

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2013

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on May 22, 2013, at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

Members Present

- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Don Kaiserman, Association of the United States Army
- Allan McCroskey, Disabled American Veterans
- Abe Zino, Fleet Reserve Association
- John Edwards, Korean War Veterans Association
- John Prendergast, Marine Corps League
- Stu Williams, Military Officers Association of America
- Robert Fairchild, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- William Townsley, Military Order of the World Wars
- Thomas Moran, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Matthew Dailey, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- David Coffield, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Carmen Gentile, Reserve Officers Association
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Shawn Otto, Virginia National Guard Association
- Thad Jones, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Rich Schollmann, Vice Chairman, representing the Veterans Services Foundation
- Cathy Wilson, Deputy Commissioner, representing the Commissioner of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- Jeffrey Platte, Air Force Association
- George Coker, American Ex-POWs
- Brett Reistad, American Legion
- Thomas Richards, Legion of Valor
- Nolan Jackson, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Thomas Gimble, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Jenny Holbert, Women Marines Association

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Dale Chapman, American Legion
- Rich Rinaldo, Legion of Valor

- Jim Clem, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Dan Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- Frank Driscoll, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Cindy Norwood, Office of the Attorney General
- Al Pianalto, Office of Delegate Kirk Cox
- Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services
- Jack Hilgers, Department of Veterans Services
- Jon Hatfield, Department of Veterans Services
- Danielle Weaver, Department of Veterans Services
- Phillip Clayberg, Department of Veterans Services, SAA intern

Others Present

- John Cogbill, Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation
- Bob Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Wes Edwards, Military Officers Association of America
- Jeff Gilmartin, Jr., Past National President, Fleet Reserve Association
- Jeff Brown, Virginia Employment Commission, Director of Workforce Services
- Colonel Thomas Morgan, Virginia National Guard
- Jay Martin, Veterans Sentinel Group
- Sandy Chaplow, Veterans Sentinel Group

Items included in the Agenda Packet

Agenda (Agenda Item II)

Reports (Agenda Item V)

- Board of Veterans Services Report
- Veterans Services Foundation Report
- Department of Veterans Services Report

New Business (Agenda Item VII)

- Position Papers
 - MOAA-01, Electronic Return of Absentee Ballots
 - MOAA-02, Business Incentives for Hiring Veterans
 - MOAA-03, Hiring and Retention of Benefit Service Agents
 - MOAA-04, Homeless Veterans
 - MOAA-05, Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
 - MOAA-06, Update 2010 Report
 - FRA-01, Hunting and Fishing Licenses
 - FRA-02, Veterans Retirement Tax Plan
 - FRA-03, Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program

- JLC Initiatives – 2013 General Assembly
- BVS Initiatives – 2013 General Assembly
- Update on Past JLC Initiatives
- JLC 2013 Action Plan

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Don Kaiserman called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Chairman Kaiserman welcomed everyone and thanked them all for attending the meeting. Chairman Kaiserman asked Vice-Chairman Thomas Moran to lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance, which Vice-Chair Moran proceeded to do.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

The roll was called, and 22 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented and a quorum was determined. Mr. Thad Jones, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS), Mr. Rich Schollmann, representing the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF), and Deputy Commissioner Cathy Wilson, representing the Commissioner of Veterans Services, were recorded as present. Chairman Kaiserman invited Mr. Bob Huffman of the Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association (VaA/ANGEA) to sit at the table as a non-voting representative of his organization. Chairman Kaiserman noted that the VaA/ANGEA had applied for representation on the JLC and has nominated Mr. Huffman for appointment by the Governor as the VaA/ANGEA representative.

Introductions of Guests

Chairman Kaiserman asked the guests to introduce themselves. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Kaiserman welcomed them to the meeting.

Approval of the agenda

Chairman Kaiserman asked for a **motion** to approve the agenda (*Attachment 1*) as presented. Mr. Thad Jones made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Glenn Rodriguez to approve the agenda as presented.

Mr. Abe Zino raised a point of order, stating that he would like to reverse Agenda Item VII.b. ahead of Agenda Item VII a. Chairman Kaiserman asked for a **motion** to approve this change to the agenda. Mr. Zino made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. William Townsley. The agenda with changes was approved **unanimously**.

Approve March 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Kaiserman stated that the minutes of the March 20, 2013 meeting had been distributed electronically and asked for a **motion** to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Allan McCroskey made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Richard Mansfield, to approve the minutes as drafted. The March 20, 2013 minutes were approved by **unanimous** consent.

