

**Board of Veterans Services
Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2010**

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) was held on Thursday, September 30, 2010 at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 Belvidere Street, Richmond.

Members Present

- George Corbett (for the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations)
- Paul Galanti
- William G. Haneke
- Jack Hilgers (for the Veterans Services Foundation)
- Thad Jones
- Donald Kaiserman
- Kate Kohler
- George Melnyk
- Toddy Puller
- Al Sample
- Vivian Watts

Members Absent

- John Anderson
- Mark Cole
- Kirk Cox
- John Edwards
- Sandra Love
- Samuel Metters
- J. W. Peyton Robertson
- Max Taylor

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Cynthia Norwood, Office of the Attorney General
- Anne Atkins, Department of Veterans Services
- Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services
- Brian Pickral, Department of Veterans Services
- Judith Reid, Department of Veterans Services
- Danielle Weaver, Department of Veterans Services
- Cathy Wilson, Department of Veterans Services
- Jon Hatfield, Virginia War Memorial
- Sam Wilder, for the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
- Kate Morosoff, Senator Puller's Aide
- Carol Rauschberg, Department of Human Resources Management

Materials Distributed

- Agenda
- Department of Veterans Services Report
- Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Report
- JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives
- Veterans Services Foundation Report
- Board of Veterans Services Looking and Moving Forward

Call to Order

Chairman Thad Jones called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. The members and guests recited the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Roll Call and Quorum Determination

The Roll Call was called with each member giving a brief bio. With 10 of 19 members present, a quorum was determined. Mr. George Melnyk arrived later, bringing the number of members present to 11.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Jones asked the board for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Delegate Vivian Watts made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Al Sample. The motion carried unanimously. See *Attachment 1*.

Approval of May 12, 2010 minutes

Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the May 12, 2010 meeting, which had been sent to the Board members by e-mail. Senator Toddy Puller made a **motion, seconded** by Commissioner Paul Galanti, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2010 meeting as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously.

Department of Veterans Services Report

Commissioner Galanti discussed the recent orientation for the new Board members, which included visits to DVS facilities. Commissioner Galanti said he would like to take all of the Board members on a similar tour to further their knowledge of DVS operations. He noted that DVS staff does everything within their power to help veterans obtain the benefits to which they are entitled, and that DVS will continue to help make Virginia the #1 Veteran Friendly State.

Commissioner Galanti noted that the DVS report was included in the agenda packet for the members to review (see *Attachment 2*).

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations Report

JLC member George Corbett, representing JLC Chair Jenny Holbert, delivered the JLC report (see *Attachment 3*). Mr. Corbett said that the JLC met on July 21 and selected the six legislative objectives the JLC will present to the Governor and General Assembly for the 2011 session (see *Attachment 4*). He noted that the JLC is working on a campaign to get out the information on the proposed constitutional amendment for real estate tax exemption for 100% service-connected

disabled veterans, which will be on the ballot in November.

Mr. Sam Wilder addressed the Board on the JLC's #1 2011 Legislative Objective, an "Alternate Dedicated Revenue Sources for Veterans Programs." The position paper is included in the agenda packet (see attachment 5). Mr. Wilder said that Senator Charles Colgan has agreed to patron the bill for the Senate and Delegate L. Scott Lingamfelter agreed to patron the bill in the House. Mr. Wilder noted that passing of this objective will help make Virginia the #1 Veteran Friendly State, in accordance with Governor McDonnell's goal and legislation passed by the 2010 General Assembly. Mr. Wilder said that this objective would not take away from other programs that are already in place. He added that the JLC is scheduled to meet with the Governor on October 20th to review the JLC objectives, and that afterwards the JLC would meet with representatives of the Virginia Lottery and the Virginia Education Association. Mr. Don Kaiserman stated that a lot of research has been done on this objective, and that several other states have this program in place and are receiving millions of dollars to help support their veterans programs.

Mr. Corbett reviewed the other five legislative objectives (see Attachments 6 - 10). He said that the next JLC meeting will be October 21. Mr. Corbett stated that the JLC would like for the BVS to support the JLC on these six objectives.

Chairman Jones thanked the members of the JLC for explaining the six objectives and complimented them on a great presentation.

