



NATIONAL VETERAN  
SMALL BUSINESS  
COALITION

# FIRST CALL

FEBRUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER

PRESENTED BY

## NVSBC – THE MODEL OF GROWTH AND SUCCESS SUPPORTING VETERANS

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This article briefly discusses my perception of the evolution of NVSBC's commitment in providing dedicated support for both current and prospective members. NVSBC members often introduce me and our company, Management Support Technology, Inc. (MSTI), as the **first company** to join the Coalition when it was formed over ten years ago. That decision has resulted in multiple benefits to MSTI as well as many other Veteran-owned companies over the years.

As the only current Board Member that also served on the original Board, I recognize impressive changes in two major areas. **Programs and Events**, in my opinion, are the two areas where our Coalition has developed the most impressive benefits for the entire Veteran Community

**Programs** – This area has evolved from a limited number of offerings to a suite of programs specifically designed to help VOSBs and SDVOSBs succeed in the federal marketplace. Key offerings include:

- **Training Academy** – In-person instruction from industry experts, government officials, and contracting educators.
- **Consultations** – Free one-on-one business



development consultations from seasoned federal contracting consultants.

- **Matched Networking** – Virtual networking platform connecting prime contractors with veteran-owned businesses.
- **Fellowship Program** – A nine-month intensive cohort experience aimed at strengthening regional veteran business ecosystems.

Specific details are highlighted – [nvsbc.org/programs](https://nvsbc.org/programs)

**Events** – NVSBC-sponsored events have evolved from one annual event to a wide range of national and regional events designed to help veteran-owned small businesses grow in the FedCon space:

Continued on next page

# Lead Article (cont)

## NVSBC – THE MODEL OF GROWTH AND SUCCESS SUPPORTING VETERANS (cont)

- **Engagement Events Across Multiple Cities**  
– Lunches, dinners, and training sessions with networking, and presentations by industry leaders, federal officials, and prime contractors.
- **National Events**, including the annual multi-day VETS Conference and the Awards Gala, recognizing federal agencies and prime contractors supporting veteran owned small businesses.
- **Regional Engagement Events** – In locations such as Colorado Springs, Dayton, Hampton Roads, Huntsville, San Diego, and Tampa,

Specific details are highlighted – [nvsbc.org/events](https://nvsbc.org/events)

NVSBC delivers exceptional value to Veteran Owned Small Businesses and small business professionals. The call to action here is easy and the return on your investment is immediate and meaningful: Stay

connected to NVSBC, become a Member TODAY, and be a part of an organization whose mission is to Empower Veteran Owned Small Businesses in the Federal Contracting ecosystem to succeed by providing training, engagement, and advocacy at all stages of a company's lifecycle.

Scott Jensen, Zack Armstrong and the highly efficient professional NVSBC Staff have achieved major accomplishments and will continue to take NVSBC to new Service levels for the Veteran Community.

**Norris Middleton is the  
President & CEO of MSTI**



**REGISTRATION FOR VETS26 IS OPEN AND SPONSORSHIPS AND EXHIBIT BOOTHS  
ARE AVAILABLE NOW!**

Dynamic speakers and panelists who can help small businesses *grow their business* are invited to submit proposals by **27 February**.

Visit the [VETS26 website](https://vets26.org).

# Around the NVSBC

## Welcome New & Renewed Member Organizations

### New Members

[Aneservices, Inc](#)  
Big Ferd LLC  
[Binara Strategic Resources LLC](#)  
Brainstorm Technologies  
[C Infinity Solutions](#)  
[Compliant Tek LLC](#)  
[CoreTetra Consulting](#)  
[Delta Saber Inc.](#)  
[Diverse Solutions Group](#)  
[EMN Construction, LLC](#)  
[Evanhoe & Associates, Inc.](#)  
[Federal Business Solutions LLC](#)  
dba Lightning Dome Protectors

[Fox-ESA JV, LLC](#)  
[Genesis 360, LLC](#)  
[InSync Consulting Services, Inc](#)  
[iVisionTec, LLC](#)  
[Key to Victory Strategies, LLC](#)  
[Lambert Financial](#)  
[LBL Strategies](#)  
[Semper Sozo Inc.](#)  
[Technical Assent](#)  
The G2 Consulting Group  
VETURON LLC



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](mailto:members@nvsbc.org). Click on the "Join NVSBC Today" button below and begin receiving access to the benefits of NVSBC membership.



