

DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, Jun 23, 2016

The meeting of the Department Legislative Committee was called to order at 12:00 pm by Bill Coffey, Chairman, in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, on Jun 23, 2016. The following people were present:

Members: Bill Coffey, Joe Renis, and Tim Poxon.

Guests: 3

Minutes:

Motion by Renis, support by Poxon to approve Winter Conference minutes.

The following legislative update was given by Mark Sutton;

- Special guests at the Convention will be MVAA Director Jim Redford and MVHS CEO Leslie Shanlian.
- No one recommended VSO grants be cut going into the budget process. Budget for 2017 will be \$3,733,000.
- Grand Rapids Home for Veterans; an informal workgroup has been established to look at options for the future of the homes in Michigan. Hope to have a report from them by the end of August. Bob Johnson was appointed to a 3 year term on the Board of Managers. 'the 2017 budget included money to increase the pay of the contract nurses.
- Jacobetti: They will be looking to qualify for Medicaid and Medicare certification for a new revenue stream.
- The corpus of the Veteran's Trust Fund is now \$52million.
- HR 4642 on 4th draft. Legion still opposes it.
- Work in progress getting Civil Service and others to develop a solution for Michigan preference on Veterans
- Goals for 2017:
 - There are areas in Michigan lacking any type of VSO representation, we want to develop a plan for and ask for more funding.
 - Work to have \$20 million placed in the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund.
 - Work towards improvements at the Veteran Homes and a 3rd home.

Mark Sutton gave a presentation on the new Bill Hound by MIRS (Michigan Information and Research Service Inc.). It is a service to track bills by subject. Mark requested approval for a one year subscription for three people in the Department. A motion by Poxon and support by Renis to approve the funding for a one year subscription to Bill Hound. The motion carried.

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved and supported that the meeting be adjourned at 1240. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted by

Bill Coffey, Chairman