

Department of Michigan Economic Meeting
Friday, September 20, 2013

The meeting of the Department of Michigan Economic Committee was called to order by Gerald Merrell at 1:30pm in the Camelot Room Boyne Highlands Harbor Springs Michigan.

Economic Committee Members present: Chairman Gerald Merrell, Donald Connor and Robert Johnson.

Guests: Terry Hessler, John Stams, Stan Kennedy, Gaye Pappas, Rick Donovan, and William Cool.

Motion to accept the minutes of the June 27th 2013 Economic Committee was made by Donald Connor, Seconded by Terry Hessler Motion passed

Old Business None:

New Business:

Chairman Gerald Merrell talked about the upcoming 2014 Economic awards, encouraged districts to nominate business, individuals and posts who have and are going the extra mile for veterans'. Nominations need to be sent to Chairman Gerald Merrell by Dec 31st 2013. Chairman Gerald Merrell also talked about Operation Veteran connect event coming to the Saginaw Bay area on Thursday November 7th 2013. This event has been held with much success in the Lansing, Wyoming and Marquette areas last year.

Motion made by Rick Donovan to use up to \$200 of the \$500 budgeted for the two Saginaw area Job fairs for the Operation Veteran Connect event November 7th

Seconded by William Cool.

Motion passed.

Discussed the changes in the Michigan Veterans' Services programs, talked about how posts can use the www.mitalent.org web page to assist veterans looking for employment and other benefits.

Round Table discussion: Terry Hessler from the 8th District talked about the economic impact from the declining membership as they have a low per member rate. Where other districts are up to a dollar.

Don Conner talked about the high un-employment in the Upper Peninsula.

William Cool talked about how he & his district are reaching out to the local newspaper to put out information on American Legion Programs and Economic programs available to our veterans.

Rick Donovan talked about partnering with the Student Veterans as many colleges have a resource room for the veterans, Oakland College has VSO service officers who make regular visits to the resource center to help the veterans.

Gaye Pappas from Oscoda talked about her role as a manager in hiring veterans the skills they bring, discussed working with the Local Veterans Services Staff in locating qualified veterans.

National Committeeman John Skinner introduced Leading National Candidate Michael Helm

With no further business to come before this committee Don Connor made the motion to adjourn Second by Terry Hessler

Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm

Submitted by Gerald Merrell
Chairman Economic Committee