

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2010

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on October 21, 2010, at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

Members Present

- George Coker, *American Ex-POWs*
- Brett Reistad, *American Legion*
- Bruce Brown, *AMVETS*
- Don Kaiserman, *Association of the United States Army*
- David Martinez, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Abe Zino, *Fleet Reserve Association*
- Bruce Steeley, *Marine Corps League*
- Robert Fairchild, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*
- Raymond Edwards, *Military Officers Association of America*
- William Townsley, *Military Order of the World Wars*
- Thomas Moran, *National Association for Uniformed Services*
- Frank Driscoll, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*
- Matthew Dailey, *Non Commissioned Officers Association*
- Carmen Gentile, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Nolan Jackson, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*
- George Corbett, *Vietnam Veterans of America*
- Daniel Boyer, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- Jenny Holbert, *Women Marines Association*
- Thad Jones, *Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services*
- Jack Hilgers, *representing the Veterans Services Foundation*
- Paul Galanti, *Commissioner of Veterans Services*

Members Absent

- Jeffery Platte, *Air Force Association*
- James Jones, *Korean War Veterans Association*
- Roger Dimsdale, *Legion of Valor*
- David Coffield, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*
- Michael Coleman, *Virginia National Guard Association*

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Harold Barton, *Air Force Association*
- John Dozier, *Korean War Veterans Association*
- Brityn Bennett, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- John Clickener, *Military Officers Association of America*
- Dan Miller, *Disabled American Veterans*

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Cindy Norwood, *Office of the Attorney General*
- Brandon T. de Graaf, *Office of Commonwealth Preparedness*
- Steven Parker, *Department of Military Affairs*
- Anne Atkins, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Steven Combs, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Penny Melvin, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Sandra Ranicki, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Judy Reid, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Mike Rogers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Bill Van Thiel, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Danielle Weaver, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Cathy Wilson, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jon Hatfield, *Virginia War Memorial*

Others Present

- Jim Clem, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*
- Harry Warner, *Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation*
- Sam Wilder, *Military Officers Association of America*
- Tom Briggs, *Virginia Veterans Coalition*
- Roger Sullivan, *Virginia Veterans Coalition*
- Jason Cain, *Veterans Outreach Coordinator, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund*

Agenda Packet

- Agenda (Agenda Item II)
- Presentations (Agenda Item III)
 - VWWP Summary of Grant Activities
- Reports (Agenda Item IV)
 - Board of Veterans Services Report
 - Veterans Services Foundation Report
 - Department of Veterans Services Report
 - JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council Report
- JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives (Agenda Item V)
 - Summary Sheet
 - Position Papers
 - JLC FAQs – Veterans Lottery

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Jenny Holbert called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Thomas Moran to lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

The roll was called, and 20 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC were recorded as being represented (17 by primary representative, 3 by alternates), and a quorum was determined. The Commissioner of Veterans Services, Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services and a representative of the Veterans Services Foundation were recorded as present. One primary representatives arrived after the roll was called, bringing the total to 21 of 23 VSOs represented.

Approval of the agenda

Chair Holbert proposed a change to the agenda (*Attachment 1*) – that Mr. Jon Hatfield’s report be moved up on the agenda, as Mr. Hatfield had to leave early. Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to move the Virginia War Memorial report to follow the approval of the minutes. Mr. Brett Reistad made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Moran. The amended agenda was approved **unanimously**.

Introductions of Guests

Chair Holbert asked Mr. Steven Combs to introduce the guests and Commonwealth of Virginia officials present. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chair Holbert welcomed them to the meeting.

Review and Approval of July 21, 2010 meeting minutes

Chair Holbert stated that the minutes from July 21, 2010 had been distributed electronically. Chair Holbert reviewed four proposed changes to the minutes. Chair Holbert asked that the minutes be approved with these changes. The Council discussed these changes. Mr. Moran made a **motion** to accept the minutes with the changes, **seconded** by Mr. George Corbett. The July 21, 2010 minutes were approved by **unanimous consent** as changed.

Reports

Virginia War Memorial

Mr. Jon Hatfield, Virginia War Memorial (VWM) Executive Director, addressed the Council and thanked them for their support and for allowing his presentation be moved up on the agenda. He announced that the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center Grand Opening and Gala on September 17 was a huge success. Mr. Hatfield stated that the Education Center and the exhibits are absolutely world class and that there is no other facility like this one in the United States that honors our Veterans this way. He noted that the VWM had approximately 21,000 visitors last year and in the first three weeks of the grand opening had over 6,000 visitors which was a bit overwhelming to the VWM staff. Mr. Hatfield explained that they are completing their punch list to finalize the construction.

Mr. Don Kaiserman complimented Mr. Hatfield and his staff for a job well done.

