

SVA Post-NatCon 2021 Survey

Compiled by
Student Veterans of America Research Department
Neo Pei
March, 2021

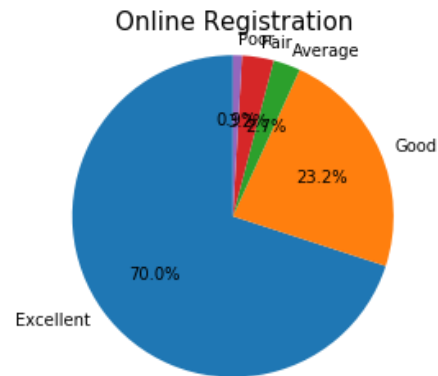
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1. Please rate your conference experience on the following items:

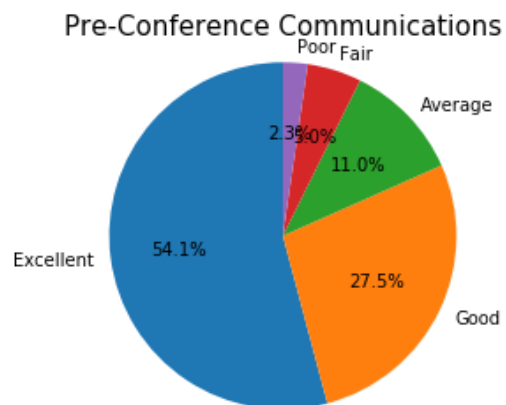
Online Registration

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	154	70.00%
Good	51	23.18%
Average	6	2.73%
Fair	7	3.18%
Poor	2	0.91%
Total	220	100.00%



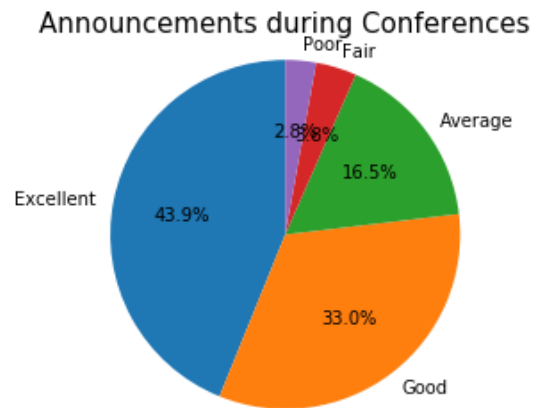
Pre-Conference Communications

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	118	54.13%
Good	60	27.52%
Average	24	11.01%
Fair	11	5.05%
Poor	5	2.29%
Total	218	100.00%



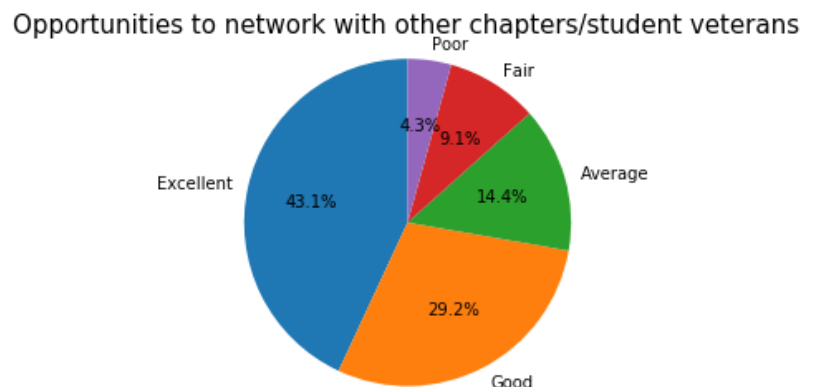
Announcements during Conferences

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	93	43.87%
Good	70	33.02%
Average	35	16.51%
Fair	8	3.77%
Poor	6	2.83%
Total	212	100.00%



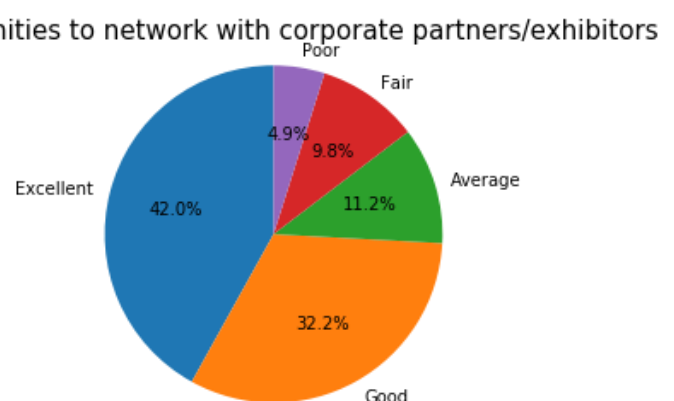
Opportunities to network with other chapters/student veterans

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	90	43.06%
Good	61	29.19%
Average	30	14.35%
Fair	19	9.09%
Poor	9	4.31%
Total	209	100.00%

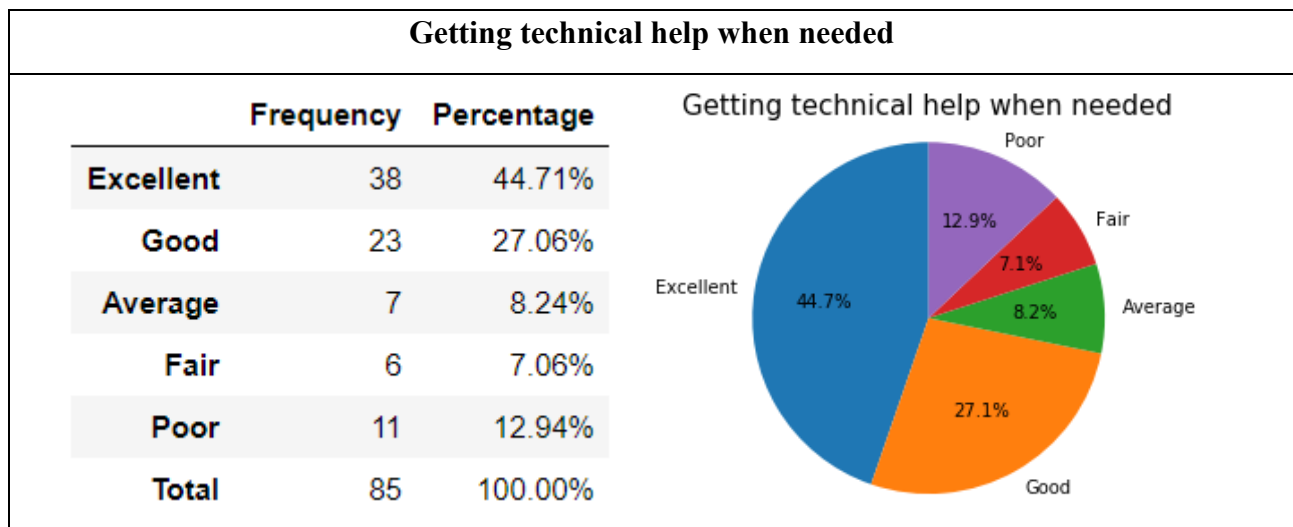
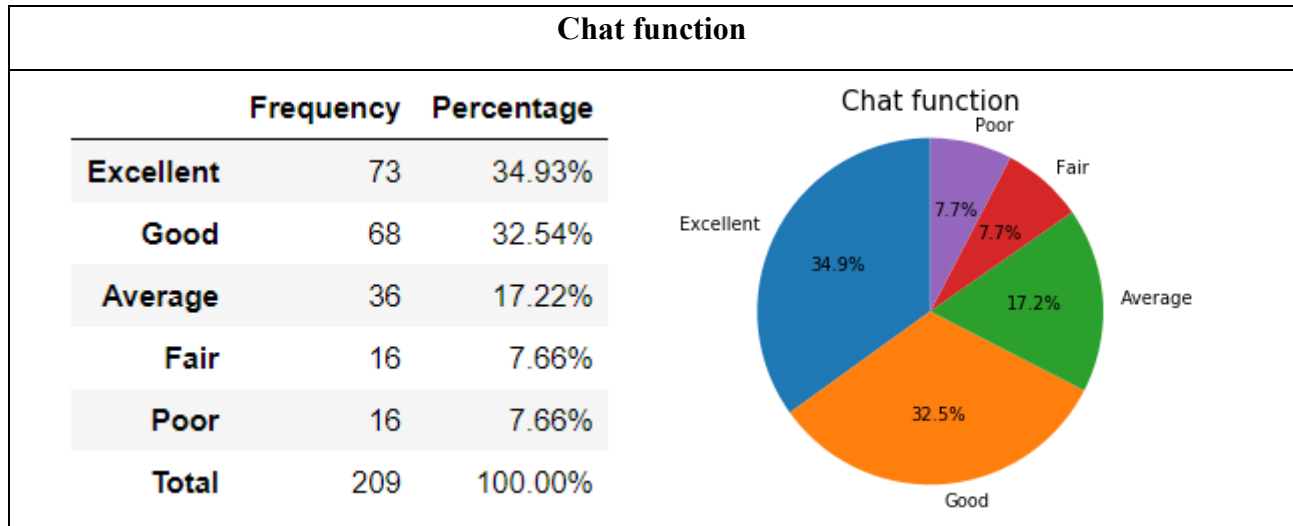


Opportunities to network with corporate partners/exhibitors

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	86	41.95%
Good	66	32.20%
Average	23	11.22%
Fair	20	9.76%
Poor	10	4.88%
Total	205	100.00%