Opening remarks

Chairman Kaiserman introduced Colonel Thomas Morgan of the Virginia National Guard (VaNG). Colonel Morgan addressed the Council regarding the Virginia Veterans ID Card, which is issued by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Colonel Morgan explained that the Adjutant General, MG Daniel Long, would like the DMV to accept additional documents as proof of a veteran's military and discharge status. The VaNG would like to include all VaNG members. The VaNG issues a Common Access Card (CAC) to all active members. After discharge members are issued a DD256 which is not always accepted by DMV as proof of their discharge.

After some discussion to clarify the issue, Chair Kaiserman suggested that the Council members go back to their VSOs and get their opinions on this request. It will be on the agenda for discussion at the next JLC meeting.

Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to have the JLC members take the issue back to their respective VSOs for study and bring positions back for discussion at the next JLC meeting. Mr. Moran **seconded** the motion. The motion passed without objection. Colonel Morgan agreed to provide a written summary of the issues he raised at the meeting.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Colonel Morgan for his presentation.

Chairman Kaiserman reminded the Council that approval of some of the new VSO representative appointments to the JLC are still pending after almost a year. Mr. Combs stated that the Department of Veterans Services and Secretary Suit were working on getting this resolved. Chair Kaiserman observed that he brought this concern up at the last JLC meeting. Mr. James Clem mentioned that Ms. Emily Barrett, who handles appointments, is no longer with the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and wondered if this had anything to do with the delays. Ms. Norwood said that is possible because many other boards and commissions are in the same situation.

Chairman Kaiserman stated that JLC representatives can designate the person who will replace them as their alternate representative, so that the alternate can attend the meetings and get up to speed until the new appointments are made.

Presentations

Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation

Mr. John Cogbill, Chairman for the Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation (VWMEF), delivered a presentation to the Council on the Virginia War Memorial (VWM) and the work of the VWMEF. He thanked the Council for their continued support and invited the Council members to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 27 at 10:00 a.m.

As part of his presentation, Mr. Cobgill showed a story that ran on that ran on WTVR-6 Richmond about local schools visiting the Virginia War Memorial to meet with veterans. He noted that not all schools have the resources to bring their students to the Virginia War Memorial for educational presentations, which makes the VWM's and VWMEF's outreach efforts all the

more important, in order to bring educational opportunities to those students who cannot visit the VWM. He encouraged the Council members and the organizations to support the work of the VWMEF.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Thad Jones delivered the BVS report with attachment (*Attachment 2*). Mr. Jones invited the Council members to attend the next BVS meeting on July 24, 2013, emphasized the excellent partnership between the BVS and JLC, and stated that the BVS will continue to support the work of the JLC.

Chair Kaiserman thanked Mr. Jones for his report.

Veterans Services Foundation

Mr. Rich Schollmann, Vice Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees, delivered the VSF report with attachments (*Attachment 3*). Mr. Schollmann stated that, at the last VSF meeting, he was elected as the new VSF Chairman and will replace Chairman Dave Holt on July 1.

Mr. Schollmann thanked the Council for their support and noted that the next VSF meeting will be on Wednesday, August 7, 2013.

Chair Kaiserman thanked Mr. Schollmann for the VSF report.

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Mr. Thomas Moran stated that the last scheduled meeting of the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) had been cancelled due to travel funding restrictions for VMAC members, and that therefore he did not have a report. He stated that he would attend the next scheduled VMAC meeting and report back to the JLC accordingly.

Department of Veterans Services

Deputy Commissioner Cathy Wilson introduced herself and noted that she was honored to serve in her new position and to be able to work even closer with Commissioner Paul Galanti. She also stated that she will continue to oversee the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program until a new Executive Director fills this position.

Deputy Commissioner Wilson delivered the DVS report in Commissioner Galanti's absence (*Attachment 4*), noting that Commissioner Galanti is very proud of the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) audit and commended DVS Finance Director Tammy Davidson, the finance team at DVS headquarters, and the finance teams at the care centers; VSF Executive Director Jack Hilgers; VWM Executive Director Jon Hatfield; and all DVS directors and staff, for their outstanding efforts to ensure proper use and accounting of financial resources.

Chair Kaiserman called for a break at 11:00 am. Chair Kaiserman called the meeting back to order at 11:10 am.

