

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 22, 2016**

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on April 22, 2016, at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

**Members Present**

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Rick Oertel, American Legion
- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Robert Sempek, Association of the United States Army
- Curtis Jennings, Disabled American Veterans
- Tim Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- Robert Herbert, Legion of Valor
- John Clickener, Marine Corps League
- Stuart Williams, Military Officers Association of America
- William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars
- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Jon Ostrowski, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Raymond Kenney, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- David Sitler, Reserve Officers Association
- Dan Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Robert Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Adam Provost, Virginia National Guard Association
- Don Kaiserman, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Brad Antle, Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation
- Carrie Ann Alford, Policy Director, Department of Veterans Services, representing Commissioner John L. Newby II

**Members Absent**

- William Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association
- Jim Cuthbertson, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Perry Taylor, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Charles Montgomery, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association

**Alternates Present (representing their VSO)**

- Abe Zino, Fleet Reserve Association
- Mark Atchison, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Dan Karnes, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council

**Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)**

- Tom Stephen, Association of the United States Army
- Jim Barrett, Marine Corps League
- Vic Pena, Military Officers Association of America
- Robert Barnette, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association

### **Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present**

- Delegate Rich Anderson
- Leslie Frazier, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Glendalynn Glover, DVS
- Jack Hilgers, DVS
- Brandi Jancaitis, DVS
- Betty Ann Liddell, DVS
- Brian Pickral, DVS
- Christina Barrille, Department of Military Affairs

### **Others Present**

- Bill Whitt, Fleet Reserve Association

### **Items included in the Agenda Packet**

#### Agenda

Copy of Letter from JLC Chairman Barton to Mrs. Prendergast

2016 Roster of Membership

December 18, 2015 meeting minutes (Agenda Item IV)

January 14, 2016 Conference minutes (Agenda Item IV)

Reports (Agenda Item VI)

- Board of Veterans Services
- Veterans Services Foundation

Report from DVS on 2016 General Assembly Session & JLC Initiatives (Agenda Item VII)

- Final JLC 2016 Initiatives Matrix

New Business (Agenda Item VIII)

- 2016 Work Plan
- JLC Constitution (for review)
- JLC Bylaws (for review)

### **Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation & Thoughts**

Chairman Harold “Bart” Barton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain L. T. “Tim” Whitmore delivered an opening prayer. Remarks were also made about Marine Corps League member John Prendergast, who passed away in February, and Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Director Brandi Jancaitis, who is moving to Colorado.

### **Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, Approval of the Agenda, and Introduction of Guests**

The roll was called, and 21 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented. A quorum was determined. Mr. Don Kaiserman, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS); Mr. Brad Antle, the Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF); and DVS Policy Director Carrie Ann Alford, representing Commissioner John L. Newby II were recorded as present.

The meeting agenda is included as *Attachment 1*.

Chairman Barton asked Ms. Alford to introduce the guests. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Barton welcomed them to the meeting.

#### **Approve December 18, 2015 and January 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Stu Williams, to approve both the minutes of the December 18, 2015 meeting as drafted, and the minutes of the January 14, 2016 JLC conference as drafted. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Chairman Barton then diverted from the printed agenda to thank VVFS Director Brandi Jancaitis for all her hard work on behalf of Virginia's veterans. He invited her to say a few words to the JLC, as this was her last meeting before moving.

Ms. Jancaitis thanked the JLC for all their hard work over the years for veterans and VVFS, formerly the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program. She gave special challenge coins to Don Kaiserman, Stu Williams and Bart Barton for their particular efforts to shepherd the VVFS program over the years.

Chairman Barton made a **motion** for the JLC to commend Brandi Jancaitis on her work for DVS. It was **seconded** by Mr. Williams. The motion carried **unanimously**.

#### **Introduction of New Members**

Chairman Barton welcomed Mr. John Clickener, the new representative of the Marine Corps League, and Mr. Raymond Kenney, the new representative of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Chairman Barton also inquired about the two members who have terms expiring on June 30<sup>th</sup> – Mr. William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars and Mr. Robert Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association. Ms. Alford informed him that the paperwork is being handled by the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office and the appointment process should be completed by the next meeting.

