

March 17, 2017



VA Verification eligibility extended to three years

All PTAC counselors should be alert to this important change in the VA's Veterans-First Contracting program: beginning March 21, 2017, verification eligibility for the program will change from a 24 month period to a 36 month period. Participants must now submit a re-verification application only every three (3) years to continue eligibility.

As a result of this change, effective March 21 all currently verified participants will receive an automatic one (1) year extension on their current eligibility period, beginning on the date of expiration. This change will be reflected in the firm's VIP profile, but updated approval letters will not be sent.

Companies currently in the re-verification process that have already been assigned a Case Analyst may either: 1) continue with the re-verification process and (if approved) receive a new verification term of three years, or 2) withdraw the application and receive an automatic one year extension of their current verification period, beginning on the date of expiration.

For anyone who has submitted an application for re-verification but has not yet been assigned a Case Analyst, the CVE will administratively remove the application and issue an automatic one year extension of the current verification period, beginning on the date of expiration. For all verified companies that expire prior to March 21, 2017, the CVE will continue processing their open re-verification applications. [Click here to read the VA's official notification.](#)

Ask a DAU Professor

Is there a federal contracting question you just can't figure out? Or a section of the FAR that you don't quite understand? Now is your chance to get some answers!

Defense Acquisition University (DAU) contracting professor Don Mansfield will be a featured speaker at APTAC's 2017 Spring Training Conference, leading a general session entitled, "Ask a DAU Professor." In preparation for the session, he would like to have many of your questions ahead of time—so that he can make sure to bring the answers you need.

[A discussion stream has been created in APTAConnect](#) to capture your federal contracting questions—and let you see what your colleagues are asking too. We will forward all questions to Don prior to the Conference. So regardless of whether you are able to attend the conference, don't hold back. Nothing is too simple or too complex for us to ask the professor! [Click here to post your question\(s\).](#)

CONTRACTING NEWS:

[Changes Coming to Government's Use of Cost Accounting Standards](#)

[VA's Verification for Veteran-owned businesses extended to three years](#)

[Contractors Are Expected to Ensure Security of Government Data](#)

[New Jersey Contractor Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy and Bribery](#)

[Legislation Proposed to Grow HUBZone Businesses](#)



Correction

The “Meet our candidates” segment in our March 10 Newsletter, featuring Chuck Spence for Region 9 Director, contained an error. Chuck’s answer to the final candidate question was inadvertently truncated. The complete question and answer are:

Q3: What characteristic or experience will best serve you in your APTAC Board duties?

A: I have served on the APTAC Executive Committee for the past three years and have a thorough understanding of the issues that typically face APTAC. I want to return and serve in the trenches of every day PTAC issues with my friends and peers in Region 9 by representing their needs and concerns to the APTAC Board.

APTAC elections—Meet our candidates!

Candidates standing for election to APTAC’s Board of Directors on April 11, 2017 are:

President-elect: Tiffany Scroggs (WA PTAC)

Treasurer: Gary Moore (ID PTAC) and Rick Evans (OR PTAC)

Region 1 Director: Kenneth Bloch (Maine PTAC)

Region 3 Director: James Gerraughty (SAPDC PTAC)

Region 7 Director: Allen Waldo (MO PTAC)

Region 9 Director: Chuck Spence (UT PTAC)

Candidate still needed for Region 11!

You can find information about all of our Candidates on our [“Election Candidates” page](#) on the website. Each will be featured in a weekly Newsletter. See this week’s Candidate Feature below!



Ken Bloch, Candidate for Region 1 Director

BIO: Ken has been the Program Manager of the Maine PTAC since 2015. Born in Maine, he grew up in the greater Boston area and has a degree in government from Suffolk University and over 27 years in defense procurement.

He has lived and worked in many parts of the world both as a contractor and a civil servant. His favorite posting was as a NATO civilian in Brussels, Belgium. That stretch included the collapse of the Berlin Wall and Soviet Union, as well as the first Gulf war. Returning to the States, Ken did systems engineering work and later built data centers for GTE, finally moving back to Maine 10 years ago.

Before taking over the Maine PTAC, he served as contracts administrator for a Maine PTAC client. He lives in the greater Bangor area with his wife, Angela, and enjoys hiking, snowshoeing and kayaking.

Candidate Questions:

1. Why do you want to serve on APTAC’s Board?

My life includes a good deal of volunteer work, starting with managing Little League teams in high school. APTAC has always been important to local PTACs and will be even more important in the future. With this position, I can help my region and the entire organization.

2. What are your hopes for APTAC?

APTAC’s core mission is to make the PTACs better- make them more knowledgeable, more connected to each other, and more effective to their clients. In addition, we are an important voice in national government contracting policy. I want us to be an even better version of what we are now.

3. What characteristic or experience will best serve you in your APTAC Board duties?

The same things that help me with my PTAC clients; my diverse background and upbringing. I grew up in a small family business. I know both sides of the contracting puzzle. I have lived in big cities and rural areas. And my dad taught me that everyone’s opinion has value.



Use Twitter? Try re-tweeting APTAC!



Did you know that nearly every day, APTAC tweets out a news story of interest to small business government contractors? Articles include policy changes, sources sought notices, blog posts, and other items on a wide range of contracting issues.

If your PTAC has a twitter account, take advantage of this resource. Follow APTAC on Twitter and re-tweet articles that might benefit your clients! That's exactly what the Colorado, Macomb County, and Northwest Michigan PTACs are doing. Just yesterday, they re-tweeted our newsfeed notice about the VA's extension of verification eligibility to three years.

It's an easy way to provide additional benefits to your clients at no cost and minimal effort. Try it! [Click here to find us on Twitter.](#)

PTACs invited to USWCC/ASBCC 13th Annual DC Federal Contracting Summit

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the American Small Business Chamber of Commerce, is hosting the 13th Annual National Small Business Federal Contracting Summit Spring Conference on March 29 – 30, 2017.

The event will begin on March 29, with visits to Capitol Hill to share perspectives on key small business issues in meetings with Congressional leaders and their staff. On March 30, a robust agenda boasts of Agency/Prime briefings and one-on-one matchmaking. More than 50 Agency/Prime participating representatives are looking to meet with small businesses that have the capacity to perform the work. Small businesses and PTACs are invited to attend.

Please encourage appropriate clients to consider attending this exciting event—and/or attend yourself if you are local.

Women-Owned Firms: [Register now and view the complete list of Agency/Prime participation.](#)

Other Small Businesses: [Register now and view the complete list of Agency/Prime participation.](#)

APTAC Members are welcome to attend as USWCC/ASBCC guests. Register at either link or [use the live chat feature for assistance.](#)

Inside APTAC—Member notes



APTAC Spring Training Conference Update

⇒ **Hotel update**—The deadline for making reservations under the block rate is now past (March 7). APTAC Headquarters will **NOT** be facilitating any further room transfers. Members should make their arrangements directly with the hotel or reach out to colleagues via an [APTACConnect discussion stream](#) created expressly for that purpose.

⇒ **APTAC Award Nomination Deadline has been extended to March 20!** Please visit our [APTAC awards page](#) for more information—and to nominate yourself (or a colleague).

Smile for the day

See this article, [Federal agencies sometimes struggle with creating postings on FedBizOpps](#), from GA Tech Contracting Education Academy. You might even laugh out loud. It's a good reminder that everybody makes mistakes sometimes!