Presentations

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center

Mr. Jason Cain, Veterans Outreach Coordinator for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund thanked the Council for allowing him to attend this meeting and addressing them on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center (VVMEC). Mr. Cain proceeds to give a brief bio on himself and his motivation for working with veterans. He stated that all Veterans that came before today's generation changed how we support Veterans today. Mr. Cain said that the VVMEC is very similar to the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center here in Richmond. They get many young Veterans that visit the center. The center is seeking to put faces to the names that are listed on the wall and are also collecting their pictures. The pictures will be matched to the names with a brief bio on the Veteran. This will allow visitors to actually see these Veterans. Many children today have not learned that much about these past military conflicts. The center is raising money for this project. Mr. Cain asked the Council to please help get this message out. Mr. Cain distributed a brochure for the Center.

Mr. Corbett stated that the Vietnam Veterans of American fully supports this cause. Chair Holbert thanked Mr. Cain for his presentation. Mr. Cain also stated that the Library of Congress would like to collect 10,000 stories and interviews to be kept at the library by Veterans Day. He explained how you can go to their website and participate. There is a push for WWII Veterans stories who are almost all gone. Chair Holbert suggested this project as a homework assignment for each Council member.

DVS Care Center Services

Ms. Sandra Ranicki, the Administrator for the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC), thanked the Council members for allowing her to address them. She encouraged the Council members to please visit SBVCC when possible and join the residents for lunch. Ms. Ranicki gave a brief history on the facility and their occupancy status. There are plans to add a wing on to the building that would add 40 beds. The facility currently has 160 beds. She also explained training her staff is currently going through. As the facility becomes more popular with the community she plans to increase their volunteer program. Ms. Ranicki reviewed some organizations that volunteer at SBVCC. Several different clinical training schools and one local nursing school uses SBVCC for training their students. Ms. Ranicki reviewed the qualification for becoming a resident of SBVCC and the list for Veterans looking reside at SBVCC in the future.

Mr. Bill Van Thiel, the Administrator for the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC), followed Ms. Ranicki in addressing the Council and thanked the members as well for allowing him to address them. He too also encouraged the Council to please visit VVCC when possible and stay for lunch. VVCC has a total of 240 beds and the occupancy runs around 90%. They employ 260 employees. The facility is three stories tall. Mr. Van Thiel explained the budget for VVCC. He then explained the Operation Holiday Spirit program. The program is created by donations and the residents. Mr. Van Thiel thanked the JLC for their many donations and explained how and where some of this money is spent. The library now has a few computers for the residents to use. He then discussed some of the volunteer groups that stop by. One of these groups consists

of bikers and the residents love for them to stop by with their bikes. Another group that comes out is a group of Young Marines who will camp out on the property. Ms. Holbert thanked both Ms. Ranicki and Mr. Van Thiel for their presentations.

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program AmeriCorps Grant Proposal

Ms. Cathy Wilson, Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) Executive Director, addressed the Council and thanked them for all of their support. Ms. Wilson discussed their new brochure “Our community, our strength” and distributed copies. Ms. Wilson then discussed the VWWP Grant Activities (Attachment 2). Chair Holbert thanked Ms. Wilson for her presentation.

Chair Holbert called for a break at 10:50 am. During this recess the tape was changed. Chair Holbert called the meeting back to order at 11:05 am.

Chair Holbert reported that Delegate Richard Anderson could not attend today’s meeting, but to look forward to his attendance at future meetings.

Mr. Kaiserman asked for a moment of silence to honor Mr. Jim Aucoin, who passed away recently, and who had represented AMVETS on the JLC for six years.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Thad Jones delivered the BVS report (Attachment 3). Mr. Jones reviewed the new members to the board and the election that was held at the last BVS meeting. Mr. Jones then briefly discussed the committees formed and their assignments. The next BVS meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2011.

Veterans Services Foundation

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Executive Director Mr. Jack Hilgers delivered the VSF report (Attachments 4). He said that fundraising was down last year across the board for all charities. The next VSF meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2010.

Department of Veterans Services

Commissioner Paul Galanti delivered the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) report (Attachment 5). Commissioner Galanti thanked the DVS staff for all of the hard work that they do. Commissioner Galanti discussed the recent orientation that was held for new BVS members that included a visit to DVS facilities. Commissioner Galanti would like to extend this tour to the Council. The Paul & Phyllis Galanti Educational Center is a remarkable Museum and surpassed all of their expectations. Commissioner Galanti attended the Paralyzed Veterans of America Gala on October 19 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. to accept the EMPLOYABLE Award for leadership in providing employment opportunities for veterans with disabilities on behalf of Governor Bob McDonnell and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Commissioner Galanti stated that Governor McDonnell is very serious about making Virginia the #1 Veteran Friendly state. Commissioner Galanti announced that the Commissioner’s and SAA offices will be moving to the 6th floor of the Pocahontas

Building by the first week of December. He announced that Mr. Steven Combs has been promoted to the Deputy Commissioner position. Commissioner Galanti thanked the Council for all of their support to DVS. Chair Holbert thanked the Commissioner for his report. Mr. Jones did ask about the Unclaimed Cremains at our cemeteries. Mr. Combs announced that there will be a ceremony held on November 11th at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery for nine forgotten heroes. He hopes that other funeral homes will come on board, and will provide more information to the Council.

