

**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.

**Per the American Legion Department of Michigan Bylaws (June 2019)**

**Article V Section 1 (Sentence 3): Department Commander** The Commander shall appoint all standing committees, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, except as otherwise provided.

**Article VI, Section 4:** 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.

Members that are on mandated committees (Permanent Time and Place), or serving in an Alternate or Assistant position on the Department Executive Committee, may also serve on an appointive Department committee but not in a Chairmanship, with the exception of the Permanent Time and Place Chairman, who may serve in that role.

No member shall receive per diem and travel pay more than once per call, regardless of the number of committees they serve on."

**Article VI, Section 5:** The term of office of all 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.

**Section 6:** No Legionnaire may be appointed to serve on more than one regular standing appointive Department Committee at any one time.

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"Alternate members will be appointed to serve a one-year term and will be designated as first and second alternate." (DEC 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.

### **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.

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:**

(Per the Department Bylaws) Article VIII, Section 2: Expenses - No Department officer or member of any committee shall be paid or reimbursed from the funds of the Department for any travel or other expense incurred upon Department business, unless a travel order or other suitable order, duly Called by the Department Commander or duly signed by the Department Adjutant, shall accompany the order for payment thereof.

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

### **Meeting Schedule:**

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

### **Special Meetings:**

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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/Personnel 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)*

### **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.

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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."

### **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.

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**Approved:** DEC October 20, 2001, July 6, 2006, June 19, 2009, September 19, 2009, February 19, 2012, March 12, 2017, June 24, 2018, Feb. 16, 2020