

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION

Authorization

- First authorization for present Commission was Resolution 546, 1924 National Convention, establishing it as a Constitutional Committee.
- Resolution 21, November 1939 NEC authorized Executive Committee for Rehabilitation Committee.
- Additional changes to Executive Committee by Resolution 17, November 1942 and Resolution 24, November 1943 NEC.
- Resolution 189, 1947 National Convention and Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC established as a Constitutional Commission.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 1, 1970 National Convention, amended Section 6, Article I of National By-Laws, changing name to Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.
- Amended by Resolution 38, May 1979 NEC, going from 5 areas to 8 regions.
- Resolution 26, October 2004 NEC, dissolved geographical regions.
- Resolution 19, 2005 May NEC, dropped 8 region membership on commission and made one group within Commission.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current membership and purpose.

Membership

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission shall be composed of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and not to exceed twenty-one members at large; provided, however, that the Chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the Committee, and the Vice Chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the Committee.

Of the twenty-one members who shall be appointed to the Commission at the Fall 2013 meeting of the National Executive Committee, seven shall be appointed for a term of one year, seven shall be appointed for a term of two years, and seven shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each Fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for a terms of three years. The National Commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies of unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its Fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the National Commander, a Chairman and a Vice Chairman of the Commission to serve in such capacity for one year.

The Chairman of the Health Administration Committee, the Chairman of the National

Cemetery Committee, and the Chairman of the Veterans Benefits Committee shall be ex-officio members of the Commission.

Purpose

- To formulate and recommend to the National Executive Committee 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, healthcare, 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;
- To coordinate the activities of the National Organization in veterans affairs;
- To oversee the effectiveness of The American Legion's programs of service to these war veterans and their dependents in claims for benefits administered by federal and state programs;
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

To accomplish these purposes, the commission and staff will have an understanding of the federal budget process and the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) budget and will maintain a professional relationship with the DVA and the Congressional committees and staff who are charged with the congressional oversight of the DVA in cooperation with the Legislative Commission and staff.

Assigned to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission for supervision and coordination are the Health Administration Committee, the National Cemetery Committee, the Veterans Benefits Committee and the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council.