

VA & R Commission Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 15, 2023

0955hrs – Just prior to the meeting starting, Department Commander Payton & Department Senior Vice Commander Buske addressed our Committee. They discussed that Department Service Officer Wayne Macjek has returned from retirement to help with the VARO Chicago Office on a part-time basis and that “Gee Gee” is still working full-time. Also, they discussed that the Department Adjutant Marty Conaster is still interviewing candidates for open positions. Many have been interviewed, but none have been selected yet. They departed our area at approximately 1005hrs.

1006hrs – Meeting was opened by Rodger Bennett (4th Division)

Attending – All five Division Representatives were present. **Div. 1** – Berney Stegmuller, **Div. 2** – A.C. “Dave” Davis, **Div. 3** – Tom Nebgen, **Div. 4** – Rodger Bennett, and **Div. 5** – Stephen Wylie.

R. Bennett – Discussed the recent Washington D.C. Trip. Both Rodger and Bernie were at the Conference. Rodger said it was the best he had been to in several years. He said it was extremely informative. He did, however, say, that the information received from the Congressional group had not changed much. He also stated that the VA backlog on appeals had been “attacked” hard and was greatly reduced but, unfortunately, the newer claims were coming in too fast to handle promptly. Hopefully, VA can catch up soon.

R. Bennett – Also discussed that our Committee will have three meetings again next year – October 2023, April 2024, and the day prior to the Department Convention. Rodger also mentioned that we may not be able to have the Department Convention Meeting at the same restaurant this year because he is not certain if that restaurant will even be in business much longer. If it is still operational, we will have it at the Hotel restaurant, as always. If it is not operational, he will make reservations at a different restaurant and let us know.

R. Bennett – Presented the 2023-2024 VA & R Budget Request for approval. (Same as Last Year) Motioned (Berney), Seconded “Dave”, and passed unanimously.

R. Bennett - Officially adjourned the meeting at 1051hrs.

A.C. “Dave” Davis, Temporary Secretary