

DEPARTMENT RECONNECT COMMITTEE MEETING
June 18, 2009

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by Chairman Tanner in Ballroom I of the Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing, Michigan. The following people were present:

MEMBERS: Gary Tanner, James Maki, James Schutze, Wilson Coomer, Lyle Shanks

GUESTS: 4 guests present

Minutes:

It was moved by Jim Schutze and supported by Wilson Coomer that the minutes of the spring meeting of the Department Michigan Reconnect Committee be approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Tanner informed the committee that the reconnect committee budget requests were approved for the 209 – 2010 year. This includes our Temporary Financial Assistant Fund overseen by the VA & R committee.

The Sesame workshops "Sesame Room" is scheduled for delivery on or around July 21st 2009. This room will be trailered around to the various nits as the need arises.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Tanner discussed the Patriot Fund. This fund was launched the week of May 18th – 25th 2009 in cooperation with ACO Hardware of Michigan. Collections were made at all 69 ACO stores and totaled close to \$10,000.00. This fund is proposed to assist Veterans of all eras with financial hardships. It will be administered by the VA & R & Reconnect committees, and reviewed by Dept. service Officers for approval. We are asking all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members to consider donating \$1.00 this year to help establish the fund. It will be proposed that this fund will become self-sustaining and permanent.

Chairman Tanner discussed Angel Food Ministries and their monthly menu of food packages. This is a widely dispersed program throughout the state and orders can be made by phone or from their website. This can be of assistance for families having financial difficulties.

Jim Shcutze discussed his involvement with the National Guard reunion workshops this year. They continue to be a great opportunity to interact with our National Guard members an their families

Jim Maki discussed his work in the U.P. to distribute TS2 brochures and support local units and armories.

Willie Coomer discussed his support of the 1460th family readiness group and troops. Assistance was provided in many forms from dinners to financial assistance.

Jim Schutze requested an updated version of the Operation Outreach DVD for unit presentations.

Wear your covers whenever you participate in any community services or post events. We need to show the community, troops and veterans that we are alive and well and ready to support our Community, State & Nation as "Veterans Serving Veterans".

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Jim Schutze and seconded by Wilson Commer that the meeting be adjourned at 2:00 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Tanner, Chairman