#### **Reports**

### **Board of Veterans Services**

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Don Kaiserman gave the BVS report (see *Attachment 2*).

### **Veterans Services Foundation**

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Chairman Brad Antle gave the VSF report (see *Attachment 3*).

### **Virginia Military Advisory Council**

Mr. Bill Barrett stated that the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) has not met since the last JLC meeting, but would be meeting the following week and he was planning on attending and report back at the summer JLC meeting.

### **State Board of Elections**

Mr. Stu Williams updated the JLC that the Work Group for the electronic return of overseas military ballots completed its report but that the reauthorization legislation failed to report out of the General Assembly in 2016.

### **Virginia War Memorial Board**

In Marie Juliano's absence, Chairman Barton informed the JLC members that the Virginia War Memorial Board had rescheduled its April meeting to April 26 and that Ms. Juliano would be attending would report back at the summer JLC meeting.

### **Overview of the 2016 General Assembly Session**

Ms. Alford thanked the JLC members for all they had done for the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and for their support during the 2016 General Assembly session. She stated it had been a very good session for veterans issues and the JLC initiatives in particular.

She gave a power point presentation on the veteran and military-related budget and legislative items from the 2016 General Assembly session, including a full report on the final outcome of the 12 JLC 2016 Initiatives. The presentation was distributed to the members via email after the meeting.

Several JLC members asked questions about the status of the new care centers, benefits services funding and other points of clarification. Ms. Alford answered the questions to the satisfaction of the members.

### **New Business**

#### **Review of the 2016 JLC Work Plan**

Chairman Barton asked the members to review the work plan, which had been approved at the December 18, 2015 meeting, and reminded them of the process for proposing and sponsoring policy initiatives and what the process/procedures are for the JLC members – get in front of the right people at the VSO and start drafting the initiatives.

#### **Initial review/discussion of potential 2017 JLC Initiatives**

Mr. Rick Oertel, Legislative Officer, led the discussion on beginning the process for initiatives

for the coming year (2017). He reminded the group that he had put out a request for proposals via email. He said he received several emails back.

He went through the list of 2016 initiatives and said numbers 2016-01, 05, 06, and 08 had been accomplished and could be set aside. #8 – the VCCS Veterans Service Centers is a pilot program and he suggested the group wait and let that get set up and running before the JLC propose anything further. There was no dissent. He suggested they continue to monitor the Veteran Care Centers issue but not propose anything further at this time.

Chairman Barton brought up the issue of creating a way to remain engaged with long-term policy issues and projects, like the Veterans Care Centers, that have been high priority items and have a current resolution, but may need support or further action in the future. He referred to a “parking lot” for special interest items that need continued focus.

Mr. Oertel then moved on to the remaining initiatives. He asked for discussion or a motion to keep pressing ahead for funding for Benefits (2016-02). Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs pointed out that the full JLC request is in place for Fiscal Year 2018, and that will include funding for career development and the four new offices and put Benefits in a good position. Also, with the yearly budget cycle, by the time we get to the budget process for next year it will be too late to have an impact on the FY17 budget, so he recommended not moving forward for 2017 and come back to it at a future date, if needed.

Chairman Barton and Mr. Oertel agreed. Mr. Oertel stated that VVFS (2016-03) is probably in the same position since the work group won't present its report until November and JLC might want to take a “wait and see” approach. This would not preclude the JLC from presenting a letter of support of the work group's recommendations, if the JLC decides in November to support the recommendations.

Mr. Clickener made a **motion** to have the initiative move forward in the process as a proposed item and be ready dependent on the work group's recommendations, with the understanding that it can always be dropped if it is not needed. Mr. Whitmore **seconded** the motion. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Mr. Clickener then made an additional **motion** to transfer 2016-07, 09, 10, 11, 12 to 2017. Mr. Williams **seconded** the motion. The motion carried **unanimously**, with Mr. Barton and Mr. Oertel abstaining.

Mr. Oertel asked Ms. Leslie Frazier from the office of Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs John C. Harvey, Jr. to give an update on a potential initiative regarding veterans and entrepreneurship. She said it is still early in the process but she is researching ways to support and promote Veteran Small Businesses, especially Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses. She asked for assistance from the VSOs as she continues her fact-finding mission.