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

The Regional Director for the VWWP Southern Region, Penny Melvin, addressed the Council. Ms. Wilson briefly gave a bio on Ms. Melvin. Ms. Melvin then thanked the Council for all of their support they provide to the VWWP. She explained that Region IV is based out of Richmond and is going through some personnel changes which she believes will lead them down a positive path to success. She announced that this coming weekend is the second Couples Retreat which helps couples on their relationships. Only 15 couples will get the opportunity to attend this retreat. Region V has done a wonderful job in pooling their resources for Veterans. She explained that each Region does have different needs. Chair Holbert thanked Ms. Melvin for her report.

Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council

Mr. Carmen Gentile, JLC Representative to the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council (VCSSC), stated that the VCSSC has not met in over a year, and therefore he had nothing to report.

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Mr. Harold Barton, filling in for Jeff Platte, JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC), delivered the VMAC report (*Attachments 6*).

Commissioner Galanti commented that the VMAC is a very big deal and that Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness Terrie Suit is the best Delegate to advocate for Veterans. The VMAC consists of base commanders who meet to work on issues of concern to the military bases. Ms. Cindy Norwood commented on the last meeting and that she has some concerns with the joint forces command. There is the possibility of some of these bases closing.

Mr. Jones asked about the Base Development Council that the Governor appointed 15 members to. He wanted to know how they will fit in with the JLC, BVS and the VSF. Mr. Combs told Mr. Jones and the Council that more information will be forwarded on this board and its role.

Mr. Boyer addressed the Council on the Names on the Wall of the Shrine of Memory at the Virginia War Memorial. He distributed two handouts that and briefly discussed them. Mr. Boyer explained the handout is for the Council to review and does not need any action at this time.

Mr. David Martinez reminded the Council of the bumper stickers that say "Vote Yes! For tax relief for 100% disabled veterans." and encouraged everyone to please help distribute these stickers. There is only two weeks left before Election Day. Mr. Kaiserman also reminded the

Council that the JLC has been working on this legislation for 2 years to get this on the ballot. Everyone needs to get out the vote.

Commissioner Galanti mentioned that he and Ms. Wilson attended the Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia departure at the VFW Post 9808 in Mechanicsville this past Saturday. The Honor Flight takes Veterans to Washington D.C. free of charge to visit Arlington National Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial and the World War II Memorial. A “guardian” is assigned to each Veteran to take care of the Veteran throughout the day. Ms. Wilson stated how wonderful it was to see everyone there.

Chair Holbert called for a recess for lunch at 11:50 am. During this recess the tape was changed. Chair Holbert called the meeting back to order at 12:25 pm.

JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives

Mr. Kaiserman encouraged the Council to get a copy of the new Capitol Connection Summer edition brochure that may be picked up around the Capitol. Mr. Kaiserman then discussed several events over the last 21 days and how we have made some progress relative to the JLC legislative objectives. MOAA had a forum with Central Virginia-area legislators to discuss our legislative objectives for the 2011 General Assembly session. The forum helped bring this information to the legislators and to explain to them what the objectives are and answer any questions.

The JLC Chair and Vice Chair had the opportunity to meet with the Governor yesterday before his budget for the following year is put together. Mr. Kaiserman stated that this was a very positive meeting. The Governor was very encouraging with what he had to say and asked about two specific legislative objectives that we have this year. The Governor was very interested in what we are trying to do.

Chair Holbert recognized Mr. Brandon T. de Graaf for joining the meeting and thanked him for attending. Mr. de Graaf is the Assistant Homeland and Security Advisor for the Governor and also attended the meeting yesterday with the Governor.

Chair Holbert continued with her input on the Governor’s meeting. She stated that the Governor was very receptive to all of the legislative objectives that were presented. He will very seriously look at all of these objectives and get into his budget what he specifically will support and hopes to complete within the next 30 days. The Governor stated that he thought all of these objectives were doable.

Commissioner Galanti commented on the meeting with the Governor. The Governor liked the way the JLC presented these objectives. Commissioner Galanti commented on the outstanding job that Mr. Sam Wilder did in presenting the objective for the Veterans Lottery.

