

DEPARTMENT VA&R COMMITTEE MEETING

26 SEPTEMBER 2014

The meeting of the Department VA&R Committee was called to order by Tony Licari, Vice Chairman, in the Diplomat Room, Holiday Inn, Muskegon, Michigan, at 11:00 AM, 26 September 2014. The following committee members were present:

MEMBERS: DON HOWARD, excused
TONY LICARI
DAVID SPENCER
LOUIS OBERLE
GARY BOURDEAU, excused
THOMAS SHEPPARD

Guests; 14 Legionnaires' signed the attendance roster

Election of Committee Officers:

It was moved by David Spencer, supported by Louis Oberle that TONY LICARI be appointed Vice Commander, motion carried

It was moved by David Spencer' supported by Louis Oberle, that THOMAS SHEPPARD be appointed Secretary, motion carried

MINUTES:

It was moved by David Spencer, supported by Louis Oberle that the minutes of the 26 June 2014 meeting of the DEPARTMENT VA&R COMMITTEE be approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Director VA&R, Gary Easterling, reported on 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.

- Negotiations with the MVAA with a 2 year contract is completed with the agreement ready to be signed Monday, 29 September 2014

- Post Service Officer training at Higgins Lake, 7 September 2014 had 130 attendee's; Post Service Officers & County Service Officers. The theme of training for the Post service Offices was, "Back to Basics".
- Appeals processed for Veterans from the DVSO for the fiscal 2014, 5700 cases which was 49% of all appeals processed at the VA Regional Office
- 11,000 claims processed thru the DVSO, which was 39% of all claims submitted to the VA Regional Office
- The Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency has proposed up a new program of 10 Regional Coordinator Positions (RC). The new program will come under command and control the Director, VA&R. The initiative has not been finalized yet. It is the goal to have the 10 RG hired in December 2014
- Sales of the VA&R coin have been a great success. About 90 coins are left for purchase.
- DVA&R is hoping to add two (2) part-time employees to his staff, one in the field and one the office.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was moved by David Spencer, supported by Thomas Sheppard that Resolution 3-F-14 brought before the DEPARTMENT VA&R COMMITTEE be approved. Motion carried.

It was moved by David Spencer, supported by Louis Oberle that Resolution 4-F-14 brought before the DEPARTMENT VA&R COMMITTEE be approved. Motion carried

There was an open discussion of 10 Regional Coordinator Positions with the Legionnaires' present. They would like to know more about what the positions are about and how they will benefit the American Legion.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by David Spencer and supported by Louis Oberle that the meeting be adjourned at 11:42 AM, motion carried.

RESPECTFULL SUBMITTED

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony E Licari". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

**TONY LICARI
VICE Chairman
VA&R Committee**