Mr. Oertel brought up the need to continue pushing for full funding of the Virginia War Memorial. Mr. Whitmore made the **motion** regarding the Virginia War Memorial funding (2016-

04). Mr. Jennings **seconded** the motion. Mr. Clickener offered a friendly **amendment** to roll in the Secretary's potential initiative on veteran small businesses and made a motion to have both funding for the Virginia War Memorial and the issue of veteran small businesses be offered up for further discussion and as potential initiatives. Mr. Whitmore accepted the friendly amendment. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Mr. Combs offered an explanation of where the Virginia War Memorial budget is and asked the members to look at their recommended FY17 and FY18 budget numbers. Most of the difference between the two numbers is the "rent" paid by DVS to the Department of General Services for maintenance, groundskeeping, power, etc. for the Memorial. He said that when the expansion opens there will need to be an additional appropriation for the rent and other operational costs. DVS will put that in as a budget request for FY18. He suggested the JLC keep it as an item of interest so that the JLC may support the additional requirement when needed.

Mr. Dan Dennison suggested an idea to request DVS Benefits Services when processing applications keep a database showing linkages between causation and disabilities, since the VA does not do this. Mr. Combs suggested it might take the DVS doing some research and offered to set up a meeting between Mr. Dennison and DVS staff to further explore the idea. Mr. Dennison was directed to write up a proposal and work with DVS on the issue by 1 June to be discussed at the July meeting.

#### **Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee**

Mr. Dan Boyer delivered the report of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, stating that Mr. Adam Provost and Mr. Ace Taylor, who was absent from the meeting, are the other committee members.

Mr. Boyer offered one amendment to the JLC Constitution – page 3, Article IV, 1. Meetings. The motion is to amend the language for: iv. Fourth Quarter from "one meeting" to "two meetings" to reflect that the JLC has been meeting twice in the fourth quarter – both in October and December.

Mr. Boyer offered one amendment to the JLC Bylaws – page 2, Article I, 5. Legislative Sponsor. The motion is to amend the language for: f. "Serve as a member of the Legislative Committee" to "Serve as a member of the Legislative Objectives Committee" to make the bylaws consistent throughout. [p. 3 "Article III – Committees" uses "Legislative Objectives Committee".]

He stated that since the amendments were being offered to the members for the first time at the meeting, they would need to be voted on at the next meeting.

#### **Approve Members for Nominating Committee**

Chairman Barton informed the Members that, in accord with the Bylaws, Mr. Ashton and Mr. Boyer would serve on the Nominating Committee with their report due at the July meeting. He stated that Mr. Ashton, who was absent from the meeting, is the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Boyer reviewed the process for nominations to the two offices up for election: Chair and Vice Chair.

### **Candidates for Chair and Vice Chair declare their intention to run**

Chairman Barton stated that members must state either in person after the meeting (nominations must be made at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter meeting) or have made in writing prior to the meeting that they would like to be considered for nomination. Chairman Barton stated that email communication is sufficient for written notice.

Mr. Barton stated he would be willing to serve another term as Chair. He also stated that he had received written communication from Ms. Juliano, the current Vice Chair, stating she would be willing to continue as Vice Chair for another term.

There were no other nominations given at that point.

### **Other New Business and open discussion**

Chairman Barton asked Delegate Rich Anderson to say a few words about the World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission.

Delegate Anderson gave a brief overview of how the World War I Centennial Commission the World War II 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission have been combined into one for reasons of efficiency to better prepare for the upcoming anniversaries. Delegate Kirk Cox has been made Chair. Delegate Anderson said he will arrange to have someone from the Commission give a presentation at the next meeting, if the JLC would be amenable to that. Chairman Barton said he was, and would work with Delegate Anderson to arrange that for the next meeting.