Mr. Wilder addressed the Council on the meeting with the Governor and stated the meeting was very good. He said that if we get the proceeds from this on an annual basis this will allow us to do a lot of positive things for Veterans and their families that we are unable to do right now. We

do have two very good patrons for this bill who are very excited to patron these bills. Mr. Wilder reported that during the BVS meeting on September 30th Senator Toddy Puller was in attendance and briefed on this objective. Mr. Wilder presented this objective during the BVS meeting and was fully supported by the BVS. Mr. Wilder also received the same reaction at the VWM meeting that was held on September 17. Mr. Wilder stated that he was very heartened by Ms. Terrie Suit's reaction at the Governor's meeting yesterday. Our next step is to meet with the Virginia Lottery people. Everyone should have received the position papers and frequently asked question sheet which is included in your packet. Some discussion continued on the appropriate way to represent the JLC. Mr. Wilder stated that we have two months left and said that you cannot wait until January 2011 to get this information out and reminded the Council that they represent 250,000 veterans in this state.

Mr. Combs will work with Mr. Kaiserman to develop some guidelines to help the JLC.

Chair Holbert encouraged the Council to please forward any questions or suggestion to Mr. Combs. This information can also be published on the DVS website. The DVS website will have a link to the General Assembly page that will show the history of the bill, action taken on the bill, and patron information that is updated daily.

Mr. Frank Driscoll reported that a couple of weeks ago he was asked to attend a meeting with the Chesapeake Mayor by one of the local Veterans groups. About 250 people were in attendance at the meeting. The Navy Federal Credit Union paid for the breakfast.

Mr. Kaiserman emphasized on a couple of points that Mr. Wilder made. It is very critical to get in contact with as many Senators as possible to get this information out to them. Make sure that they understand Senator Colgan's view. He also pointed out that the Governor wanted a report back within 30 days from Secretary Decker and Ms. Terrie Suit in response to the meeting held yesterday. Mr. Kaiserman stated that they would move forward with meeting with other involved parties. The purpose of this meeting with the Governor was to make him aware of our legislative issues well before the GA and to address any questions he might have.

Mr. Kaiserman reviewed the six legislative objectives and stressed that three of these objectives directly address the Governor's desire to make Virginia the most Veteran-Friendly State through legislation, while the other three address the goal through budget amendments. Chair Holbert commented that the Governor stated that he is aware that the JLC is being respectful of the Commonwealth's economic issues and that he thought that these objectives were reasonable requests. Mr. Kaiserman reviewed the patrons supporting the objectives, how to approach them and present our objectives.

Mr. Kaiserman reviewed the information on getting the vote out for November 2nd. Please distribute these flyers on the tax relief for our 100% Disabled Veteran. There are approximately 7,400 100% Disabled Veterans in Virginia. About 4,200 are actually residential home owners. You may access this information from DVS website www.VirginiaforVeterans.com. Mr. Kaiserman also suggested that if possible get out and work the polls. You are entitled to distribute handout to the voters as they enter the voting polling area.

Mr. Kaiserman proposed to the Council that we start to give consideration to our objectives during our spring meeting. Mr. Kaiserman explained what he would like prepared for the spring meeting. We will have a vote and selection on the objectives at the spring meeting. And, select the sponsors.

Mr. Bill Townsley pointed out that at the last JLC meeting three of the objectives were tabled to be heard at the October 21 meeting. Chair Holbert reviewed these objectives by reading these objectives from the July 21 minutes. The first objective, Combat Veterans Tags, Chair Holbert announced was removed. She then pointed out that the Child Custody Issue was the second objective and briefly reviewed it. Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to table the objective indefinitely, **seconded** by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Holbert stated that the third objective was Absentee Voting and briefly reviewed it. The objective will continue to be table till the next meeting pending a test to be held in November.

Chair Holbert brought back up Mr. Kaiserman's motion. Mr. Kaiserman made a **motion** that the VSOs will submit their legislative objectives for 2012 in time for consideration at the spring meeting to include voting and selecting a sponsor at that time. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Townsley. Discussion followed. Mr. Barton offered an amendment to the motion. More discussion followed. Mr. Kaiserman then withdrew his motion.

Chair Holbert asked Mr. Kaiserman to prepare a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Legislative Committee for discussion at the December 21 meeting. Mr. Kaiserman agreed to do so.

Public comment period

Chair Holbert asked if there were any public comments. None was heard.

Preparation for upcoming meetings

Chair Holbert reminded the Council that the next meeting is scheduled for December 21. The meeting will be held at the Virginia War Memorial.

Adjournment

Chair Holbert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Corbett made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Townsley. The adjournment was approved **unanimously**.

