

Oct. 3, 2009 Legislative Commission meeting Department Hq, Bloomington, Il.

The meeting opened at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Hank Robards. Chairman Robards appointed Ronald Daum of the 1st Division to take notes.

Members present at the meeting: Hank Robards 5th Division

Ronald Daum 1st Division

Terry Ludwig 3rd Division

Jerry Vogler 4th Division

Jasper Tromp 2nd Division

Chairman Robards asked all members of the Legislative Committee feel free to make any suggestions to him about how to better run the committee.

Visitors to the Legislative committee meeting were Department Commander Bill Flanagan and Sr. Vice Commander Richard Groharing . They talked to the commission and explained the way that the Legislative Commission works.

Chairman Robards gave the commission some info on two bills that Senator Coburn from Oklahoma has placed on hold. These are significant pieces of veteran's legislation in the US Senate: S.252, veteran's health care authorization act of 2009, and S.728, veterans insurance and benefits enhancement act of 2009. Please call Senator Coburn at 202 224 5754 and urge him to lift his 'holds' on both bills.

HB.255 The Riverboat Gambling act to legalize video gaming terminals for "licensed fraternal establishments" has passed both house of the Illinois General assembly, but has not yet been enacted.

The Legislative commission reading the full text of this bill will find that this bill is not going to help Illinois veterans' organization to obtain and operate video gaming terminals. The licensed fees that the state of Illinois wants to charge would not allow the distributor to make any money by placing these gaming terminals in most American Legion post. This bill needs to be amended by the General Assembly.

Sr. Commander Richard Groharing gave the commission a print out from the "veterans news from ranking member Steve Buyer - On September 23, 2009, Ranking member Steve Buyer of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs secured a major victory for veterans in the Energy and Commerce committee when his amendment to protect veterans in the House Health care reform bill H.R. 3200 were accepted by the committee.

"This is an important day for veterans and their families" said Buyer. "The acceptance of my amendments protects them from provisions in the bill that would have unfairly penalized these heroes who have already given so much to this nation."

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am