

DEPARTMENT RECONNECT COMMITTEE

February 15, 2014

The meeting of the Department Reconnect committee was called to order by Gary Tanner, Chairman at 1:05 p.m., Saturday, February 15, 2014, in the Taylor room of the Gateway Centre in Flint, MI.

The following members were present:

MEMBERS: Gary Tanner, Chairman, Ken Pierce Sr., Wilson Coomer, Earl Lash, and Jack Helminski

GUESTS: 6 guests were present

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer by Chairman Tanner.

MINUTES

It was moved by Wilson Coomer and supported by Ken Pierce Sr. that the minutes of the Department Reconnect Committee Fall Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

American Legion Department of Michigan tablecloths were ordered and received. These will be used at all Reconnect events. Still working on table display graphics. The 5000+ DVD's donated by Family Video were distributed to our troops during National Guard pre-deployment workshops and to Operation Comfort Warriors through National Headquarters to Warrior transition battalions and various hospital locations. The Detroit fund is dangerously low and in need of fundraising efforts and donations. The committee has conducted two more Elmobility room missions and several National Guard Yellow Ribbon workshops. Chairman Tanner explained the work of the committee and the Wounded and Returning Warrior program for the benefit of the guests. Guest, Dan Robinson, expressed gratitude for our Committees efforts to assist our Returning Warriors and their families. Mr. Robinson remarked that Wilwin was amazing and was impressed with the Reconnect Committees Wounded and Returning Warrior programs group PTSD retreats. He also mentioned the Eaglerock facility he has worked with in the Carolinas for group retreats for Goldstar families and Returning Warriors. Chairman Tanner mentioned that the Reconnect Committee has awarded over \$35,000 in temporary finance assistance so far this year across the various programs such as the Wounded and Returning Warrior program and the Patriot Fund. Chairman Tanner discussed the many issues and problems facing our returning service members and their families.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Tanner mentioned and thanked the committee members and all the great work they do for the Reconnect committee and Department.

Chairman Tanner mentioned the 5th District fundraiser/raffle supporting the Patriot Fund. Chairman Tanner stated that ITPA, a Telecommunication's company head quartered in Georgia, contacted him regarding the Wounded and Returning Warrior program and would like to make a \$2,500 donation in May during their National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan on May 14th, 2014.

ACO Hardware has now merged with ACE Hardware and our funding and relationship will have to be discussed once all rebranding and reorganization is completed. Funding sources will be needed and any assistance from our Legion family would be appreciated and more critical than ever for the continued success of our Committee and its Programs.

Jack Helminski submitted his SAL report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Earl Lash and supported by Jack Helminski to adjourn at 2:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Tanner, Chairman

SAL Reconnect Report

To: SAL Detachment of Michigan

Need help from Zone Commanders.

I'm giving out 20 copies of Reconnect Military or Veterans Assistant Project! This form is self-explanatory.

Please give copies to each of your squadrons so the Blue Caps can turn in at State Convention or mail to me throughout the year.

Since Fall Conference there has been no Yellow Ribbon events.

The reconnect Meeting at this Winter Conference will be held after DEC Meeting on Saturday at 1 p.m. Therefore, any updates I receive will be forwarded to Detachments and Zone Commanders.

The Jim Schutzy award will be handed out at The American Legion State Convention in Livonia, Michigan in June, 2014. This award is presented to the Post or Squadron that did the most for Veterans.

The aforementioned form will be used to judge those recipients.

Last year's recipient was Post #253, Royal Oak, MI.

Included also, with your copies, Zone Commanders is the letter pertaining to ACO Hardware collection.

Please read and pass on to your squadrons.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Helminski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

JACK HELMINSKI

SAL STATE REP FOR RECONNECT