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

**American Legion Building
1708 Commonwealth Avenue
Richmond**

October 21, 2010

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda, and introduction of guests – *Jenny Holbert* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Review and approval of July 21, 2010 meeting minutes – *Jenny Holbert* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Presentations (10:15 – 10:50)
 - a. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center – *Jason Cain, Veterans Outreach Coordinator, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund* (10 minutes)
 - b. DVS Care Center Services – *Sandra Ranicki, Administrator, Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center and Bill Van Thiel, Administrator, Virginia Veterans Care Center* (15 minutes)
 - c. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program AmeriCorps Grant Proposal – *Cathy Wilson, Executive Director, Virginia Wounded Warrior Program* (10 minutes)

Break (10:50 – 11:00)

- V. Reports (11:00 – 11:50)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (10 minutes)
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *David Richardson, VSF Chairman* (10 minutes)
 - c. Department of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner* (10 minutes)
 - d. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program – *Penny Melvin, VWWP Regional Director Southern (Regions IV and V)* (5 minutes)
 - e. Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council – *Carmen Gentile, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
 - f. Virginia Military Advisory Council – *Jeff Platte, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
 - g. Virginia War Memorial – *Jon Hatfield, Executive Director, Virginia War Memorial Foundation and Harry Warner, Executive Director, Virginia War Museum Education Foundation* (5 minutes)

VI. Break/working lunch (11:50 – 12:20)

VII. JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Vice Chair* (12:20 – 1:20)

VIII. Public comment period (1:20 – 1:25)

IX. Prepare for December 21 meeting – *Jenny Holbert* (1:25 – 1:30)

X. Adjourn (1:30)

ATTACHMENT 2
Report to the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organizations
Summary of Grant Activities
Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
January 7, 2011

A. Grant Proposal

Grant Proposal to be submitted Jan., 2011—VWWP Virginia Veterans Corp (AmeriCorps)—funding available September, 2011.

VWWP in partnership with the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service within the Virginia Department of Social Services is developing a grant proposal that will be submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service in January, 2011. If approved, the AmeriCorps grant would fund a Virginia Veterans Corp Program. This program would place a full time AmeriCorps Director and either full time or part time AmeriCorps members within VWWP and partner organizations for expanding services to veterans and their families. The plan is to establish a pool of “navigators”, who would help veterans and families access services for healthcare, behavioral health care, social services or other individual and family needs. The navigator would be a trusted friend who has knowledge of community resources and the ability to help the veteran and family access whatever services are needed to maintain a good quality of life and to participate actively in their communities. The Veterans Corp program will be designed to begin operations in the VWWP Region V, Tidewater area, but plans are to expand the program statewide in subsequent years.

AmeriCorps members serve full or part time over a 10- to 12-month period. Upon successful completion of their service, members receive an AmeriCorps Education Award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or graduate school or to pay back qualified student loans. This award can be transferred to children or grandchildren. During their service, members receive health coverage, training, and student loan deferment. Members may also receive a modest annual living allowance. Members who serve part time receive a partial AmeriCorps Education Award. The amount of the AmeriCorps grant award will be determined by the number of member service years requested.

B. Funded Grants

VWWP Criminal Justice Partners Training

VWWP, in partnership with DBHDS was awarded a federal grant of \$71,250 from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to fund a targeted educational program for judges, court personnel, and other criminal justice partners across the Commonwealth. This project will train relevant personnel about 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, PTSD, and TBI and those at risk for involvement or involved in the criminal justice system. The grant can be renewed for up to 4 years.

VWWP Expansion in Southwest Virginia, VWWP Region III

Partnering with the Virginia Department of Health, the State's Office of Rural Health, VWWP was awarded a federal grant of \$296,667 from Health Resources and Services Administration (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. 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.

Homeless Veterans Reentry Program

VWWP has supported numerous grant proposals for services expansion. Leveraging this support, the Roanoke Office for Total Action Against Poverty (TAP) was awarded \$200,000 by the U.S. Department of Labor to provide employment services to homeless veterans who live in the cities of Roanoke and Salem and the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt, Alleghany, Franklin and Craig. Working closely with the VWWP, the Salem VAMC, and other area veteran and homeless veteran service organizations, including two area veterans per diem programs – TAP's Transitional Living Center Per Diem program and the Trust House Per Diem program – the TAP-This Valley Works (TVW) homeless veterans reintegration program provides job training for approximately 60 homeless veterans through associated TVW programs. Those include the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Training Program and Building Maintenance Training Program, which provide job training in the building trades fields, including training in green enhanced skills jobs. The program also provides access to the Veterans Transitional Employment Program, on-site job mentoring provided by local veteran-owned businesses, work-at-home employment opportunities, green job opportunities, small business loans through the *Patriot Express Pilot Loan* program and family support and outreach services.

