

2018 FALL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The meeting of the Department Legislative Committee was called to order by Tim Poxson, Chairman, at 1430, Friday September 21, 2018 at the Holiday Harbor Inn Harbor Hotel, Muskegon, Michigan. The following were present:

Tim, Poxson, Skipper Townes, Joe Renis, and Stephen Stevens.

Guests: 9

John Knox introduced the leading candidate for National Commander, Bill Oxford, from the Department of North Carolina.

Motion by Stevens, second by Townes to have Joe Renis Secretary/Treasurer. Motion passed.

Motion by Renis, second by Stevens to have Skipper Townes Vice Chairman. Motion passed.

Tim Poxson reviewed the Legislative Committee Rules of Procedure.

Tim Poxson read past conference meeting minutes. Motion by Townes, 2nd by Stevens minutes be approved. Motion passed.

Mark Sutton report:

Legislative priorities through 2018:

- support HB 5913 - sales tax exempt for 501(c)19 organizations
- support HB 4785 and HB 4786 - credit an opportunity for dog owners to donate \$10 to a fund to help veterans offset the cost of training a service animal.
- support SB 35 - charitable gaming
- oppose legislation that modifies the disabled veterans property tax in ways that discriminates against any veteran.
- support HB 6024 - prorates property taxes for the year for qualifying disabled veterans and eliminates the annual reporting requirement for certain disabled veterans.

Motion by Townes, second by Steven to have Mark Sutton send letters to the applicable Committed chairs to support our 2018 priorities. Motion passed.

Mark Sutton reviewed the Department's Legislative priorities for 2019-2021:

- to establish a permanent Department of Veterans Affairs at the cabinet level of

the Governor's office that is inclusive to all parties in the state working with veterans.

- to ensure Michigan Veterans have access to US Department of Veteran Affairs accredited veteran service officers in each county, either by accredited VSOs or partnered counties.

- ensure proper funding to provide accredited veteran services to our veterans.

- to ensure data collected about veterans services is reported accurately and interpreted correctly.

- maintain an ombudsman program at all Michigan veteran homes and expand the program as new facilities are completed.

- to ensure the completion of two new veterans' homes.

- to ensure four to six new veterans' homes are established around the state to better serve the veterans in need.

- to ensure proper funding and management of the new homes is maintained.

- to promote that all departments in the state government are veteran friendly and provide veteran preferences.

- to promote and encourage veteran apprenticeship programs are approved by the State Approving agency.

- to promote and encourage the use of apprenticeship in all jobs in state government for veterans.

- support the Michigan National Army and Air Guard efforts to maintain operational readiness through proper training exercises, infrastructure, and equipment procurement.

Motion by Stevens, second by Townes to adopt the legislative priorities for 2019-2021.
Motion passed.

Tim Poxson provided the following reiteration concerning contact between legislators and legionnaires:

"It must be continued to be stressed that no Legionnaire can speak to legislators or government officials on behalf of the Department of Michigan without prior authorization and or consultation from the Commander, The Department Adjutant, Legislative Director Mark Sutton, or the Chairman of the Legislative Committee. You may only contact your own elected representative and in that case you can only represent yourself, not the American Legion."

The meeting was opened up to questions from the guests.

There being no further business to come before this committee, it as moved by Renis and supported by Townes that the meeting be adjourned at 1510. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tim Poxon".

Tim Poxon

Poxon