New Business

Chairman Kaiserman acknowledged the arrivals of Mr. Dan Dennison, NAUS; Mr. Jeff Brown, Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) Director of Workforce Services; and Mr. Wes Edwards, past MOAA representative to the JLC.

Mr. Edwards announced that the annual Memorial Day Service will be held at the Historic Christ Church in Irvington on Monday, May 27, and that Deputy Commissioner Wilson will be the guest speaker.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Edwards for his service on the JLC.

Mr. Abe Zino introduced Mr. Jeffrey Gilmartin of Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Potomac Region Branch 207, noting that Mr. Gilmartin served as FRA National President from 2011 to 2012. He added that he was appointing Mr. Gilmartin as the FRA alternate representative to the JLC.

Review past JLC initiatives and current status

Mr. Zino reviewed the summary of the JLC and BVS initiatives for 2013 (*Attachment 5*) in Mr. Brett Reistad absence.

Mr. Zino asked the Council to take a few minutes to review the summary of the JLC Initiatives from 2005 – 2013.

Review and discussion of potential 2013-2014 JLC Initiatives

Mr. Zino turned the floor over to Mr. Stu Williams to review the 2013-2014 initiatives proposed by MOAA. The initiatives proposed by MOAA are included in *Attachment 6*. Comments were made regarding several of the proposed initiatives, as recorded below.

- MOAA-01, Electronic Return of Absentee Ballots
 - Vice-Chairman Moran stated that this will affect active duty members and that the General Assembly's Joint Commission on Technology and Science was studying this issue.

- MOAA-03, Hiring and Retention of Benefit Service Agents
 - Mr. Rich Rinaldo asked why DVS would send 10 DVS claims agents to attend the American Legion training. He also asked why Virginia needs to have more claims agents to file claims. Mr. Steven Combs explained that Virginia veterans benefit from having trained claims agents assist them in developing and submitting their claims. He noted that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) has a goal of eliminating the claims backlog 2015. He noted the commitment of USDVA Secretary Eric Shinseki and Under Secretary of Benefits Allison Hickey to doing this.

- Mr. Dan Boyer and asked about the VISTA program and how they will work with the USDVA's claims system. Deputy Commissioner Wilson stated that the VISTA program is primarily used for health information exchange and that she did not know how it would interact with the new USDVA program.
 - Mr. Allan McCroskey stated that the USDVA program should be up and running September 1, 2013. He also stated that the USDVA will be requiring staff to put in overtime to reduce the claims backlog.
- MOAA-04, Homeless Veterans
 - Deputy Commissioner Wilson stated that the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) helped 157 homeless veterans last year and feels that this is just a small glimpse of veterans that are homeless.
 - Mr. Williams stated that he will speak further at a later meeting about the funding for this proposal.
 - Mr. Allan McCroskey stated that the homeless veterans program at the Salem VA Medical Center is closing as of July 1, 2013, and that 20 veterans are currently housed there. Mr. McCroskey said he has not been able to get any answer on why this program is closing.
 - Mr. Al Pianalto referenced a stand down for homeless veterans held at the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, where approximately 500 homeless veterans sought help.
 - MOAA-06, Update 2010 Report
 - Mr. Thad Jones commented that the Governor wants to make Virginia the most veteran-friendly state and asked where we are with this. Mr. Combs noted the significant strides made by all concerned.
 - Mr. Jones then asked if we can now say that Virginia is the most veteran-friendly state. Mr. Al Pianalto replied that he had prepared a study about a year ago that showed the monumental support of veterans issues by the state. Mr. Pianalto expressed his opinion that if Virginia were not the most veteran-friendly state then it is certainly in the top five.
 - Mr. Jones asked if the JLC should ask the Governor to issue a proclamation stating that Virginia is the most veteran-friendly state. Chair Kaiserman stated that this is not right time to do this.

Mr. Zino then reviewed the 2013-2014 initiatives proposed by his organization, the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA). The initiatives proposed by the FRA are included in Attachment 6. Mr. Zino explained that he researched retirement benefits offered by other states and that his research was attached to the FRA proposal #2, Veterans Retirement Tax Plan. He noted that the FRA recommendation would be for all veterans, not just retirees.

Chairman Kaiserman asked if there were any additional proposals.

Mr. Frank Driscoll stated that he has been referring Navy Seabees that need help with their claims to Ms. Virginia Pauley in the DVS Tidewater Benefits Office, and that she has been able to get their claims processed and approved very quickly.