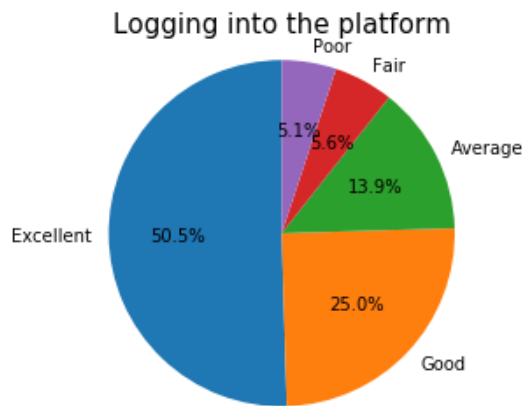


2. Please rate your experience with the Online Conference Platform on the following items:



Logging into the platform

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	109	50.46%
Good	54	25.00%
Average	30	13.89%
Fair	12	5.56%
Poor	11	5.09%
Total	216	100.00%



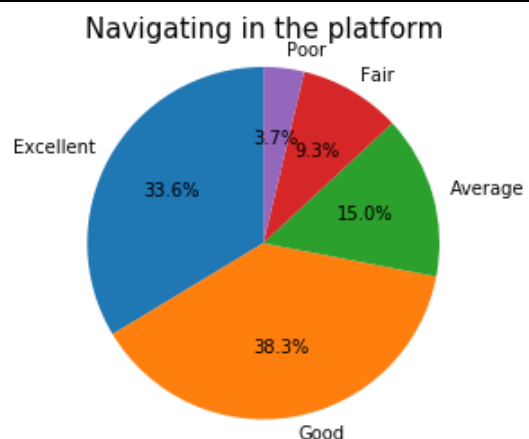
My Agenda feature

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	74	36.63%
Good	49	24.26%
Average	35	17.33%
Fair	23	11.39%
Poor	21	10.40%
Total	202	100.00%



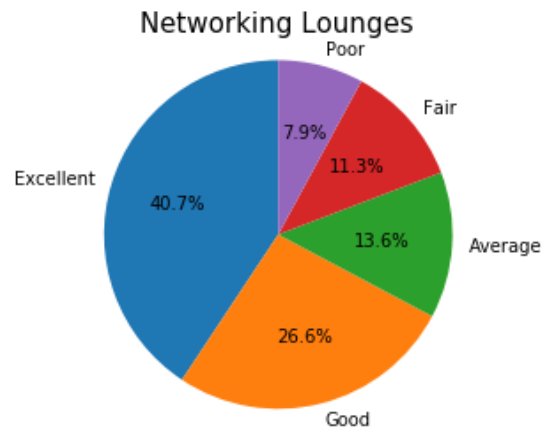
Navigating in the platform

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	72	33.64%
Good	82	38.32%
Average	32	14.95%
Fair	20	9.35%
Poor	8	3.74%
Total	214	100.00%



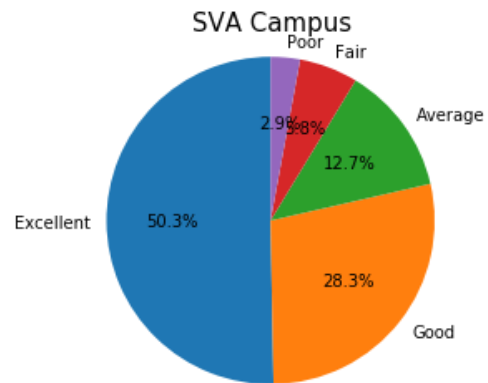
Networking Lounges

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	72	40.68%
Good	47	26.55%
Average	24	13.56%
Fair	20	11.30%
Poor	14	7.91%
Total	177	100.00%

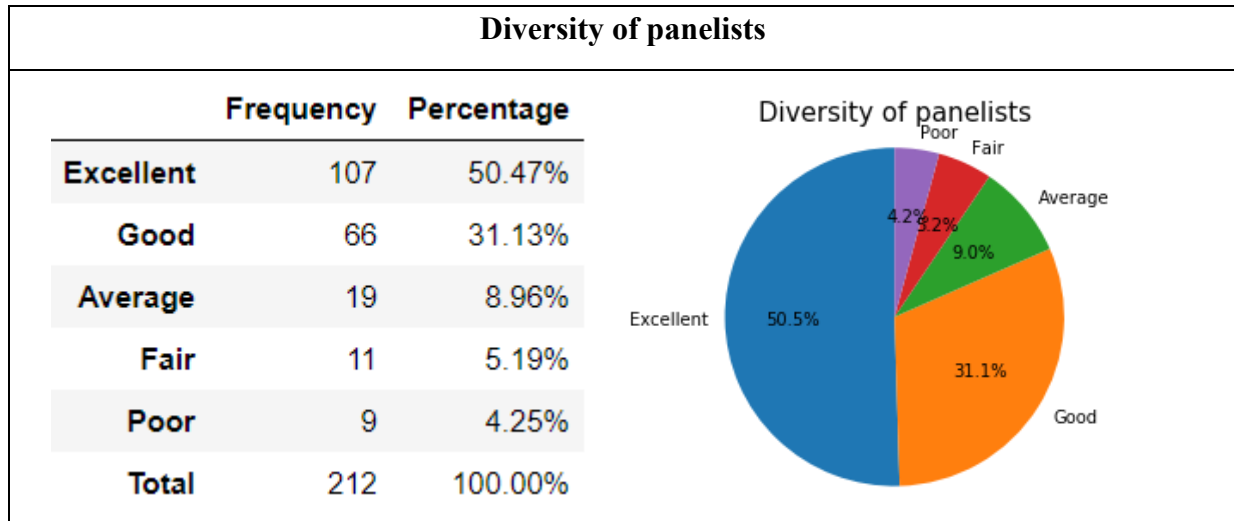
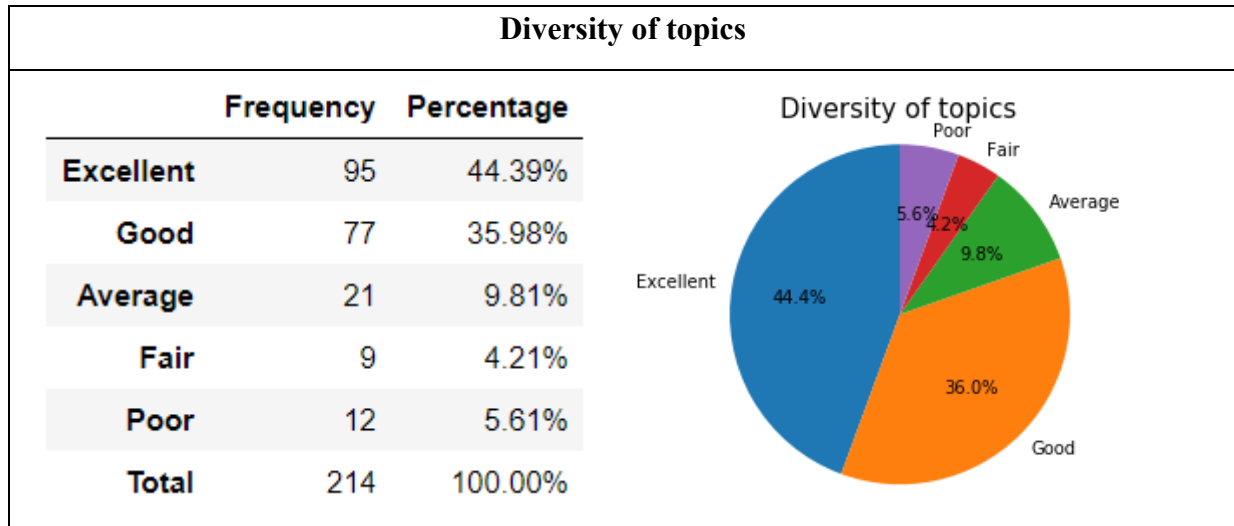


SVA Campus

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	87	50.29%
Good	49	28.32%
Average	22	12.72%
Fair	10	5.78%
Poor	5	2.89%
Total	173	100.00%

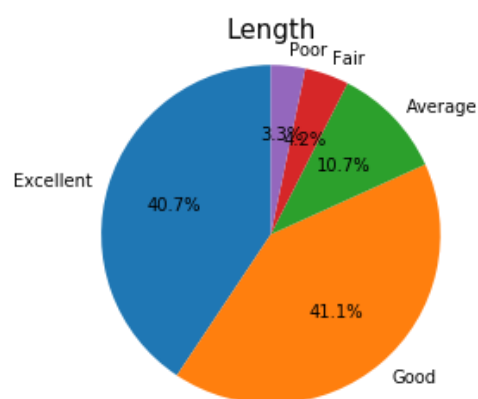


3. Please rate your experience with the Breakout Sessions on the following items:



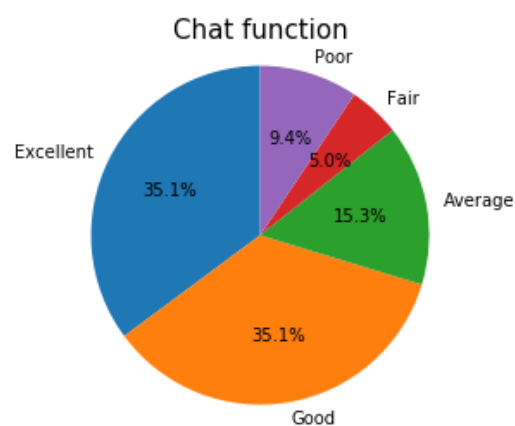
Length

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	87	40.65%
Good	88	41.12%
Average	23	10.75%
Fair	9	4.21%
Poor	7	3.27%
Total	214	100.00%



