

DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 26, 2008

The meeting of the Department Legislative Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Douglas Williams at the Valley Plaza Resort in Midland, Michigan, on September 26, 2008. The following people were present:

Members: Chairman Douglas Williams, Bill Coffey, Joe Burman

Guests: 14 guests present

MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 19, 2008, meeting were approved as printed, without objection. Moved by Coffey, supported by Williams. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman discussed supporting appropriations to VA & R. Stated we will go before legislature and continue to support appropriations.

Discussed legislation with solid outcome for veterans; not just "feel good" legislation.

Pointed out that all legislation not acted on by end of session will be dead.

Discussed legislative bill 5457 regarding hall rentals, etc.

Discussed driver licenses for veterans. Also EMT license was discussed.

House Bill 6269 was discussed.

Unemployment for spouses was discussed.

Discussion was held on House Bill 5174 regarding terminating vehicle leases for veterans.

Discussed bill to eliminate cell phone contracts.

Discussed bill to allow funeral directors to dispose of veteran's remains being held at funeral homes.

Chairman discussed how posts can get involved in legal activities and get to know candidates who stand for vets.

Chairman discussed starting a DVD program for legislators to teach about veteran programs and needs.

Discussed organization to work and alter term limits.

Discussed energy bills.

Open discussion was held on legislative items.

Held discussion on smoking ban in Michigan, which is now before the legislature.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Burman and supported by Coffey that the meeting be adjourned at 11:05 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Chairman Douglas Williams.

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