DEPARTMENT VASR COMMITTEE MEETING

20 SEPTEMBER 2013

The meeting of the Department VA&R Committee was called to order by Don Howard, Chairman in Harbor Springs, Michigan, on 20 September 2013. The following people were present:

MEMBERS: DON HOWARD

TONY LICARI

DON CHMIELEWSKI JAMES WALLACE THOMAS SHEPPAR

EXCUSED ABSENCE; LOUIS OBERLE

GUESTS: JOHN SKINNER, National Executive Committeeman

> MIKE HELM, National Leading Canidate 28 Legionaries present, sign in roster

First order of business was to select officers for the VA&R Committee. Committee appointments were:

CHAIRMAN;

DON HOWARD

VICE CHAIRMAN; TONY LICARI

RECORDER:

THOMAS SHEPPARD

It was moved by Tony Licari and supported by Thomas Sheppard to approve the committee assignments. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

It was moved by DON CHMIELEWSKI and supported by TONY LICARI that the minutes of the June 28th meeting of the DEPARTMENT VA&R COMMITTEE be approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jimmy Topps, Director VA&R, gave an update on status of:

- The Department Service Office in Detroit,
- DVSO in the field,
- Training at Higgins Lake Service Officer Training School,
- Rob Price, MI DVA, Lansing, on status of where the 10 new VSO contracts will be assigned

- Reported on the award received at the National Legion convention for having the best DVSO's in the nation
- Back log of claims at the VA in Michigan approx. 38,000
- 3 new staff DVSO's added to the staff

NEW BUSINESS:

The VA&R Committee is sponsoring the sales of a VA&R Coin. The cost is \$10/coin with proceeds being used to fund the Higgins Lake Scholarship Fund.

DON Howard has set a goal to pursue funding so that our DVSO's receive the same compensation as other service organizations in Michigan.

Jimmy Topps recommended that the VA&R Committee attend the Finance/Personnel sessions. There are concerns that the distribution of funds from MI DVA is not being divided equitable between service organizations within the coalition.

Tom Sheppard explained the roll of the Post Service Officer in building a team between their post, the county VSO and DVSO's to provide better assistance to veterans with claims and services.

ADJOURNMENT:

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