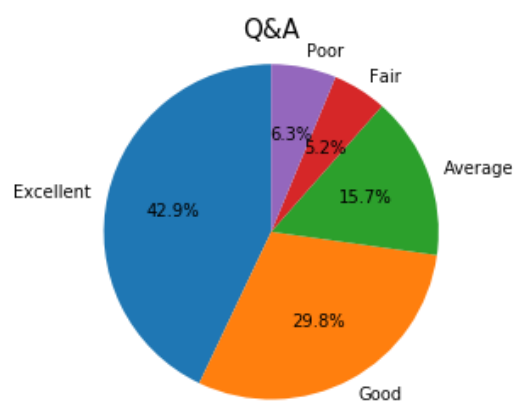
Chat function

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	71	35.15%
Good	71	35.15%
Average	31	15.35%
Fair	10	4.95%
Poor	19	9.41%
Total	202	100.00%



Q&A

	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	82	42.93%
Good	57	29.84%
Average	30	15.71%
Fair	10	5.24%
Poor	12	6.28%
Total	191	100.00%

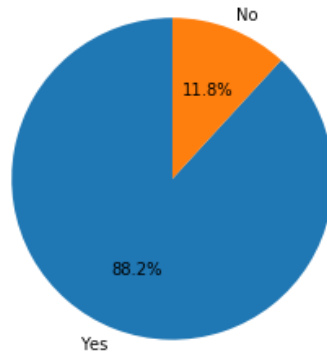


4. Chapter Leaders

Was NatCon 2021 a learning experience for you and your chapter?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	194	88.18%
No	26	11.82%
Total	220	100.00%

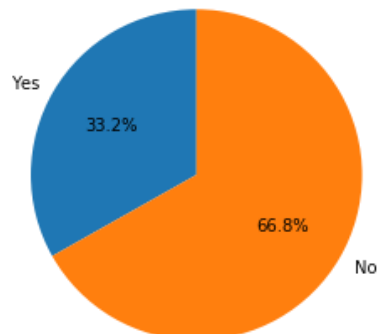
Was NatCon 2021 a learning experience for you and your chapter?



did you connect with: SVA National Headquarters Staff

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	70	33.18%
No	141	66.82%
Total	211	100.00%

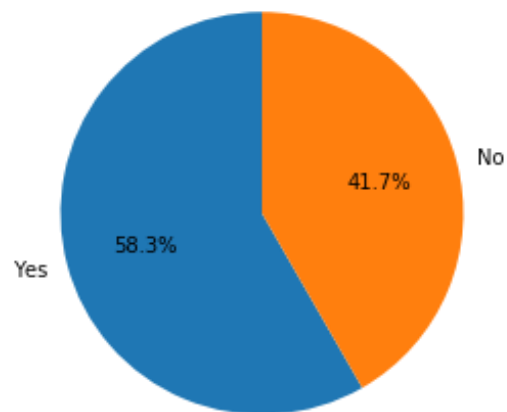
did you connect with: SVA National Headquarters Staff



did you connect with: SVA National Headquarters Staff

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	123	58.29%
No	88	41.71%
Total	211	100.00%

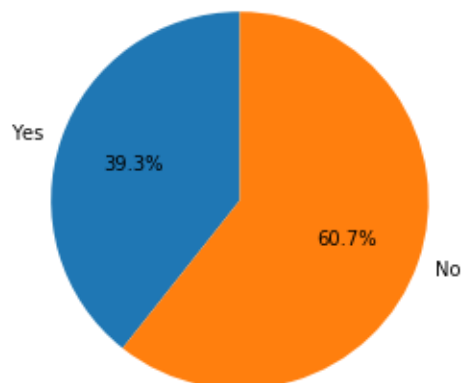
did you connect with: SVA Partners



did you connect with: Other Chapter Leaders

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	83	39.34%
No	128	60.66%
Total	211	100.00%

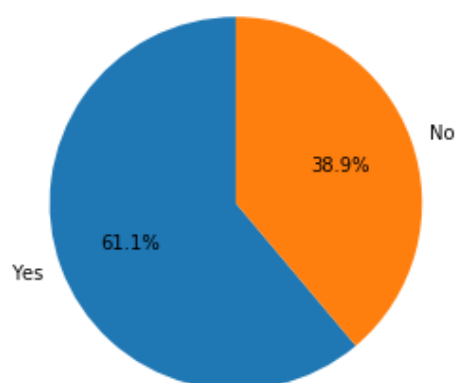
did you connect with: Other Chapter Leaders



did you connect with: NatCon 2021 Exhibitors

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	129	61.14%
No	82	38.86%
Total	211	100.00%

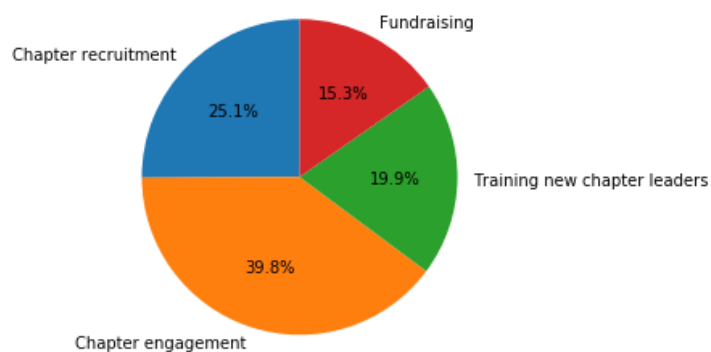
did you connect with: NatCon 2021 Exhibitors



What are your chapter priorities for 2022? *(check all that apply)*

	Frequency	Percentage
Chapter recruitment	82	25.08%
Chapter engagement	130	39.76%
Training new chapter leaders	65	19.88%
Fundraising	50	15.29%
Total	327	100.00%

What are your chapter priorities for 2022?

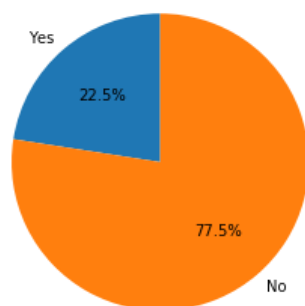


5. Non-First time attendees

Have you attended a previous Student Veterans of America Annual Conference?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	32	22.54%
No	110	77.46%
Total	142	100.00%

Have you attended a previous Student Veterans of America Annual Conference?

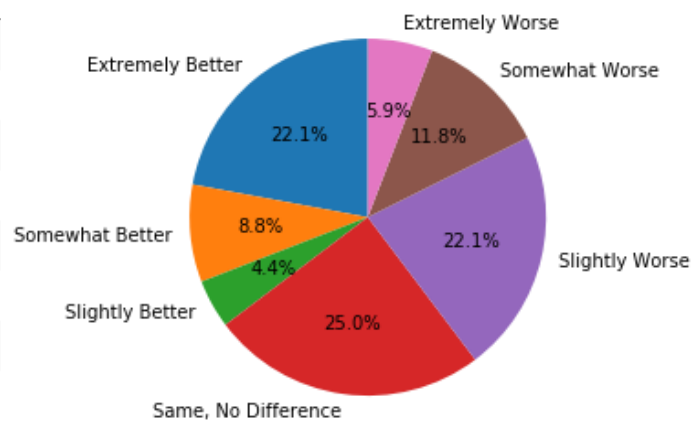


Please select the previous SVA NatCons you attended (*check all that apply*)?

	Frequency	Percentage
2008 (Chicago, IL)	0	0.00%
2009 (San Francisco, CA)	1	0.68%
2010 (Washington, DC)	3	2.05%
2011 (Las Vegas, NV)	0	0.00%
2013 (Orlando, FL)	2	1.37%
2014 (Scottsdale, AZ)	2	1.37%
2015 (San Antonio, TX)	3	2.05%
2016 (Orlando, FL)	7	4.79%
2017 (Anaheim, CA)	8	5.48%
2018 (San Antonio, TX)	12	8.22%
2019 (Orlando, FL)	20	13.70%
2020 (Los Angeles, CA)	34	23.29%
None of the above / 2021 (Virtual Conference) was my first NatCon	54	36.99%
Total	146	100.00%

How would you rate this year's national conference to previous national conferences that you attended?

	Frequency	Percentage
Extremely Better	15	22.06%
Somewhat Better	6	8.82%
Slightly Better	3	4.41%
Same, No Difference	17	25.00%
Slightly Worse	15	22.06%
Somewhat Worse	8	11.76%
Extremely Worse	4	5.88%
Total	68	100.00%



6. Demographic

What is your current age?			
	Frequency	Percentage	
18-24	9	4.29%	
25-29	33	15.71%	
30-34	32	15.24%	
35-39	40	19.05%	
40-44	29	13.81%	
45-49	25	11.90%	
50-54	20	9.52%	
55-59	8	3.81%	
60-64	8	3.81%	
65-69	4	1.90%	
70 and Over	2	0.95%	
Total	210	100.00%	
			Frequency Percentage
			Under 25 9 4.29%
			25 or Older 201 95.71%
			Total 210 100.00%

Which best describes your gender identity?		
	Frequency	Percentage
Male	119	57.49%
Female	88	42.51%
Total	207	100.00%

Gender

A pie chart titled 'Gender' showing the distribution of gender identity. The chart is divided into two segments: a blue segment representing 'Male' at 57.5% and an orange segment representing 'Female' at 42.5%.

What role(s) did you attended SVA's National Conference?