Cross Systems Mapping to include Veterans Involved in the Criminal Justice System

In September, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) was awarded a \$250,000 two year Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program competitive grant from the Department of Justice to expand the Cross Systems Mapping Initiative. Cross Systems Mapping is a collaborative effort, under the Commonwealth Consortium for Mental Health and Criminal Justice Transformation, led by the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the DBHDS. Participants in Cross Systems Mapping workshops identify services available in a locality, referral sources and referral patterns and the community resources needed to expand the effectiveness of services delivery. These workshops have been focused on services for persons with serious mental illness. Partnership with VWWP has resulted in the behavioral health needs of veterans and families being added as a critical element of the local analysis. The grant will increase the number and frequency of Cross Systems Mapping Workshops and expand their focus on issues impacting veterans, women, the homeless and reentering offenders with behavioral health disorders in the criminal justice system.

Student Veterans with Spinal Cord Injuries and Traumatic Brain Injuries

VCU Rehabilitation Research and Training Center was awarded a \$445,000, 3 year grant in July, 2009 to prepare veterans with spinal cord injuries for college. The program used a supported education model that provides individualized supports and case management to the student veterans. Educational coaches and an academic/career support plan are used to assist veterans to enter college and be successful. To date, 40 service members or veterans have been referred to the project. To date, 40 service members and veterans have been referred to the program. Of those:

- Sixteen have signed consent forms indicating their desire to receive program services. Of these 16, 15 are active participants and maintain contact at least once a month. One is inactive, and maintains contact less than once a month.
- The average age of program participants is 37.
- 53% are African-American; 40% are White; 7% are of Asian origin.
- 87% are veterans; 13% are active duty service members.
- 50% have spinal cord injury; 47% have traumatic brain injury; 3% have spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury.

VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities: Common Ground: Linking Wounded Warriors and Community Support Providers

Working with the Regions, VWWP and VCU/PPD developed both statewide and regional training plans to guide the development of a “constant learning environment” for staff who work directly with VWWP and for community partners.

In the late summer and fall of 2010, VCU/PPD organized a series of regional trainings focused on the clinical treatment and causes of PTSD. These 3 hour seminars were taught by staff of the Center for Deployment Psychology of the Uniformed Services University in Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. The seminars familiarized participants with the types of traumatic exposure experienced by service members. The presenters identified the rates of PTSD in the general population and in the military population to give treatment providers an understanding of the unique needs and demographics of the population that they are serving. The presenters reviewed common co-morbid disorders and problems associated with PTSD, such as depression, anxiety and substance abuse. Several self-report measures and structured interviews were reviewed that are used by practitioners to assess for PTSD. Participants learned the many factors that can affect the success or failure of screening instruments used to detect PTSD in service members. Current evidence based practices that are proving effective were reviewed and sources for more information on these practices were shared. The presenters reviewed anxiety management strategies that can be taught to service members diagnosed with PTSD and provided a wealth of reference materials for future learning by the participants.

ATTACHMENT 3
BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES
REPORT TO
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
October 21, 2010

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on September 30, 2010.

Governor McDonnell has appointed four new members to the Board of Veterans Services, bringing the Board to its full complement of 19 members.

- New to the Board are:
 - Mr. William Haneke
 - Mr. Donald Kaiserman
 - Ms. Kate Kohler
 - Mr. George Melnyk
- Leaving the Board are:
 - Mr. Paris Davis
 - Mr. J. Pat Green
 - Mr. Judson Stanley

Elections were held for BVS Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mr. Thad Jones was elected Chairman, and Mr. William Haneke the Vice Chairman.

The Board is organized into three standing committees – Benefits, Care Centers, and Cemeteries. There is also an *ad hoc* Bylaws Committee. Board members have been assigned to a committee and have been asked to focus on a particular aspect of veterans benefits. Guidance has been given to all Board members to promote unity and focus of effort.

The BVS voted at the September 30 meeting to endorse the JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives, and we look forward to working closely with the JLC and the Department to establish and implement the Compact with Virginia's Veterans to make Virginia "*America's most veteran-friendly state.*"

The next BVS meeting will be held on January 10, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Thad A. Jones
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 4
VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION
REPORT TO
Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
October 21, 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. However, during the past three and a half months \$42,500 has been donated to VWWP with another \$10,000 pledged, \$3,125 to the cemeteries with another \$2,500 pledged, and \$750 to the Foundation Endowment for a total of \$46, 450 thus far without the \$12,500 in pledges. This does not include veterans care center donations which will not be available until the end of this month. Of interest is that almost 50 donations were made on-line through the DVS link.