Mr. Kaiserman announced that the Richmond Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (RAC/MOAA) hosted a legislative forum for Richmond-area General Assembly members earlier this morning. He noted that several General Assembly members attended and that the presentations of the JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives were well received.

Chairman Jones asked for a motion for BVS to fully support DVS and the JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives. Mr. Kaiserman made said **motion, seconded** by Commissioner Galanti. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. George Melnyk joined the board meeting at 10:30 am. He introduced himself, gave a brief bio, and said he is honored to be a part of this organization.

Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees Chairman's Report

Mr. Jack Hilgers, representing Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Chairman David Richardson, delivered the report for the VSF (see Attachment 11). Mr. Hilgers stated that VSF donations have declined since last year. He noted that the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) obtained a grant for \$300,000 that the program will receive over the next three years. He added that the VWWP on-line donation system is working very well. Mr. Hilgers stated that the VSF has three new members, and that the next VSF meeting is scheduled for November 3. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Hilgers to explain how the on-line donation program is doing. Mr. Hilgers explained that the program is not receiving the amount of donations expected, which is some what due to the economy. He said that larger corporations have also pulled back in their donations.

Board of Veterans Services FY11 Operating Plan and Principles

Chairman Jones reviewed the BVS FY11 Operating Plan and Principles. He stated that we are looking at many changes and he wants this Board to be more proactive. Chairman Jones reviewed the BVS committee structure, which will be comprised of four committees: Benefits, Cemeteries, Care Centers and Bylaws. He said that the Benefits Committee will have the most members, allowing the formation of eight subcommittees. He said that the Care Centers and Cemeteries committees will have two Board members each, and that committee assignments will be made at a later date. Chairman Jones said that he would like each Board member to make their assignments “*their own.*”

Chairman Jones explained to the new Board members that they should contact Director of Communications Anne Atkins to be added to the DVS listserve. He said that Ms. Atkins forwards announcements and news releases in reference to DVS through this program. Ms. Atkins added that Board members can sign up for the listserve and view other information on the DVS website.

Chairman Jones said that the BVS Bylaws were created in 2003, and that he would like the Bylaws Committee to really look at the Bylaws and see if they need to be updated. Mr. Sample stated that the Bylaws were reviewed about 3 years ago and some changes were made at that time.

Chairman Jones called for a break at 11:00 am. During this recess the tape was changed. Chairman Jones called the meeting back to order at 11:10 am.

Mr. Kaiserman pointed out that bumper stickers, which state “Vote Yes! Property Tax Relief for 100% Disabled Veterans” are available for the Board members in support of the constitutional amendment that will be on the ballot November 2nd.

Chairman Jones recognized Senior Assistant Attorney General Cindy Norwood, who introduced herself and gave a brief bio. She said she has been assigned by the Attorney General’s Office to represent DVS and its Boards. Ms. Norwood said she had also been appointed to be the AG representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council.

Chairman Jones briefly discussed a report he saw on the news that morning in reference to a study that was held for the VWWP. Ms. Wilson explained the report and said that there is a link to this report on the VWWP website. She added that the report was generated by the Virginia Tech School of Government, which surveyed 2,000 Virginia veterans by phone. The questions covered a range of topics, including employment, PTSD, Substance Abuse, and Domestic Violence. She noted that VWWP also held several focus groups in different areas of Virginia for veterans and service providers. Ms. Wilson stated that they found gaps in services to veterans, and that Southwest Virginia seems to have the most need for services.

Ms. Wilson said that DVS/VWWP has partnered with the Virginia Department of Health (the State’s Office of Rural Health) and received notification of a grant award of \$296,667 from HRSA for *The Flex Rural Veterans Health Access Program*. The three-year grant will provide approximately \$300,000 per year to expand VWWP throughout Southwestern Virginia, in partnership with the rural health networks and primary care partners. Commissioner Galanti complimented Ms. Wilson on the wonderful job she is doing.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Senator Puller reported that the Nominating Committee had received one nomination for Chairman and one nomination for Vice Chairman. Senator Puller announced that Chairman Jones was nominated for Chairman and Mr. Bill Haneke was nominated for Vice Chairman. Senator Puller said that they have reviewed the candidate's qualifications and experience and found that both are highly qualified.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Senator Puller made a **motion** to nominate Mr. Jones for Chairman and Mr. Haneke for Vice Chairman. Mr. Kaiserman **seconded** the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Jones was nominated as Chairman and Mr. Haneke as Vice Chairman.

