

Department Reconnect Committee Meeting
February 16, 2007

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order by Chairman Joseph Salvia at 1300 hrs in Ballroom H at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Lansing, Michigan. The following individuals were present:

MEMBERS

Joseph M. Salvia, Chairman
Kenneth R. Pierce Sr.
James T. Maggard
James W. Schutze
Tom Derenzy
Jack Helminski
Micheal Krieg
Binnie Price

GUESTS

John Burke
Wilson Coomer
Robert Janoska

Chairman Salvia welcomed all, asked that pagers/cell phones be turned off and appointed Binnie Price to serve as secretary.

Chairman Salvia called the meeting to order and began with a Flag salute and the Pledge of Allegiance. Binnie Price offered a prayer.

MINUTES:

It was moved by Maggard and supported by Pierce that the minutes of the September 22, 2006, meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee be approved with noted corrections. Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS:

Jack Helminski reported that the bad experience that happened with the MP unit in Taylor, MI has been corrected. Chairman Salvia also added that he made a personal visit to the Taylor Armory last fall to present reconnect materials.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Salvia updated the committee with respect to working with the Michigan Army National Guard, The United States Army Reserve Centers, and Selfridge Air

Base with respect to obtaining updated unit mailing information in order to hand deliver or mail reconnect packets directly to units around the State of Michigan. Reconnect members will have access to this list in order to help them make personal visits when appropriate.

Jack Helminski reported that SAL #364 in Dearborn, MI will have 300 uniforms for the Post.

Michael Krieg of Post 258 commented that the Database on the Reconnect Committee be given to Post Service Officers.

Kenneth Pierce mentioned a family member in MO was having problems while husband was in Iraq. Suggestions were made to go on-line and find local Post support for the family. Also contact local community for additional support.

James Schutze commented on organizing a master list for other Posts and Districts to utilize and referred to the Legion Website. Comment on community support - A veteran scheduled to return home was extended an additional 4 months. He was a farmer and had already ordered seed for planting. Now he would not be home in time to plant. Local community support would come to aid him in this mission.

Chairman Salvia commented on reconnect activities.

Howell Post 141 held an appreciation night for the Howell Armory on their drill week-end with music, food and fun. A great time was had by a full house resulting in 30 members of the unit joining the Legion. NOTE: DO SOMETHING THAT IS FUN FOR UNITS. Contact local units and have your Post along with others in the community put together "Appreciation Activities" whenever possible.

Salvia visited the Taylor Armory Staff Officers and got permission to deliver packets to their location. Contacted Navy Staff at Selfridge who will assist in distribution of information packets.

Use Post poppy funds to help deployed families in need. Pierce commented to watch for people who sometimes take advantage of situations like this.

There are many other opportunities to reach unit personnel, deployed or otherwise. Deliver prepared packets and cover letters to Churches, Schools, Post Offices, Libraries, Community and Senior Centers, Armed Force Recruiting Stations and other community sites. You will reach a multitude

of people who will know those who we are trying to reach. Many attend school and Church assemblies. Recruiters are seeing new members on a daily basis.

The Committee jointly reviewed the materials and selected the following items to be considered as the official handout packets.

1. Sourcebook
2. Summary of VA Benefits
3. Reconnect
4. Welcome Home
5. TS2

John Burke, 1st District Commander gave a verbal report the 2006 Veterans Day Parade which was held in Detroit, Michigan on November 12, 2006. John noted that with only a five day notice the Parade Team managed to organize and launch the event. The Parade was a tremendous success despite the short notice and lack of time to broadcast for more participants. It is estimated that between 300 to 450 took part coming as far away as Dundee. The Coast Guard was the Color Guard. Members from the Detroit Veterans Center took part as well as VA Hospital and SAL Districts 16 and 18.

Chairman Salvia made closing remarks. Remember, that if we reach even a small amount of individuals we are accomplishing our mission. We need to plant as many seeds as possible, enable others to assist and get community involvement.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Pierce and supported by Meggard that the meeting be adjourned at 14:30 hours.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY

Binnie J. Price, Secretary

For Chairman Joseph M. Salvia