

**VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION**  
**WEEKLY UPDATE**

Week Ending — 03/15/2024

***Division Operations***

**Meetings:**

- March 11-13: VA&R Division Director attended the National Commanders testimony before Congress.

**Something you should know...**

All materials and presentations provided during the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and TBI/PTSD/Suicide Prevention Committee meetings at the 2024 Washington Conference are posted to the following website:

**[Washington Conference Presentations | The American Legion](#)**

## *Health Policy Team Operations*

### **Meetings:**

- March 12: Health Policy Team (HPT) attended the In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) working group meeting to discuss organizational, advocacy, and legislative updates.
- March 13: HPT attended the Legislative Presentation of The American Legion and Multiple VSOs: JWV, TAPS, NCHV, MOAA, NACVSO, VVA, NGAUS, FRA.
- March 14: HPT attended the Department of Veterans Affairs Women's Veterans Fireside Chat Series to discuss updates to survivors and memorial affairs.
- March 14: HPT attended a meeting with VHA Innovation to discuss the continued partnership with the American Legion's Be the One and the VA's Compassionate Compact Corps and continued support of veteran socials at American Legion Posts.

## *Benefits & Claims Team Operations*

### **Meetings:**

- March 8: Deputy Director of Benefits & Claims (BBDC) and Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) Team Leaders had a virtual meeting with the Board of Veterans Appeal's VSO Liaison and IT experts to discuss effective ways to produce reports from the VACOL system.
- March 11: DDBC attended VSO roundtable discussions on pending legislation and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) issues.
- March 11: Benefits Policy Team attended a briefing for VSOs regarding the expansion of VA Health Care eligibility made possible by Section 103 of the PACT Act, which became effective March 5, 2024.
- March 12: DDBC met with BVA VSO Liaison to discuss upcoming BVA changes in regard to Informal Hearing Presentation
- March 13: Benefits Policy Team monitored the testimony presented by the National Commander and other VSOs before a joint session of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.
- March 14: DDBC and Veterans Benefits Policy Analyst met with Bergmann & Moore, LLC, our training partner, to discuss the ongoing American Legion Accreditation & Training (ALAT) 201 School issue, and the upcoming DSO Symposium preparation.

## ***Claims & Appeals Team Operations***

### **Accreditations:**

- Applications received from TAL Departments 13
- Certifications submitted by TAL Washington Office 13
- Certifications approved by VA's Office of General Counsel 26

### **The American Legion Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) Unit:**

- AMA appeals pending (125+ days) 2
- Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) prepared 196
- Memos generated 4
- Phone inquiries 237
- Internal quality reviews 8
- Individual training 6 hours
- Team training 0 hours
- Hearings 0
- Board dispositions 133
  - o Appeals granted 41 (30.8%)
  - o Remanded 66 (49.6%)
  - o Denied 24 (18.0%)
  - o Other 2 (1.5%)
- Largest retroactive awards won for veteran \$164,128

### **Senior Veterans Disability Claims Specialist:**

- Compensation & Pension Claims 111
- Other Issues 3
- Contacts 114

### **Pension & Debt Management:**

- New Claims 17
- Supporting Submissions 22
- Sensitive Claims 3
- Rating Reviews/Audits 48
- Contacts 148
- Debt Notices Received 18
- Insurance Questions 2
- Waivers Granted 2
- Pension Notification Letters Processed 272
- Largest debt waiver won for veteran \$24,180

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Director

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

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End of VA&R weekly update – 03/15/2024