

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMITTEE
21 September 2020

A telephone conference call meeting of the Department of Michigan, VA&R Committee, and Subcommittees; VAVS/AHVS, Heroes to Hometown and Veterans Employment & Education was called to order by, Don Howard Chairman, at 10:01 A.M.

Present were standing VA&R Committee members; Chairman Don Howard, Vice Chairman Tony Licari, Secretary Tom Sheppard, committee members present; Alfonse VanHese, Gary Bordeau, Bob Gillett, Alternates Bob Wallin and John Perry.

Ex-Officio members present; Commander Barry Wood, Adjutant Ron Runyan, VA&R Director Gary Easterling.

Present were standing Subcommittees: VAVS/VHVS; Chairman Gerald Frank Roche was unable to make phone contact

Heroes to Hometown, Eddie Brown

Legionnaires present, 12.

Is there a quorum? YES

PREVIOUS MINUTES of 15 February 2020 were not read:

Subcommittee reports were given by:
Gerald Dennis, Chairman, VAVS/VHVS and Gary Bordeau, VA&R Committee representative with status of services allowed at VA facilities with respect to COVID-19.

**Motion by Mr. Bordeau, supported by Mr. Licari, "All funds for VAVS/VAHS must be requested by the VAVS/VAHS Committee through Department Headquarters and show full accounting of what funds are being used for. Recites*

recommended, we no longer send funds to any individual without being approved by Department Headquarters."

After discussion, it was recommended by Mr. Bordeau and supported by Mr. Licari to table the motion and let Mr. Dennis and Mr. Bordeau make a recommendation to the VAVS/VAHS Rules of Procedure to present for a vote of the committee on proper accountability of funds to Department Headquarters.

Voice vote to table the motion until next regular scheduled meeting was carried.

Eddie Brown, Chairman, Heroes to Hometown, updated the committee on cash flow the foundation that supplies his funds and how he negotiates discounts for veterans in Michigan.

Chairman Don Howard requested information on how we can better service our veterans with utilizing the Michigan Trust Fund. Gary Easterling would like to a representative from each zone of the VA&R Committee to help with a list of Post, District, Zone contact info to include; Post Number, Phone Number, Address and Email, much the same as an organizational chain of command.

Veterans Employment & Education: No report. Debra Bohanah was appointed as committee chairman. Department Adjutant will provide contact information.

Food Distribution Report from Don Howard, Over 30 tons of non-perishable food in 30 to 35# boxes has been disbursed in Michigan. Mr. Howard is seeking other locations to distribute shelf steady foods.

Post/District Service Officer Training; Tom Sheppard and Gary Easterling will meet in October to finalize training program.

1. A final review of "*SERVICE OFFICERS TRAINING MANUAL*" will be finalized, printed and added to the Department website.
2. Add to the website:
 - a. Training video classes
 - b. Department Veteran Service Officers with their schedules and contact information
 - c. List county that has a veterans service offices with contact info
 - d. A list of the VA&R Committee with city, county and districts they serve within their zone
 - e. A list of forms so a post service officer can have on hand what they need to assist the veteran

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Mr. Licari and supported by Mr. Bordeau that the meeting be adjourned at 11:06 A.M. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULL SUBMITTED

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Don Howard

Chairman

VA&R Committee