

## DEPARTMENT VA&R COMMITTEE MEETING

15 FEBRUARY 2014

The meeting of the Department VA&R Committee was called to order by Don Howard, Chairman in Flint, Michigan, on 15 February 2014. The following people were present:

MEMBERS: DON HOWARD  
TONY LICARI  
DON CHMIELEWSKI  
JAMES WALLACE  
THOMAS SHEPPARD

GUESTS: DANIEL DELLINGER, National Commander  
RAYMOND MOORE, Commander, Department of Michigan  
28 Legionaries present on sign in roster

Order of business was amended, John Skinner introduced Daniel Dillinger, National Commander. The National Commander provided an update on national programs and initiatives

### MINUTES:

It was moved by TONY LICARI and supported by DON CHMIELEWSKI that the minutes of the 20 September 2013 meeting of the DEPARTMENT VA&R COMMITTEE be approved. Motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS:

TONY LICARI gave update on the status of sales of the VA&R coin

The report from Jimmy Topps, Director VA&R, was given by Gary Easterling, incoming Director VA&R, on the current status of the Department of Michigan Veteran Service Officers:

- Brief attendees on status of the VA&R Department Service Office in Detroit, VA Hospitals, VA Clinics and in the field
- Addition of new DVSOs' in the field and in Detroit office
- Reported on the award received at the National Legion convention for having the best DVSO's in the nation

- Dollar amount returned to Veterans from the DVSO  
2012.....118M  
2013.....142M an increase of 22%
- Back log of claims at the VA in Michigan approx. 26,000  
with 4500 waiting in appeals
- Attended mid-winter conference in the UP; addressed the  
Legion Members questions and concerns and attended their  
post service officer training.
- Department VSOs scheduled to attend training in Washington  
D.C 18-23 March

NEW BUSINESS:

Department Commander Raymond Moore briefed committee and  
attendees with information pertaining to VA&R;

- Gary Easterling will begin performing the duties as the  
Director of VA&R no later than a week from Monday and  
assume the duties of the Director, VA&R Staff
- There is some confusion between the coalition and the  
MVAA. Gary has received support from the Department  
Commander to "take charge"
- There are still issues under review/construction between  
the MVAA and the American Legion pertaining to the VA&R  
contract issues still being hashed out

Douglas Williams also provided information on the positive side  
of the new MVAA. We now have a point of contact to present  
issues and concerns between Department of Michigan American  
Legion, MVAA and state government. The Department of Michigan  
is setting the standard for veteran issues in Michigan, please  
be patient.

Post 217 Commander addressed his letter that was sent to  
Governor Snyder addressing his concerns with the Grant Agreement  
between the MVAA and the Michigan Veterans Coalition

It was discussed that: A first draft of bullet proposals pertaining to the agreement that was signed between the MVAA and The Department of Michigan American Legion be read.

It was moved by TONY LICARI and supported by DON CHMIELEWSKI to approve the first draft bullet points. Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by TONY LICARI and supported by DON CHMIELEWSKI that the meeting be adjourned at 3:03PM, motion carried.

RESPECTFULL SUBMITTED

DON HOWARD  
Chairman  
VA&R Committee