

## DEPARTMENT RECONNECT COMMITTEE MEETING

February 19, 2011

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order by Gary Tanner, Chairman at the Holiday Inn Gateway in Flint, Michigan, on February 19, 2011 at 1:00 pm. The following people were present:

**MEMBERS:** Gary Tanner, Chairman, James Maki, Kenneth Pierce, Sr., Wilson Coomer, Jim Schutze, Jack Helminski - SAL Rep.

**GUESTS:**

### **Minutes:**

It was moved by Wilson Coomer and supported by Jim Schutze that the minutes of the 2010 Fall Conference of the Department Reconnect Committee be approved. Motion carried.

Gary spoke on the pamphlets he had with him. There is a lot out there "Thank You for Your Support", so pick up our pamphlets. The post needs a lot to get the information out.

### **New Business:**

Gary Tanner spoke about Wilwin Lodge.

#### Michigan National Guard Workshops

- Continue attending & supporting
- Feb. 25 – 27 Lansing 777 MP
- March 25 – 27 Ypsilanti or Ann Arbor TBD

Elmobility Room mission scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Montigue, MI 14, 1436 ENG. Mid-deployment briefing.

#### Wounded Warrior Retreat Program

- MPAF agreed to partner with Department of Michigan to offer screening and seminars for both troops and caregivers. Dr. Carol Elistein will present at special meeting with Commander Hafeman and members of DEC, Wilwin Lodge Committee & VAR. Aco on-board for this years. Hoping to raise 30 – 40 K.

Jim Maki and Willie Coomer working with Buddy 2 Buddy peer mentoring program to assist troops with reintegration.

Distributed reconnect folders to committee to be used for reconnect visits and presentations.

Working to increase Legion awareness through Student Veterans State Director Suzette McGraw-Price.

#### Open to floor: Jim Maki Reports on UP Reconnect

- On January 21 & 22, 2011 the Upper Peninsula held the midwinter conference. Jim Maki gave a report on the reconnect committee and what they do, and how important it is to get the information out to the legion post. Jim also talked about

the troop support service and passed out the TS2 book. All Legion Posts should have a Reconnect Person, ok to contact me gave e-mail and telephone number. Also Major Scott Etelamake from the 107<sup>th</sup> spoke on the troops coming home, and what they have faced, more on injuries the people coming home are having neck problems due to the weight of the vet they have to wear, so Scott said if you are a Iraq soldier make sure you get checked out if you have neck problems. The Major also said they are on a 5 year rotation, they come in 2008 – so it won't be long, they will be going back to Iraq, or in harm's way. 5<sup>th</sup> Zone committee member – Jim Maki.

**Old Business:**

Aco was also talked about. How much money they collected, \$30,000, in the last two years. So they're doing a great job for the reconnect program.

Ken Pierce gave a report about being hard to get anybody to call back.

Ray McWilliams gave a report about his Davidson Post 269 Reconnect problems.

Wilson Coomer also gave a report in his zone and the operation outreach Gary said Wilson is doing a good job, he has been working hard.

Gary Tanner said the committee is doing a great job.

All the committee members said the veteran can call them day and night.

Past Commander Carnie Jackson said a few words to the committee; he also said what a good job the committee is doing.

Jim Schutze also gave a report from his zone it has been kind of slow and talked about how they trat the troops coming home.

Guest, National SAL Commander David Dew stopped in.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Gary Tanner and supported by Ken Pierce that the meeting be adjourned at 1:45 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,



Gary Tanner