Vice-Chairman Moran stated that he attended a veteran job fair in Norfolk two weeks ago and that he promoted the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program and the V3 Conference that will be held June 12 in Richmond. He noted that no companies have achieved Gold-level certification yet, but that the first companies are expected to achieve this level in the next year.

Chairman Kaiserman stated that if any VSO had additional initiatives for consideration at the July 17 meeting, the initiatives should be sent to Mr. Combs for distribution to the Council.

Other new business and open discussion

Mr. Bill Townsley distributed a proposed plan of action to the Council regarding forums to educate elected officials regarding the proposed JLC and BVS initiatives. Mr. Townsley's proposal is included as *Attachment 7*.

Vice-Chairman Moran made for a **motion** to accept Mr. Townsley's proposal as presented. The motion was **seconded** by Chairman Kaiserman. The proposal was approved **unanimously**

Chairman Kaiserman explained that this year will be a bit more challenging for the JLC because it is an election year for the House of Delegates. He commented that there will be current officials. The JLC will need to reach out to everyone. Mr. Jones stated that patrons for these bills will need to be identified as soon as possible.

Public Comment

Ms. Jay Martin and Ms. Sandy Chaplow of the Veterans Sentinel Group (VSG) addressed the Council. The VSG proposes to create a 37-unit cottage housing development in Chesterfield for veterans, veterans with disabilities, and their families. Ms. Martin explained that the VSG is also proposing to create a veteran business training center and a veteran business community. They noted that the VSG will first have to gain title of the proposed site in order to proceed with the projects. The property is valued at approximately \$1.25 million. The VSG is seeking donations in order that VSG may purchase the land. Ms. Martin explained that VSG has applied for grants through Home Depot but cannot receive that grant until they purchase the land. Ms. Martin thanked the JLC for allowing the VSG to address the Council.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Kaiserman adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1
Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
American Legion Building
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
May 22, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Approve March 20, 2013 meeting minutes – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Opening remarks – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:15 – 10:20)
- V. Presentations (10:20 – 10:35)
 - a. Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation – *John Cogbill, Chairman*
- VI. Reports (10:35 – 10:55)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *David Holt, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - c. Virginia Military Advisory Council – *Chip Moran, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
 - d. Department of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner* (5 minutes)
- Break (10:55 – 11:00)
- VII. New business (11:00 – 12:20)
 - a. Review and discussion of potential 2013-2014 JLC Initiatives – *Brett Reistad, Legislative Officer* (50 minutes)
 - b. Review past JLC initiatives and current status – *Brett Reistad, Legislative Officer* (20 minutes)
 - c. Other new business and open discussion – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10 minutes)
- VIII. Public comment period (12:20 – 12:25)
- IX. Closing remarks – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (12:25 – 12:30)
- X. Adjourn (12:30)

Lunch to follow

ATTACHMENT 2
BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES
REPORT TO THE
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (JLC)
OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
May 22, 2013

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on May 8, 2013. At the meeting, the BVS:

- Received a presentation from Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Cemeteries Director Dan Kemanos;
- Reviewed and discussed the results of the BVS and JLC initiatives from the 2013 General Assembly;
- Reviewed other legislative initiatives adopted by the General Assembly and approved by the Governor;
- Reviewed and discussed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 and FY 2014 Appropriations Act approved by the Governor and General Assembly;
- Received reports by the JLC, Veterans Services Foundation (VSF), and the DVS;
- Adopted new committee assignments and chairs (see attached). The BVS has three standing committees – Benefits, Care Centers, and Cemeteries. Ad hoc committees are formed as required (Budget, Bylaws Review, etc.);
- Reviewed the Board’s Powers and Duties, as set forth in the Code of Virginia and Executive Order 29 (EO29);
- Held an initial discussion of potential BVS 2014 Initiatives. Like the JLC, the Board will develop a set of recommendations to Governor McDonnell for his consideration for the 2014 General Assembly session. The Board recommendations will be adopted on July 24. At the same meeting, the Board will vote to ratify and support the recommendations adopted by the JLC at its July 17 meeting.

