

**DEPARTMENT RECONNECT COMMITTEE**  
**February 18, 2012**

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order by Gary Tanner, Chairman at 1:09 p.m., Saturday, February 18, 2012 in the Taylor Room of the Holiday Inn Gateway Center, Flint, Michigan. Opened with prayer and pledge to flag.

The following people were present:

**MEMBERS:** Gary Tanner, Chairman, Kenneth Pierce, Sr., Wilson Coomer, James Maki, Gerald Dennis, Tom Derenzy, Jack Helminski, SAL (excused)

**GUESTS:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The draft of the James W. Schutze reconnect award was discussed and approved by the reconnect committee. Resolution 12-W-2 was read and discussed. The resolution was amended to say post and district instead of post or district in the first further resolved section. Jim Maki moved that the amended resolution be accepted. Supported by Ken Pierce, motioned carried. Discussed outdated TS2 brochures will be recycled. Committee discussed with relevant brochures should be used during the national Guard Yellow Ribbon Workshops and other events attended or staffed by Reconnect. Reconnect has attended National Guard Yellow Ribbon Workshops in Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb. and have another scheduled in March.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Tanner discussed the Plymouth Whalers fund raising event to benefit the Reconnect Committee's wounded and returning Warrior Retreat Program on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. The Plymouth Whalers approached Chairman Tanner indicating that they would like to work with the American Legion to support the wounded and returning Warrior Retreat Program. For every \$12.00 ticket sold using the American Legion promo code, \$4.00 will be donated back to the Wounded Warrior retreat program. They offered to allow the Legion to set up informational tables around the concourse and Chairman Tanner will be conducting on ice presentations each night.

Chairman Tanner met with representatives of several faith based organizations at their request to form community coalitions to provide military and veteran outreach. Chairman Tanner will meet with them again once their respective governing bodies pass recommendations on outreach methods and programs. This aligns with the goal of Army One source's community partnership forum that Chairman Tanner was invited to attend in San Antonio, Texas last may.

Jim Maki presented his U.P. Reconnect report. (Attached to original report). Chairman Tanner thanked the committee for all their great work. Chairman Tanner thanked Jim Maki and Willie Coomer for their work with the National Guard Buddy to Buddy program and for

facilitating a state-wide conference call featuring American Legion programs as discussed by Chairman Tanner with focus on Reconnect.

Chairman Tanner discussed the Elmo Birthday Bash and the Elmobility Room. The American Legion Department of Michigan Junior Auxiliary adopted Elmobility as their personal project. As a end-of-year event Honorary Junior President, Chelsea Kovals hosted and organized a birthday bash for Elmo. Since his birthday is February 3<sup>rd</sup>, they decided to hold the party at Winter Meeting. Chelsea and the Juniors raised over \$1500 in cash donations and well over \$3,000 in toys and supplies.

This has been the toughest year yet with regard to veterans and service members needing assistance to prevent evictions and utility shut-offs. It will only get worse with the increased number of troops coming home.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Willy Coomer and supported by Tom Derezy that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Tanner", written over a horizontal line.

Gary Tanner