

Resolution 12
Rehabilitation Committee

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) processing of Appeals

Whereas, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs has set a goal to prosecute claims in a timely manner, and

Whereas, the current system of adjudication during the appeals process generally takes longer than 365 days, and

Whereas, the claimant may be of such an age or disability that his/her lifespan may be affected, and

Whereas, the Regional Offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs VBA are processing claims outside of their designated geographical areas under the current "National Work Que" process, and

Whereas, it takes resources to properly provide a De Novo Review, mainly manpower, now, therefore

Be it Resolved, that the American Legion encourages Congress to allow the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs the resources, including personnel to address the delay in adjudicating the Notices of Disagreements (NODs) through authorization to increase manpower in the Appeals area, to affectively lessen the time to properly address a valid Notice of Disagreement, and

Be it further Resolved, that each Regional Office Director report to his/her supervisor on the progress of Pending Days, Interaction with VSOs, and Completion of appeals pending at such station, and

Be it further Resolved, that the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs advise and encourage the appeals staff to confer with such accredited representatives that the claimant has authorized, in resolving differences of opinion, prior to the "Statement of the Case" being issued, and

Be it further Resolved, that this resolution be voted on at the Annual Department Convention to be held in Syracuse, NY on July 20-22, 2017, and if approved

Be it Finally Resolved, this resolution be forwarded to the National Organization for consideration at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada scheduled for August 18-24, 2017.