The BVS Cemeteries Committee will meet on Thursday, May 23, while the full Board of Veterans Services will meet on Wednesday, July 24. The BVS looks forward to continuing its outstanding partnership with the JLC in 2013 to serve Virginia’s veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Thad A. Jones
Chairman

Attachment to BVS Report – May 22, 2013

Looking & Moving Forward Committees Assignments

Benefits Committee

- Kate Kohler, Chairman
 - Bill Haneke
 - William Nicholas
 - Al Sample
-

Care Centers Committee

- Don Lecky, Chairman
 - John Anderson
-

Cemeteries Committee

- Sandra Love, Chairman
 - L. Max Beyer
 - Don Kaiserman
-

Board Members at Large

- Thad Jones, BVS Chairman
- Rich Anderson, House of Delegates
- Mamy BaCote, House of Delegates
- Chris Stolle, House of Delegates
- Toddy Puller, Senate of Virginia
- Bryce Reeves, Senate of Virginia
- Chip Moran, JLC Vice Chairman
- Dave Holt, VSF Chairman
- Paul Galanti, DVS Commissioner

Revised May 2013

ATTACHMENT 3
VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION
REPORT TO

Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations
May 22, 2013

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held two meetings since last JLC meeting. An Executive Committee meeting was held on March 6, 2013 because a Board quorum was not available due to weather. No Committee meetings were held that day. The Board met on May 1, 2013 with 17 members present and the Development and Finance Committees met before the Board meeting. The following events occurred and actions taken at the meetings, in addition to the usual reports and updates on VWWP and V3.

- (1) Reviewed Foundation fundraising and fundraising events conducted during FY13, Foundation expenses, and the results of the FY11-12 audit;
- (2) Approved the 2nd and 3rd Quarter FY13 VSF Financial Reports;
- (3) Approved FY13 Budget adjustments for VWWP, Virginia Veterans Care Center, and V3;
- (4) Approved VSF-DVS FY14 Budget;
- (5) Approved the review and updating of VSF-DVS Joint Policies #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 6A;
- (6) Approved appointing Frank Finelli to the Development Committee;
- (7) Approved the purchase of a VSF logo lapel pin;
- (8) Adopted a FY14 VSF Milestone Plan (first attachment); and
- (9) Appointed a Nominating Committee and elected officers for FY14.

As of 1 May, the Foundation has received donations during FY13 of almost \$425,000, of which over \$355,000 is for VWWP. (See the second attachment.) The total amount includes two donations for the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program and much more is expected. Additionally, there still are a host of future events scheduled for FY13 and FY14 is starting to fill. (See the third attachment.) 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 Board of Trustees elected the following officers for FY14:

Chair, Richard Schollmann
1st Vice Chair, Peter Trainer
2nd Vice Chair, Juanita Farrell

In keeping with the VSF Board Bylaws, their terms will be effective July 1, 2013.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2013 at the American Legion Headquarters on Commonwealth Street. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the Final Quarter FY13 Financial Statement; (2) approval of the review and updates of VSF-DVS Joint Policies #7, 8, and 9; (3) consider a new policy on charitable bequests/planned giving; (4) review VSF FY13 fundraising program and projections for FY14; (5) appointment of committee chairs for FY14.

Respectfully submitted,

David Holt
VSF Chairman

Attachments: (1) VSF Milestone Plan; (2) FY13 VSF Donations; (3) FY13 Events

Attachment 1 to VSF Report
VSF Milestones FY14*

July 1, 2013

Board Officers assume duties

August 7 meeting**

Review FY13 Goals and Objectives/Matrices
Consider Goals and Objectives for FY14
Approve 4th Quarter FY13 Financial Statement
Approve review of three VSF-DVS Policies, if any
Board Chair appoints Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs
Approval of Committee Chair/Vice Chair appointments
Approve tentative dates and locations (if available for FY14)

November 6 meeting**

Approve 1st Quarter FY14 Financial Statement
Approve budget adjustments, if any
Approve Bylaws and MOU changes, if any

March 12, 2014

Request Budget input for FY14 due April 14

March 26 meeting

Approve 2nd Quarter FY13 Financial Statement
Approve budget adjustments, if any
Confirm dates and locations of 2014 Board meetings
Elect a nominating committee

April 4

Nominating Committee put out call for candidates for officers' positions

May 7 meeting***

Approve 3rd Quarter FY13 Financial Statement
Approve budget adjustments, if any
Approve FY15 budget
Elect officers for FY14

*At all meetings, as appropriate, receive VWWP, V3, and other DVS activity updates.