### Renewed Members

1TechJV, LLC  
42 United Government Services, LLC  
Acquisition Experts, LLC  
AECOM  
ANI Defense Services  
BackOfficeVets  
Bancroft Capital  
Black Fox  
Blackberg Group  
Blue Phoenix  
CACI International Inc  
Caladwich Consulting  
CGH Global, LLC  
Cherry Bekaert  
Civility Management Solutions  
Code of Support Foundation  
Connected Logistics  
CriticalWave Energy Solutions  
Cruzer LLC  
Cuna Supply LLC  
Dean & Associates LLC  
Document Storage Systems (DSS), Inc  
DuraBante LLC  
Dynamic Government Resources, LLC  
Eleven09, LLC  
Engineering Services Network, Inc  
Farfield Systems Inc  
Fluor  
Fully Promoted Bethesda  
Grace & Associates LLC  
Holocom Inc.  
Hous4gens LLC  
HS Financial Group, LLC  
IQ Sig LLC  
JBN Corporation  
JDM Associates  
KCL Engineering LLC  
Krilla Kaleiwahea Native Hawaiian Organization  
KSA Integration

Logos BZ LLC  
Management Support Technology Inc. (MSTI)  
Marieke Consulting, Inc.  
MIG GOV LLC  
MIRACORP, Inc  
MTCG  
NATIONAL CONSULTING PARTNERS, LLC  
Nbites Analytics  
NetCentric Alliance LLC  
NorthStar Consulting Group  
OpenVu  
Patrick Miller Construction, Inc.  
Patriot Strategies, LLC  
Prometheus Federal Services  
QED Enterprises, Inc.  
Redwolf Consulting Partners LLC  
SAG Corporation  
Solvat Services  
Spartan Shield Solutions  
Strategic Resilience Group LLC  
Summit Strategy  
Technical & Project Engineering, LLC (TAPE)  
TEVET, LLC  
The Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Inc.  
The Joachim Group  
The Silverback Troop, LLC  
TJFACT, LLC  
TTG Solutions Inc.  
VENTUS Solutions  
Veterans Management Services, Inc  
Victor12, Inc.  
Walker Training and Consulting  
Warrior Solutions LLC  
Z-TECH Solutions, LLC



# Around the NVSBC (cont.)

## Engagement Meetings

NVSBC hosted its DC Metro Engagement Dinner, presented by [PilieroMazza, PLLC](#) and our Training Academy, sponsored by [AEONRG, LLC](#) with Trainer, **Clairese Jackson**, Small Business Program Manager, [Mission Technologies](#), a division of HII on 14. January 2026. Our panelist speakers were **Scott Semple**, Founder, Managing Partner, [NewTHINK Solutions](#), **Isaias "Cy" Alba**, IV, Partner, [PilieroMazza](#), and **Robert Burton**, Partner, [Crowell & Moring LLP](#)



## 2026 GAUGE REPORT SURVEY

For a decade, Unanet and CohnReznick have partnered with GovCon leaders like you to deliver one of the industry's most trusted benchmarking studies.

As CohnReznick prepares the 2026 GAUGE Report, we invite you to add your voice and help shape insights across key areas, including compliance, accounting, utilization, growth, and efficiency. Your anonymous responses—collected by an independent research firm, Carbon Design—help GovCons of all sizes evaluate performance and plan with confidence.

[Take the survey.](#)

# Around the NVSBC (cont.)

## Calls to Action

### February 2026

#### HAMPTON ROADS ENGAGEMENT LUNCH

WED | FEB 4 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM ET

#### DC METRO ENGAGEMENT DINNER & TRAINING ACADEMY

WED | FEB 11 | 4:00 PM – 8:30 PM ET

#### COLORADO SPRINGS ENGAGEMENT DINNER

WED | FEB 11 | 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM MT

#### DAYTON ENGAGEMENT BREAKFAST

WED | FEB 18 | 8:00 TO 10:30 AM ET

#### FINANCE SYMPOSIUM

WED | FEB 25 | 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM ET

### March 2026

#### HUNTSVILLE ENGAGEMENT LUNCH

TUE | MAR 10 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM CT

#### DC METRO ENGAGEMENT DINNER & TRAINING ACADEMY

WED | MAR 11 | 4:00 PM – 8:30 PM ET

#### TAMPA ENGAGEMENT DINNER

WED | MAR 25 | 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM ET



## Communities of Interest



# Around the NVSBC (cont.)

## February/March Events Calendar

### FEBRUARY 2026

M	T	W	R	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	
Please note: February 11 has two engagement meetings						

### MARCH 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.*

## The 8(a) Landscape SDVOSBs Must Know in 2026

The federal contracting environment has shifted dramatically, and the SBA's 8(a) Program is undergoing the most intense scrutiny in its history. Federal News Network reports the program is "in a fight for its life" as lawsuits, congressional pressure, and executive branch actions converge.