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) welcoming two new members; (2) approval of the 1st Quarter FY11 Fund Statement; (3) review VSF FY11 fundraising program; (4) refinement of FY11 Goals and Objectives; and (5) approving the update of one Joint VSF-DVS Policy and a new one on fund expenditures. There will be Finance and Development Committee meetings before the next Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David Richardson
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 5
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
REPORT TO
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
October 21, 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 USDVA	11,233	9,365	19.95%

Retro Claim Awards	\$31,917,058	\$28,411,316	12.34%
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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 6

Jeffrey L. Platte

109 Colonels Way
Williamsburg, VA 23185

September 30, 2010

To: Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

Subject: Virginia Military Affairs Council Meeting, September 29, 2010

1. The meeting was held at JB Myers Henderson Hall. Terrie Suit chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1 PM. The agenda is attached.
2. The first order of business was to elect MG Horst as the new chairman. Consent was unanimous.
3. Ms Suit presented the VMAC work plan for 2010. The US Navy volunteered to lead the Quality of Life Committee and find a new chairman. The Homeland Security Subcommittee was reordered as the Civil-Military Mutual Aid Subcommittee. All services were advised to be actively engaged with their surrounding communities. Ms Suite advised the Governor has energized the Commission on Military and National Security Facilities working group and asked that VMAC be available as a sounding board.
4. Mike Coleman presented a synopsis of Mrs. McDonnell's "Serve a Service Members Family" initiative.
5. Child Custody issues were discussed by Julie Gifford, the OSD State Liaison. More work is needed; however there is some momentum behind solving a vexing problem for deployed military members. She also discussed the DoD Child Care Centers pilot program to upgrade local centers to DoD standards so service members have more access to quality child care.
5. I presented a JLC –VSO update discussing the upcoming Objectives. I also reminded attendees to promote the 100% Disabled Veteran Real Estate Tax Exemption amendment with their neighbors and friends this fall.
6. MG Horst adjourned the Council at 2 p.m. announcing the next meeting will be November hosted by the US Coast Guard.

Respectively Submitted,



Jeffrey L. Platte

JLC VSO Representative

Atch: VMAC Agenda



VIRGINIA MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010 - JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON HALL

- 0945 **VMAC MEMBERS AND SUPPORT STAFF MEET (OPTIONAL)**
Building 241, Conmy Hall
- 1000 **DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY RETIREMENT CEREMONY
(OPTIONAL)**
- 1045 **GROUP PHOTO WITH CONTINENTAL GUARD (OPTIONAL)**
- 1105 **CAISSON PLATOON BRIEF (OPTIONAL)**
- 1130 **LUNCH**
- 1300 **ELECTION OF VMAC CHAIR**
VMAC Members
- 1305 **VMAC WORKPLAN**
The Honorable Terrie L. Suit, Vice-Chairperson
- 1340 **REPORTS**
- Troops To Teachers (TENTATIVE)**
Anne Wescott, Department of Education
- Child Custody Proposed Legislation**
Julie Gifford, OSD State Liaison
- Joint Leadership Council**
Jeff Platte
- 1400 **CLOSING REMARKS**
VMAC Chairman

ATTACHMENT 7

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 8 **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 9
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 10
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 11

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 12
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:**
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 almost 12,000 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.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.
 - e. The highly visible programs and new Education Center place added service-delivery and maintenance demands on Virginia’s nationally-recognized VWM.

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 13
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 14
2011 Frequently Asked Questions
Veterans Lottery

- 1. Q. Won't the Virginia Education Association (VEA) object to veterans taking money that should go to K-12 education?**

A. Perhaps. However, VEA and its supporters should be able to be convinced that the experience of seven other states facing this same issue has proven that is not the case. It turns out that more people play the veterans lottery, so the result is that more revenue is generated overall and the revenues dedicated for education purposes have not suffered. If necessary, legislation could be crafted that would ensure that the amount of revenues from the Virginia Lottery dedicated to education would not be diminished.
- 2. Q. How did other states get a veterans lottery passed through their General Assemblies?**

A. Basically, key legislators convinced their colleagues that the money for education (or other purposes) would not be diminished by a veterans lottery and that given the sacrifices made by our veterans, it was the right thing to do.
- 3. Q. Isn't there some other source of alternate revenues for veteran programs besides the lottery?**

A. Maybe, but so far no one has been able to come up with a reasonable alternative that has the promise of producing the sustained multi-million dollar revenue that is needed.
- 4. Q. Isn't a lottery considered gambling? Isn't that immoral?**

A. It may be "gambling" but a lottery is legal. Some people may consider it "immoral"; however, a lottery for veterans is certainly no more "immoral" than a lottery for "education" or a church bingo.
- 5. Q. If this is done for veterans, won't a lot of other groups also want to do it? How can this be prevented?**

A. This can be prevented by the General Assembly and the rationale is very simple. In light of the fact that we are now engaged in the longest war in American history, we are seeing the effects on our men and women – PTSD affects a large percentage of our veterans, the stress on families and children is enormous, the suicide rate in the Army is at all time high, and the National Guard has become an operational rather than a strategic reserve with multiple deployments. We're fighting the longest war with the smallest wartime force we've ever had. Never have so few been asked to do so much for so many. Thus, it is the veterans that deserve the care that the results of this program can provide.
- 6. Q. How much do veterans programs cost? Isn't the current budget for the DVS adequate?**