Chairman Jones asked if there are any other nominations from the floor. Hearing no other nominations, Chairman Jones asked for a motion to accept the nominations. Ms. Kate Kohler **moved** to accept the nominations and Delegate Watts **seconded** the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Both Chairman Jones and Vice Chairman Haneke graciously accepted their respective positions.

Open Public Comment and Roundtable Discussion

There was no public comment.

Delegate Watts addressed the Board on her insight with the legislation process. She said she has observed two types of politics, the politics in the General Assembly and the politics in the public arena. She suggested that as the JLC and BVS move forward with the General Assembly on the lottery, that we may encounter the same situation that the 100% disability legislation encountered over the last two years. She said she would like to look very closely at the services in Southwest Virginia. She stated that we do not want to raise any concerns and that we only want to enhance services to our veterans.

Prepare for Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Board meeting will be January 10, 2011 at a location to be announced. The 2011 General Assembly convenes January 12, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

Board of Veterans Services

**Virginia War Memorial
621 S. Belvidere Street
Richmond
September 30, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- I. Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call and Introduction of Members, Quorum Determination, Approval of Agenda, and Introduction of DVS Staff and Guests (10:00-10:15)
- II. Approval of May 12, 2010 Meeting Minutes (10:15-10:20)
- III. Department of Veterans Services Report (10:20-10:40) – *Paul Galanti*
- IV. Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations Chair’s Report (10:40-10:55) – *Jenny Holbert*
- V. Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees Chairman’s Report (10:55-11:05) – *David Richardson*
- Break (11:05 – 11:10)
- VI. Board of Veterans Services FY11 Operating Plan and Principles (11:10-11:40)
- VII. Report of the Nominating Committee – *Al Sample and Toddy Puller* (11:40-11:45)
- VIII. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman (11:45-11:50)
- IX. Public Comment (11:50-11:55)
- X. Prepare for Next Meeting (11:55-12:00)
- XI. Adjourn (12:00)

ATTACHMENT 2

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
REPORT TO
BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES
September 30, 2010**

This continues to be a busy time for the Department, and I'd like to highlight some of things we're doing to serve Virginia's veterans:

Education – the State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training (SAA), under the leadership of Annie Walker, just seems to get busier every day. With a staff of just seven, their efforts impact the lives of almost 30,000 veterans and dependents:

- Access to education is critical, and the SAA works hard to ensure that our veterans and their dependents can study at a wide variety of educational institutions, from higher education to technical training school. At present, there are 964 institutions and training establishments approved and 37 pending approval
- During FFY 2010, SAA staff conducted 472-supervisory visits; 68-outreach activities and 16-liaison activities
- As of August 2010 there were 28,256 veterans and their dependents were enrolled in Virginia's schools
- During FFY 2009, Virginia veterans received over \$130 million in educational benefits

Benefit Services – there's an old expression that says "if you keep doing more with less, pretty soon you can do everything with nothing." We're quickly reaching that point with our Benefit Services section. John Anderson and his staff do yeoman work, but they need our help.

- We're very pleased to have the support of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) in advocating for the resources we need to serve Virginia's veterans.
- Our Benefit Services HQ is co-located with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Regional Office (VARO) in Roanoke. Renovations to the VARO beginning in May 2011 will mean that the VARO will be split among 4 locations in the Roanoke area for 2-3 years. This means that our Benefit Services HQ office in Roanoke will also be relocated, which will impact both VARO and DVS operations.
- FY10 vs. FY09 services:

	FY10	FY09	Change
Itinerant Contacts	7,672	7,661	0.14%
Direct Field Office Contacts	55,780	46,672	19.51%
Telephone/email Contacts	72,404	82,918	-
Claims Filed with USDVA	25,801	23,174	11.34%
Claims Approved by	11,233	9,365	19.95%

