

DEPARTMENT RECONNECT COMMITTEE MEETING

September 16, 2011

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order by Gary Tanner, Chairman, at 9:06 a.m. in the Salon C room of the Troy Marriott Hotel in Troy, Michigan. The following people were present:

Members: Gary Tanner (Chairman), Gerald Dennis, Jack Helminski, Tom Derenzy, Kenneth Pierce, Wilson Coomer and James Maki.

Guests: 6 present

Chairman Tanner opened the meeting with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES: The minutes of the June 2011 Department Convention and Department Standing Reconnect Committee minutes were distributed. It was moved by Jim Maki and supported by Ken Pierce to accept the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: It was moved by Tom Derenzy and supported by Wilson Coomer to elect Gerald Dennis as Vice Chairman and Jim Maki as Secretary. Motion carried.

National Committeeman Thomas Holzgen and Department Commander Richard Chatman visited our meeting with leading candidate for National Commander of The American Legion Jim Koutz. Leading candidate Koutz introduced himself and requested to sit in and learn about reconnect. Chairman Tanner discussed the mission and focus of the Reconnect Committee and discussed the past, present and future projects and focus of the Reconnect Committee.

Chairman Tanner discussed the ongoing mission of the elmobility room including upcoming events, the work being done by the junior auxiliary on behalf of the elmobility room and the addition of the Legion Family logo and mission statement of veterans serving Michigan's military families to be placed on the back ramp to increase brand identity for the Legion. Chairman Tanner thanked the SAL from Post 459 for donating a tv and dvd to the elmobility room.

Ken Pierce discussed an upcoming Reconnect workshop at Post 7 in Caro, MI. Details will be forthcoming as they are made available.

Chairman Tanner Discussed the Wounded Warrior Retreats the Reconnect Committee was hosting on Mackinac Island and at the Wilwin Lodge. A pilot couples retreat was held at Wilwin

Lodge September 13 – 15, 2011 to great success. There were 15 people present and all had a wonderful stay.

Chairman Tanner stated that there have been a large number of requests for emergency financial assistance since June. Most have been for eviction protection.

Chairman Tanner opened a discussion to draft the resolution to establish an annual Reconnect Committee award in honor of Jim Schutze. It was decided to complete this in a special meeting to follow the normal committee meeting due to time limitations. It will be submitted for consideration at the annual meeting in Flint in February 2012.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Jack Helminski and supported by Wilson Coomer that the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 a.m. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary A. Tanner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "T".

GARY TANNER, Chairman