

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
May 6-7, 2009**

**Resolution No. 25: The American Legion Policy on Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Consolidation Efforts**

Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), under strong opposition by The American Legion and other Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) abandoned plans to consolidate its' 57 Regional Offices into several large Area Offices; and

WHEREAS, Although VA does not currently have plans to consolidate or centralize the functions of its Regional Offices, VA management is still strongly supportive of the centralization/consolidation concept and has moved forward in this regard in the last several years by consolidating several activities and functions, including Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) and Pension Claims as well as consolidation of Management Information System (MIS) activities and the consolidation of health care billing activities in the form of Consolidated Patient Account Centers (CPACs); and

WHEREAS, Given VA's strong support of consolidation/centralization of activities and functions and the endorsement of such activities by recent commissions and panels convened to study the VA claims processing system, VA centralization/consolidation is likely to continue; and

WHEREAS, VA consolidation of various claims and other activities pose major problems for The American Legion's ability to provide satisfactory representation because American Legion departments do not have staff and resources to handle claims from outside of their respective states; and

WHEREAS, VA has a tendency to develop their consolidation efforts without seeking Veteran Service Organization (VSO) input during the planning stages; and

WHEREAS, Lack of advance notice or involvement in the developmental stages places The American Legion in a reactive, rather than a proactive positions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 6-7, 2009, That The American Legion urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that The American Legion and other Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) are included in the initial planning stages of future consolidation and centralization plans; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion take necessary action to develop a forward thinking strategy to properly respond to future Department of Veterans Affairs consolidation efforts.