

**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
RECONNECT COMMITTEE  
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

**Authorization:**

This committee was authorized in its present form at the Department Executive Committee meeting, April 21, 2001.

**Membership:**

Subject to the Department Commander's discretion, and with the approval of the Department Executive Committee, the Reconnect Committee of the Department of Michigan will normally consist of six (6) regular American Legion members, one (1) Sons of The American Legion member, with vote, and two (2) alternate American Legion members, without vote, unless they are serving in the absence of a regular member. One of the regular American Legion members will serve as Chairman of the committee.

"The term of office of all regular members of Department committees shall be staggered so that the term of one-half of the committee shall expire at the close of the Annual Department Convention each year. Appointments, except when a shorter term shall be necessary to comply with this provision, shall be for a term of two (2) years each." (Article Five (V) Section Four (a) The American Legion, Department of Michigan Constitution and By-Laws, Rev July 20, 1975)

"All committee members shall be appointed and may be removed for cause by the Department Commander with the approval of the Department Executive Committee. The Department Commander shall name the Chairman of each committee to serve until the next Department Convention." (Article V, Section 4 (b) The American Legion, Department of Michigan Constitution and By-Laws, Rev July 20, 1975)

"No Legionnaire may be appointed to serve on more than one regular standing appointive Department committee at any one time." (Article Five (V) Section Four (b) The American Legion, Department of Michigan, Constitution and By-Laws, Rev July 20, 1975)

The Department Commander shall appoint all regular and alternate American Legion members of the committee that originate in the Commander's term. The Commander shall fill all vacancies in the committee that occur during his term.

"Alternate members will be appointed to serve a one year term and will be designated as first and second alternate." (*DEC Action, April 20, 1974*)

At the first meeting of the new term, the Reconnect Committee will elect one of its members to serve as Vice Chairman and one to serve as Secretary during that term of office. The Vice Chairman shall assume all duties of the Chairman in that person's absence

**RECONNECT COMMITTEE – RULES OF PROCEDURE – CONT.:**

**Purpose:**

Inform the citizen soldiers and active duty personnel of the services provided by The American Legion.

Strengthen the bond between the citizen soldiers, active duty personnel and The American Legion.

Inform the citizen soldiers and active duty personnel about The American Legion and Federal programs, benefits and veteran entitlements.

Assist in garnering acceptance and support from local communities for the missions and needs of the citizen soldier and active duty personnel.

Assist in enhancement of quality of life programs.

Oversee and manage the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program as created by the Reconnect Committee. *(amended August 25, 2021)*

Provide The American Legion the opportunity to continue our charge to provide service to our veterans, their families and their communities.

We, The American Legion, are there to fight for veterans' rights and benefits.

**Meetings:**

"All meetings requesting travel expenses from Department funds, or any funds subject to Department control, or raised for any Department program shall be upon the call of the Department Commander to qualify for receipt of said funds in manner and form as provided by the Department Executive Committee and within the limitations as set up by the Finance Committee." *(DEC Action, October 12, 1957)*

All travel and expense vouchers must be approved by the Chairman of the Reconnect Committee before payment is made.

**Meeting Schedule:**

	Member	Chairman
Fall Leadership Conference	One day	Three days
Winter Meeting	One day	Two days
Department Convention	One day	Three days

## **RECONNECT COMMITTEE – RULES OF PROCEDURE – CONT.:**

### **Special Meetings:**

Necessary special meetings may be held at Department Headquarters, via telephone conference, or internet conference capability (provided all members can hear each member during proceedings), with no mileage nor per diem authorized. Lunch may be provided by committee funds with prior approval of the Department Commander. *(Rev 3.12.17)*

### **Per diem and/or mileage:**

Per diem and/or mileage, if any, and only upon the authority of the Department Commander, shall be in accordance with current published Department policy, as recommended by the Department Finance Committee and approved by the Department Executive Committee.