	Frequency	Percentage
Student Veteran	184	62.59%
Student Civilian	3	1.02%
School Representative (staff, professor, administrator)	20	6.80%
SVA Chapter Advisor	18	6.12%
VA Certifying Official	8	2.72%
Exhibitor/Sponsor	2	0.68%
VSO Representative	4	1.36%
Student Veteran Alumni	24	8.16%
Federal / State Employee	9	3.06%
General Attendee	11	3.74%
Other:	11	3.74%
Total	294	100.00%

Which of the following best described your military service?

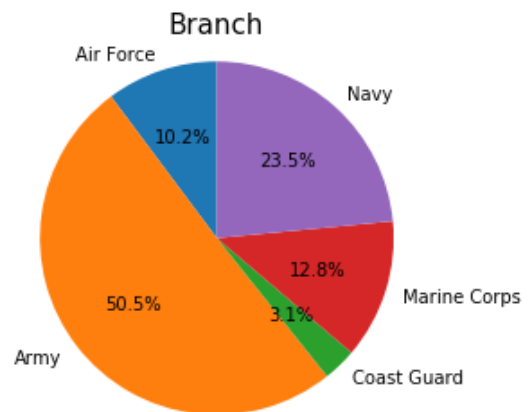
	Frequency	Percentage
Active duty (non-reservist)	124	71.68%
Civilian Supporter	11	6.36%
Dependent (Spouse / Child) of Veteran	5	2.89%
National Guard	8	4.62%
Reservist (drilling)	9	5.20%
Reservist (mobilized or called to active duty)	16	9.25%
Total	173	100.00%

What is your current military status?

	Frequency	Percentage
Active Duty	3	1.51%
Active Guard and Reserve	4	2.01%
Individual ready reserve or inactive reserve (IRR)	5	2.51%
National Guard	7	3.52%
Reservist	6	3.02%
Veteran	174	87.44%
Total	199	100.00%

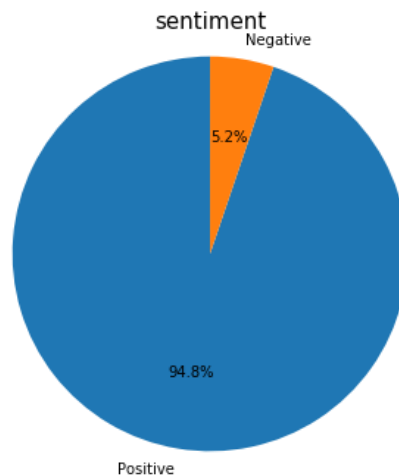
In what branch of the military did/do you serve?

	Frequency	Percentage
Air Force	20	10.20%
Army	99	50.51%
Coast Guard	6	3.06%
Marine Corps	25	12.76%
Navy	46	23.47%
Total	196	100.00%



8. Comments

What breakouts, topics, or speakers would you recommend for next year's national conference?



Positive

- 'LOVED the presentation on disability benefits. Could have a breakout on education benefits for complete comprehension. '
- 'totally ',
- 'Resume for VA students, Engagement with schools',
- 'This was awesome! I was impressed.
- 'I am in an interesting category because I am an SVA Alum, Current member as a grad student, and our chapters advisor. I work as the Veteran Services Coordinator for our school, and I would like to see more resources for Higher Ed Professionals, especially with the new VA Law changes.'
- 'Human resources leadership',
- 'Senator Rick Scott and Senator Ted Cruz both concentrate on veterans issues and this might bring an insight to the mix. ',
- 'Active duty Veterans and non active duty veterans getting into entrepreneurship both nondisabled and disabled veterans',
- 'Would love to see a panel of "success stories" of alumni a few years removed from their student veteran lives who are now successful and giving back to further motivate and encourage current student veterans to dig in and get all they can out of their time in school!'
- 'What colleges to attend for specific degree programs '

- 'I would be partial in recommending more banks/finance. I did not like the speaker before FLOTUS spoke to us. It was very neat hearing from Dr. Biden though!'
- 'Sessions for geared to Veteran Directors and School Administrators (share lessons learned, best practices, etc.)'
- 'Speakers: Dr. Jill Biden!; Bob Chapek; Kedma Ough; Lida Citroen. Breakouts: How to build and leverage a LinkedIn profile. Topics: Something that isn't IT, insurance, or military industrial complex-related'
- 'I enjoyed the diverse topics. Financial literacy is very important. Behavioral health should also be a top concern with veterans and ways to reach out for assistance. The numerous company's offering information about employment is essential to our lives today and was very much appreciated. '
- 'I think having Admiral McRaven speak would be an amazing experience. '
- "Otherly abled Veterans...there was nothing this year or in previous years that really supported our needs. More diversity regarding Women Veterans and all underserved populations of Veterans. More business/leadership programs and opportunities directly with businesses and so many more ideas. What I experienced at this NatCon conference was good and I appreciated being able to move between break out sessions. It's much easier than being in a physical space and more people are able to join in. That feature could be explored much more. Thank you.",
- 'I understand this conference was the first online, but everything was pandemic focused. Let see through the pandemic and focus on getting the employers to commuting to hiring a certain percentage of vets. I feel like it was all talk but no action. I did connect with the Disney team over chat and LinkedIn, but I was ready for a video chat so they can get to see me. ',
- 'VA Related topics',
- 'Vet-Friendly vs. Vet-Inclusive; FROM THOUGHT TO ACTION: HOW TO FOCUS PASSION TO REACH ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP; Understanding Veteran Student Loan Debt',
- 'Alumni chapters/groups - what they can do/need',
- 'I enjoyed networking with other SVA chapter members and finding solutions to the same problems we all were facing.'
- "'@GaryVee was great. I really thought his quick talk was informative and actionable. I wish we could have him speak for an hour.",
- 'Soft skills workshops, breakout rooms by college major, and hopefully next year will be in person.'
- 'How to assist veterans in the criminal justice system and help them access veteran benefits.'
- 'I wish some of the sessions could have been longer. It would be nice if we could download presentations that used powerpoint or put up information on the screen.'
- 'There needs to be a STEM track. Not just engineers and biologists, but a spectrum of STEM representation.'

- 'Resume, VA benefits, continuing involvement ',
- 'Student behavior on Campus',
- 'With this being my first NATCON I may not be the best measure of how well you are doing. I did experience some difficulty in knowing how to navigate the site, reach out to sponsors, or get my personal questions answered. However, I really enjoyed the topics that I chose. Courses in Leadership and professional development and critical life skills , like goal setting, time management should continue to be offered. Once again, I saw great benefit in the agenda that I selected, and the speakers were well informed and presented very well. ',
- 'Financial Aid / Veteran Scholarships',
- "I'm not sure if I missed it but a chance to voice concerns with legislation affecting student veterans. ",
- 'Rebuilding Your Self-Confidence as a Veteran. - Only 10% of the population join the military, but when does the separation end? A Comedian that roasts the hosts, LOL.',
- 'recommending to use a Clubhouse moderation feature in your future events',
- 'Workshops or breakouts focusing on various industries including tech, communication, design, and mental health. More specific topics might be "addressing race relations," "succeeding/communicating in the private sector, or "online resources and how to use them." Fewer motivational speeches and more concrete information from speakers, please.',
- " More info on Chapter 31 - and using your VA benefit's.",
- 'VA VITAL Program',
- 'Honestly, the number of topics and opportunities afforded everyone an opportunity to search for their specific niche of companies, interests, and opportunities. The selection of options provided quite impressive especially considering we are in the middle of a pandemic. SVA truly always leads.',
- 'I would love to see our Vice President and the current secretary of defense. I would like to see more on the topics of diversity and inclusion. I would also appreciate seeing a resume workshop and hear from other female mentos. Address MST.',
- 'Self branding with Lida Citroen\nEquity, diversity, and inclusion ',
- 'There are a great number of Veterans in government and business who are achieving and thriving. There were FAR too many individuals on panels claiming that they were "military-connected" because their sister or grandfather served. There are several thousand Veterans that are content area experts in nearly every subject that SVA would care to share. Why then did we have to get lectured at by non-veteran SJWs? Where are our Veteran congressional representatives? Where are the Veteran leaders in media, business, entrepreneurship? We need a conference that promotes, "Believe and Achieve" for our future leaders from the Student Veteran ranks, not another human resources presentation and shaming. ',

- "I'd like to see more topics related to current or new students - not just looking for a job. Studying tips, navigating campus, being an older or non-traditional student, finding an academic graduate advisor.",
- 'Global issues',
- "Something with actual substance. Every panel I attended was underwhelming and overly basic. We're not supposed to be children; step it up a little.",
- 'More about peer support, especially with building communities in online programs',
- "I enjoyed the ones that we had! I would be really interested in potentially seeing a breakout session towards Guard/Reservists and how to connect more with our active duty counterparts. Or even the differences between our benefits and active duty benefits. Basically, how to make the most of our stuff when it's different compared to active duty.",
- 'It's expected to see the majority of European Americans, but I would love to see more sessions geared for women looking to climb corporate ladders or minority groups that are relatable. ',
- 'Stuff for Veterans, jobs with DHS, Secret Service etc and First Responders.',
- 'None at this time ',
- 'Entrepreneurship',
- 'All the breakouts, topics, and speakers were great.',
- 'More on public sector employment. How to stand out in that environment. Tips for Fed, state, city jobs',
- 'A wider variety of different industries. Environmental, medical, government, etc...',
- 'Matt Best ',
- 'Opportunity to transfer your Post 9/11 GI BILL after leaving service.',
- 'the ones I went to were good. I stepped out of one because of the guest speaker ',
- 'more in the realm of student success',
- 'USA Jobs ',
- 'Career and education ',
- "A good topic for next year's NATCON could be following up on diversity and inclusion after having discussions and thinking of solutions during NATCON 2021",
- "I attempted to connect with Diversity portion and FLOTUS speech but I couldn't ",
- 'How to access to live conference',
- 'Someone with a successful military career that has transitioned into another successful career. This felt (stunk of) Politics. We are Brothers, Sisters and Veterans... not puppets... Yes, I was very disappointed.',
- "I didn't not expect so many pre taped. It felt more like a mass pray and hope recruiting, still have not heard back from any of the companies about jobs. very disappointed. okay sells pitch, no return on investment. \n\n",
- 'Chapter management, DEI, professional development. ',
- 'None at the moment.',