USDVA			
Retro Claim Awards	\$31,917,058	\$28,411,316	12.34%

Cemetery Services – Like the Benefit Services Section, our Cemetery Services Section continues to provide magnificent services to our veterans without the proper resources to do so. Again, we’re thankful to have the support of the JLC in advocating for more resources to help us better serve our veterans. Just a few highlights of our cemetery operations include:

- Cemeteries Director Dan Kemano hopes to open memorial woods walkway areas in all three cemeteries in the future. The walkways will give our veterans service organizations the opportunity to place granite “feature placements” such as those found in other state and national veterans cemeteries.
- The flag pole lighting project at the Amelia Cemetery is complete, and the flags are now flown 24/7. The cost of the project was \$3,569 dollars, with initial funding provided by the Veterans Services Foundation. This funding will be repaid by donations from numerous American Legion Posts within a 75 mile radius of the cemetery. The donations total \$2,300 to date.
- The USDVA completed its Triennial Inspection/Review of operations at the Horton Cemetery in September. Unofficial results from the inspection show it went very well.
- Work at the Dublin Cemetery is progressing rapidly, and construction is expected to be complete and the cemetery turned over to DVS in mid-January 2011.
 - We hope to begin operations in January, with a formal Grand Opening Ceremony in April.
 - If resources permit, we hope to begin training the Grounds Manager and the Office Manager at the Suffolk Cemetery by early November. The third full-time position (a Grounds Worker) will be hired in early January.

Care Center Services – I can’t say enough good things about our care centers. Sandra Ranicki, Bill Van Thiel, and their staffs continue to make us proud with all that do for their residents. The care centers are really a gem. Just a few of the many things happening at the care centers include:

- The roof replacement at the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) is approximately 70% complete.
- The replacement of the Nurse Call System at VVCC will be complete within 2 weeks.
- The addition to the Rehab and Activities areas at VVCC is in progress.
- New resident assessment regulations become effective October 1, 2010. While we don’t yet know the full impact of the new regulations, we expect them to be very paper-work intensive
- A number of new regulations are part of the health care reform legislation. Again, we don’t yet know the full impact.

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program – The VWWP is the model of service to wounded warriors at the state level, and it’s all due to the efforts of Cathy Wilson and the VWWP team:

- DVS/VWWP has partnered with the Virginia Department of Health (the State’s Office of Rural Health) and received notification of a grant award of \$296,667 from HRSA for *The Flex Rural Veterans Health Access Program*. The three-year grant would provide

approximately \$300,000 per year to expand VWWP throughout Southwestern Virginia, in partnership with the rural health networks and primary care partners. These grants were targeted to states with significant veterans populations and focus on coordinating mental health and primary care through innovative technologies such as telemedicine and telepsychiatry. Virginia is one of only three states funded.

- The VWWP, in partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), a lead agency for the Commonwealth Consortium for Mental Health and Criminal Justice Transformation (Consortium), was awarded a \$71,200 grant in federal funds from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services for the development and implementation of a targeted educational program for judges, court personnel, and other criminal justice partners across the state. The training will focus on the unique characteristics, symptoms and options for addressing the needs of active duty military personnel, Guardsmen, Reservists, and veterans affected by the spectrum of combat stress, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and the veterans who are at risk for involvement or involved in the criminal justice system.
- The VWWP will present a half day seminar on October 1st in Richmond and October 5th in Roanoke on combat- related PTSD. The *Introduction to PTSD* presentation is the foundation upon which more training will be built so that licensed mental health providers attending these and subsequent presentations will gain a better understanding of the unique mental health treatment needs of returning combat veterans. Partnering with the Virginia Department of Health Professions, the training announcements have been distributed to the Boards of counseling, psychology and social work.

ATTACHMENT 3

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT TO BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES September 30, 2010

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) met on July 21, 2010.

Presentations were made on:

- The proposed constitutional amendment (to be voted on at the November 2, 2010 election) on a real estate tax exemption for 100% service-connected disabled veterans and unremarried surviving spouses
- The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study on homeless veterans in Virginia
- DVS Cemetery Services

The JLC received reports from the Board of Veterans Services, the Veterans Services Foundation, the Department of Veterans Services, the JLC representative to the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council, the JLC representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council, and the Virginia War Memorial.

