

DEPARTMENT RECONNECT COMMITTEE
June 27, 2013

The Meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order at 1:04 pm by Chairman Tanner in the Neebish Island Room of the Kewadin Casino Hotel, Sault Snt Marie, MI.

The following members were present: Gary Tanner, Jack Helminski, Jim Maki, Jerry Andrus
There were 6 guests were present.

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

Minutes: The minutes of the winter meeting were read and a motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Jerry Andrus and supported by Jack Helminski. Motion carried.

Old Business: Chairman Tanner discussed the High number of TFA requests received by the Reconnect Committee and stated that the Committee has awarded close to \$15,000.00 in Emergency Financial Assistance grants ranging from Eviction protection, Utility Shut Offs, Medical Assistance and Troop Support for our deployed units. 7 Wounded and Retuning Warrior Family Retreats have been scheduled so far this summer. The Elmobility Room has been requested for a mission Sept. 21st. Seeking a volunteer team to support this mission.

New Business: Chairman Tanner informed the committee about the success of the No Restrictions Golf Foundation / Reconnect Committee Partnership. The Barrier Breaking Golf Clinic Held May 16th 2013 at Whispering Willows G.C. in Livonia, MI in partnership with the N.R.G. Foundation and Wright and Filipis was a huge success with over 50 Disabled Golfers in attendance. Over half were Amputees. They learn adaptive golf techniques to include use of the Single Rider Golf Cart donated by the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. Skipper Townes asked if the Reconnect Committee had been in contact with the Battle Creek VA as they have a golf course on their grounds. Chairman Tanner has been in communication with them regarding the addition of Adaptive Golf clinics and single rider carts.

Chairman Tanner discussed the ongoing 2013 collection campaign with ACO Hardware of Michigan and the 15 second PSA being run on CBS Radio – Detroit stations WOMC 104.3 FM and WWJ 950 AM. We are offering a pizza party & program t-shirt incentive awards for the top collecting store in each region. This has boosted collection amounts for other initiatives.

Jim Maki mentioned that Western U. P. veterans are becoming frustrated with the lack of access to Legion Service Officers. They have not been able to find adequate assistance with service connected claims. Other VSO's are not able to provide the same level of representation or service. Would like more Legion Service Officers to visit and help process their claims.

The Reconnect Committee has been working to provide additional locations for our Wounded and Returning Warrior Families and as such was able to meet with the Director of Golf and Ski Operations at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. They have offered to partner with the Wounded and Returning Warrior

program to offer packages for our veterans and their families.

Chairman Tanner has received several donations for The Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program including 2501.00 donation from Royal Oak Post 253 which was generated during a recent Walk-A-Thon. The Returning Warrior Program also just sponsored and funded another Group PTSD Retreat consisting of 16 veterans at Wilwin Lodge with Dr. Mark Kane of the Michigan Psychological Association, and we look forward to more this year.

There were no nomination submissions for the James Schutze Department Reconnect Award recognizing the Post with the best Reconnect / Troop Support Services program. As such, the Committee accepted nominations from the floor of the meeting and Post 253 of Royal Oak was selected as the winner of the 2013 Jim Schutze Award. The plaque will be made up and presented at the 2013 Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands. Jim Maki read and submitted his U. P. Reconnect Report which will be scanned and attached to this report.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before this committee it was moved by Jim Maki and supported by Jack Helminski to adjourn at 2:05 pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary Tanner
Department Reconnect Committee Chairman

I also urged all Post
to participate, and support
homecoming ceremonies,
and individual veterans as
they come home from active
duty.

I also handed out
Guide for Women Veterans,
~~and~~ TSA pamphlets, and
welcome home hand outs.

I thanked all present
for the opportunity to ~~and~~
~~the~~ serve on the Reconnect
committee.

Jim Mahi

UPAALP/UPA

2013 Mid Winter held
at Stambaugh, Michigan Jan.
18-19-20. Jim Mahi gave
a report on ~~the~~ Reconnect
what it stands for, and how
to get involved with the
troops coming home. I
also handed out pamphlets
I also talked a little
about Women Veterans
Whether Retiring from service
or separating after
fulfilling an obligation.
The transition can be a difficult
one. Women Veterans are
entitled to the same VA, and
DoD benefits as their male
counterparts