

## DEPARTMENT RECONNECT COMMITTEE MEETING

February 16, 2013

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Supervisory Committee was called to order by Gary Tanner, Chairman, in the Taylor Room of the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint, Michigan, on February 16, 2013 at 1:00 PM.

Chairman Tanner led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer.

The following people were present:

Members: Gary Tanner, Chairman, Jim Maki, Ken Pierce Sr., Jerry Andrus, Jack Helminski

Guests: 4

Special Guest: NEC Skinner brought National Commander Koutz thanked the committee for their hard work and stressed benefit information.

Minutes: The minutes from the Fall Department Reconnect Committee were read and it was moved by Ken Pierce and supported by Jerry Andrus to accept the minutes as read. Motion Carried.

Old Business: Chairman Tanner discussed the many requests for financial assistance granted by this committee since October. Such requests included mortgage assistance, utility shut off protection, eviction protection, transportation assistance as well as purchasing a car for an Iraqi vet so he could keep his job and a new furnace for a 79 year old Korean Era war veteran who did not qualify for any other means of assistance.

The reconnect committee wounded and returning warrior program sent an Iraqi vet on a retreat weekend to Boyne Highlands in December and purchased transportation for a veteran to seek specialized treatment for PTSD related to sexual trauma at a nationally recognized VA facility in Florida. Chairman Tanner was invited to speak on veterans assistance issues by WOMC 104.3, an affiliate of CBS radio in /Detroit, at their annual veterans and military appreciation luncheon, and the Clarkston American Legion Post 63 as their Veterans Day dinner keynote speaker. The Elmobility room completed several missions since Fall Conference. The Reconnect Committee submitted over a 110 OLF/OGF Veterans and their families for \$60 VA thanksgiving assistance checks, and collected donations over \$3,500 from the Legion Family & Vietnam Veterans of America to buy coats, hats, gloves, and toys for the 50 children of the 1072rd maint. Company based out of the Light Guard Armory.

New Business: The American Legion Department of Michigan Wounded & Returning Warrior Program has partnered with the Millman N.R.G. Foundation, (no restrictions golf), to offer adaptive golf clinics, outings and therapy for our disabled veterans. The Millman NRG

Foundation is the leader in adaptive golf in Michigan and we are excited to begin offering adaptive sports as part of the Wounded and Returning warrior Program. We purchased their first single rider adaptive golf cart to be used by wounded and disabled veterans and will be conducting a clinic in May sponsored by Wright and Filipis. We debuted the cart this weekend at the metro Detroit golf and Travel Show at Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan. Fox 2 news Detroit covered our cart and Mayor Bing took the time to stop by and learn about our program and the single rider cart. We have received invitations to ADD equine (horse), therapy as part of our program and will contact them to pursue this.

Chairman Tanner mentioned job posting sites such as Weddele's which emails listings of job postings based on location selected.

Jim Maki gave his U.P. Reconnect report. (attached)

Chairman Tanner reminded the committee about the upcoming National Guard Yellow Ribbon workshops and passed out new reconnect materials to committee members and thanked them for all their hard work.

No submissions have been received yet for the James Schutze Department Reconnect Award. Submissions will now have to be emailed to Department or Chairman Tanner.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved By Jack Helminski and supported by Jim Maki to adjourn at 2:15 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Tanner, Reconnect Chairman

UPAALP / UPA

2013 Mid-Winter held  
at Stambaugh, Michigan Jan  
18-19-20 Jim Maki gave a  
Report on 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  
difficult one Woman  
Veterans are entitled to  
the same VA benefits  
as their Male counterparts.  
I also urged all  
Post To

participate, and support  
home-coming ceremonies,  
and individual veterans  
as they come home from  
active duty.

I also handed out  
Guid for women Veterans,  
Is 2 pamphlets, and  
Welcome Home hand out

I thanked all  
present for the opportunity  
to serve on the  
Reconnect Committee

Jim Mah.