Elections were held for new officers. Jenny M. Holbert was elected Chair for 2010-2011, while Donald B. Kaiserman was elected Vice Chair.

The JLC adopted six recommendations for consideration by the Governor and General Assembly in 2011. The prioritized recommendations are:

1. Alternate Dedicated Revenue Sources for Veterans Programs
2. DVS Benefit Services Program
3. State Veterans Cemeteries
4. Special Judicial Procedures for Veterans and Military Service Members
5. Virginia War Memorial
6. In-state Tuition for Veterans

Position papers supporting each recommendation are attached.

The JLC meets next on Thursday, October 21. Scheduled presentations include

- Honor Flight Historic Triangle
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center
- DVS Veterans Care Centers
- Virginia Wounded Warrior Program AmeriCorps Grant Proposal

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny M. Holbert
Chair

ATTACHMENT 4

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS 2011 LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

The following legislative objectives were adopted by the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) on July 21, 2010. These are the prioritized objectives of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations represented on the JLC.

1. **Alternate Dedicated Revenue Sources for Veterans Programs.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly provide some of the resources required to implement the Compact with Virginia's Veterans by creating alternate dedicated revenue sources for veterans programs.
2. **DVS Benefit Services Program.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly improve services to Virginia veterans by restoring staffing for the DVS Benefits Services Program. An additional \$402,400 (GF) per fiscal year is needed.
3. **State Veterans Cemeteries.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly ensure that state veterans cemeteries operate in a safe, efficient manner and meet national shrine standards by filling vacant positions, replacing worn out equipment, and purchasing necessary supplies. An additional \$387,100 (GF) per fiscal year is needed.
4. **Special Judicial Procedures for Veterans and Military Service Members.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly help veterans and military service members who have been charged with a crime by allowing localities to establish special judicial procedures. These procedures would emphasize use of available treatment options as an alternative to incarceration and would benefit veterans, military service members, and the community.
5. **Virginia War Memorial.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly ensure Virginians who have given their lives in battle, as well as all military veterans, are honored by optimizing the operations, maintenance, and program delivery at the Virginia War Memorial and its new Paul & Phyllis Galanti Education Center. An additional \$255,000 (GF) per fiscal year is needed.
6. **In-state Tuition for Veterans.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly increase educational opportunities for recently-discharged veterans by waiving the one-year residency requirement needed to qualify for in-state tuition rates, provided all other domiciliary requirements are met.

ATTACHMENT 5

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS 2011 POSITION PAPER

Alternate Dedicated Revenue Sources for Veterans Programs

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Provide some of the resources required to implement the Compact with Virginia's Veterans by creating alternate dedicated revenue sources for veterans programs.

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - The cost of taking care of our veterans has increased exponentially in the past decade. However, the Department of Veterans Services' budget has been cut by \$1.4 million over the last two years and several programs currently are severely underfunded.
 - Over the next 10 years the cost of veterans programs (e.g. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program needs, cemetery maintenance, care center operations, benefits services) will continue to increase.
 - A 2010 JLARC study recommended a multi-pronged approach to reduce and prevent veteran homelessness in Virginia. Some of the recommended strategies, especially those that will make the greatest difference in reducing chronic homelessness, will require significant funding – as much as \$3-10 million. JLARC recommended that the General Assembly consider designating a revenue source to reduce veteran homelessness.
 - Legislation enacted in 2010 would establish a Compact with Virginia's Veterans, with a goal of making Virginia America's most veteran-friendly state. New programs and services implemented under the Compact for veterans and their families (e.g. homeless assistance, employment, education, etc.) will require additional resources.

