Veterans Services- March. 2025 Ex-officio Report

CACVSO Winter Training Conference:

VSO Jonathan Brown and VSR I Christopher Diggins attended the CACVSO Winter Training Conference in Wheatland, CA, from February 23rd to 28th. The conference covered various subjects, including regulation changes that will affect claims for Sleep Apnea and Tinnitus. One of the most significant changes will be to the rating schedule for Sleep Apnea. Currently, if a veteran is service-connected for Sleep Apnea and uses a CPAP machine, they receive a 50% Service-Connected (SC) rating. However, with the upcoming changes by the Veterans Affairs (VA), the same veteran will receive a 0% SC rating.

Previously, I reported similar changes that the VA plans to implement for Tinnitus. The VA will no longer grant a SC disability rating for Tinnitus on its own; instead, it will be considered a symptom of another condition and will only enhance the SC rating for the primary issue. Veterans with existing SC ratings for Sleep Apnea or Tinnitus will not see changes in their ratings unless they submit a claim related to these conditions. If a veteran submits a claim for another condition, the VA will not reassess their ratings for Sleep Apnea or Tinnitus. These changes are scheduled to take effect in July of this year.

Feb 2025 VSO Summary:

157 Walk In clients
70 Scheduled Appointments
252 Phone calls

Audit report from July 2024 to Jan. 2025:

During the six-month period covered by this audit, the Veteran Services office successfully assisted veterans and their dependents in securing a total of $1,168,895.59 in retroactive payments and $164,324.29 in recurring monthly payments. This substantial support highlights the dedication and effectiveness of our team in ensuring veterans and their families receive the benefits they deserve. The office continues to strive for excellence in serving those who have served our nation.

South Lake Tahoe Update:

There are no changes to the services provided to the Veterans that live in and around South Lake Tahoe.