### **Minutes:**

Written minutes of each meeting shall be recorded by the Secretary and shall constitute the Chairman's report to the Department Executive Committee or the delegates to the Department Convention and will be included in the next official proceeding of the meeting, conference or convention, thereby being made a permanent record for retention at the Department office. Minutes of any special meetings, adoption of motions or resolutions approved at any time occurring between Department meetings, conferences or convention shall be incorporated into the next official proceedings. Recommendations and/or resolutions must be presented in proper form to the Department Executive Committee or delegates at the Department Convention.

### **Transacting Business:**

The committee may transact business by mail, telephone, e-mail, and other technologies including, but not limited to, Skype, Facetime, conference calls, and webinar/video chat, provided all members see/hear all votes made. If an e-mail vote is implemented, each response must be forwarded to all members of the Committee. If standard mail, the voting shall be considered closed at the end of seven (7) business days provided a majority of members of the committee have returned to the Chairman their votes by that time, or it shall be considered closed at anytime prior thereto and when all the members have returned their votes. Other technical votes include a telephone conference or web conference provided each member can see and/or hear each other members' votes. In the event one-third (1/3) members of the committee objects in writing, the matter shall not be decided and will be considered as the first order of business at the next regular meeting or special meeting and the Chairman shall notify the committee of the action taken. *(Rev 3.12.17, 6.24.18 Res 18-C-15)*

## **RECONNECT COMMITTEE – RULES OF PROCEDURE – CONT.:**

### **Chairman:**

The Chairman shall call and conduct all meetings of the committee and shall strive to conduct them in an orderly manner to reflect the judgment of the majority of the committee members. The Chairman may also solicit opinions from guests present at the meeting. The Chairman, at the direction of the committee and with concurrence of the Department Commander, may direct specific individuals to attend a particular meeting of the Reconnect Committee.

The Chairman is the key point of contact for receiving, vetting and requesting committee approval for disbursements from the programs managed and overseen by the Reconnect Committee, in accordance with the program guidelines as established by the Reconnect Committee. The Chairman has the authority to oversee and recommend/request funds for TFA that are outside the scope of traditional assistance once the vetting process, as determined by the committee, is completed for the Patriot Fund and the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. The Chairman will have the authority to perform the same tasks on all other programs created by the Reconnect Committee in the future. *(added February 16, 2019)*

The Chairman shall accumulate all information which may be considered pertinent to the committee's areas of responsibility and shall disseminate this information to all members of the committee on a timely basis. With committee approval the Chairman will also disseminate selected information to the Department Commander, the Department Executive Committee or other involved Department Committees, individuals and/ or the Michigan Legionnaire/ Auxiliare publication.

The Chairman may forward results of committee action to the Department Commander, the Department Executive Committee, another permanent Department committee or specific individual(s) as determined by the subject matter and the will of the Reconnect Committee. All results of committee action will be recorded and filed in the minutes of each meeting (see minutes).

An Annual Report is to be written and submitted to the Editor by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

### **Procedure:**

Parliamentary procedure used to conduct meetings of this committee shall be governed by the Department of Michigan, The American Legion Constitution and By-Laws. All questions not covered by the Department of Michigan Constitution and By-Laws will be governed by "Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised."

## **RECONNECT COMMITTEE – RULES OF PROCEDURE – CONT.:**

### **Annual James Schutze Award:**

This award is an annual reconnect Award to be presented annually at the Department Convention. This award is to be presented to the Post and District that provides the highest level of service to Michigan’s veterans, service members, and their families. Nominations are to be submitted to the Reconnect Committee and the award is not to exceed \$100.

### **Quorum:**

A quorum shall exist at any meeting of the Reconnect Committee when a majority thereof shall be present, or shall have replied to mail polling. At no time shall lack of a quorum prevent those present from proceeding with the program but, where there is not a quorum, no vote shall be taken.

### **Amendments:**

These procedures may be amended in content but not in format by a majority of the members of the committee; submitted to the Internal Affairs Committee for review and recommendation; and approved by the Department Executive Committee.

## **HOMELESS VETERANS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Approved:** DEC October 20, 2001, July 6, 2006, June 19, 2009, September 19, 2009, February 19, 2012, March 12, 2017, June 24, 2018, February 16, 2019, August 25, 2021