

**DEPARTMENT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE**  
**September 26, 2014**

The meeting of the Department Economic Committee as called to order by Fred Hollister, Temporary Chairman at 1:30 p.m., Friday, September 26, 2014 in the Ambassador Room of the Holiday Inn in Muskegon, Michigan. The following people were present:

MEMBERS: Fred Hollister, Donald Connor, Michael Buda, Robert Johnson absent,  
Gerald Merrell excused

GUESTS: 3 Guests Present.

**MINUTES:**

It was moved and supported to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Interest rates – steady for next month then rising rates. Federal Reserve will begin to raise rates.
2. Unemployment National – 9.9% August 2013, 8.2% August 2014
3. Veterans Volunteer business training program met with VA & Department of Education about small business
4. VA reach out – more A.L. presence at annual conference
5. Question by Michael Buda about committee awards nomination
6. Nat'l vet emp. Agency – will look into reducing vets student aid loans.
7. Vets unemployment under 35 year old – very high
8. Vets & Homelessness – Huge numbers on the streets. Some vets prefer to be homeless when asked.
9. Anthony Malia – Nat'l Homeless vets task force – 50,000 homeless vets nationwide constructing new building in Detroit for homeless male and female vets. Background check to determine eligibility – 2 year program, train and support to get vets on their feet. Problem tracking post involvement supporting homeless vets – need data for national meeting contact info on website email [amnovil@att.net](mailto:amnovil@att.net)
10. Presentation by Nat'l Commander Candidate – leading candidate Dale Barnett
11. Job fairs – had one at Cobo scheduled more in Grand Rapids, Alpena, and UP. Legion member should contact Chamber of Commerce to create local job fair with potential employees.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved and supported that the meeting be adjourned at 2:00 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Fred Hollister, Temporary Chairman