- 'VA Benefits Speakers, All our Sponsors',
- 'Women in tech and inclusion and diversity ',
- "Not to be a jerk or anything, but none of them really stick out in my mind compared to all the other web-based conferences I've attended over the past year.",
- 'Pthis was a good program. The platform was a delight to navigate. 1)Please support older Student veterans... yes I dont doubt that 24 year old students starting a Bachelors need support... but what about the 4040-something student starting their second career? 2) How about a grad school lounge? There's just different stuff you're up against than your first 4-year degree. 3a) Please shut down chat displayed on the main stage when people like the 1st Lady is speaking. Yes, she doesnt know its on. Im beside myself, "how rude", I want to think that preferences of cheese flavors, or how they like or dont like someone or something, or self-marketing was not going on concurrently. Let chat be a separate resource or selectable ON/OFF, at that time. 3b) About chat... nice to have... I found my recruiter, from almost 21 years ago... but maybe have it displayed differently on the main page like a pop out whole side column that we can resize?... or make the font smaller to read more, make the volume on/off easy to find, maybe allow us to dim the incoming msgs so they're there but less distracting? 4) while "ontime delivery" for emailed links can be helpful to not lose them... I couldnt prepare ahead to login for the day... Day1 I ended up with some lost time, while I tried to figure it out. 5) I liked that the Breakouts had a presentation, then Q&A... please mute all mics on participant entry, some breakout rooms would have benefited from a tech/moderator to assist (or maybe a more involved one?)\n6) I would greatly appreciate another similar event... or spread this to 3 days. I was not there to get info to manage my SVA, and I might have been in the way of those who were... BUT I was there and made great use of networking with other grad students / alumni, and valuably accessed the employers. Maybe have a 3rd day that is just employer meetings, maybe a series of breakout rooms in addition to their own chat spaces or separate 1:1 interview options? Maybe bring some more big-names, US agencies... etc. A great place for a USAjobs talk, a great place for presentations about employment and resumes following a Bachelor degree, or differently following a PhD. I accessed several agencies and alumni. Interacting with alumni and actual employers (especially HR/recruiters) is such an important step in a veteran's path when they are struggling to reinvent and re-title themselves, while trying to navigate civilian constructs. Just like military vocabulary is a barrier to civilian employment... SO IS civilian vocabulary when a veteran has to "try on" new labels (what do you mean "project manager" is a desirable title... we use it to mean "odd job catcher"), some of which would appear to be a downgrade, or less than flattering in military setting.\n\nIf you decide to return to an in-person event... maybe you could split the 3day event, to two 1.5 day events, in-person SVA Unit Management Fiesta, and immediately follow up with an online Student Veteran Employment Extravaganza. You can see how much online response you recieved with an online option! Or livefeed

the in-person 3-day event, and provide a parallel networking, breakout, and interview sessions for on-line users.\n\nTech support was incredibly helpful.\nIm glad to have attended. ',

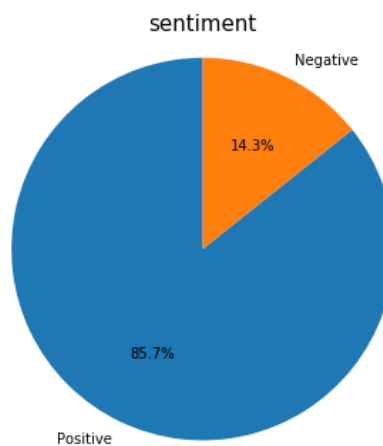
- 'Navigating Federal Employment\nUnderstanding VA Disability Ratings (VA Math),
- 'Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell, Ben Carson',
- 'Anything would be better. There were a lot of amorously satisfied pooches.',
- 'This year we really didnâ\x80\x99t see anything for Urban Planning or environmental programs. I graduating this May and I was truly hoping to engage with businesses or other opportunities to get into these fields. ',
- 'All',
- 'First Lady Dr. Jill Biden-Speaker and the Eastern Region Breakout Room with Kevin Jenkins from SVA.',
- 'The speaker from Texas A&M was great! ',
- 'Team Rubicon ',
- "Honestly, I don't know.",
- 'More about women transferring to the civilian workplace. Especially social politics, appropriate attire, separating from our military selves ',
- 'I would like me to hear from John Maxwell Leadership, Iâ\x80\x99m on his team as a motivational speaker, teacher and life coach, I would be more than happy to speak.',
- "It was difficult to figure out. Every panel worked in a different setting meaning that some were using zoom others were using other platforms and that created inconsistencies you had to get in and out of the agenda. I had pre-enrolled in the sessions that I wanted but noticed that did not automatically create a playlist. When you tried to seek employment information or start a dialogue they said to go to the company website, so they really weren't hiring and that was frustrating. Some companies had very little information and their posted information wouldn't open. Other's had a lot of details about what they do but not really about the jobs they can offer. Seems like they couldn't be consistent in answering basic who, what, when, where, how, or why details when it comes to their own companies. I used what little information was provided to try to create networking or find jobs on LinkedIn with their companies but found none that related to my background. I do need help not only finding a job, but with scholarships, and finding a mentor to help me finish my graduate work, the pandemic has made things very hard. ",
- 'Please continue the network lounges. ',
- 'Federal Law Enforcement Officers',
- 'Maybe some panelists from Defense contracts and specifics for some of us who still hold security clearances. ',
- 'Non-veterans involved in SVA, how to offer support for veterans, how to grow a chapter',
- 'The above items have been amazing for the past two years that I have attended. I am pretty sure that whatever SVA chooses to do would be amazing.',

- 'How to find federal conferences/internships',
- 'I was hoping the State of California (DOE, DOT...) would be a part of it.',
- 'VTOL MEDEVAC OPS\nPHTLS\nDisabled Veteran Community Hooah!',
- 'Raven Solomon on DE&I',
- 'Boeing, Barclays, RMI'

Negative

- 'How about we have more veterans and less social justice warriors. As a community of veterans we are much more able to except diverse backgrounds and people. Why isn't that highlighted? Instead we get comments about broadcasting from "the occupied kingdom of Hawaii" you talk about diversity, but cut an entire group of people and point of view from this "Diversity:',
- 'Stop being so fucking woke. You lost my whole chapter because you insist on being so fucking progressive with things like "friendly" over "inclusive". Most veterans don't care about your side agenda of sucking off certain political parties and persuasions. If you really want fucking equity handover your paycheck and job ill do it. Lets make this shit "equitable and fair". Unsatisfied with your leftist circle jerk convention. ',
- "I think many of the topics were relevant, however the topic titles were misleading or weren't necessarily particularly focused on STUDENT VETERANS. You need a wider diversity of presenters and by that I mean a preponderance of your presenters were SVA officers of one type or another. There are a lot of professionals and academics conducting research and implementing programming and services whose voices we don't hear. SVA needs to work harder to identify and invite these folks.",
- 'An topics about finding a college major for undecided undergraduate students. ',
- 'I was not able to attend as the link to login did not work at all. I requested a password reset and no emails never came in. I simply was unable to attend.'

What could we have changed to make it a learning experience for you?



Positive

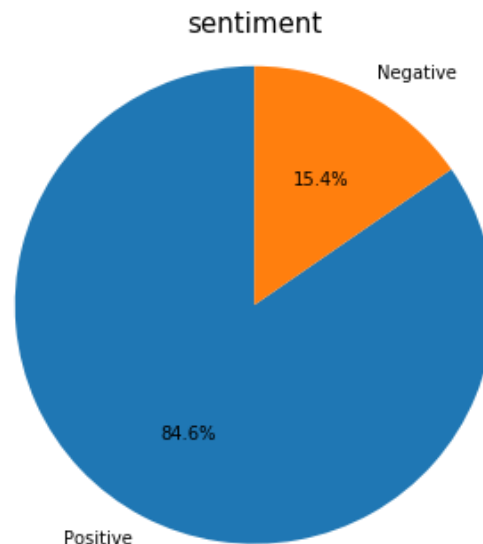
- 'More higher ed topics',
- 'Make it in person.',
- 'Broadened the scope of topics and breakouts to something other than IT/insurance/military industrial complex',
- 'Have more opportunities for face to face like the coffee break chat rooms were we can interact. ',
- 'Seemed like all the big guest speakers just phoned in a pre-recording and it felt pretty disconnected, not as engaging if they were live and able to interact with. ',
- "SVA/NATCON is great overall and it exercises all of it's resources to the best it can, but NATCON in general always feels more targeted to new chapters or to people that are dissatisfied with their own chapter. There needs to be more legacy building seminars focused on existing chapters that are running smoothly but haven't gotten to the next level as a student organization. ",
- 'The topic of this conference not reflective of the Veteran community. Servicemembers come from all parts of our country and from every socio-economic and cultural group. They form units and dedicate their lives to each other. I would have given my life for every man in my unit, and they would have done the same. We only had one color, GREEN. Positive examples of how our military experience reflects our talents to improve the nation and world in which we live. Promotion of graduate school and career achievements from Veterans who are making a difference. National leaders who have a military history. Stories of overcoming obstacles to reach greater heights using the skills we learned in the military. Highlighting diversity achievement in unit success. ',
- 'Less liberal you cuck',
- 'I would have not even had this in general. It being completely online was a waste of time and effort to be honest. Especially since everything is viewable after the fact',

