



In Service to America

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

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A Not-For-Profit Veterans Service organization Chartered by the United States Congress

End of January 2016 Report and Seminole Tribal Visits

During January 2016 I made visits to the Seminole Tribe of Florida's two main reservations, Brighton and Hollywood. I was accompanied by a VBA employee (Elaine Westermeyer) during January while at Brighton we assisted 75 veteran family members and we took 46 claims, mostly new claims (VA Forms 526 and 4138's) in January we also traveled to Hollywood where we interviewed and took claims for 16 veterans (10 that were either Seminole Veterans or employees).

The office at St Petersburg we assisted 117 veterans and we held 8 Board of Veterans Travel Board Appeals Hearings, 4 RVSR non DRO hearings and 6 DRO hearings conducted during January. A total of 176 claim documents were submitted for the month of January 2016.

For FY2016 1stQ (January) veterans and dependent with VVA POA received a total of **\$1,348,112.00** (January 2016) in compensation, pension, this does not include DIC payments. This month's totals does not take in account the resolved claims in Puerto Rico or the veteran/employees of St Petersburg which claims are processed and credited to St Paul, Minnesota even though our offices does all the development work for these claims.

The monthly total and year to date totals broke out by region, that is claims completed at regional office vs claims completed at Brighton/Hollywood reservations are as follows: Year to date Brighton/Hollywood = **\$1,231,414.00**

Year to date Total St Petersburg Office = **\$3,935,549.00**

This is a good start for the new fiscal year.

This will be first report for Fiscal Year 2016. Please see attached statistics.

Respectfully submitted by: **Marc McCabe**

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Appeals info as of: January 30, 2016

DRO hearings: (VACOLS EOM January 2016)

- 906 DRO hearing requests pending
- ADP for DRO hearings is 470.5

TB/Video hearings (Certified): (VACOLS EOM January 2016)

- 3,984 Travel Board (Regular) hearing requests pending
- ADP for regular Travel Board hearing requests is: 655 (EOM October 2015)

- 3,728 Video hearings requests pending
- ADP for Video Hearing request is: 535 (EOM October 2015)

NODs:

- Inventory = 27,368
- ADP = 457.63

Form 9s:

- Inventory = 895
- ADP = 231.94
- Oldest Form 9 pending = May 05, 2009

Remands:

- Inventory = 2,070
- ADP = 323.1

Receipts:

- NODs added this month = 1,264
- NOD receipts FYTD = 2,736
- Average days of NODs = 75.96

On average we are scheduling Travel Board for 3rd Qtr. FY 2012 and Video hearings for 1st Qtr. /FY 2012 date of request. Keep in mind that those cases that must be prioritized are scheduled ahead regardless of hearing request date.

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Participated in the following nationwide 1 week audits:

1. St Paul Minnesota myself and BVA attorney Stephanie Vang
2. Chicago R/O with Jamie Rudert, Michael Garza and Kelsy Koon
3. San Juan R/O with Jamie, Micah Lemon and Michael Garza
4. Atlanta
5. Pending San Diego R/O

Once a month I participate and partner with the VBA to travel to extreme rural veterans where they have no VSOP to seek assistance. Immokalee, Ft Meyers, Brighton, Okeechobee and Hollywood. We average seeing 78 veterans during this outreach monthly.

Office issues:

Retirement and closing letter to John Rowan and Jim Vale December 3 2015

No response but they prefer to keep office open, no assistance from national on several issues before the VBA, FSC has both in writing and verbally have decided that they will not support the VSO program as it exist; therefore the following will occur: NATIONAL NEEDS TO DECIDE IF THEY WANT TO BE A VSO, IF SO THEY MUST COME TO THE PLATE AND FUND THE STATEWIDE PROGRAMS AND FUND THE ATTORNEYS AT A HIGHER BASE SALARY. DUE TO THE INADEQUATE FUNDING WE HAVE NO CONTINUITY WITH BVA CASES, EXAMPLE AN ATTORNEY CAN WALK ACROSS THE HALLWAY AT THE BVA AND DOUBLE THEIR SALARIES.

- July 1 VVA will no longer take new POA unless they are homeless, widows and terminal cases
- Oct 31, we will shutter the door
- Will assist all veterans with finding new counsel as they prefer
- All appeals will still be represented by us I will attend all those hearings thru the FY 17
- We have forwarded to national office the shutdown procedure that we have developed and discussed with the OGC as to the procedure to handle files.

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