

*VA&R Convention Committee Meeting
Grandview Room C AMWAY Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI.
Friday – June 20, 2008 @ 8:30 A.M.*

Meeting opened by Chatman @ 8:35 a.m. Roll call of committee members was taken by Thompson.

All members present with the exception of Doan who was excused due to illness. Roll call of Districts taken by Thompson, 12 of 16 districts represented. Acknowledgement made of DVSO Emeritus Richard Morrison and Edward Ruslow who were present at the meeting.

Roll call of VAVS/VHVS Subcommittee present, 5 of the 8 members were present. Chmielewski collected committee credential cards, 12, delegate cards were collected with 10 districts represented, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 16th, 17th and the 18th.

Elections for Convention Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary were held. Chmielewski nominated Dick Chatman to be Chairman, 2nd by Lloyd. No other nominees, we cast one unanimous ballot for chairman Chatman. Chatman nominated Donald Chmielewski to be vice-chairman, 2nd by Lloyd. No other nominees, we cast one unanimous ballot for vice-chairman Chmielewski. Comish nominated Art Thompson to be committee secretary, 2nd by Chmielewski. No other nominees, we cast one unanimous ballot for Secretary Thompson.

Motion made by Ruslow, and supported by Lloyd to suspend reading of the minutes from VA&R committee meeting held June 19, 2008, motion carried.

DVSO Director Nelson was asked by Chatman to address the group in which he did.

Resolutions to be acted upon by the committee was presented to the Convention Committee delegates, 11 resolutions were acted upon by the VA&R Standing Committee on June 19, 2008, 9 were approved, 1 was referred for further study and 1 was referred for further clarification. The 11 resolutions and the decisions to accept the committee's actions were presented to the Convention Committee delegates.

08-8 C, committee recommended referral of this resolution for future study and sending it back to the author, motion made by Ruslow, and supported by Lloyd to endorse the committee's recommendation, motion carried.

08-12 C, committee recommended approval of this resolution, motion made by Ruslow, and supported by Tolonen to endorse the committee's recommendation, motion carried.

08-13-C, committee recommended approval of this resolution, motion made by Lloyd, and supported by Ruslow to endorse the committee's recommendation, motion carried.

08-14-C, committee recommended approval of this resolution, motion made by Ruslow, and supported by the 3rd District Delegate to endorse the committee's recommendation, motion carried.

08-15-C, committee recommended approval of this resolution, motion made by Ruslow, and supported by the 3rd to endorse the committee's recommendation, motion carried.

08-16-C, committee recommended approval of this resolution, motion made by Ruslow, and supported by Lloyd to endorse the committee's recommendation, motion carried.

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08-17-C, committee recommended approval of this resolution, motion made by Lloyd, and supported by the 3rd to endorse the committee's recommendation, motion carried.

08-18-C, committee recommended referring this resolution back to author for further clarification, motion made by Lloyd and supported by the 16th district delegate, to endorse the committee's recommendation, motion carried.

08-19-C, committee recommended approval of this resolution, motion made by Ruslow, and supported by the 3rd District to endorse the committee's recommendation, motion carried.

08-20-C, committee recommended approval of this resolution, motion made by the 3rd, and supported by the 12th District delegate to endorse the committee's recommendation, motion carried.

08-21-C, committee recommended approval of this resolution, motion made by Ruslow, and supported by the 3rd to endorse the committee's recommendation, motion carried.

Pat Kline, DVSO informed the committee that Jim Topps was on the line, all participants took time to say hello and wish him well. Chairman Ronald Pearson, Chairman of the VAVS/VHVS Subcommittee gave those present a brief overview of what had transpired at their meeting held 6-19-08. There was no old/unfinished business to discuss. New business, Director Nelson was asked again to address the committee. He introduced a new energetic member to the DVSO team, Martha Wieland, Martha replaced Jim Simmons who retired and assumed the territory he had been covering servicing our veterans.

Director Nelson then introduced Richard V. Briggs Jr. of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan, manager of the Veterans program. Richard gave a detail, insightful overview of this vital service his organization was trying to provide for returning veterans who have suffered severe physical brain damage while serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Mr. Briggs also pointed out ways the VA&R committee, TAL and all veterans could help in supporting this much needed service for our troops.

Beverly Leneski, Chief of Voluntary Services at the Ann Arbor VA, addressed the group, and expressed her thanks and gratitude for the support and voluntary efforts of The American Legion at the VA hospital in Ann Arbor. She then conducted a question and answer period for those in attendance regarding information about the VA hospital, what type of voluntary services were in need and how Legion members could assist our veterans who reside in the Ann Arbor VA hospital.

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Lloyd and supported by Ruslow that the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 a.m. Motion carried.

Addendum to the Convention VA&R committee meeting. Commander Williams called for the committee to reconvene to consider an additional resolution not acted upon. **Resolution 08-24-C** submitted by the 11th District, motion made by Chmielewski, and supported by Thompson to approve this resolution, motion carried. Their being no further business to come before this committee, meeting was adjourned by Chairman Chatman.