

The Department Reconnect Committee

September 21, 2012

The meeting of The Department Reconnect Committee was called to order at 10:03 am by Gary Tanner, Chairman, in the Champion Room West of The Boyne Highland Resort, in Harbor Springs Michigan.

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

MEMBERS: Gary Tanner, Chairman, Jim Maki, Ken Pierce Sr., Tom Derenzy Sr., Jerry Dennis, Jerry Andrus, Jack Helminksi

GUESTS: 10 guests

MINUTES: The minutes from the summer Department Reconnect Committee were read. It was moved by Jerry Dennis and supported by Jack Helminski to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Tanner discussed the design for the Reconnect Committee table top display.

Chairman Tanner discussed the Committee's continued support for the National Guard Yellow Ribbon workshops.

Chairman Tanner discussed the scheduled workshops for 2012-2013. The Immobility Room has two requests for upcoming unit Christmas parties in December.

Chairman Tanner discussed the Wounded and returning Warrior Retreat Program. We have been averaging 6 to 7 families each summer for Mackinac Island Retreats and 2 to 3 groups PTSD Retreats at Wilwin Lodge each year. The latest is an afghan vet and his wife finally getting to celebrate their honeymoon on Mackinac Island a year late due to injuries sustained during his deployment.

2012 ACO Donations totaled \$20,000.

NEW BUSINESS: Legislative Chairman, Doug Williams shared information pertaining to State and Federal Legislation being considered to increase funding for PTSD Treatment, as well as the Veterans Court initiative which now it's in 37 courts in the lower half of Michigan where the Vet population is highest. More are still needed. Beverly List discussed the possibility and status of a virtual post. The Department Chairman Tanner shared the community educational program presentation on the struggles related to PTSD in our returning Vets.

Chairman Tanner reminded the committee and guests that nominations for the James Schutze Post Reconnect Award need to be made and submitted by winter meeting for selection of winner to be made and submitted by winter meeting for selection of winner to be awarded at Convention.

Chairman Tanner discussed the addition of an Auxiliary representative to be added to the reconnect committee. This member would not have a vote and would be for information sharing and project collaboration. Reconnect is much more effective through family partnership.

The reconnect Committee is also very similar to the Auxiliary National Security Commission. Chairman Tanner discussed the importance of being active advocates for the legion programs at the Post and Community level.

We need to show our organization can remain relevant and vitally important to our newest generation of military families and veterans.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before this committee it was moved by Jerry Andrus and supported by Jack Helminski to adjourn the meeting at 11:05am. Motion carried.

Gary Tanner
Reconnect Committee Chairman