

## DEPARTMENT VA&R COMMITTEE MEETING

February 18, 2012

The meeting of the Department VA&R Committee was called to order by Ray Moore, Chairman at 1:45 p.m. in the Monroe Room of the Holiday Inn Gateway Centre in Flint, Michigan. The following people were present:

**MEMBERS:** Raymond Moore (Chairman), Tony Licari (Vice Chairman), David Spencer (Secretary), Donald Chimeleewski and Donald Howard.

**GUESTS:** 15 present

**MINUTES:** Chairman Moore read the minutes of the September 16, 2011 meeting and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes stand as read.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business to discuss at this time.

Director Topps gave his report on recoveries, addition and a new field service officer and the change in coverage area for DVSO Patrick Kline. Additionally, two part-time service officers have been approved by the Personnel and Finance Committee. Complete report attached, Director Topps also noted the tour of the U.P. American Legion Posts' provided concerns of the membership as to the loss of our DVSO in the U.P. which has now been addressed.

Chairman Moore requested all Posts and Districts provide a name and email address for their service officer to facilitate exchange of information between them and the Detroit office or committee. He also noted that our membership needs to be a contact with their state Representatives and Senators regarding state funding issues and other budget concerns.

V.A.V.S./V.H.V.S. Chairman Henry Lee Altman reported this subcommittee did not have a quorum so they had only a discussion regarding activities at their respective facilities and noted that any donations need to be sent to the American Legion Representative for proper dispersal and credit.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Beverly List, District Service Officer, requests the status of who to send donations too. Chairman Moore asked about update by Department for recognized V.A.V.S. Representatives for purposes of tracking donations and it was also suggested to place this information in the Legionnaire on the VA&R page. Also, Beverly List requested information regarding the loss of beds at the M.V.F. Facility in Detroit for homeless female veterans. Mr. Topps and DVSO Price noted they are aware of the situation and also that Commander Chatman is working on the overall homeless veteran issue in the Detroit area.

V.A.V.S./V.H.V.S. Chairman Altman and 19<sup>th</sup> District Member Ron Geiger reported there is now also a homeless veteran shelter operating in Gaylord under the auspices of the Goodwill Inn of Traverse City.

DVSO McCaskey reported that the service officers in Ann Arbor VAMC are now located in the lower level of the facility and there are ongoing problems with signage directing veterans to their new locations and also the ability of the veterans to get to their offices.

Chairman Moore reported on 2 Resolutions received – 12-W-9 regarding a U.P. Service Officer. No action was taken due to previous approval of the Finance Personnel Committee earlier today. 12-W-6 regarding the naming of the annual service officer school conducted at the Higgins Lake DNR Conference Center to be officially recognized as the “Richard M. Morrison Service Officer School”. Motion to recommend the adoption of the resolution of the DEC by Don Howard and supported by Tony Licari passed unanimously.

Mr. Topps thanked the committee and chairman for their continued support and assistance.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before this committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Moore', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RAYMOND MOORE, Department Chairman