

DEPARTMENT VA & R COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

The meeting of the Department VA & R Committee was called to order by Bob Gillette, Chairman in Battle Creek, Michigan, on September 26, 2025. The following people were present:

Members: 6

Guests: 16

Motion to elect John Perry for 1st Vice by Toni Lacari, seconded by Liz Cuddington, motion carried.

Motion to elect Liz Cuddington for Secretary by John Perry, seconded by Ed Jinks, motion carried.

Guest:

Julie Becker Auxiliary VA & R

Leading Candidate for National American Legion Commander Jay Bowen from Colorado

Emily Green Conrad with Oracle

Minutes:

It was moved by Toni Lacari and supported by John Perry that the minutes of the July 11, 2025, meeting of the Department VA & R be approved, motion carried.

Subcommittee:

Home Town to Hero's: Ed Jinks Chairman reported on upcoming year.

VAVS: Gene Nethaway reported on upcoming year.

VE & E: Loraine Rodriguez Chairman reported on upcoming year.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Discussion on reviewing and updating the post service officer manual and possible online training classes to be put on the Michigan Legion website.

Gary Easterling reported that Tripp Cantwell and Joe DiGiovanni, have passed away. Tripp's memorial will be October 2nd, 2025 at the Livonia Post from 2pm to 5pm.

Southgate VSO Office is moving not sure of the new location yet but will post once we have new address.

Saginaw VSO Office did not get a grant from MVAA but the County Commissioners found funds to keep office open.

Hired 2 new employees for the Detroit RO office, 1 is a secretary to help with phones and mail and the other retired from the VA to be a part time service officer.

Grant budget for the Coalition has not been signed yet it needs to be completed in 5 days or grant cannot be disturbed.

Reviewed resolution 25-23 Claims filed by Accredited Service Officer for Veterans in the State of Michigan. It was moved by Toni Lacari and supported by John Perry to send back to author for clarification on the resolve, motion carried.

Reviewed resolution 25-30 Move Reconnect standing committee and Homeless Veterans to VA & R as subcommittees. It was moved by John Perry and supported by Toni Licari to approve the resolution, motion carried.

Good of the Legion

Upper Peninsula had the largest Female turnout for Honor Flight

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before this committee, it was moved by Liz Cuddington and supported by Toni Licarli that the meeting be adjourned at 2:30pm, motion carried.



Bob Gillette

Chairman

VA & R Committee

m/ Benson
z/ overholts
to accept
Pass