A major driver of this shift is **the removal of the racial presumption of social disadvantage**, following a federal court ruling in *Ultima Services Corp. v. USDA*, which forced SBA to require all current 8(a) firms who relied on the presumption to reestablish eligibility through personal narratives. By January 2026, SBA formally adopted a **race neutral standard**, declaring the presumption unconstitutional and shifting eligibility to individualized assessments.

At the same time, SBA launched unprecedented oversight. In December 2025, SBA ordered all 4,300 8(a) firms to submit three years of financial records. More than 1,000 firms failed to comply, resulting in immediate suspension. Nearly 25% of the program, representing more than five billion dollars in federal payments since 2021. A DOJ investigation also uncovered a \$550M fraud scheme, triggering a multi agency, 15 year audit of 8(a) contracts.

Regulatory changes are also reshaping opportunities. A 2025 FAR update allows agencies to move follow on work out of the 8(a) Program and into SDVOSB, HUBZone, or WOSB set asides **without SBA approval**, expanding competitive access for SDVOSBs. Meanwhile,

the Department of Defense is reviewing all 8(a) and small business awards over \$20M for mission criticality, pricing, and pass through risks, with the possibility of cancellations or reassignments.

Politically, the SBA reduced the federal Small Disadvantaged Business goal from 15% back to 5%, and admitted only 65 new 8(a) firms last year compared to more than 2,200 under the previous administration. Senior officials have also publicly criticized the 8(a) program as discriminatory, signaling further tightening.

### What this means for SDVOSBs:

Because 8(a) pathways are contracting, heavily scrutinized, and in some cases paused or reassigned, SDVOSBs now have an expanded opening. More follow on work can shift from 8(a) to SDVOSB set asides, more competed opportunities are emerging, and agencies are actively looking for "lower risk" socioeconomic categories.

This is a moment for SDVOSBs to **lean in, position strategically, and capture contracts being redistributed across the federal landscape.**

### Your Next Step

Strengthen your federal strategy, build a compliant posture, and capture reallocated opportunities.

**Book a consultation with the NVSBC team today:**

<https://nvsbc.org/programs/consultations/>



**John Cochran is the Consulting Manager at NVSBC**



## When Support Becomes Strategy

If you've been following my monthly dispatches, you may have noticed a pattern: highlighting sponsorship opportunities, demonstrating funding needs, and thanking our supporters. It might seem cyclical (perhaps even redundant) but these efforts are critical to sustaining the work we do every day. They ensure we can deliver high-quality programming to small business professionals while maintaining the agility to provide resources that are relevant, timely, and tailored to your evolving needs.

The start of this year has been anything but dull. Between changes to the 8(a) program, freezing temperatures across much of the country (except, apparently, my hometown of Los Angeles, which is enjoying a heat wave), and a narrowly averted government shutdown, the landscape has shifted rapidly. I'm mindful that during times like these, many of you need to reprioritize to ensure your business's viability and sustainability, and therefore I don't take lightly the decision to ask for your support.

That said, every sponsorship opportunity we offer is designed with mutual benefit in mind. When you partner with us, you're not just supporting our mission, you're increasing your visibility, forging new connections, and advancing your business interests within a community of engaged peers and decision-makers. With every event, outreach effort, and engagement we create, we ask ourselves: *How can we give the most back?*

Much like you, we're prepared to pivot, welcome feedback (even criticism!), and develop new opportunities that resonate. Our commitment is to ensure that your investment, whether financial, participatory, or both, delivers real value while

helping us continue to serve the small business community with excellence.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your partnership makes all the difference. If you're interested in seeing how to further your engagement, you're welcome to view our 2026 Sponsorship Packet [here](#).



# Featured Partner Deals

## February 2026 Partnership Deals

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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](mailto:members@nvsbc.org) with respective details.

### Featured Partner Deal

#### 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](mailto: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

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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](mailto: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!**

# CONGRATULATIONS!!!



*The NVSBC would like to recognize  
and celebrate your GovCon success!*

# Other Events (cont)

## 2026 Finance Symposium!

### Finance Symposium

The Fuse at Mason Square

February 25, 2026  
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

HOSTED BY



*Simplifying Finance for  
Small Business Professionals*



If you're looking for strategies to stay financially resilient, protect and grow your wealth, and strengthen your business in today's market, the **2026 Finance Symposium** is the place to be.

Our lineup of financial SMEs will deliver high-impact insights through Master Classes, Fireside Chats, and Panels, with topics including:

- Staying Financially Resilient in Challenging Times
- Planning Your Exit Strategy and Adjusting Along the Way
- Protecting and Growing Wealth with Smart Insurance Planning
- Mastering Accounting & Tax Planning Like a Pro

You'll also gain expert guidance on capital readiness, financial planning, and long-term growth strategies + plus much more.

