

RECONNECT COMMITTEE MEETING
June 28, 2012

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order by Gary Tanner Chairman in Great Lakes Room III of the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on June 28, 2012 at 1:00 PM.

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

MEMBERS: Gary Tanner, Chairman, Jim Maki, Kenneth Pierce, Wilson Coomer, Gerald Dennis

GUESTS: 4 guests present

Minutes:

The minutes of the 2012 Winter Department Reconnect Committee meeting were read and accepted.

Old Business:

Chairman Tanner discussed the 1st Annual James W. Schutze Reconnect Award to be presented at this Convention.

Jack Helminski discussed the status of Reconnect Committee table top display.

Chairman Tanner discussed the new TS2 brochures and the giveaway items for reconnect presentations. They have been well received and have increased I Legion and Reconnect committee branding.

Chairman Tanner discussed the Committee's previous nominee, Jim Zub of ACO hardware, had been selected to receive the 2012 Good Guy Award. Chairman Tanner also discussed the ongoing Temp. Financial Assistance provided by the Reconnect committee. So far over \$11,000.00 has been awarded by the Reconnect Committee since July.

New Business:

Chairman Tanner discussed upcoming Elmobility missions on July 12 in Jackson, MI and July 14th in Battle Creek. Upcoming Air Nat'l Guard Yellow Ribbon Workshops are scheduled for July 28 & 29, 2012, Aug. 25 & 26, 2012, Oct. 27-29, 2012 and Dec 15 & 16, 2012.

Chairman Tanner discussed the Wounded and Returning Warrior Retreat Program Fundraising shirts and ongoing ACO hardware Collection. The shirts sell for \$15.00 and all profits benefit the Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. Another Group PTSD retreat at Wilwin Lodge was facilitated by the Retreat Program and the MPAF. 14 vets were in attendance and a second is planned.

Wilson Coomer and Jim Maki discussed the Buddy 2 Buddy Program, and Wilson Coomer mentioned that they may ask Chairman Tanner to be a guest speaker later this year. Chairman Tanner was invited to attend a Veterans Town hall Forum in Dearborn Hgts. Earlier this month as a guest speaker. Contacts were made with Captain Webb of the Michigan National Guard and with Wayne county officials involved with appropriating veteran assistance. Chairman Tanner has been working with County

housing Assistance Coordinators and was able to assist homeless veterans in gaining permanent housing and these veterans have taken it upon themselves to seek out other homeless vets to direct them to organizations that may assist them such as the American Legion.

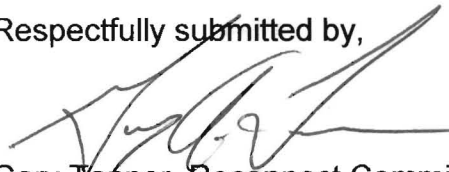
TFA requests call was received here at convention on Thursday to prevent eviction. The Plymouth Whalers have offered to hold another Legion weekend in 2012-2013 to benefit the Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. A min. of 100 tickets need to be ordered in advance online to hold this event. Last event that was scheduled this past March had to be cancelled due to only 12 tickets being sold. The Whalers even offered to provide team giveaways and personal appearances to be used as incentives for the Post selling the most tickets. They have also offered to assist with PSA's on ESPN Radio in Detroit. We ask your support for this next event to show the Whalers that we do indeed support those who support the Legion and the Veterans it serves.

Awards were presented to the honorary Junior President Chelsea Kovacs and her officers for their grant work and support of the Elmobility Room. Jim Maki submitted his UP Reconnect Report (see attached).

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before this committee it was moved by Ken Pierce Sr. of the 7th and supported by Jack Helminski of the 16th to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

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

Gary Tanner, Reconnect Committee Chairman