

**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
VAVS/VHVS COMMITTEE
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Authorization:

This committee was authorized in its present form at Fall Conference, September, 1976, although the committee had been established as a sub-committee of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation at an earlier date.

Membership:

Subject to the Department Commander's discretion, and with the approval of the Department Executive Committee, the VAVS/VHVS Committee of the Department of Michigan will normally consist of seven (7) members, with vote. The Committee shall be made up of the five (5) VAVS representatives serving the five (5) Veteran Administration hospitals and the two (2) VHVS representatives serving the Michigan Veterans facilities in the State of Michigan, for a total of seven (7) representatives.

"The term of office of all regular members of Department committees shall be staggered so that the term of one-half of the committee shall expire at the close of the Annual Department Convention each year. Appointments, except when a shorter term shall be necessary to comply with this provision, shall be for a term of two (2) years each." (Article Five (V) Section Four (a) The American Legion, Department of Michigan Constitution and By-Laws, Revised July 20, 1975)

"All committee members shall be appointed and may be removed for cause by the Department Commander with the approval of the Department Executive Committee. The Department Commander shall name the Chairman of each committee to serve until the next Department Convention." (Article V, Section 4 (b) The American Legion, Department of Michigan Constitution and By-Laws, revised July 20, 1975)

"No Legionnaire may be appointed to serve on more than one regular standing appointive Department committee at any one time." (Article Five (V) Section Four (b) The American Legion, Department of Michigan, Constitution and By-Laws, revised July 20, 1975)

The Department Commander shall appoint all regular and alternate American Legion members of the committee that originate in the Commander's term. The Commander shall fill all vacancies in the committee that occur during his term.

"Alternate members will be appointed to serve a one year term and will be designated as first and second alternate." (American Legion Department Executive Action, April 20, 1974, page 53)

VAVS/VHVS COMMITTEE – RULES OF PROCEDURE – CONT.:

Membership – continued:

At the first meeting of the new term, the VAVS/VHVS Committee will elect one of its members to serve as Vice Chairman and one to serve as Secretary during that term of office. The Vice Chairman shall assume all duties of the Chairman in that person's absence.

Purpose:

The purpose of the VAVS/VHVS Committee is the careful integration of preferred services of members of voluntary service organizations and individuals into the overall Veterans Administration program for the veteran patient and the integration of the hospital into the community thinking and living.

The official representation of The American Legion on the Veterans Administration Advisory Committee is the channel through which all services and information from The American Legion to the hospital should flow. It is also the channel through which all requests and information from the hospital to the organization should flow.

Meetings:

"All meetings requesting travel expenses from Department funds, or any funds subject to Department control, or raised for any Department program shall be upon the call of the Department Commander to qualify for receipt of said funds in manner and form as provided by the Department Executive Committee and within the limitations as set up by the Finance Committee." (Department Executive Committee Action, October 12, 1957, Page 35)

Meeting Schedule:

	Member	Chairman
Fall Leadership Conference	One day	Three days
Spring Meeting	One day	Two days
Department Convention	One day	Three days

Special Meetings:

Necessary special meetings may be held at Department Headquarters with no mileage nor per diem authorized. Lunch may be provided by committee funds with prior approval of the Department Commander.

VAVS/VHVS COMMITTEE – RULES OF PROCEDURE – CONT.:

Per diem and/or mileage:

Per diem and/or mileage, if any, and only upon the authority of the Department Commander, shall be in accordance with current published Department policy, as recommended by the Department Finance Committee and approved by the Department Executive Committee.

Minutes:

Written minutes of each meeting shall be recorded by the Secretary and shall constitute the Chairman's report to the Department Executive Committee or the delegates to the Department Convention and will be included in the next official proceeding of the meeting, conference or convention, thereby being made a permanent record for retention at the Department office. Minutes of any special meetings, adoption of motions or resolutions approved at any time occurring between Department meetings, conferences or convention shall be incorporated into the next official proceedings. Recommendations and/or resolutions must be presented in proper form to the Department Executive Committee or delegates at the Department Convention.

Mail/E-Mail Vote:

The committee may transact business by mail or e-mail vote. If an e-mail vote is implemented, each response must be forwarded to all members of the Committee. If standard mail, the voting shall be considered closed at the end of seven (7) business days provided a majority of members of the committee have returned to the Chairman their votes by that time, or it shall be considered closed at anytime prior thereto and when all the members have returned their votes. In the event one-third (1/3) members of the committee objects in writing, the matter shall not be decided and will be considered as the first order of business at the next regular meeting or special meeting and the Chairman shall notify the committee of the action taken.

Chairman:

The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and, in the event of his absence, the Vice Chairman shall preside.

He shall prepare the budget for the five (5) Veteran Administration hospitals and the two (2) Michigan Veterans facilities for presentation to the Department Finance Committee at the annual budget meeting for approval.

The Chairman, with his committee, shall prepare a program for the year to be presented to the Department Executive Committee for approval at the Fall Leadership School.

An Annual Report is to be written and submitted to the Editor by May 1st of each year.

VAVS/VHVS COMMITTEE – RULES OF PROCEDURE – CONT.:

Representatives:

Representatives shall attend meetings of the local VAVS Advisory Committee.

Representatives (assisted by the deputies) shall plan and direct hospital programs of The American Legion as indicated by the Deputy Chairman of the local VAVS Committee or the VA Chief of Voluntary Service and in keeping with local Veterans Administration hospital policies and/or Michigan Veterans facility policy.

The VAVS/VHVS Representative shall clarify for the volunteers his own function in relation to those of the Chief of Voluntary Service so they will know to whom they should go for various kinds of instruction and help.

Procedure:

Parliamentary procedure used to conduct meetings of this committee shall be governed by the Department of Michigan, The American Legion Constitution and By-Laws. All questions not covered by the Department of Michigan Constitution and By-Laws will be governed by "Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised."

Quorum:

A quorum shall exist at any meeting of the VAVS/VHVS Committee when a majority thereof shall be present, or shall have replied to mail polling. At no time shall lack of a quorum prevent those present from proceeding with the program but, where there is not a quorum, no vote shall be taken.

Amendments:

These procedures may be amended in content but not in format by a majority of the members of the committee; submitted to the Internal Affairs Committee for review and recommendation; and approved by the Department Executive Committee.

Approved: Department Executive Committee, July 29, 1978

Amended: DEC July 19, 1984; September 19, 1986, July 8, 2006