



July 30, 2020
Appeals Progress Tracker

Mission:

The American Legion Department of Ohio, Department Service Officers provide our veterans with expert knowledge of Veterans Affairs benefits, and legal knowledge when filing and representing during the appeal process. The American Legion Department of Ohio employees five Department Service officers four located at the Cleveland VARO and one at the Columbus VAMC. The four Department Service Officer located at the Cleveland VARO handles all Decision Review Officer Hearings and Board of Veterans Affairs Hearings for the State of Ohio.

Decision Review Officer Hearings:

Referred to as DRO hearings, these hearings are the veterans first chance in the appellate cycle. DRO hearings are conducted at the Cleveland VARO with Decision Review Officers employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs with the veteran and the Department Service officer.

Board of Veterans Affairs Hearings: (Virtual Option Only thru August 31, 2020)

Referred to as BVA hearings, which are held via video conference between Washington D.C. and the Cleveland VARO. The veterans attend these hearings with the assistance of the Department Service Officer. Currently all hearings are being conducted via BVA Virtual Option. The veteran can elect this option but must have access to computer with mic and camera or smart device with mic and camera. Cleveland VARO has conducted 57 BVA hearings and 9 DRO hearings in 2020 so far.

**This chart shows the total number of hearings held that have a grant or denial (data is from January 2017 to present).

COVID-19 Impact:

The Department Service Officers were able to continuously aid our veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic via email, phone calls and fax to email. The Service Officers are back in the Cleveland VA Regional Office and the Cincinnati VAMC. But are restricted to appointments only at both locations.

Post Service Officer School:

Post Service Officer School is still planned for November 7, 2020 from 0800- 1530 location TBD. I have also revised the old Post Service Manual and will be distributing them to the PSO that attend the upcoming PSO School. A copy of this manual is available on the Department Webpage. Currently have 10 PSO's enrolled.

The American Legion Department of Ohio, Department Service Officers Production:

	2020	2019	2018	2017
BVA Held	15	64	61	130
BVA Won	13	49	48	110
Retro \$	\$353,614.71	\$1,042,453.56	\$1,645,084.30	\$2,943,711.25
Remand \$	\$0.00	\$483,962.70	\$340,311.51	\$1,090,384.28
Win %	87%	77%	79%	80%
Remanded Cases	7	17	23	42
P Grant/Remand	7	5		

**A few of these cases are partial grant with Remand.

BVA 4 Year Average: 81.4%

Total Winnings: \$7,899,522.31

	2020	2019	2018	2017
DRO Held	8	29	56	38
DRO Won	5	14	32	24
Award \$	\$0.00	\$64,584.23	\$207,345.70	\$586,577.09
Win %	63%	48%	57%	70%

DRO 4 Year Average: 57%

Total Winnings: \$858,507.02

Contact Information
 William Genochio
 The American Legion Department of Ohio
 Veterans Benefits Affairs Coordinator
genochio@ohiolegion.com
william.genochio@va.gov
 216-522-3504 Office