- 'See previous comments regarding presenters. Additionally, the communications regarding how and when we can access the SVA NatCon page, agenda, plan our agendas, etc., was abysmal.'
- "It may have been a good idea to use a live closed captioning person as opposed to a software as many times it couldn't pick up what they were saying properly."
- 'Gary Vaynerchuk was not a "keynote speaker", SVA played a pre recorded video of him talking for 10 min. Then Endeavor representatives never showed up to their rooms... There were at least 50 other people who experienced this issue with Endeavor as we were discussing it in the chat. Will never attend this event again.'
- 'Have the links work to connect in/the password update feature be operational.'
- "I had issues logging on and nobody ever answered my request for help so I didn't bother to attend the conference. I was turned off from the start."
- "Well, if the objective was that it be a learning experience, I'd probably say having more charismatic speakers. Also making slide shows downloadable so we could take notes. Any sort of session flyers like brochures to learn more about the topic. ",
- "There were too many members in each box. Really used it for announcements than discussion. Recommend more chat rooms. Wished there were more opportunities for online student veterans. I work full time so I'm not eligible for any of the special featured programs that I saw because they required full time participation for however many weeks/months. Also were we supposed to receive a swag bag? I never received one. Not a big deal, but I was surprised, because I thought that was part of the registration. ",
- 'Have real discussions not placating the PC mob.'
- 'Improving communication.\nKindness and respect from The Westcoast Hooah!\n- Highlander-Medic Ancient reporting in'

Negative

- 'You can stop telling veterans how to think and how to feel about political happenings and included actual veterans in the presentations. (Dan Crenshaw, Tulsi Gabbard, or one of the 76 members of congress who veterans.)',
- 'Less emphasis on corporate, more influence on helping student veterans. The content was there, but a lot got drowned out by corporate influence and sponsorship. ',
- 'I keep going back to how underwhelming the conversations were. There was almost nothing of substance, and it was generally a huge waste of my time.'

Briefly describe differences (except for this year's NatCon being virtual) between this year's national conference as compared to previous national conferences that you've attended.



Positive

- "The breakouts were great. The platform wasn't ideal. It was really confusing originally to get agenda items added to our agenda. When we went to our agenda, we couldn't log from there to get to the events. The chat function could not be minimized. I wanted to keep it open, so I figured out that I had to have a tab with the chat, and then do my breakouts in another tab - that wasn't ideal. Also there was a ton of spam in the chats, it was hard to connect because the sponsors were continually passing along the same repetitive messages that I stopped even trying to use the chat after a few hours. I definitely was not able to make as many connections as I was at prior NATCONs. Don't get me wrong, I think the event was great, but the platform was me",
- 'awesome ',
- 'First time. ',
- 'It is simply from my change in status as a student to now as a student and employee. So my priorities for what I look for have changed. I have nothing against the material that was available, just wish there was more in terms of being a higher ed professional.',
- "I didn't really see a difference besides the virtual part.",
- "That's literally the only thing that made it worse having to be remote/virtual. Everything else was top notch and really impressed with it given the fact that we were forced to meet virtually. Well done!",

- 'The online platform was not as easy to start conversations. The in person NATCon was fantastic and just had more opportunities. It would have been nice to have more conversations after the presentations just just Q&A read/ or chat. The dialogue feature was missing.',
- 'Online will never compare to in-person ',
- "It was a lot harder to meet people. especially other students. I was also having a hard time trying to find my members on the portal to chat with them. I really missed having the app for my phone this year. I liked when we were able to track everything on the app and add them to our friends' list.",
- 'This was my first experience.',
- 'We where ready to interact and did post questions in my breakouts, but instructor was limited on time and didnâ\x80\x99t get to my questions. There was only time to address one or two questions. Have presenters hold on after class for any offline questions like at the pace to face conference. ',
- 'Never attended a previous conference',
- 'I really liked that I could go in and out of break sessions as well as go back and see on demand sessions that was going on simultaneously.',
- 'This was my first SVA conference so I have nothing to compare it to',
- "I didn't think there were many differences. Didn't lower or exceed expectations.",
- 'This was my first ',
- 'I thank God that, this year new changes have come to the conference to make it unique and excited.',
- 'I was able to move in to breakout sessions with ease. The online platform eliminated a lot of background chatter.',
- 'This is my very first #NATCON!!! I am very thankful for being able to attend this conference while spending time with my family in Brazil. #NATCON2021 will always have a special place in my heart.\nThank You, Stephen Wright',
- 'This was a social warrior justice conference ',
- 'This was my first NatCon, I have nothing to compare it to.',
- 'It was a bit harder for the one on ones with the vendors. Also the swag, ',
- 'Not be able to meet with Face to Face with other Vets- having the real life experience of actually attending the Conference. ',
- 'Does not apply would be a good option here',
- "Obviously, the pros to having NATCON in person lies in the connection with others. We often refer to NATCON as a time to reconnect and see familiar faces while making new friends. It's the meeting of the minds while connecting over a meal or an event. I miss the interaction and seeing my friends. \n\nPros to the virtual conference, schools and students do not have to pay travel and hotel fees. Also, the weather during this time of year is so unpredictable. Everyone can enjoy gathering from the comfort of their own homes. Virtual NATCON allows flexibility for students as well. I know many of us have to leave events to work on homework. We also do not have to deal with jet lag. It affords active duty and

reservists the potential to listen in on one or two events depending on their schedule where they might have to miss the entire event.",

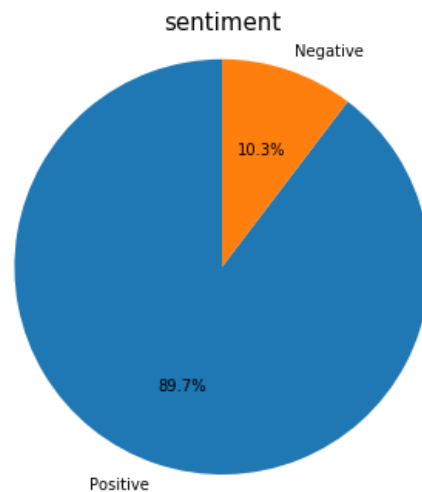
- 'The first for me.',
- 'Good all but the except part',
- 'you did a great job trying to navigate a virtual platform, but it was an SVA conference, not an SJW training. ',
- "It's hard to judge, as we're all in this virtual space because of COVID. That said, this year just kind of felt...forced...in many ways. There were some amazing conversations had, and some wonderful topics...but it felt MUCH more corporate than last year's NatCon. It was hard to escape that aspect of it, even when it came to the chat function it was incessant copy/pasting from recruiters. It was clear that many of the companies were more concerned with recruiting rather than positive/equitable outcomes for veterans WHILE they are students. I get that recruiting is a part of it, but a lot of it just felt super fake and that there were clear ulterior motives.",
- 'the virtual was definitely more convenient, however I miss the one on one time we have with each other in person.\n\nThis is a great option for those who are not able to attend in person.',
- 'This years breakout rooms were a felt a bit less engaging. Although, networking was possible via chats and breakout room, networking for a bit more forced and less natural.',
- 'Not to discount the great information and convenience of virtual meetings, but I just prefer in-person experiences. ',
- 'Real human connections and conversations much better than talking to screens. The access after NATCON 2021 was an improvement because I can go back and watch sessions I missed. However, dressing up, and enaging with others is the best part of NATCON.',
- "It was a valiant effort and needed to be done. But nothing beats being in person. Also it was way too much being thrown at students. New platform to navigate. Chat was too noisy and without focus groups. No idea who was from what school (finding regional allies) because the attendees could not be sorted by state, school, degree program, or service affiliation. \n\nThe unstructured networking was as influential if not more in person. After class and work in front of a computer for a year, another two days in front of a computer was too much. \n\nThe cost was definitely a plus, but I don't know if low cost outweighed virtual delivery. ",
- 'i think everyone tried their best to make the best of it\n',
- 'It was virtual',
- 'Not nearly as much opportunity to connect with fellow students. There were some chat rooms, but there were so many participants in each room, it felt like more for announcements than discussion. Perhaps smaller, videochat capable rooms with a participant cap. Perhaps they were there already, but I missed it.',
- 'More diverse panelists',
- "It wasn't the same as being there with everyone.",

- 'As has been this whole Covfefe year, there are always technical issues, but considering the year we had I loved it!! The energy was so much more powerful!!',
- 'I think that this year was as informative as last year. The thoughtful planning was evident and included everything that i was hoping to see.',
- 'I think once participants get out of the mind set that the event is virtual, you start seeing it as similar to the in-person conferences. It was a bit challenging with the on-going chats, but I do not see it any different than background chatter in an in-person conference. I think the My Agenda page does not need to have such a large image at the top.',
- 'Access to panels and to sponsors.',
- "Good on you for sharing this leadership. SVA is respected and supported.\nIt's a blessing to have such an organization kickin ass and continuing to Uphold and Defend The Constitution Hooah. Call me ol'fashioned. I was just a doggone medic"

