The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission formulates and recommends to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of The American Legion policies, plans and programs on direct assistance, outreach and support for veterans and their families with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims and benefits, health care, memorial affairs and women veterans programs to ensure that they receive the highest quality of care from the VA for their injuries and illnesses incurred from their military service; coordinates the activities of the national organization in veterans affairs; and oversees the effectiveness of The American Legion’s programs of service to these veterans and their dependants in claims for benefits administered by federal and state programs.

**VA&R committees**

- **Health Administration Committee**  
  *Phil Youngblood, Georgia, Chairman*  
  The Health Administration Committee formulates and recommends to the NEC, through the VA&R Commission, policies, plans and programs to insure that veterans and military personnel are receiving timely and quality care at VA regional medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics and long-term care facilities, and any other medical functions under VA Health Care; reviews and makes recommendations on the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program and all volunteer programs at these facilities; reviews and recommends policy as to veteran state homes (VHA); ensures that VHA research is fully funded and that the VHA affiliation with medical universities remains robust; ensures that the VHA budget can meet these objectives.

- **National Cemetery Committee**  
  *Richard W. Neville, North Carolina, Chairman*  
  The National Cemetery Committee formulates and recommends to the NEC, through the VA&R Commission, policies, plans and programs as they relate to VA national cemeteries, and the interment of veterans, military and their dependents. This includes Arlington National Cemetery, administered by the Department of the Army.

- **Veterans Benefits Committee**  
  *William J. Smith, Pennsylvania, Chairman*  
  The Veterans Benefits Committee formulates and recommends to the NEC, through the VA&R Commission, policies, plans and programs to insure that veterans, widows and dependents are receiving timely decisions on claims and timely receipt of earned benefits;
reviews these veterans benefits to make sure they remain consistent with changes in the economy; and reviews the VA veterans benefits budget to make sure the above objective can be reached.

- **Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Committee**
  
  *Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania, Chairman*

  The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Committee researches and recommends treatments and cures for post-conflict TBI and PTSD; and studies the Department of Defense/Veterans Affairs transition programs, as well as prevention, screening and diagnosis procedures used to treat servicemembers and veterans with TBI and PTSD.