions, resources and useful information. We are dedicated to empowering those who serve by offering a single source where they can easily find discounts and promotions from businesses recognizing their service along with information covering a variety of relevant topics.



“Whenever I met a veteran and would share information about a business that’s offering a special promotion, that they didn’t know about-they appreciate hearing about it.”

-James Bower, VeteranBargains Founder.



VeteranBargains is dedicated to being a free resource for veterans, active-duty military, and first responders.

VeteranBargains was founded by James Bower, The Veterans Friend™, a Vietnam-era service-connected veteran, and became the ultimate free veteran, military, and first responder resource provider. Mr. Bower is an active member of the American Legion, a board member of several veteran organizations, and a Life member of both The Disabled American Veterans and The Society of the First Infantry Division.

To consolidate the abundant but dispersed information available for heroes, Mr. Bower saw a need to establish a centralized hub for easy access to valuable resources. In 2011, armed with around 40 businesses, the founder initiated the creation of VeteranBargains. At that juncture, a formidable objective was established – to enlist one thousand businesses on the veteran discounts page.

By September 2023, this goal was not only achieved but surpassed. Annually, on Veterans Day, a comprehensive list featuring a few hundred Freebies, Discounts, and Promotions is published. At VeteranBargains, their mission is to honor and support veterans, military, and first responders.



The organization is committed to providing a trusted platform that connects those who serve with an extensive list of valuable discounts, promotions, resources, and useful information. The organization is dedicated to empowering those who serve by offering a single source where they can easily find discounts and promotions from businesses recognizing their service along with information covering a variety of relevant topics.

Drawing from extensive experience as a retired Senior Certified Veteran Service Representative with the VA, the founder offers valuable insights into veterans filing compensation claims, guiding them toward securing the benefits they have rightfully earned. The website now features approximately four dozen non-profits dedicated to providing assistance. In addition, there is a section dedicated to what the founder refers to as "useful information," encompassing updates in laws that grant service-connected veterans access to commissaries and exchanges on military installations.

As the scope of information provided by VeteranBargains expands, the founder aims to solidify its role as a reliable resource for veterans, military personnel, and first responders. In the upcoming year, there are plans to incorporate more businesses with promotions and include additional resources for those who have made significant sacrifices.

Looking ahead to 2024, the founder intends to collaborate with other NVBDC MVO Task Force members to mutually support each other in aiding heroes.

Upcoming Events & Happenings*

*Listed are known upcoming events at time of publication. Further details are available at our website

2024

February 1	Veterans Job Fair at Dallas, TX HOST: RecruitMilitary	Veterans Job Fair at Fort Liberty, NC HOST: RecruitMilitary	
February 4	Women Veterans Empowerment Workshop HOST: All Veterans Empowerment Workshop		
February 6	Transitioning Army & Spouse Virtual Career Fair HOST: RecruitMilitary	First Annual Operation Annapolis HOST: CTLDomGroup, Inc.	
February 8	Veterans Job Fair at Atlanta, GA HOST: RecruitMilitary	All Veterans Empowerment Workshop HOST: Women Veterans Empowered & Thriving	
February 13	Eastern Region Virtual Career Fair for Veterans HOST: RecruitMilitary	Support Members of Veterans Empowerment Workshop HOST: Women Veterans Empowered & Thriving	
February 15	Job Fair at Camp Pendleton, CA HOST: RecruitMilitary	VETWORKING HOST: Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance	Veterans Job Fair at Scott Air Force Base Area HOST: RecruitMilitary
February 18	The Veteran Ranch Benefit Concert HOST: DFW Veteran Chamber of Commerce	Women Veterans Empowerment Workshop HOST: Women Veterans Empowered & Thriving	
February 19	MMAA Strong Communities HOST: Modern Military Association of America		
February 21	Empowerment Workshop @BattleBorne for All Vets HOST: Women Veterans Empowered & Thriving		
February 22	All Veterans Empowerment Workshop HOST: Women Veterans Empowered & Thriving	Veterans Job Fair at Phoenix, AZ HOST: RecruitMilitary	
February 24	Keeper of the Community Event at JBMHH HOST: CTLDomGroup Inc.		
February 29	Veterans Job Fair at Fort Riley, KS HOST: RecruitMilitary		
March 1	Women Veterans Magazine Pennsylvania Launching June 2024: CALL for photos and articles HOST: Women Veterans Alliance		
March 5	VEA Spring Cohort: Business Fundamentals (runs through April 9, 2024) HOST: Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance		

Do you have news to share or are you interested in featuring your organization in a future issue? We welcome your updates and interest. Please connect with **MVO Task Force Director Lt. Col. Kathryn Poynton, Ret.** • kpoynton@nvbdc.org • 703-282-6862

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2024

March 6	Veterans Job Fair at San Diego, CA HOST: RecruitMilitary		
March 7	Veterans Job Fair at Houston, TX HOST: RecruitMilitary		
March 14	Job Fair at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Fort Myer, VA HOST: RecruitMilitary	Job Fair at Fort Bliss, TX HOST: RecruitMilitary	
March 16	Spring Open House HOST: Central Penn College		
March 18	MMAA Strong Communities HOST: Modern Military Association of America		
March 19	National Virtual Career Fair for Veterans HOST: RecruitMilitary		
March 20	Empowerment Workshop @BattleBorne for All Vets HOST: Women Veterans Empowered & Thriving		
March 21	16th Annual Scholarship Awards & Hall of Fame Ceremony at Women's Military Memorial in Arlington, VA HOST: U.S. Army Women's Foundation		
March 28	Veterans Job Fair at Jacksonville, FL HOST: RecruitMilitary	Job Fair at JBLM, WA HOST: RecruitMilitary	Veterans Job Fair at Pittsburgh, PA HOST: RecruitMilitary
April 15	MMAA Strong Communities HOST: Modern Military Association of America		
April 23	Central Region Virtual Career Fair for Veterans HOST: RecruitMilitary		
April 27	Women Veterans Engage Conference HOST: Women Veterans Alliance		
May 5	Cinco De Mayo Celebration to spt Military Families HOST: Patriot Hills of NY	Veterans, Guns & Cigars, Tampa FL HOST: Meritorious	
May 7	Military Spouse Virtual Hiring Event HOST: RecruitMilitary		

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Upcoming Events & Happenings*

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2024

May 21	National Virtual Career Fair for Veterans HOST: RecruitMilitary	
June 1	Women Veterans Magazine Pennsylvania Launching June 2024 HOST: Women Veterans Alliance	MMAA National Gala HOST: MMAA
June 4	National Government Agency Virtual Career Fair for Veterans HOST: RecruitMilitary	
June 18	Eastern Region Virtual Career Fair for Veterans HOST: RecruitMilitary	
June 23	Annual Heritage Military Banquet & Awards Ceremony HOST: The Montford Point Marines of America	
July 10	VEA Summer Cohort: Scaling Your Business (run through August 14, 2024) HOST: Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance	
October 8	VEA Fall Cohort: Innovation and Technology in Business (runs through November 12, 2024) HOST: Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance	
Nov 8-9	NVBDC National Veteran Business Matchmaking Conference and Vets Night Out at Detroit, MI HOST: National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC)	
Nov 10-12	17th Annual IVEC Foundation Conference in Washington DC HOST: IVEC Foundation	



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