A. No, the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) budget does not begin to cover the costs of the programs needed to adequately take care of our veterans and their families. Also, the DVS budget has been cut by \$1.4 million in the last two years. Virginia suffers

from veterans cemeteries inadequately maintained, insufficient claims agents to assist veterans in obtaining their claims from the VA, lack of funds to adequately support job training programs, and lack of money to combat veteran homelessness. The recent JLARC study indicated that it would take \$3-10 million to make a significant impact on chronic veteran homelessness. Also, the Virginia Tech study (August 5, 2010) reported that “*it was widely suggested that community-base providers (non-VA system) would need **enhanced funding** to provide many needed services.*” The Virginia War Memorial education program of the highly acclaimed *Virginians at War* series had to be discontinued for lack of funds. These and many other needed programs to adequately care for our veterans have simply gone un-funded. Our best estimate is that an annual multi-million dollar funding stream is required.

7. Q. How would the proceeds from the veterans lottery be used?

A. Proceeds from the veterans lottery would support the programs and services provided by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. The funds would be managed like those designated for K-12 education as set forth in the Code of Virginia.

8. Q. Could the proceeds from a veterans lottery be used for education?

A. Yes, they could. It could be done in several ways.

First, by helping the veteran parents of school age children cope with the stress of repeated deployments and/or PTSD, we would be helping the children to better adjust to the demands of an academic environment. A survey conducted by the RAND Corporation found that children in military families experienced emotional and behavioral difficulties at rates well above the national averages. One third of the children reported symptoms of anxiety, which affected their academic performance, social adjustment and emotional well being. Thus every dollar spent on helping veterans has a huge effect on the education of their children which is priceless.

Second, providing funding to such veteran sponsored educational efforts as the Virginia War Memorial (VWM) Education Center will further the education of not only school children, but of all Virginians. The highly acclaimed series *Virginians at War* shown on PBS was canceled due to lack of funds. The VWM educational effort must be funded in order to continue.

Third, many other states provide funds derived from a veterans lottery to provide scholarships. Some veterans service organizations provide scholarships but more funding is needed. Also, funding for National Guard scholarships would not only improve education but would help keep our Guard strong.

9. Q. How would a “veterans lottery fund” work? Would a certain percentage be taken from the overall lottery profits?

A. No. It would be very similar to what other states with veterans lottery programs are doing. The Virginia Lottery could create a “Veterans Scratch-Off Card” with the profits from that card dedicated to veterans programs.

Some important features of this approach are:

- The profits from all other lottery games would continue to be devoted to education as they are now.
- A veterans lottery scratch-off card would probably be either a \$2 or \$5 card.

- Sales would be targeted and well advertised to begin around Memorial Day, 2011. Also, it would be heavily advertised for Veterans Day 2011.
10. **Q. What about just adding 50 cents to each car registration application?**
A. It would be seen as a tax and might not be accepted by Virginians. In contrast, a veteran lottery is voluntary, and would be played by Virginians and those from other states.
 11. **Q. Couldn't there be a check-off on state tax returns to add \$1 per return for veterans' programs?**
A. Yes, but experience has shown that tax return check-offs will not generate the amount of funding needed by our veterans. For example, the Military Family Relief Fund receives less than \$50,000 per year from the tax check-off program.
 12. **Q. Could some proceeds from horse racing in Virginia go to veterans' programs?**
A. Yes, but horse racing is an industry that is facing difficulties in Virginia. All the proceeds now go to keeping the industry alive. Attendance has been down 21% in the past two years at Colonial Downs. There are 9 off track betting parlors in Virginia but none are north of Richmond. Off track betting parlors are subject to local restrictions. Senator Norment has had bills for the last three years to allow "instant racing" and for half the proceeds to go to transportation, but the bills have never made it out of committee. In contrast, the Virginia Lottery is already established and has 4,900 outlets across the state.
 13. **Q. What about using proceeds from NASCAR racing?**
A. NASCAR racing is a private enterprise and no other state has a reliable dedicated revenue stream for veterans programs based on NASCAR proceeds.
 14. **Q. Cannot the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) raise the money from companies, foundations, and other groups?**
A. No. The VSF has not been able to consistently raise sufficient money to support all the needed veterans programs. For example, the VSF has made fundraising in support of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program its highest priority, and raised about \$113,000 in FY2009 and \$91,500 in FY2010. However, the VSF is not in the position to provide the needed multi-million dollar funding stream on a consistent basis over the long term.
 15. **Q. Is there any other way to provide an alternative dedicated revenue source for veterans programs?**
A. No other way that has a proven track record of providing a multi-million dollar revenue stream has yet been found. As of now, a veterans' lottery is the best, most proven model.