

**Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Convention Committee Meeting  
Friday, June 15, 2007**

The meeting of the Department VA&R Convention Committee was called to order by Department VA&R Chairman Kenneth Clawson, in the Steamer Suite of the HYATT REGENCY, Dearborn, Michigan at 9:05 a.m. Chairman Clawson opened with a moment of silence for our MIA and POW's, prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call -**

Roll call of VA&R Committee persons was taken by Secretary Ed Rushlow:

Present- Kenneth Clawson, Standing Committee Chairman,  
Robert Doan, Committee Vice Chairman, Ed Rushlow, Secretary,  
Donald Chmielewski, and Anthony Licari.

DVSO Emeritus present: Richard Morrison and Ed Rushlow

Districts Represented: 11 of 16  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>

**Roll Call of VAVS/VHVS Subcommittee members**

Present- Ronald Pearson, Chairman – Marquette Home;  
Henry Altman Saginaw VAMC, John Hyatt – Grand Rapids Home;  
and Raymond Lloyd – Detroit VAMC.

Excused was Tim O'Neil – Battle Creek;  
Absent were: Murl Eastman – Ann Arbor VAMC; and Arthur Mitchell – Iron Mountain.

Committee delegate cards were collected for verification. Secretary Rushlow declared that a quorum of committee members and districts were present.

**Election of Convention Committee Chairman and Secretary -**

Ray Lloyd nominated Ken Clawson to be Chairman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Chmielewski. No other nominees we cast one unanimous ballot for Chairman Clawson.

Ray Lloyd nominated Ed Rushlow to be Secretary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Chmielewski. No other nominees we cast one unanimous ballot for Secretary Rushlow.

**Minutes of the previous meeting -**

Motion by Henry Altman we suspend the reading of the June 14, 2007 VA&R minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Lloyd, Carried.

Motion by Ray Lloyd we suspend reading of the June 14, 2007 VAVS/VHVS minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Henry Altman, Carried.

**Introduction of DVSO's –**

Assistant Director Ray Moore informed us Director Nelson was not present as he was attending the funeral of a DVSO's brother. Ray introduced DVSO's present – Jim Simmons, Pat Kline and Jim Topps.

## **Resolutions -**

Chairman Clawson read the following resolutions for action:

07-11-C – Support the Indiana-Ohio Center For Traumatic Amputation Rehabilitation Research. The American Legion supports efforts of Indiana-Ohio Center researchers to collect information that would improve the knowledge of the long-term effects of traumatic amputations, at no direct cost to The American Legion. Motion to support by Anthony Licari, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Chmielewski, and was Carried.

07-12-C – Oppose any federal legislation requiring an accredited representative of The American Legion to develop claims on behalf of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under a contractual arrangement between VA and County or State government or under any other arrangement where the representative would be acting in an official capacity directly on behalf of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

A motion was made to support by Richard Morrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Lloyd, and was Carried.

07-13-C – Oppose any reduction of eligibility criteria for Department of Veterans Affairs per diem payments to State Veterans Homes.

A motion to support by Henry Altman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeremy Bell, and was Carried.

07-214-C – Support The American Legion to urge the National Association of State Veterans Homes and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to support mutual planning efforts, enhanced medical sharing agreements, and enhanced-use construction contracts with qualified providers.

## **Awards -**

Chairman Clawson read his letter to Commander Roger Webster dated June 7, 2007, informing him of consolidated District and Post Service Officer data for the time frame of June '06-May '07. During this period 98 of 453 posts submitted PSO Reports, 8 of 16 District Service Officers submitted DSO Reports, 2 of 16 Districts failed to forward anything. They are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Districts. The 2<sup>nd</sup> District provided the most data with 34 of 36 posts submitting reports, and the 11<sup>th</sup> District had the next best performance with 19 of 23 post submitting reports.

Chairman Clawson announced he made his selection for the following awards after reviewing all the criteria submitted and sent notification to Department Adjutant Patrick Lafferty. The awards are as follows:

The Alfred R. Thiel District Service Officer Trophy s awarded to Russ Spalding, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Service Officer from Post 155, Britton, Michigan.

The Carleton L Seaman Post Service Officer is awarded to Murl “Red” Sanders, Post Service Officer from Post 101, Greenville, Michigan.

Citations with honorable mention are awarded to the following Post Service Officers:

Wayne L. Pitsch of Post 208, Stephen Tracy of Post 165, Joseph C. Kelly of Post 323, David L. Thomas of Post 44, and William R. Shepherd of Post 173.

An honorable mention citation is also in order for the 11<sup>th</sup> District Service Officer for displaying above average effort and dedication in his duties.

Anthony Licari moved to accept, supported by Don Chmielewski, and Carried.

**Correspondence -**

Chairman Clawson read a letter from the National VA&R Commission concerning the William F. Lenker National Service Trophy. Motion by Henry Altman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Lloyd recommending the Department of Michigan pursue this project. Carried.

**Good of the Order -**

DVSO Pat Kline made favorable comments regarding importance of service to veterans and the VA&R Committee support of the DVSO's. Additional comments were made by DVSO's Jim Topps and Jim Simmons who elaborated about the current situation with VA's problems. Ray Lloyd of VAVS expressed importance of VA&R and VAVS working together.

A motion made by Henry Altman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeremy Bell that we support the Committee Meeting Guidelines as received from Department Adjutant Patrick Lafferty, Carried.

**Next Meeting -**

The next VA&R Committee meeting will be at the Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands, September 13-16, 2007.

**Adjournment -**

Motion to adjourn by Henry Altman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Rushlow. Carried.

Chairman Clawson thanked everyone for their attendance, and declared the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Rushlow  
Secretary