

Department Reconnect Committee Meeting  
September 18, 2009

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order by Gary Tanner, Chairman at 9:02 a.m. in the Sunset South Room of the Eastin Hotel in Roseville, Michigan. The following people were present:

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

Jim Schutze was elected Vice Chairman and Jim Maki was elected Secretary.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Department Convention Reconnect Committee meeting were read. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read by Jim Maki supported by Jack Helminski. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Final approval was obtained by Reconnect Committee members to publish Reconnect Brochure.

Chairman Tanner provided an update on the Sesame Room. Room contents are due to ship this week and they will ship disposables and decals later. They are providing 2 decals with the Sesame Street logo and the word "Elmo-bility" in Elmo font for each side and an Elmo and Rosita for the back door.

Chairman Tanner discussed the need to continue the National Guard workshops.

Patriot Fund is growing and doing well thanks to additional funding from private donations.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Tanner informed committee that \$500 was paid out to build a wheelchair ramp for a veteran in Dearborn Heights, and Jim Maki mentioned that he helped get a wheelchair ramp built in the U.P.

County Commander Jeff Webb contacted the committee for assistance in helping to modify the home of a disabled WWII veteran so he can access his bathroom in a wheelchair. \$500 was taken from the Reconnect VA&R Fund and \$500 was taken from the Patriot Fund to provide the Last \$1,000 needed for job. Chairman Tanner read a letter written to include with the check thanking the veteran for his service.

Chairman Tanner spoke about Michael Peterson's dvd "Its who we are" and recommended using it for the reconnect presentations. Chairman Tanner is in contact with Michael Peterson and he has indicated a desire to come to Michigan. We are working on a date, time and location.

Jim Schutze stated that we need to work hard at educating Posts Districts and Zones on the Reconnect Program.

Jim Schutze indicated plans to hold dinners to raise money for Patriot Fund.

Chairman Tanner spoke about TS2 Program and his communication with National Security Commission Director Phil Riley to update TS2 with National support and funding. This is a great vehicle for troop and family support but often dies at the Post level due to lack of funds.

Past National Commander Tom Cadmus introduced leading National Candidate Jimmie Foster to the Reconnect Committee and Mr. Foster addressed committee commending them on a great job and hard work.

Chairman Tanner passed out information and brochures obtained at National Convention in Louisville, KY.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before this committee, motion by Jack Helminski and supported by Wilson Coomer that the meeting be adjourned at 9:56 a.m. Motion carried

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

GARY TANNER  
DEPARTMENT RECONNECT CHAIRMAN