Mr. Williams asked if the term expiration dates could be added to the membership roster for the benefit of the members. Mr. Combs said that could easily be done and the roster would be amended and resent to the members.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Closing Remarks**

Chairman Barton reminded the members that the next meeting will be held July 13 at the American Legion building.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**American Legion Building**  
**1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond**  
**April 22, 2016**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Opening Thoughts, *Tim Whitmore, Chaplain* (10:05-10:10)
- III. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Bart Barton, Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Approve December 18, 2015 meeting minutes and January 14, 2016 Conference minutes – *Bart Barton, Chairman* (10:15 – 10:20)
- V. Introduction of new members, *Bart Barton, Chairman* (10:20-10:25)
- VI. Reports (10:25 – 10:50)
  - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Don Kaiserman, BVS Chairman*
  - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Brad Antle, VSF Chairman*
  - c. VMAC, *Bill Barrett*
  - d. State Board of Elections, *Stu Williams*
  - e. Virginia War Memorial Board, *Marie Juliano*
- VII. Report from DVS (10:50 – 11:20) - *Commissioner John Newby, Dep. Commissioner Steve Combs & Policy Director Carrie Ann Alford*
  - i. Review 2016 General Assembly legislation;
  - ii. Budget update, and
  - iii. Update on the April 20th Reconvened Session

BREAK (10 Minutes)

- VIII. New business (11:30 – 12:30)
  - a. Review 2016 Work Plan, *Bart Barton*
  - b. Looking ahead: An initial review and discussion of potential 2017 JLC Initiatives; including review of 2016 JLC initiatives not enacted, *Rick Oertel*
  - c. Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee (annual review), *Dan Boyer*
  - d. Candidates for Chair and Vice Chair declare their intention to run
  - e. Approve Members for Nominating Committee, *Bart Barton*
  - f. Other new business and open discussion, *Bart Barton*
- IX. Public comment period (12:30 – 12:35)
- X. Closing remarks and prepare for next meeting – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (12:35 – 12:45)
- XI. Adjourn (12:45)  
Lunch to follow the meeting

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT  
TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICES (JLC)  
April 22, 2016**

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on December 9, 2015. At the meeting, the Board had a lengthy and productive discussion, led by board member Jim Icenhour, concerning the structure of the Board of Veterans Services and how it can best organize itself to fulfill its Code-mandated mission.

At present, the Code requires that the Board be organized into three standing committees – for benefits, care centers, and cemeteries. The Board will request that the Code be amended such to permit the Board to organize itself in such a manner as to fulfill its Code-mandated missions. We will keep the JLC up-to-date as we move through the process.

The BVS is made up of fourteen citizen members, five legislators, and three *ex officio* members. Board members are in regular contact with the Department of Veterans Services to provide policy input on key operational issues.

The next BVS meeting will be Thursday, May 19th.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Kaiserman

Chairman

### ATTACHMENT 3

## **VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations April 22, 2016**

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held two meetings since last JLC meeting. A Development Committee Retreat was held on February 11, 2016 and a Board meeting was held on March 30, 2016 with a quorum present. The Development Committee Retreat was a forum to discuss developing a VSF five year strategic plan. No action was taken at the Retreat but the issues were carried over to the 30 March Board meeting. The following events occurred and actions taken at the Board meeting, in addition to the usual reports and updates on VVFS and V3 were taken and a presentation on the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) was well received:

- (1) Reviewed Foundation income, expenses, and fundraising events conducted during FY15;
- (2) Approved the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY16 VSF Financial Reports;
- (3) Approved VSF-DVS FY16 Budget Adjustment for VVCC;
- (4) Approved an update of VSF-DVS Joint Policy #4, Processing Financial Donations;
- (5) Adopted the Donors' Bill of Rights; and
- (6) Appointed a Nominating Committee and elected officers for FY17.

As of 29 February, the Foundation has received donations during FY16 of almost \$568,000, of which over \$400,000 is for VVFS and \$100,000 for V3. While the number of donors has not increased, overall donations are up 13% over last year with VVFS being up 30% over last year at this time. As always, the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities to realize this significant fundraising level. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication of all DVS personnel.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2016 at the Virginia War Memorial. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the Third Quarter FY16 Financial Statement; (2) approval of budget adjustments for FY16; (3) approve the FY17 budget; (4) approve Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives; (5) approve VSF FY17 Milestone Plan; (5) elect officers for FY17; (6) take additional actions as required to support the five year strategic plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Antle  
VSF Chairman