

## NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

September 16, 2011

The meeting of the Department National Security and Foreign Relations Committee was called to order by James Austin, Department Chairman at 1:00 p.m. in the Salon H Room of the Troy Marriott Hotel in Troy, Michigan. The following people were present:

**MEMBERS:** James Austin (Chairman), Michael Trickey, Elroy Randall, Laverne Spolarich, Stan Kennedy and Richard Dubay

**GUESTS:** 11 present

**MINUTES:** It was moved by Stan Kennedy and supported by Laverne Spolarich that the minutes of the National Security and Foreign Relations Committee be approved. Motion approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:** POW/MIA report by Stan Kennedy; collecting data and reviewing D.P.O. statistics on recovery, 50-60 identified. U.S. and Russia teamed up to help identify based on locations and incidents. Recommend each Post utilize POW/MIA empty chair and educate their members. Stan Kennedy urged all present to contact their elected leaders so that they do not forget.

Today is POW/MIA National Day of Remembrance . Ceremony is in Novi at 5 p.m. at Memorial Gardens by 12 Oaks Mall. Discussion ensued regarding the efforts around the state to educate students and the community. Members and guest shared their ideas. We should not let them be forgotten.

Blood and Vital Organ report by Laverne Spolarich; the DEC will be introduced to the Gift of Life rep., Jennifer Tislerics. There will be an information booth Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> and urged all to assist with the booth. Sign up for organ donations at the Michigan Secretary of State Office. Let your family know of your wishes. Put it in writing.

Leading candidate Jim Koutz for National Commander endorsed the cause of our committee and solicited comments or concerns.

Chairman Austin spoke about our nation's immigration policy. Do we need a resolution issued addresses by Richard Dubay. We have resolutions already in motion. Confusing and competing resolutions, bills, and other positions exist in many states. Post SAL Department Commander Svacha urged all present to take material from his display in the hotel and take back to your Post. He claims our government eventually loses track of immigrants and visitors both legal and illegal.

Our committee will research until the Winter Meeting and construct a resolution that communicates our position on immigration, hiring, social welfare benefits, etc. It was recommended by some of those present to access internet and research information. The Chairman solicited all to provide input.

Buddy to Buddy Program report; Michael Trickey has entered the program as a registered volunteer in Ishpeming, MI.

Discussion on the point of the zero "Jobs" bill and the effect on temporary workers and immigration. We should be vigilant of the language in it.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Michael Trickey and supported by Richard Dubay that the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Austin".

JAMES AUSTIN, Department Chairman