**In odd numbered years review all VSF-DVS Policies, Bylaws, and MOU

***In Odd numbered years, receive report on APA audit if available

Attachment 2 to VSF Report
VSF FUNDRAISING RESULTS FOR FY13

**Unaudited
 May 20, 2013**

Income

VWWP	
Cedar Point Country Club	55,000.00
Anonymous	28,000.00
Virginia Polo, Inc.	16,895.49
Bosh Global Services	14,573.79
G C Marshall Ch. MOAA	14,038.00
Lakeview Development Corp	13,668.20
VA Bankers Assn Class of 2012	13,589.55
Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Bedall	10,000.00
Columbia Natural Gas (NiSource Fndtn)	10,000.00
Rooster Walk Inc (Turn 5)	9,000.00
American Legion Post 146	6,700.00
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club	6,300.00
Riverside Hospital Services	5,000.00
An Achievable Dream	4,500.00
American Legion Post 89	4,000.00
Care Advantage Inc	3,860.00
Bowditch Ford	3,850.00
Rockbridge Patriots MCL Det 1351	3,500.00
Witts Harley Davidson	3,231.00
Caruso, Inc	3,000.00
American Borate Company	3,000.00
Member One Bank	2,915.31
Aero Vironment	2,500.00
Avery Ballet	2,500.00
Grease Monkey of Hampton Rds	2,223.34
Kaitly McQuade (UVA – DC Marathon)	2,195.99
Am. Legion Charlottesville Post	2,182.00
Honorable Order of the Blue Goose	2,114.25
Chancellor Middle School	2,059.00
New River Energetics	2,000.00
Sons of the Revolution	2,000.00
Hampton-Sydney College	2,000.00
Thomas F. Farrell II	2,000.00
Exchange Club of Lynchburg	2,000.00
Country Boys Quick Stop (Mtrcycle Run)	1,966.00
Miles for Miles	1,767.00
John Lynch Ch. DAR	1,750.00
MillerCoors	1,700.00
Longshots/All Foods	1,624.00
Longwood University	1,531.66
ODU Sports Mgmt Assn	1,518.00
COL John W. Brown USA (Ret)	1,500.00
Other VSOs**	1,450.00
Blue Knights VA Motorcycle Club	1,381.50
Marine Corps League Det 1379	1,365.00
FLUOR Enterprises	1,348.00
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	1,130.00
King George HS Drama Club	1,124.54
Un-Refiners Golf League	1,100.00
Blue Knights Motorcycle Club	1,055.19

The Pretty Real Estate Group	1,038.00
Warrenton Lace Guild	1,020.00
Challenged Sports Exchange	1,000.00
Appalachian Power Co	1,000.00
Dominion Resources	1,000.00
Old Dominion Electric Coop	1,000.00
Disabled American Veterans Ch 39	1,000.00
Powhatan Masonic Lodge 295	1,000.00
Marine Corps League Det 980	1,000.00
Parkview Community Center Board	1,000.00
Ada Lieb Goldstein Foundation	1,000.00
Hampton Roads Chapter MOAA	1,000.00
O. N. Pollard	1,000.00
Richard & Christine Bardley	1,000.00
Individual Donors	<u>57,196.22</u>
VWWP Revenue Balance***	<u>355,439.53</u>

Care Centers	
VVCC	44,245.15
S&BVCC	10,126.19

Cemeteries	100.00
Amelia	550.00
Dublin	575.00
Suffolk	150.00

Foundation Endowment	75.00
Amelia Golf Cart	3,600.00
V3 Fund	
SAIC	5,000.00
Dominion Resources	5,000.00

Non-VWWP Total	<u>69,421.34</u>
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Total FY13 Income to Date* 424,860.87

*Does not include Grants or Interest

**American Legion Posts, MOAA Chapters, VFW Posts, Marine Corps League Dets

***Does not include in-kind donations including \$9,222.00 in greeting cards from Bell America Greeting Cards and \$1,160.00 in other miscellaneous in-kind donations.

