

## VETERAN AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION CONVENTION COMMITTEE

June 28, 2013

The meeting of the Department VA&R Convention Committee was called to order by temporary Chairman Raymond Moore at 8:57 a.m. in the Whitefish Point Room of the Kewadin Convention Center, Sault Sainte Marie, MI.

A Motion to elect Mr. Moore permanent Chairman prevailed.

Present were Standing Committee members Ray Moore, Chairman, Tony Licari, Donald Howard, and Donald Chimielewski

Districts represented were 2, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 16. There were a total of 20 Legionnaires present.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on June 29, 2013 in Kalamazoo, MI. A Motion to accept the minutes prevailed.

Chairman Moore requested Director Jim Topps to give a short report and Mr. Topps gave an update on the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and the possible effect this may have on our funding a continuing operations. Jim also noted there may be some restrictions placed on what assistance may be provided to a Veteran Claimant by a Post Service Officer due to concerns about possible liability issues. He also reported on Staff changes and noted that DVSO Smirnes is continuing medical leave and support for him and his family will be appreciated.

Now present is standing committee member David Spencer.

Brett Holt, Committeeman for the National VA&R Committee gave a brief update on the Washington National Conference and continuing activities.

A question from the 4<sup>th</sup> District Service Officer was discussed regarding access to OIF/OEF Veterans who are receiving PTSD and other mental health counseling at VA facilities and potential recruiting efforts. It was noted this cannot be done in a clinical setting.

It was noted that this is the last meeting involving the current Standing Committee members and there will be new members appointed following this Convention. It was further noted that the Standing Committee is exploring a fund raiser for the Higgins Lake Scholarship fund.

There being no further business to come to the floor a Motion to adjourn prevailed at 9:30 a.m.