Negative

- "The online format was totally new and somewhat chaotic to me. People in the chatrooms would spam their LinkedIn or other advertisements, which I don't blame them for doing so but it was difficult for me to keep track of who was posting what.",
- 'I was still required to attend meetings for work and was not able to join some of the sessions I really wanted on Friday.',
- 'Not useful meetings with employers/ other chapters.',
- 'The ability to network was weak (not too much you could do about that). Also there was hardly anything about employment in the public sector. There were some panels about minority empowerment and policy in the works but that was about as public sector as it got. At least in previous years there were panels on federal employment and how tos with that.',
- 'Missed in person interaction ',
- 'Virtual venue is unfortunately not comparable with the in-person experience.',
- 'Despite the outstanding job that SVA did hosting NATCON, there still isn't an appropriate alternative for in person events',
- 'No change that this was my first one'

Please provide any comments, recommendations, and/or suggestions for NatCon below:



Positive

- 'totally ',
- 'please provide more time for Q&A',
- 'Excellent NatCon. I want SVAHQ to feel confident that they put out an excellent product. ',
- 'NatCon was great. I wish my first experience was in-person. I wish to join the SAV Chapter on my campus, Mercer University Georgia. ',
- 'I would like to see more companies/organizations related to counseling/mental health.',
- 'Thank you to the SVA staff for working hard to make the NatCon experience as fun and informative as possible!\n\nThe SVA facemask is a little tight on my face (I have a big face, I guess), so maybe a redesign with adjustable straps or something.',
- 'Show more diversity.\n\nMore collaboration between student Veterans and non student veterans in numerous areas like business, job development etc',
- 'You all set the bar for virtual conferences with this one. Obviously in-person events lend themselves much better to networking and camaraderie, but we made the most out of this one. Well done!',
- 'More interaction and programming for university staff/veteran affairs POCs',
- "I think that it was fantastic, and the SVA did an outstanding job with putting this together in the amount of time they had with the circumstances we're in. Other than the couple of little things I mentioned earlier in the survey, there is not much to complain about. I liked the convenience of how many breakouts I was able to attend. It's still not as good as in person, but it definitely prepared me extremely well for next year. I would recommend keeping the virtual platform an option when we go back to in-person conferences. I say this because mostly, the officers

of our chapter are the privileged ones that get this experience. But this way, all new members, or people who can't go still have this option to get a feel for what NatCon is really about. I think that would be a cost-efficient way to expand the motivation for newcomers, and give them the incentive to work harder, and know how to prepare for attending the actual event later in their academic career. ",

- "More accessibility. More training. More direct ability to be involved with Q&A/Chat during the break outs. Q&A's for Main Stage Speakers.",
- 'Great Job! ',
- 'Everything was great, I look forward to going in person one year!',
- 'Honestly if my registration hadnt been free I would have been pretty disappointed paying to attend virtually after the fact because I donâ\x80\x9t feel like I was able fully navigate and understand what events, companies, and breakout rooms best fit my needs. ',
- 'Provide a framework for Student Veterans to lists questions via email for the platform since some chat platforms were busy. Allow for easy LinkedIn connections among Student Veterans by providing a form for all student Veterans to add their LinkedIn Account Information.',
- 'I was under the false impression that National Conference was the opportunity for veterans students to network and be empowered by student veteran success stories. What I felt I got was a means of a poor interpretation of diversity. The veteran community is one of the most diverse subgroups with an undying loyalty to each other, why was that not amplified? Where were veteran speakers? The stage had the highest focus to Disney but where was the veteran connection? I wanted to feel that I was with my tribe but instead I felt more disconnected then ever. With Disney, where was Adam Driver? Where was Tulsi Gabbard? Dan Crenshaw? There are 76 veterans in the House of Representatives, where were they?',
- 'Great online experience.',
- "Being able to attend this conference virtually provided so many more opportunities for those of us who aren't able to travel or for schools that can't afford to send more than a few student representative each year. I understand that the virtual conference was created as a result of the pandemic, but it is a great option to continue to allow more individuals to attend that wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to attend in the future.",
- 'More STEM. More breakouts focused on sustaining and improving chapters. More third party discussions how veterans can benefit/improve...financial, mental health, improving grades, etc. ',
- 'I surely recommend for all SVA student of America to have good interest of the best for our Future Leaders.',
- 'my links to breakout sessions accessible directly in "my agenda"',
- 'At minimum, have a virtual platform forever, going forward. Have a question bot that can send you directly to prerecorded videos or websites for help.\n\nThank You to all support staff, presenters, employers, and employees and especially the

volunteers for their hard work for a wonderful and in my opinion an amazingly successful #NATCON2021.\n\nThank You,\nStephen Wright',

- 'A moderator in the general chat would be nice, that was pure chaos. Entertaining but useless.\n\nMost speakers made very generic motivational speeches and I would like to hear more about their process, goals, etc. rather than a "you can do it" platitude or ten.\n\nBranching out to include industries other than oil/STEM/finance would be a good start.\n\nAll in all a good time, but way too much powerpoint.\n',
- 'Ensure all information about how to be eligible for the swag and t-shirts. To date I still have not received my stuff and I signed up when Raytheon did the first 3000 application. ',
- 'I attended a meeting where one of the speakers self-disclosed too much. It did not add to the conversation and some of the other speakers seemed to disengage after. The meeting was one of my top picks to attend. Perhaps a reminder to speakers about self disclosure when they volunteer to speak would be conducive.',
- "Can't wait to be able to attend the NATCON in person... next year. ",
- 'If you can post the Slides for the speakers you can make sure that they can be downloaded during the session. Have been able to do so at multiple other virtual trainings/',
- 'The main chat feature was a bit overwhelming for me. I could not engage fast enough at times or find the conversation later to ask questions or say hello. The chat features within the events made a world of difference. I was able to ask questions without worrying about overstepping another veteran. This feature gave the panelists the opportunity to collectively address questions thus saving time to answer others.',
- "I can't wait to attend one live!",
- 'Loved the guest speakers I sat in on. Loved the zoom functionality and use. There was a few "hiccups" or should I say popping of bottles or cans during the Honors ceremonies that could be looked at as disrespectful or inconvenient. Mistakes happen as they always do but for a professional atmosphere and military courtesies and traditions may cause others to take this event lightly. Thank you and Great work putting on an informative and collaborative event.',
- 'Bring back the SVA to Veterans ',
- 'Great conference and great speakers. I am impressed by what NatCon offers.',
- "For a student organization, the conference seemed overwhelmingly focused on getting a job and post-academic life. There was not much attention paid to new students, students transitioning into academia or graduate student life. I'm a new student and will be in school for the next 3 years. What do you offer the current student?",
- 'Less corporations and more representatives from other industries like non profit sector, colleges who want to hire veterans and retain students, etc. Less Raytheon/NBC and more veteran owned/small business/non-profit/NGO offerings.',

- 'On the main agenda, the rooms were listed. On the personal agenda, the rooms were not listed. I was very frustrated moving back and forth between the two trying to figure out where I needed to be. I am glad the conference was recorded. There were many presentations that I wanted to see and could not due to class and other obligations. The functionality of the chat box wasn't great. Only one line of text or less was visible at a time. Information was posted in the text boxes. The box was so small, scrolling quickly with new comments that I couldn't copy all of it at once. Consider a banner or announcement box for the presenter to post information so that it is separate from the chat and easy to find and see. ',
- 'The chat function was fair, at best, mainly due to the constant spamming from student veterans. It was hard to follow or engage in a conversation when folks kept dropping their LI profile links and asking about jobs',
- "If, for some reason we have to do another virtual thing, I loved the regional happy hours that we did during the regional summits. I think that would have been really cool to have. I ended up going to SVA Illinois one night and it was nice just to be able to talk to other people that were kind of close to me even though I'm from Ohio... Now that I think about it, just having a regional happy hour in person kind of would be pretty cool too. Not sure how feasible it would be but it's an idea.\n\nAlso, I have a medical degree and there weren't really a lot of medical companies that I could speak to. I think there was maybe one and they didn't really make it easy to contact them. Maybe I'm just not smart enough to figure it out but it didn't seem like it was easy. Maybe even getting in contact with like medical device companies would be really cool.\n\nAlso I am a little creative and I do have a side gig that's on the creative and artsy side and maybe having a section or a way to connect other artistically inclined veterans would be kind of cool. There aren't many of us so there wasn't a lot aimed at artistically inclined veterans.\n\nAnd lastly: JamCon2022. Bring your guitar, Jared. Let's have some really cool SVA karaoke nights! (JamCon is a joint idea thought into existence by myself and Kevin Jenkins. I can't take full credit.)",
- 'For Chapter of the Year award: I believe there should be separate categories based on the size of the school. Just like in sports, it will always be hard for a Community College to compete with a Big Ten, NCAA, ACC, SEC, etc. school.\n\nGreg Truhan, Lakeland Community College ',
- 'Either have it in person or not at all. Understandable that it couldn't be done in person because of covid, but it honestly should have just been a bunch of free videos posted on youtube or a website. The "convention" itself meant nothing and the chat was a mess.',
- 'Keep up the great work. There are plenty of take-aways from the function.',
- 'Please get more public sector employers in. The employers and a lot of the panels are geared towards tech and finance. Those of us who are trying to go into the public sector are left high and dry.',
- 'More variety of companies please',

