

Department of Michigan Standing Legislative Committee Meeting

June 23, 2011

The meeting of the Department Legislative Committee was called to order by Chairman Doug Williams in the Winchester Room of the Amway Grand Plaza at 12:00 noon June 23, 2011. Present were Chairman Williams and members William Coffey and Ernest Ingles. Not present and unexcused was John Nelson.

Member Coffey was appointed recording secretary.

There were three guests present, Mr. Richard Morrison representing Rapid River Post #301, Mr. Lavern Spolarich representing District #8 and Don Shandley representing Post #409 Allen Park. (See attached guests sign in sheet).

The minutes of the June 18, 2010 Legislative Committee meeting were read and approved.

Chairman Williams reported on the positive attitudes he has experienced with the State Legislators and hopes this continues.

Chairman reported that the governor signed the State budget June 22, 2011 and it did not contain any provisions for a stand-alone department of Veterans Affairs, however it was felt that there is still a chance that it could occur within a year.

A discussion was held with regard to term limits and those present were informed to support increasing the terms or abolishing them altogether.

Chairman informed the committee that the Cold War Legislation will be sent to the floor of the house within 2 weeks and it is felt there is enough support for it to pass. Chairman discussed Senate Bill 181 the Appropriations bill for the Department of Military and veterans Affairs and its impact on our Veterans Homes and our VSOs also discussion was held regarding Veteran Organization needs and what will be available from the State and Washington D.C. in the future.

Respectfully Submitted