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - Veterans' service programs need a major, non-general fund "funding stream." It must be large enough to have a multi-million dollar impact on needed veterans programs that would otherwise require general fund monies or go unfunded. Funds need to be non-reverting and supplement, not replace, DVS budgeted monies.
 - Certain sources of alternative funding should be sought (e.g. grants and donations), but they are normally inadequate and not sustainable. Other possible sources may include certain types of vehicle registration or other fees; but many view them as a tax increase. Lotteries have been proven to provide a more suitable and sustainable source of revenue.
 - Seven states (Texas, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Tennessee, West Virginia, and New Jersey) have a dedicated revenue stream for veterans programs through the state lottery:
 - Texas received over \$6 million in the first 9 months of operation (\$9 million expected for the FY), Kansas - \$4 million, Illinois - \$7 million; Iowa – almost \$3 million;
 - These states have been successful in designing a lottery that does not detract from funds dedicated to education or other purposes;
 - Rather than cut into a share of the "pie", they have been able to "grow the pie."
 - The proceeds from the Virginia lottery are dedicated to education and so protected by the state constitution. However, some proceeds can go to other uses if approved by 4/5 of the members of the General Assembly.

- No other group in America has been called on to bear the burdens and to make the sacrifices that our veterans have. Therefore, they alone deserve this tangible token of Virginia's appreciation.

4. **RECOMMENDATION**: That the General Assembly and the Governor approve the establishment of a veterans' lottery as part of the Compact with Virginia's Veterans.

ATTACHMENT 6

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS 2011 POSITION PAPER

Restore Staffing for DVS Benefit Services Program

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To improve services to Virginia veterans by restoring staffing for the DVS Benefits Services Program.

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - The Code of Virginia sets a ratio of 1 Veterans Claims Representative for every 26,212 veterans residing in the Commonwealth.
 - Support and training personnel are also needed in order for the Veterans Claims Representatives to effectively assist Virginia's veterans and eligible dependents.
 - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 822,312 veterans resided in the Commonwealth in September 2010, meaning that the Commonwealth should have 31.4 Veterans Claims Representatives.
 - In the past two years, seven mission essential positions were lost to budget cuts, reducing the number of Veterans Claims Representatives from 32 to 28. These four positions, as well as two support positions and one training position, remain unfilled due to budget limitations.
 - §2.2-2004.10 states in part that the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services has the duty to "... *recommend to the Governor ... and the General Assembly any corrective measures, policies, procedures, plans, and programs to make service to Virginia-domiciled veterans and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents as efficient and effective as practicable.*"
 - §2.2-2004.17 further states that the Commissioner shall "*Establish and implement a compact with Virginia's veterans, which shall have a goal of making Virginia America's most veteran-friendly state.*"

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - The DVS should, at a minimum, be capable of providing the level of support required by the Code of Virginia. This support includes Veterans Claims Representatives, support staff, training staff, facilities, and equipment.
 - Four Veterans Claims Representative positions, two support positions, and one training position are currently vacant because of the budget cuts.
 - Compensation (\$236,714) and Benefits (\$120,689) for the seven vacant positions total \$357,403.
 - FFE to open two new offices is estimated to cost \$15,000.
 - Rent for the new offices is estimated to total \$30,000 annually.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly amend the current biennial budget by appropriating \$402,400 for FY 2012 to restore DVS Benefit Services Staffing.

ATTACHMENT 7

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS 2011 POSITION PAPER State Veterans Cemeteries

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To ensure that state veterans cemeteries operate in a safe, efficient manner and meet national shrine standards by filling vacant positions, replacing worn out equipment, and purchasing necessary supplies.

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - Funding for the state veterans cemeteries in the past has not kept up with their growth in burial numbers and gravesite/headstone maintenance requirements. That load is expected to increase as the projected number of veterans aged 65 and older increases from 247,173 from 2009 to more than 295,000 by 2017 and federal veterans' cemeteries increasingly are not accepting new burials.
 - The cemetery total annual operating budget is about \$811,000, which has not increased over the past several years. These funds came primarily from two sources: approximately two thirds is state general funds (GF), about one third is from non-general fund (NGF) veterans burial plot allowances received from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (\$300 for each veterans burial).
 - The cemeteries largest single operating expense is employees pay and benefits. However, three positions are vacant and need to be filled.
 - Operational equipment replacement funding is needed for 12 year old and more recently obtained equipment that is worn out or starting to wear out.
 - Directional signage and grounds supplies (grass seed, fertilizer, etc.) are needed to maintain the cemeteries at National Shrine Standards and as the number of burials increase, the need for supplies increase.