- 'Upgrade the My Agenda feature so that I do not have to scroll through the Agenda to find what I had picked for My Agenda',
- 'none',
- 'Everything is good. ',
- "Set up would of been better if the site would of deleted the session when complete so it would of been easier to see the time slots. I couldn't find the main speakers times or other things I thought would of been cool to see. when I did It was to late ",
- 'Focus more on all veterans who are getting there education or have a degree. ',
- 'Have NATCON be in-person',
- 'Better way to access live conference s',
- 'Please ensure links/ password reset systems are functional.',
- 'Maintain an online option if at all possible. ',
- 'we all get out and look for a sense of purpose, Focus on that. try gearing towards the ideals self second, basically try to think less about money and more about making a difference. ',
- 'Have sorting features for attendees. State, School (this needs to be standardized; ie URI, Univ. of Rhode Island, and University of Rhode Island would be three separate schools), degree program (Stem, sTem, stEm, steM, Humanities, Business, or more specific tracks), branch affiliation. I would also list Academic Honor Societies and Greek life. This will promote more networking with brothers/sisters and promote engagement when attendees return to campus after NATCON. Also delineate Leadership Institute alumni by year. I think service schools with academic importance like the Defense Language Institute alumni should also be an affinity group that is clearly delineated. ',
- 'None at the moment.',
- 'Provide help if someone requests it prior to the event.',
- 'Add hyperlinks in the "My agenda" feature to access breakout sessions quicker.',
- 'Provide several SVA contact information for seamless future correspondences',
- 'Please expand the employment portion of the conference.\n\nMaybe someone could monitor for appropriateness, legitimate, functioning, or duplicate suggested transition resources... and allow peoole to download it during or after the conference... too many recommendations for OneNet or ONet (whatever)... you know what a Navy helicopter pilot is on that site... an airline pilot (um, no, we're not)... but how is that useful anyway, when looking for an unrelated Process Improvement career, following an again unrelated PhD in Molecular Neuroscience Medical Research. \n\nMy opinion... Veterans using VA benefits for grad school, should have a MANDO concurrent payback, of participating in a VA or SVA "Veteran Grad School" program... so that new Grad applicants, current Grad students, and possibly alumni can share experience, get the best out of a degree, help direct, give advice, support new/current stidents... and have a moderator limit the complaining about their personal, one-off, irritation about VA medical benefits... thats a different forum.\n\n',
- 'Looking forward to being to attend an in person event in the future ',

- "More federal agency booths. I am not interested in working for a private company post-service. A lot of my student vet friends are the same. There were more fed agencies this time than previous years, but I'd love to see even more. ",
- "Don't bother me again.",
- 'I love this event and will attend future ones. I truly believe that bringing more businesses and companies will help widen the array of potential careers. I know this is a strenuous objective that you attack everyday so, keep trying and doing great things. Thank you for a wonderful experience and building my connections throughout the world.',
- 'I really liked the virtual platform of the conference because it increased the number of people participating, it increased the diversity of topics discussed, and it was very convenient with my class schedule. ',
- 'I would like to see a more structured presentation on how small universities and colleges can actually get their leadership to be more supportive.\n\nI would also like to see a presentation by those that lobby for the SVA in Washington and what they are doing to change colleges and universities being allowed to receive VA money without having a veteran center or office to provide veterans and dependents programs, services, or a place student veterans and dependents can go to build new bonds.',
- 'None... maybe a VR type thing in the future but that may be expensive',
- 'Absolutely love what you all do. ',
- 'Great conference! Really enjoyed it. Supply drop was an awesome surprise. Definitely keep that! Would have been good to have swag from the vendors included. I thought we were supposed to get some, but there was only NatCon stuff (which I appreciate!). Would have made it seem even more like a real conference. No big deal if you canâ\x80\x99t though. \nSuggestions to make the conference even better:\nRegistering and logging in was a bit confusing. There was no easy way to see if I was registered because I kept going back to the same screen as if I hadnâ\x80\x99t. Thank goodness for the emails because thatâ\x80\x99s how I could get in. Otherwise I would have missed the conference. The My Agenda feature would be more beneficial if it linked directly to the breakouts. Having to go back to the agenda list to find it was irritating.\nConsider having additional social breakout rooms (lounges) with general topics that are chat based and monitored. People seem to like the chat feature in the forums, and having a few rooms to go into would replicate socials or hanging out in main hallways waiting for the next session experienced IRL. Iâ\x80\x99ve seen it work great in other virtual conferences. They also had a moderator of sorts who would put out 1MC/broadcast messages in the lobby informing participants that a certain discussion was happening in the lounge:breakout space. The conversations were free flowing topics, but having 3-4 spaces made it so you could find something interesting . ',
- 'I suggest bringing in John Maxwell and his team',
- 'Anything on finding mentors when yours are not responsive.\nAnything on finding funding because adjuncts are underpaid.\nAnything on fundraising in

college and creating spaces for veterans. \nAnything that contributes to the quality of students learning experiences. ',

- 'Great Work this year and well done.',
- 'Do this like 4 times a year!',
- 'none',
- 'I think it was great considering it was virtual. The agenda planner should be more interactive between the general agenda and the personal agenda. There was a small disconnect between them, and it was hard to tell what I should be attending next. Not a huge deal though. Just something that could be more streamlined. ',
- 'Add State employment opportunities, i.e. Caltrans.',
- 'I enjoyed how interactive the conference was. I wish we were able to attend in person but I understand the situation (COVID-19).',
- 'Hallelujah Hooah.\nKnow you've got Unconditional Love and Respect from The City of Trembling Leaves Reno, Nevada.\nPlease work on y'all's breakdancin\'skills.\nWe need some of you "Soldier -Athletes"\nBringin\'that heat Hooah!\nCall me ol\'fashioned...\nI was just a medic.',
- 'Tell students to make and update their LinkedIn in advance!!! Everyone was sharing their LinkedIn profiles and those who didn\'t have one were clearly missing out. Maybe offer to registrants how-to videos a few days before NATCON to help them update their LinkedIn and resume. \n\nThe chat function was awful. \n\nI am now going back through the on-demand library for sessions that I could not attend live. I am distraught that several sessions (listed below) are not to be found in the library. Is there any chance they will be made available and posted soon? I was especially interested in the first one listed below- I could use the advice! Thank you.\nBreakout sessions:\nHOW TO BE A CHAPTER LEADER WITHOUT LOSING YOUR MIND\nHOW TO BE ENGAGED IN SVA AFTER GRADUATION\n"VETERAN INCLUSIVE" VERSUS "VETERAN FRIENDLY"\nGeneral sessions: \nLIVING VIRTUALLY\nSVA HONORS GALA',
- 'Make the chat feature more manageable. '

Negative

- 'Since I have to work during the day, it was difficult to log into live events to ask questions',
- 'There was almost no valuable correspondence before the event - all hype, no substance. Exhibitors were holding individual info sessions, yet there was no information about those - many of which sounded significantly more interesting than the breakout topics. The exhibitor booths were not "manned," instead you had to go through some weird portal to get to them. The diversity of exhibitors was garbage. I met far more grad students than undergrads, yet there was nothing for grad students except MSW students. I also exhausted by VA Education benefits a long time ago; there was nothing for people like me. The "My Agenda"

feature allowed me to add events then not be able to access them later - it was completely worthless.

To be completely honest, if I had paid for this, I would be pissed. I will never attend another NatCon, nor will I recommend it to our chapter's members. The whole thing felt like a fun-fair for immature veterans who lack initiative to self-advocate. One of the sessions I attended was basically a bitch session for children who felt the need to complain about everything yet do nothing to advance their own position; it was a "what handouts do you have for me" session. Many of the chat rooms were dick-measuring contests, designed more for those with well-functioning chapters to flex on others than for real networking, collaboration, or advice. I am a chapter leader, and I just disengaged after having some fuckwad leader of another chapter dismiss a couple of us with struggling chapters. We apparently weren't at her level, so we were trash. That attitude is toxic and further tainted my opinion of the whole event. SVA does not provide anything of value to me or anyone I know. Stick to advocating in DC; that is where you actually provide a service.'

- "I really struggled with participating in the conference. After registering I made several attempts to create my itinerary. However, upon attending the conference I couldn't access the itinerary. It was as if I hadn't registered. I had to go through the process again, but couldn't build an itinerary. Technical issues prevented me from interacting within breakout sessions. ",
- 'Please silence the chat feature. The incessant pinging was distracting. Additionally, many members were chatting during the National Anthem. I was both disappointed and discouraged by this behavior.'
- "The conference appears to be geared towards individuals in their early 20's. Everyone seemed to forget that we are student VETERANS who are more than likely at least 25. Apparently there were quite a few older veterans there that were also offended by the speakers and interviewers constantly speaking to young individuals just starting out in life. We are adults that have experienced more than high school and freshman year of college. ",
- 'The only thing I had difficulty with was turning off or muting the chat feature during presentations, I was unsure how to do it (but also didn't spend a lot of time trying to figure it out) it would get a bit annoying with the chat constantly going... maybe if there were a separate room entirely or a better option to not have the chat running during presentations.'
- 'There should be a "join" button or link on the "my agenda" instead of making us go back to the list of agendas and joining from there. If this is something that should have been working, it didn't work for me. \n\nBreakout sessions are confusing. \n\nLobby is confusing. \n\nDid not understand how to interact to others to network other than chats. \n\n\nThere were one breakout session where we were told that we could not share the opportunities we learned from the session because it's only meant for those who attended and another who says they are not sending PowerPoint to attendees because it wasn't for public consumption. This confuse me a

little because I thought we can at least share it to our chapter members. I supposed I assumed wrong. ',

- "The chat function was a bit of a commotion. People's questions and comments got lost. ",
- 'What I did not like the most on this years NatCon this past year, was the constant chiming of the messenger. It was quite annoying during the breakout session. '