



(January 5, 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: Article 67, Skills Certification Ratification

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I am pleased to report the results of the ratification process for the new Article 67, Skills Certification has been approved and ratified, with 41 Locals voting yes and 6 voting no. The Council has representation at 52 VBA facilities.

Our next step is for Article 67, Skills Certification to be sent to the Department and AFGE for Agency Head Review. The Department of Labor requires Locals have 30 days to ratify articles in a national agreement and 7114 requires the Agency to have 30 days for Agency Head Review once ratification has occurred. Again, this review is designed only to determine if any of the provisions are contrary to law – it is NOT an opportunity to renegotiate any part of the article.