

Resolution 08  
Rehabilitation Committee

Disability Benefit Questionnaires use within VHA Facilities & the VBA

**Whereas**, the Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) were developed from 2010 to 2012 in coordination and cooperation with VBA, VHA, the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), and the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC). The DBQs standardize VHA examination reports and, once approved for public use enabled private physicians to provide sufficient disability assessment information **and**

**Whereas**, the Regional Office Veterans Service Representatives (VSRs) and Rating VSRs (RVSRs) are required to use the DBQs when requesting VA examinations for covered disabilities, **and**

**Whereas**, the in-house use of the DBQs at VHA facilities is inconsistent throughout VISN 2 and, in some case, inconsistent within a single VHA facility, **and**

**Whereas**, the use of the DBQs by Veterans in the development of their disability compensation claims greatly improves the timeliness and accuracy of the VBA decisions, **and**

**Whereas**, there is great confusion and misunderstanding among VHA staff when discussing the need for the DBQs, **and**

**Whereas**, that confusion and inconsistent use of the DBQs also exists within the VBA,  
**Now therefore**

**Be it Resolved**, the VBA, VHA, BVA, and OGC develop a training program for all VHA and VBA staff to instill the importance of accurate DBQs and how they can positively impact the VBA claims process, **and**

**Be it Further Resolved**, that the American Legion, be invited to review and make recommendations to the training program during the development process, **and**

**Be it Further Resolved**, that this resolution be considered by the Department of New York at its annual convention in Syracuse, New York on July 20-22, 2017, **and**

**Be it Further Resolved**, that this resolution be forwarded to the National Organization for Consideration at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada scheduled for August 18-24, 2017, **and**

**Be it Finally Resolved**, that if approved, the American Legion work closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop said training program and then work with Congress to ensure the training requirements have been completed.