

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Disability

Compensation

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation

3b. GSA Committee No.

41849

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

10/29/2008

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

n/a

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Public Law 110-389

13. Effective Date

10/10/2008

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open Meetings 4 17b. Closed Meetings 0 17c. Partially Closed Meetings 0 17d. Total Meetings 4

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
On December 5 and December 6, 2017, the Committee received briefings on issues related to compensation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities and on other VA benefits programs. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the maintenance and periodic readjustment of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities. The Committee is to assemble and review relevant information relating to the nature and character of disabilities arising during service in the Armed Forces, provide an ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of the rating schedule, and give advice on the most appropriate means of responding to the needs of Veterans relating to disability compensation. The Committee held a meeting on March 6 and March 7, 2018; and received briefings on issues related to compensation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities and on other VA benefits programs. Time will be allocated for receiving public comments.	12/05/2017	12/06/2017
On May 22 and May 23, the Committee received briefings on issues related to compensation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities and on other VA benefits programs.	03/06/2018	03/07/2018
On July 24 and July 25, the Committee received briefings on issues related to compensation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities and on other VA benefits programs.	05/22/2018	05/23/2018
	07/24/2018	07/25/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 4

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members

Current FY Next FY

\$15,000.00 \$57,600.00

18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$60,000.00	\$42,615.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$18,856.82	\$48,960.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$19,960.00	\$19,960.00
18d. Total	\$113,816.82	\$169,135.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.60	0.60

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee provides advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on establishing and supervising a schedule for the periodic reviews and updates of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD). The Committee shall assemble and review relevant information relating to the needs of Veterans with disabilities arising from service in the Armed Forces, to include homeless Veterans and Veterans at risk for suicide; provide an on-going assessment of the effectiveness of the VASRD; and provide on-going advice on the most appropriate means of responding to the needs of Veterans relating to disability compensation in the future.[This aligns to the VA Strategic Goal number 1 “Veterans choose VA for easy access, greater choices, and clear information to make informed decisions” and VA Strategic Goal number 2 “Veterans receive timely and integrated care and support that emphasizes their well-being and independence throughout their life journey”]In carrying out its duties, the Committee shall take into special account the needs of Veterans who have served in a theater of combat operations and the risk for suicide. The Committee shall submit a report, every two years, to the Secretary on the programs and activities of the Department that relate to the payment of disability compensation. Each such report shall include an assessment of the needs of Veterans with respect to disability compensation; and such recommendations (including recommendations for administrative, regulatory or legislative action), as the Committee considers appropriate. The Committee may submit to the Secretary such other reports and recommendations as the Committee considers appropriate. The Committee's focus continues to be in three areas of disability compensation: 1) requirements and methodology for reviewing and updating the VASRD, therefore, leading to improvement of C&P exams; 2) adequacy and sequencing of compensation procedures for service members transitioning to Veteran status with special emphasis on seriously ill or wounded Service Members; and 3) reducing the need for Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU) through updating the VASRD and strengthening vocational rehabilitation and education programs.[This aligns to the VA Strategic Goal number 3 “Veterans trust VA to be

consistently accountable and transparent” and VA Strategic Goal number 4 “VA will modernize systems and focus resources more efficiently to be competitive and to provide World Class capabilities to Veterans and its employees”]The Committee delivered its Biennial Report on October 31, 2016 and is expected to deliver its next biennial report no later than October 31, 2018.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee consists of, no more than 18, members appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who have experience with the provision of disability compensation by the Department, or are leading medical or scientific experts in relevant fields. Committee members were selected from among recognized subject matter experts, Veterans (stakeholders), and others with special competence in areas such as disability claims adjudication, vocational rehabilitation, disability programs management, workers’ compensation, rehabilitative medicine, mental health research, military medical services management, Veterans’ benefits advocacy, and survivor benefits advocacy.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

By charter, the Committee will meet as often as necessary to perform its functions and provide timely advice to the Secretary. In FY 2018, the Committee met four times in Washington DC - December 2017, March 2018, May 2018, and July 2018. In FY19, the Committee plans on meeting four times.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Committee was established under section 214 of Public Law 110-389. The Committee advises the Secretary on the maintenance and periodic readjustment of the Department of Veterans Affairs schedule for rating disabilities. Advice from the individuals with varied expertise above is essential for an objective review of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

The meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

The Committee received valuable input from various VA business lines to aide the Committee's deliberation in constructing recommendations for the Secretary. Although VA has already been actively engaged in the processes and procedures set forth in a number of the recommendations, such recommendations reiterated the importance of those processes and procedures and broadened the scope for the Secretary's consideration.

Designated Federal Officer

Janice Stewart Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bird, Hal	06/01/2015	10/31/2019	After distinguished military career, Col. Bird transferred to the 1st Air Force National Security Preparedness effort within the Defense Support to the Civil Authority framework for disaster relief.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Browne, Doris	03/01/2013	12/06/2017	President and CEO of Browne and Associates, Incorporated, Washington, DC	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Fay, George	01/01/2016	10/31/2018	Mr. George R. Fay is currently Executive Vice President, Worldwide P&C Claim, for CNA Financial in Chicago. In that capacity, he is responsible for claim strategies and operations for CNA's \$6.8 billion Property & Casualty Operations worldwide.	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Granger, Elder	01/01/2016	10/31/2018	Dr. Granger is currently the President and CEO of The 5Ps, LLC, a health care, education, and leadership consulting organization, Centennial, CO 80015 since August 6, 2009.	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Jones, Warren	03/01/2013	12/06/2017	Executive Director of the Mississippi Institute for Improvement of Geographical Minority Health Disparities, University of Mississippi Medical Center	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Lowenberg, Timothy	03/01/2013	12/06/2017	Adjutant General for the State of Washington, Commander of all Washington Army and Air National Guard forces, and Director of the State's Emergency Management and Enhanced 911 Programs.	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Maki, John	03/01/2013	12/06/2017	Assistant National Service Director for Disabled American Veterans (DAV)	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Martin, Joseph	03/01/2013	10/31/2018	Air National Guard Assistant to the Surgeon General, United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, DC, and Director, Office of the Joint Surgeon, National Guard Bureau, Pentagon, Washington, DC	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Pamperin, Thomas	06/01/2015	10/31/2019	Prior to the end of his distinguished 37 year career with the Veterans Benefits Administration, Mr. Pamperin served as the Deputy Under Secretary for Disability Assistance (DUSDA). Currently, he is an independent consultant for fed disability benefits.	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Roberts, Jonathan	06/01/2015	10/31/2019	Retired after a distinguished military and medical career having retired as the Former Chief Academic Officer for the LSU Health Sciences Center and Chief Executive Officer of the Earl K. Long Memorial Hospital.	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government

Savoca, Elizabeth	03/01/2013	10/31/2018	Professor of Economics at Smith College with specific research focus on applied econometrics and economist on the President's Council of Economics Advisers	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Simberkoff, Michael	03/01/2013	10/31/2018	Chief of Staff, VA New York Harbor Health System and Professor of Medicine at the New York City School of Medicine	Government Employee (RGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 12

Narrative Description

The Committee will provide advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on establishing and supervising a schedule to conduct periodic reviews of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) and provide the most appropriate means for responding to the needs of veterans.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000

Over \$10,000,000
Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

84

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is the number of formal recommendations for FY 2010 through 2018.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

64%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The Committee submitted its Biennial Report on October 31, 2016.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

35%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The Committee submitted its Biennial Report on October 31, 2016.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

The Department submits a formal response to each Committee recommendation, and Department officials brief the Committee on actions taken to implement recommendations.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

Access Comments

NA