**Hosted by the National Veteran Small Business Coalition (NVSBC)**, join us **Wednesday, February 25, 2026**, at the Fuse Center, George Mason University Arlington Campus.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available, and **Matched Networking** is filling quickly and designed **exclusively for SD/VOSB professionals** seeking meaningful connections with Finance Service Providers and subject matter experts in the financial sector.

This is an **in-person-only event**. Register or sponsor using the buttons below.





## Other Events (cont)

### NVSBC Golf Tournament Returns August 17, 2026



Get ready to mark your calendar—the NVSBC Education Foundation Charity Golf Tournament is back on **Monday, August 17, 2026**, at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA.

This annual favorite brings together leaders from across government and contracting for a full day on the greens in support of education and opportunity.

Year after year, this tournament has sold out—often well ahead of schedule—making early planning essential. Sponsorship opportunities open on March 2, with multiple levels offering premium visibility, networking, and guaranteed golf spots. It's one of the most effective ways to support the mission while gaining exposure among key decision-makers.

**Player registration opens April 1**, and golfers can once again expect a top-tier experience. Participants will enjoy 18 holes of golf with a shared cart, breakfast, on-course beverages and snacks, a buffet lunch, sponsored gifts, and a few exciting surprises along the way.

Visit the event [website](#) for details and updates—we look forward to seeing you on the course.

**2026 Charity Golf  
Tournament Website**



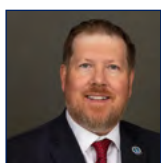
# NVSBC Board of Directors

## 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*



**Phillip (Phil) Panzarella**  
*Vice President*



**Robert Santmyer**  
*Treasurer*



**Neeraja Lingam**  
*Secretary*



**William J. Belknap, Sr.**



**Norris Middleton**



**Nancy A. Langer**



**Erica Dobbs**



**Irene Vaishvila Glaeser**



**Tim Ross**



**Scott Thompson**



**Dr. Robin Desmore, PhD**



**Akinwande Oshodi**



**Brad Reaves**



**Jason Windsor**



**Kamar Perkins**

# NVSBC Board of Director's Spotlight

## Kamar Perkins: Founder & President, Protech Consulting Group



### **Q: Why did you join the NVSBC Board of Directors?**

**A:** I joined the NVSBC Board because I believe veteran owned businesses deserve more than access. They deserve advocacy, strategy, and a real seat at the table. NVSBC plays a critical role in bridging the gap between veteran entrepreneurs and decision-makers, and I wanted to contribute my experience in governance, federal contracting, and business growth to help strengthen that mission.

### **Q: Tell us about your journey in government contracting. What inspired you to enter the space?**

**A:** My journey into government contracting was driven by service continuity. After my military career, I saw firsthand how disconnected innovation and execution could be inside federal systems. I founded

Protech Consulting Group to help agencies modernize responsibly while creating pathways for veteran-owned firms to compete, scale, and deliver real mission impact.

### **Q: Based on your experience, what are the biggest opportunities and challenges for veteran-owned businesses today?**

**A:** The biggest opportunity is alignment with long-term agency modernization priorities like cybersecurity, data, and digital transformation. The biggest challenge is sustainability. Too many veteran-owned firms chase one-off wins instead of building repeatable pipelines, strong teaming strategies, and operational maturity. The firms that invest early in credibility, partnerships, and compliance will be the ones that last.

## Ready for Spring: Steady Progress, Stronger Together

February is often when planning turns into execution—and this year, that transition comes with the lingering impacts of a federal shutdown. Backlogs, delayed awards, and shifting priorities are real. But veteran-owned firms have never been defined by perfect conditions; we're defined by how we respond.

Use this month to control what you can. Re-check your pipeline and revalidate every opportunity: confirm funding status, refresh your capture plan, and tighten your pricing assumptions. Protect cash, communicate with your team, and keep proposals moving where possible. Invest in readiness: update capability statements, ensure reps/certs are current, and document past performance wins while they're fresh. Strengthen relationships, too—reach out to contracting offices, primes, and teammates with a simple question: "How can we help you succeed when the lights come back on?"

Most importantly, stay connected to the community. NVSBC will continue to share timely updates, advocacy priorities, and practical resources through FirstCall, briefings, and events. The federal marketplace remains vast, and it remains committed to veteran entrepreneurs.

If you stay agile, deliver value, and lead with solutions, you'll be positioned to move quickly when activity accelerates. Let's keep building—together.

— Scott Jensen, CEO, NVSBC



Scott Jensen  
CEO, NVSBC