

DEPARTMENT RECONNECT COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 14, 2015

The meeting of the Department Reconnect Committee was called to order by Gary Tanner, Chairman on Saturday February 14, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. in the Taylor Room of the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint, Michigan. The following people were present:

MEMBERS: 8 (Earl excused, moved to Florida)

GUESTS: 4

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

**MINUTES:**

It was moved by Ken Pierce Sr. and supported by Jack Helminski to accept the minutes of the Department Reconnect Committee from Fall Conference. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Michigan guns and hoses softball game, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, was a great success raising \$9000 for the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. Commander Wallace also played for the Warrior Team.

The Emobility Room supported several missions around the state since Fall Conference.

The committee also supported Yellow Ribbon Workshops for the Michigan National Guard.

Chairman Tanner indicated the need to review the committee guidelines, application and criteria for the committee's Patriot Fund and Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. Through committee discussions, it was agreed to maintain the current criteria of: You must be an active duty service member or veteran with honorable character of service. Have a financial hardship other than a luxury item, legal fee, or credit card bill caused by a temporary hardship . The bill must be in the veteran's name. If not, additional documentation such as marriage licenses, birth certificates, guardianship papers may be requested to support the TFA request on a case by case basis.

The committee agreed to maintain the current application both for the Patriot Fund and Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. The applications can be differentiated by title.

The committee was happy to add the "for office use" section and use an auto-fill version when possible to improve processing and legibility of the application. This decision was based on the current wide distribution of the current version and to reduce the need for sensitive documentation.

**New Business:**

Chairman Tanner was invited to speak before the greater Flint Bowling Association. They would like to support the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program with their upcoming fundraiser this Fall. They also arranged for me to meet with the Michigan Bowling Association in June to discuss a \$1 per person donation in conjunction with their tournament entry fees.

The ITPA, who selected the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program as their Michigan Charity, have invited Chairman Tanner to their National meeting in Nashville in April 2015 to receive another donation.

The committee received over \$17,000 in Wounded and Returning Warrior Fund donations since convention and \$24,000 in donations for the Patriot Fund. The committee has awarded over \$30,000 since Fall Conference.

Wilson Coomer notified the committee of his resignation following his current term due to medical and family reasons.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Ken Pierce Sr. and supported by Jim Maki to adjourned at 2:05 p.m. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary A. Tanner".

GARY TANNER, DEPARTMENT RECONNECT CHAIRMAN