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - Funding is required for two authorized unfilled employee positions at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk) and one unfilled position at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia). Cost: GF \$101,500 (FY12 and ongoing).
 - Funding is required to make up shortfall in operating budget for Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Dublin). Cost: GF \$85,000 and one additional position (FY12 and ongoing).
 - Funding is required for 12 year old equipment replacement at Amelia and equipment wearing out at Suffolk. Cost: GF \$60,000 and \$20,000 respectively (FY12 and ongoing to a lesser degree).
 - Funding is required for installation of road/highway directional signage posting in both directions on one major interstate, two roadways and four ramps at Dublin. Suffolk and Amelia need signage upgrading. Cost: GF \$32,000, \$26,000, and \$13,000 respectively (FY12).
 - Funding is required for grass seed/fertilizer. Cost: GF \$16,000 (FY12 and ongoing).
 - Funding is required for an employee overtime fund to have an employee available in each cemetery on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays throughout the year to assist families with

locating grave sites, assist with the placement of flowers, handling cemetery flags. It would include having full staff available to support holiday recognition events. Cost: \$33,600 (FY2012 and ongoing).

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly provide additional funding of \$387,100 in FY12 to operate Virginia's Veterans Cemeteries.

ATTACHMENT 8

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS 2011 POSITION PAPER

Special Judicial Procedures for Veterans and Military Service Members

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To help veterans and military service members who have been charged with a crime by allowing localities to establish special judicial procedures. These procedures would emphasize use of available treatment options as an alternative to incarceration and would benefit veterans, military service members, and the community.

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - Military service entails high costs to service members and their families. In addition to the risk of death or physical injury, service members, especially those in combat, face situations that place them under extreme mental stress.
 - Physical injury or combat can lead to post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, alcohol or substance abuse, homelessness, unemployment, and strained relationships in the home and in the community. Some of these conditions may not manifest themselves for months or even years after a service member has returned from a combat zone or after a veteran has left military service.
 - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) – severe manifestations of mental illness and head or brain injury, respectively – have been called the “signature injuries” of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also affect veterans and military members from all periods of service.
 - Mental illness and injury arising can create conditions that bring veterans and military service members in contact with the judicial system.

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - Unique resources and treatment options are available through federal, state, local, and private agencies, providing effective alternatives to incarceration.
 - Allowing communities to treat some veterans and military service members, rather than incarcerate them, would help them receive the unique care they need to recover from their unique injuries. It would also give them a second chance to resume their honorable place in our society and not be a burden to the community. The veteran or military service member, his/her family, and society will benefit.
 - Experience in other states has proven that veterans and military service members respond very favorably to judicial procedures where they feel respected and understood for their unique circumstances and needs.
 - Based on recommendations from General Assembly members, the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program has implemented an education program for judges, lawyers, and law enforcement officials. While this is a good start, special judicial procedures are still needed to ensure veterans and military service members receive the help they need to resume an honored place in our society.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** The JLC recommends that the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation that would authorize (but not require) localities to establish special judicial

procedures for veterans and military service members.

ATTACHMENT 9

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS 2011 POSITION PAPER Virginia War Memorial

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To ensure Virginians who have given their lives in battle, as well as all military veterans, are honored by optimizing the operations, maintenance, and program delivery at the Virginia War Memorial and its new Paul & Phyllis Galanti Education Center.

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - The Virginia War Memorial (VWM) is a unique, highly visual “showcase” for Virginia, possessing national recognition as an impressive shrine to those who served in defense of our freedom. This makes it unique from many other state facilities in its operating, maintenance, and program delivery expenses.
 - The VWM is situated on over four acres, having significant lawn and related landscaping maintenance requirements. Other high maintenance-related features at the VWM include: a large reflecting pool, an eternal flame, ten flag poles, the Memory statue, an impressive 32-foot high glass and stone “Wall of Honor” engraved with over 17,000 names of Virginians who died in defense of our nation, and the new Education Center. The Memorial and its grounds require special attention to their appearance befitting such a shrine.
 - The opening of new Education Center will allow the VWM to play a major education role for veterans, teachers and students, out of state visitors, and all Virginians. New educational initiatives and programs will help visitors develop the leadership, values, and sense of responsibility needed in America’s citizens.
 - During the year, the VWM hosts a number of patriotic programs and an array of interesting speakers. The VWM also serves as a meeting place and spiritual home for Virginia’s veterans service organizations, and is a focus of activity, memory, and honor for the entire Commonwealth.
 - The highly visible programs and new Education Center place added service-delivery and maintenance demands on Virginia’s nationally-recognized VWM.

