

**DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**September 18, 2015**

The meeting of the Department Legislative Committee was called to order by Bill Coffey, Chairman in Lansing, Michigan, on September 18, 2015 at 11:05 am. The following people were present:

**MEMBERS:** Bill Coffey, Joe Remis, John Knox (Alt)

**GUESTS:** 7 Guests present

**Business:**

Rick Donovan of Michigan Works spoke on Michigan National Guard Education Act. Using experience from Military for civilian employees (such as CDL license, etc.) Grants to train vets 55 -60 from up to \$18,000 for one year.

Vets preference for state jobs each department decided to grant or not allow.

32 million left on table in Michigan unused GI Bill.

Mark Sutton spoke.

Governor propose a 3% cut to all Department and State (will impact Legion grants) unknown the exact amount at this time.

Some leg. are looking at making all vets eligible for trust fund grant.

Looking to make trust fund a regional model as the present county model.

There will e a gathering of Vietnam Vets on October 18 on Capital lawn in Lansing.

Military pay raise will be 1.3% and was passed by Congress.

VA continues to use backlogs as an excuse for late and denial of service to veterans at the hospitals.

VA now looking at paying disability claims for illness linked to the Camp La Jeune tainted water.

Big push to make the VA medical private and veterans choice.

Still a push for a State Veterans cemetery in the Upper Peninsula. Federal government is ready to go on this issue, but the state is dragging their feet.

**Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully Submitted by



Bill Coffey, Chairman