



V. VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

Authorization:

- The American Legion Department of Ohio Constitution & By-Laws, Revised 2021, Article III, Standing Commissions, Section 10., calls for a standing Commission known as the “Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.”
- Rules of the Department Executive Committee, Amended July 2010, Article No. 7, Powers of Executive Committee

Members of Commission and Appointment Procedure:

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission consist of fourteen (14) members, one of whom shall be designated as a chairperson for a term of one year. The Chairperson of this Commission shall be chosen from one of the fourteen (14) District chairpersons. The Chairperson shall be appointed annually by the Department Commander and shall serve until the close of the following convention. The regular term of appointment shall be for a period of three (3) years but appointments of members shall be first made for such periods as will cause the expiration of the term of approximately one-third (1/3) of the members each year. The VA&R Chairperson may appoint a Vice Chairperson from one of the appointed Commission members with written approval from the Department Commander.

Ex-Officio Members:

The Department Adjutant shall serve as an ex-officio member of the VA&R Commission. A member of the Department serving on a National Committee or Commission under the direction of the National VA&R Commission shall also be named as an ex-officio member.

Liaison to Commission:

The Department Adjutant shall assign a member of the Department Staff to serve as liaison and advisor to the Department VA&R Commission.

Rules of Commission:

The rules of the Commission will be reviewed each year by the VA&R Commission during the Standing Commission meeting in July to set the agenda for the year and be submitted to the Department Executive Committee at the August DEC Meeting for adoption.



Responsibility:

1. To formulate and recommend to the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion policies, plans and programs on direct assistance, outreach and support for veterans and their families with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims and benefits, health care, memorial affairs and women Veteran's programs to ensure that they receive the highest quality of care from VA for their injuries and illnesses incurred from their military service.
2. To plan, supervise, direct, coordinate, and fundraise for The American Legion Department of Ohio VA&R programs and activities.
3. To oversee the effectiveness of The American Legion Department of Ohio's programs of service to these war veterans and their dependents in claims for benefits administered by federal and state programs.
4. Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the Department Executive Committee.

To accomplish these purposes, the Commission and staff shall understand the state budget process and the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS). The VA&R Commission and staff will maintain a professional relationship with the ODVS and the Ohio General Assembly and their staff who is charged with legislative oversight of ODVS.

The VA&R Commission will receive a copy of all minutes from other VA&R Program Commissions that meet, such as, Gifts for Yanks, Legislative, and Veterans Employment & Education to be kept abreast of matters pertaining to veterans in Ohio and abroad.

Active Programs of the Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Pillar

- Post Service Officers
- System Worth Saving
- VA Voluntary Services
- PTSD and suicide awareness
- Commanders VA Site-Visits
- Ohio Veterans Homes
- Family Support Network & Temporary Financial Assistance
- Veteran Employment & Education Program

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



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Duties of the Chair:

1. The Chairperson **shall** provide a report of the Commission's activities to the Department Executive Commission scheduled on August 6th, 2022, December 3rd, 2022, and April 1st, 2023.
2. The Chairperson **may** be called upon to provide a report of the Commission's activities at the Pre-Convention DEC meeting or to the Department Convention at the request of the Department Commander.
3. The Chairman shall annually submit a proposed Commission budget to the Finance Commission prior to June 15th.

Authorized Meetings:

1. **Standing Commission Meetings (JUL):** Standing Commission Meetings are typically held in July following the Department Convention. All members of the Commission are authorized to attend.
 2. **Fall VA&R Commission Meeting:** All members of the Commission are authorized to attend.
 3. **Spring VA&R Commission Meeting:** The Commission shall convene in the spring to review progress for the year and propose or review resolutions for Department Convention. All members are authorized to attend.
 4. In the event an additional face-to-face Commission meeting is required, the Department Commander may so authorize said meeting upon petition by the Chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.
 5. In the event of a required Commission meeting, the Commission is authorized to use the Department Conference Call service to conduct business.
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1. **Vouchers:** All expense vouchers must be submitted to the Department liaison within seven days incurred.
 2. **Mileage:** The reimbursement for the cost of distance by a private automobile shall be at the rate of forty-five (45) cents per mile, roundtrip.
 3. **Meals:** Meals reimbursements require receipts attached to the voucher. Reimbursement is limited to \$20 per day.