

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION**

Ralph P. Bozella  
*Colorado*  
Chairman

Louis J. Celli Jr.  
*Massachusetts*  
Director

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission formulates and recommends to the NEC policies, plans and programs on direct assistance, outreach and support for veterans and their families with 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 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 war veterans and their dependents in claims for benefits administered by federal and state programs.

### **VA&R committees**

- **Health Administration Committee**

*Phil Youngblood, Georgia, Chairman*

Formulate and recommend to the National Executive Committee, through the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, policies, plans and programs to insure that veterans and military personnel are receiving timely and quality care at VA medical centers, community based outpatient clinics (CBOC), long-term care facilities and any other medical functions under VA health care. Review and make recommendations on the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program and all volunteer programs at these facilities. Review and recommend policy as to veteran state homes (VHA); Ensure that VHA research is fully funded and that the VHA affiliation with medical universities remains robust. Ensures VHA budget can meet their objectives. Supports and participates in System Worth Saving veteran town-hall meetings and site visits.

- **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Committee**

*William M. Detweiler, Louisiana, Chairman*

Investigate the existing science and procedures as well as alternative methods for treating Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) not currently being employed by the Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), for the purpose of determining if such alternative treatments are practical and efficacious. Evaluate the therapies for treating TBI and PTSD currently being employed by the DoD and VA. Make an annual report to the full Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and the National Executive Committee concerning the TBI/PTSD Committee's findings and recommendations. Examine recent trends of veteran suicide as it relates to traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma, etc., and analyzing best practices in veteran suicide prevention.

- **National Cemetery Committee**

*Richard W. Neville, North Carolina, Chairman*

To formulate and recommend to the National Executive Committee, through the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, policies, plans and programs as they relate to the Department of Veterans Affairs' national cemeteries, and the interment of veterans, military and their dependents. This includes Arlington National Cemetery, administered by the Department of the Army; such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

- **Veterans Benefits Committee**

*William J. Smith, Pennsylvania, Chairman*

Monitor the VA claims process for timely decisions on claims and appropriate receipt of earned benefits. Conduct Regional Office Action Review (ROAR) site visits to ensure proper processing for claims with American Legion power of attorney.