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - It is essential to properly maintain the VWM’s operations and appearance and adequate funding to continue its role of serving Virginians, veterans and their families, students, and other national/international visitors in the image desired by the Commonwealth and its citizens.
 - Increased funding of \$122,000 is needed for operations and maintenance. Education and special events for the new Education Center require increased funding of \$133,000.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and the General Assembly provide an additional \$255,000 (GF) per fiscal year for the operation, maintenance, essential appearance needs, and education programs of the Virginia War Memorial.

ATTACHMENT 10

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS 2011 POSITION PAPER In-State Tuition for Veterans

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To increase educational opportunity for recently-discharged veterans by waiving the one-year residency requirement needed to qualify for in-state tuition, provided all other domiciliary requirements are met.

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - The Code of Virginia, § 23-7.4, sets a one-year residency requirement and other domiciliary requirements in order to qualify for in-state tuition rates.
 - Provided all other conditions for establishing domicile are met, an exemption to the one-year residency requirement is available for:
 - Active duty military personnel;
 - Retired military personnel residing in the Commonwealth at the time of their retirement;
 - Dependent spouse or children.
 - Dependents of active duty, or of Guardsmen and Reservists on active duty, can continue to attend at in-state tuition rates, even if the parent is transferred.
 - 11,864 veterans are projected to leave the military in the year ending September 30, 2010 (source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).
 - The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill gives veterans a great incentive to earn a college degree. The Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay:
 - Tuition & fees directly to the school not to exceed the maximum in-state tuition & fees at a public Institution of Higher Learning;
 - A monthly housing allowance;
 - An annual books & supplies stipend of up to \$1,000.

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - Waiving the one-year residency requirement for veterans would allow veterans to attend a Virginia public college or university at the in-state tuition rate.
 - This in turn would encourage service men and women who separate from the active duty military, the Guard, or the Reserve, to attend a public college or university in Virginia upon separation, instead of seeking educational opportunities out of state or delaying entry into a program of higher education until Virginia residency is established.
 - If the veteran attends a Virginia college or university, he or she is more likely to remain in the Commonwealth after graduation, enhancing the economy of the Commonwealth.
 - Waiving the one-year residency requirement for veterans will help make Virginia “the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.”

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly grant veterans an exemption to the one-year residency requirement for in-state tuition, provided all other domiciliary requirements are met.

ATTACHMENT 11

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Board of Veterans Services September 30, 2010

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on August 4, 2010. A quorum was present. The following actions were taken.

- (1) Received Board of Veterans Services Chairman's, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Chairman's, and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Commissioner's Reports;
- (2) Received Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) Executive Director's Update;
- (3) Received Cemeteries Director's Report;
- (4) Received Standing Committee Reports;
- (5) Reviewed Foundation fundraising conducted to date during FY10;
- (6) Approved VSF FY10 4th Quarter Financial Report, FY11 budget adjustment from DVS;
- (7) Approved proposals for FY11 Goals and Objectives;
- (8) Appointed David H. Holt as Chair of the Development Committee;
- (9) Appointed Robert A Archer as a Development Committee Advisor.

The Finance Committee met on July 28, 2010 and the Development Committee on August 4, 2010. The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting are posted on the Commonwealth Calendar as are the VSF Development Committee minutes and those of the full VSF board

The Foundation raised over \$91,500, of which over \$79,000 is for VWWP during FY10. This is about \$22,000 short of its fundraising during FY09, which may be a reflection of the economy.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2010. It will be held at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the 1st Quarter FY11 Fund Statement; (2) review VSF FY11 fundraising program; and (3) refinement of FY11 Goals and Objectives. There will be Finance and Development Committee meetings before the next Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David Richardson
VSF Chairman