

DEPARTMENT RECONNECT COMMITTEE MEETING
February 13, 2016

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order by Gary Tanner, Chairman on Saturday February 13, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in the Taylor Room of the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint, Michigan. The following people were present:

MEMBERS: Gary Tanner-Chairman, Ken Pierce, Sean Green, James Maki, Louis Mitchell.

Excused: Jack Helminski & George Harvey

GUESTS: 9

Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer.

MINUTES:

It was moved by Ken Pierce Sr. and supported by James Maki to accept the minutes of the Department Reconnect Committee from Fall Conference as read. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Updated Reconnect Committee brochures have been printed and delivered. Schutze Award Nominations are needed for Best Post Reconnect program. The Michigan Bowling Association started their collections at the tournament locations for the 2016 State Bowling Tournament.

The Emobility Room deployed for two more successful missions since Fall Conference serving our Army Reserve and National Guard families. The Greater Flint Bowling Association held their first annual Patriot Bowling Bash in flushing, MI, October 17, 2015, which raised over \$4,000 for the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. Since Fall Conference, the Reconnect Committee has awarded \$34,727.26 with approximately \$4,000 of that being allocated by the Homeless Veterans Taskforce. In December 2015 alone, approximately \$12,000 in Emergency Temporary Financial Assistance was awarded to stem evictions, keep utilities on and assist with medical bills and Christmas gifts for military children.

Jim Maki reported on the UP Reconnect activities and Reconnect representation at the UP State Fair in August 2015.

New Business:

National Commander Barnett stopped in to commend Reconnect and our activities in Michigan. Commander Barnett stressed the need and importance to connect with our newest returning warriors and veterans and to organize relevant activities and resources

Geared toward their younger veterans and their families. Garland Resort has selected the Michigan wounded and Returning Warriors program as their charity for their \$10,000 Putting Challenge at the Michigan Golf show in March. Post 459 Grand Rapids has chosen the Patriot Fund as their recipient for their 2016 scavenger hunt in March. There are Yellow ribbon Workshops scheduled for March, 2016, August 2016 and January 2017. Reconnect will be represented at them.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Ken Pierce Sr. and supported by Louis Mitchell to adjourn. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Tanner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

GARY TANNER, DEPARTMENT RECONNECT CHAIRMAN