

DEPARTMENT VA&R COMMITTEE MEETING

18 SEPTEMBER 2015

The meeting of the Department VA&R Committee was called to order by Don Howard, Chairman, in University Room 2, Causeway Bay, Lansing, Michigan, at 11:12 AM, 18 September 2015.

The following committee members were present:

MEMBERS: DON HOWARD
TONY LICARI
GARY BOURDEAU, absent
Alfonse VanHese, absent
THOMAS SHEPPARD
BOB GILLETT, Alternate, present
David Spencer, Alternate, absent

Guests; 8 Legionnaires' signed the attendance roster

Election of Committee Officers per Rules of Procedure:

It was moved by THOMAS SHEPPARD, supported by BOB GILLETT that TONY LICARI be appointed Vice Chairman, motion carried.

It was moved by TONY LICARI, supported by, BOB GILLETT that THOMAS SHEPPARD be appointed Secretary, motion carried.

MINUTES:

It was moved by, TONY LICARI, supported by BOB GILLETT, that the minutes of the 25 June 2015 meeting of the DEPARTMENT VA&R COMMITTEE be approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Director VA&R, report was given by Tripp Cantwell. The current status of the Department of Michigan, VA&R Division and the status of Department Veteran Service Officers in Detroit and in the field.

Post Service Officer (PSO) training at Higgins Lake, 21-23 August 2015 had 142 attendee's; Post Service Officers & County Service Officers. DNR Training Facilities at Higgins lake can only support 130 attendees on site. Attendees that did not have sleeping quarters were provided lodging at commercial facilities. Next year's training

will require additional attendee review when providing lodging for the PSO training program.

DISCUSSION: VA&R Committee recommends that the Department Director, VA&R, have a meeting to review other available locations to hold the PSO training.

Chairman Howard reported on the on-going discussions in the 5th Zone with the Indian tribes, Department of Veterans Affairs, State of Michigan congressional leaders, American Legion 5th Zone Posts and U.S. Congressman Dan Benishek. The discussions are to establish more effective health care to native Americans and all veterans living in the UP that are facing extreme distances to receive VA Health Care. The parties are working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) so as to provide a more effective model for our UP Veterans when receiving their benefits by service to our nation.

DISCUSSION: Past Department Commander, Jim Wallace commented on the hard work being performed by Department VA&R Committee Chairman, Don Howard with his support in securing a better "plan" for all veterans in Michigan's 5th Zone.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was moved by, TONY LICARI, supported by Thomas Sheppard to explore the purchase of a new VA&R coin, designed by Tripp Cantwell, Motion carried.

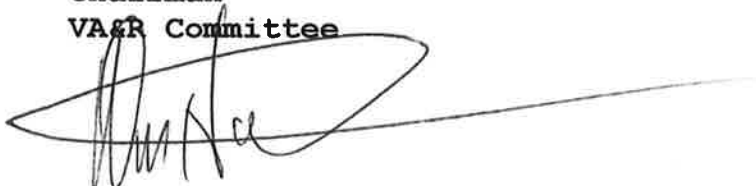
It was moved by, TONY LICARI supported by BOB GILLETT that the VA&R Committee meet with the Director of VA&R to explore new sites the accommodate training sited for the annual Post Service Officer Training which is held in September, 2016, Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by BOB GILLETT and supported by TONI LICARI that the meeting be adjourned at 11:49 AM, motion carried.

RESPECTFULL SUBMITTED

DON HOWARD
Chairman
VA&R Committee

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Howard', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.