

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

17 SEPTEMBER 2021

Meeting of the Department of Michigan, VA & R Committee held at Shanty Creek Resort was called to order by Don Howard Chairman at 3:15 PM.

Present: Chairman Don Howard, Vice Chairman Tony Licari, Secretary Tom Sheppard Absent Elizebeth Cuddington fill in, Alfonse Van Hese, Gary Bordeau, Bob Gillette, John Perry, Steve Mango and Ex-Officio – Department VA & R Director Gary Easterling.

VAVS/VHVS Subcommittee Chairman, Gerald Dennis

Heroes to Hometown Subcommittee, Eddie Brown

Guest: Derek Blumke and Tim Poxson

Legionnaires present, 18

Is there a quorum? Yes

Guest Derek Blumke presented the issues the coalition is struggling with, the grant from the state and the importance of the Legion using our voice to speak to our legislators. Next week is negotiations, this will be completed by October 1st.

Guest Tim Poxson commented on what Derek Blumke present that committees need to work together. Gave update on 2 issues going on in the legislative right now. 1 is with the 100% disabled and Property Tax exception, they want vet to pay then the state will reimburse, also there is discussion about a cap and income based. This is not a bill yet, still in discussion. Once figured out it will be effective in 2023. Veterans that get it now will be grandfathered in no change to them at this time.

Reports:

VA & R Director Gary Easterling also discussed what is going on with the Grant with the state and the importance to keep DVSO's.

Higgins Lake training will be back the second weekend of August 2022. Gary and two of his other DVSO's have been doing training by zones this year, zone 1, 4, and 5 have been completed and zone 3 will be next weekend in Holly and zone 3 will be in Battle Creek in October.

VA & R staff is short by 3 people, just did interview with an individual for the North of the state and will start October 4th, still looking for 1 for the Detroit Office and 1 for the thumb area.

The District and Post Service Officer of the year have been chosen and plaques complete will be presented at DEC.

Subcommittee Reports:

VAVS/VHVS Chairman Gerald Dennis reported ^{on the} status of VAMC's and volunteers:

Ann Arbor – Robert Ball, Battle Creek – Dan Osbourn (out sick) Shelia Manning ^{Overheals} (Filling In),
Detroit – Frank Roche, Saginaw – Vacant, Iron Mountain – Ferrand Ethington

Veterans Homes:

Old and New Homes in Grand Rapids – Gerald Dennis, Marquette - AL Hosp Rep James Feliciano and SAL Rep James Wallis, New home on Eastside of the state called Chesterfield – Shannon Wawruk.

Heroes to Hometown Chairman Eddie Brown reported that he ^{had} 3 cases still pending, 1 has just deceased, 1 pending assistance from the VA and 1 pending assistance ^{however} but can not reach them. He is going to keep working on follow up.

Old Business:

Need nominations for Co-Chair and Secretary for VA & R Committee.

Gary Bordeau nominated Tony Licari for Co-Chair, no other nominations, it was seconded by Steve Mango, ^{it was} all approved passed.

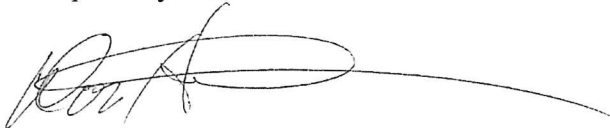
Robert Gillette nominated Tom Sheppard for Secretary, no other nominations, it was seconded by Tony Licari, ^{it was} all approved passed.

New Business:

No New Business

Meeting needed to end for DEC to begin meeting in the same room. Motion by Tony Licari to adjourn seconded by John Perry at 3:44 pm, all approved Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted



Don Howard

Chairman

VA & R Committee

Gerald Dennis and Eddie Brown
VAVS H2H

Commence, I received approval of their minutes.