

DEPARTMENT RECONNECT COMMITTEE MEETING

September 26, 2008

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gary Tanner in the Great Hall C of the Valley Plaza, Midland, Michigan. The following people were present:

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

GUESTS: Lyle Shanks, Lynn Jolink, Mel Tolonen, Don Howard, Bob Mayrand, Ron Runyan, Barney Schoenfeld

James Schutze was selected to be Vice Chairman of the committees, and James Maki was selected as secretary.

Chairman Tanner opened the meeting by distributing and reviewing the committee's goals and activities for the current year.

Minutes:

It was moved by Jim Maki and supported by Jim Schutze that the June 2008 minutes be approved. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Chairman Tanner discussed the National Guard workshops, and that reconnect was present at all workshops. Chairman Tanner discussed several examples of assistance provided by local communities. Examples include: financial assistance, home repairs, child care, groceries and facilitating VA claims and assistance. Chairman Tanner gave an update on Operation Recreation. In partnership with Aco Hardware, the American Legion Department of Michigan, and Kalitta Air, over 3 tons of sporting goods donated by the public were collected, sorted, packaged and shipped overseas to our troops. Three equal shipments will be shipped: 1 to Balad Air Base, 1 to AL Asad (Marines) and 1 to Mosul (Arm). This would not have been possible without large scale community support.

New Business:

The committee discussed setting up and establishing guidelines for reconnect support. The committee developed the following:

- Department webpage need to be updated to include reconnect contact information. Information to include should be: (Committee purpose, zone contacts, outreach materials list, commonly used forms & assistance applications, useful links).
- Every post should have reconnect brochure packet to include "TS2", "H2H", "TFA", "State Service Officer Listing", "Family Support" and county resource listings.
- Develop community support teams with local businesses and volunteers.
- Contact for reconnect support should go through zone reps first, and then to local district & post reps recruited by zone reps.

- Always wear your cover. The public, our veterans, our troops and their families need to know we are there and that we support them.
- Request TS2 brochure through national website.

It was motioned to approve procedures was made by Wilson Coomer and seconded by Jack Helminski. Motion Carried.

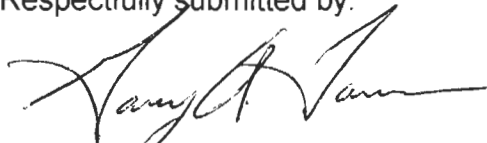
Chairman Tanner stated that every member needs to realize that they are our best advertising. So often we hear that statements: "We need to take care of our own first!" or "we can't afford to donate anything to those "outside of our post." or "We just want to make sure our post stays open and survives."

We all need to remember that "our own" are overseas and fighting for our freedom; "our own" are in Washington fighting for veteran's rights. "Our own" are volunteering at the local VA hospitals. We are "all" our own.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by James Maki and supported by James Schutze that the meeting be adjourned at 10:02 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary A. Tanner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary Tanner, Department Reconnect Chairman