Attachment 3 to VSF Report
VSE and VWWP Fundraising* Events FY13

Date	What	Where	POC
7/2/12	ODU 5K Run*	Norfolk	John Leigh
7/13-15/12	Cycling Event*	Covington	Sarah Persinger
7/18/12	Member One Fundrsr*	Roanoke	Mark Hudzik
7/28/12	CVMA Ride*	Garrisonville	Ross Woodley
7/31/12	Drama Clb Production*	King George	Katrina Wines
8/6/12	Golf Tournament*	Lexington	Gordy Calkins/MOAA
8/6/12	VBA Fundraiser*	Charlottesville	John Ramirez
8/7/12	Luncheon*	Midlothian	Melissa Clay
8/14/12	Oldies Dance*	Charlottesville	American Legion
8/25/12	Bowl-a-Thon*	Midlothian	Melissa Clay
8/27/12	Antique Bike Show*	Fairfax	Patriot Harley Davidson
9/1-3/12	Lakeview Golf T*	Harrisonburg	Dave Holt
9/12/12	Achievable Dream	Williamsburg	Cathy Wilson
9/14/12	Bosh BBQ*	Newport News	Susan Houchin/Eric Endries
9/15/12	New River Triathlon*	Pulaski Cnty	Jim Beamer/Dominion Rescues
9/18/12	Bowditch Ford*	Newport News	Dan Rosinski
9/20/12	DAR High Tea*	Lynchburg	Phyllis Bruce
9/22/12	Clay Shoot*	Lexington	Marine Corps League
9/27-8/12	Neptune Festival*	Virginia Beach	Scott Miller/Grease Monkey
9/29/12	FOP VWWP Rec*	Newport News	Danny Machesny
9/29/12	BBQ & Bike Rally*	King George	Steve Heitmeyer
9/30/12	Cadillac Polo Match*	Charlottesville	Tracey Leverty
10/2/12	Veterans Call Day*	Chester	Kirk Cox
10/13/12	Dart Tournament*	Chesapeake	Bart Consford
10/4/12	Cedar Point Golf T*	Suffolk	Ed Keil/Jack H
10/13/12	Motorcycle Run*	Prince George	Susan Keim
10/26-7/12	Turn 5 Concerts*	Martinsville	Cliff Roop/Matt Wade
11/3/12	Motorcycle Poker Run*	Manassas	Chris Taylor
12/15/12	Deer Hunt	Dickenson Cnty	Cheryl Mefford
1/5/13	Pro-wrestling*	Lexington	Chris Graham
3/16/13	Rock n Roll Marathon*	Washington DC	Kaitlyn McQuade
3/24/13	Wnded Warrior Tribte*	Newport News	Clay Bradshaw/Eric Endries
3/26/13	ACME Golf Tourny*	VA Beach	Michael Midura
3/29/13	AgustaExpo Musical*	Staunton Area	John Reynolds
3/30/13	Motocycle Run*	Region 4	David Farmer/Delano Medley
4/16/13	RLCDC Golf Tourn*	Woodbridge	Kylisa Harris
4/26-7/13	W'burg Hot Rod Run*	Williamsburg	Larry Anderson
5/4/13	MOAAClay Shoot*	Lexington	Ross Schmoll
5/11/13	POWMIA Bike Rally*	Lynchburg	Thomas Bushley
5/11/13	Unity Church Event*	Fredericksburg	Judi Ventrurina
5/18/13	10 IS BC Fun Run*	Langley AFB	Joe Sheve
5/18/13	Musical Theater*	Hampton	Eileen Engel
5/27/13	Victory Golf Event*	New Kent Cnty	Joshua McKim
6/1/13	Poor Boy Car Show*	Front Royal	David Jenson
6/15/13	AmLegion Riders*	Hopewell/Richmond	Dennis Hubbs
6/28/13	Victry for Vets Golf T*	Harrisonburg	Dave Holt
7/20/13	VIADA Fundraiser*	Portsmouth	Stella Salyer

8/10/13	So Knights Car Show*	Petersburg	Ricky Williams
8/17/13	Wned Warrior Fest*	Fredericksburg	Kennith Harvey
9/28/13	AmLegion Bike Run*	King George	Steven Heitmeyer
10/6/13	Polo Match*	Charlottesville	Martha M/Camille S.

ATTACHMENT 4
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
REPORT TO

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Memorandum for: Chairman Donald Kaiserman
Members, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

From: Paul E. Galanti, Commissioner

Date: May 22, 2013

Subject: Department of Veterans Services report

I am honored to welcome aboard our new Deputy Commissioner – Cathy Wilson! She has an outstanding record of success in her military career and with the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, and she will do great things in her new role.

