

Department Reconnect Committee Meeting
February 20, 2010

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order by Gary Tanner, Department Chairman at 1 p.m. in the Royal Lobby of the Lexington Lansing Hotel in Lansing, Michigan. The following people were present:

MEMBERS: Gary Tanner, James Maki, James Schutze, Wilson Coomer, and Jack Helminski.

Guests: 5 present

James Baggard was honored and will be greatly missed.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Department Reconnect Committee meeting at Fall Conference were read. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read by Jack Helminski and supported by James Schutze. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Tanner discussed the proposed dates for the 2010 Nat'l Guard workshops and will forward finalized location info to committee as it is made available. Chairman spoke about the elmobility room display. The room paperwork will be forwarded to committee and sent to Department. The Patriot Fund was discussed and explained as well as questions raised as to the management of the Endowment Fund. Chairman Tanner will talk to Department to find out answer to the question of who is managing and overseeing the fund.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Tanner discussed the proposed idea for the 2010 ACO-Legion Project. The project proposed is a wounded warrior retreat program. Chairman Tanner has been in discussions with Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau to see if they will work with us to offer little or no cost retreats for our wounded warriors and their family. We are seeking at least 2 volunteers from each district to assist the elmobility room team with towing the trailer and room setup and tear down. There was favorable response among those visiting the room display. Chairman Tanner brought up the idea of securing sponsors to be listed on trailer ramp to help with future funding of the elmobility room. Chairman Tanner informed committee that he has set up an account on twitter called Legionreconnect to facilitate better communication with our Legion family members. Chairman Tanner also discussed the benefits of programs such as facebook and twitter by stressing the importance of going to the younger veterans and utilizing their methods of communication instead of waiting for them to come to us. Change is needed to attract our newest generation of veterans and their families. Wilson Coomer stated that he was invited to attend meetings and activities hosted by the local unit he has been supporting.

Department Commander Carnie Jackson visited the Reconnect meeting to express his thanks for the Committees's hard work and to challenge each of us by stating that he would work just as hard as we work and that together anything is possible.

James Maki gave a report of the UP Reconnect Association (see attached report). Jim mentioned that he was able to form a working relationship with CSM Scarbrough of Buddy 2 Buddy. B2B is a peer to peer mentoring program and is looking forward to serving our veterans more directly and completely.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before this committee, motion by Jack Helminski and supported by Jim Schutze that the meeting be adjourned at 1:44 p.m. Motion carried

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

GARY TANNER, DEPARTMENT RECONNECT CHAIRMAN