The Family Impact Seminar, *Military and Veteran Families: Focus on Strategies for Sustainable Housing and Family Well-being*, was held on Tuesday, May 21st. The seminar was targeted to Virginia legislators and highlighted national research in homeless/housing services and family support. The event was well attended; featured speakers included Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Terrie Suit, Delegate Kirk Cox, and Deputy Commissioner Cathy Wilson.

The Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) recently released the audit report of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF), and the Virginia War Memorial (VWM) for the 24-month period July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012.

The APA audit found:

- Proper recording and reporting of all transactions, in all material respects, in the Commonwealth Accounting and Reporting System and the department's Financial Management System;
- No matters involving internal control and its operation necessary to bring to management's attention; and
- No instances of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations or other matters that are required to be reported.

DVS Finance Director Tammy Davidson, the finance team at DVS headquarters, and the finance teams at the care centers; VSF Executive Director Jack Hilgers; VWM Executive Director Jon Hatfield; and all DVS directors and staff, are to be commended for their outstanding efforts to ensure proper use and accounting of financial resources.

The outstanding audit report also reflects great credit on the members of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) and the critical partnership the JLC has established with the Department. The JLC has earned my sincere trust and admiration. Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 was a banner year for DVS and the JLC; I look forward to our continued partnership and success in FY14.

ATTACHMENT 5
Summary of Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Initiatives
2013 General Assembly

JLC Priority #1: Provide for the electronic return of absentee ballots voted by overseas voters. SB830 (Puller): to provide to military overseas, secure electronic ballots. Incorporates SB874 (McWaters). **Passed Senate; House Elections Sub-Committee referred the Senate bill to Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) for further study. Left in House Privileges and Elections.**

JLC Priority #2: Set aside land for a Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center. HB2175 (K. Cox): authorizes the Governor to request federal funds for a Veterans Care Center and requires the State Treasurer to issue a short-term loan for the state share (35%) if the US Department of Veterans Affairs determines federal funds will be allocated. **Passed House and Senate, Approved by Governor**
Budget Item C-34.15: authorizes the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, to approve a short term loan up to \$28.5M for the state share of a Veterans Care Center if the Veterans US Department of Veterans Affairs allocates the federal share. Supports HB2175. **Passed House and Senate, Approved by Governor**

JLC Priority #3: Provide sales and use tax exemption for veterans service organizations. SB730 (Puller): adds veterans organizations to nonprofit entities that qualify for the exemption. **Left in the Senate Finance Committee**

JLC Priority #4: Provide business incentives (tax credit) for employing veterans to fill new jobs. HB2290 (Head): gives a tax credit for entities who hire veterans at a salary of at least \$30,000 per year and additional incentives for retention of the veteran. **Left in House Finance Committee**
SB831 (Puller): gives a tax credit for entities who hire veterans at a salary of at least \$30,000 per year and additional incentives for retention of the veteran. **Bill was amended to establish a Gold Certified Veteran Grant Fund to support the DVS V3 Program. Passed Senate; Left in the House Appropriations Committee.**
Budget Item 462: provides up to \$300,000 the second year from the general fund for training and equipment purchases to support the Virginia Values Veterans Program. Such funds may be used by companies hiring returning or disabled military veterans for new full-time jobs located in the Commonwealth that pay an annual salary of at least \$30,000 and for which the returning or disabled military veteran is employed continuously throughout the year. A full-time job is defined as a minimum of either 35 hours per week for at least 48 weeks or 1,680 hours per year. **Passed Senate and House, Approved by Governor**

JLC Priority #5: Clarify Code of Virginia section regarding in-state tuition eligibility for veterans. HB1461 (Lingamfelter): clarifies eligibility for in-state tuition for current and former military personnel and their dependents. **Passed House and Senate, Approved by Governor**
SB1242 (Stuart): clarifies eligibility for in-state tuition for current and former military personnel

and their dependents. **Passed Senate and House, Approved by Governor**

JLC Priority #6: Increase the stipend in the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program from \$1,500 to \$2,000 and provide necessary funding (\$600,000) to support the increase.

HB2231 (Rush): provides a stipend of up to \$2,000, or as provided in the appropriations act.

Passed House and Senate, Approved by Governor.

Budget Item 144: raises stipend cap from \$1,500 to \$1,800. Increases FY13 program funding by \$75,000 and FY14 program funding by \$600,000 to cover increase. **Passed House and Senate, Approved by Governor.**

Summary of Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Initiatives 2013 General Assembly

BVS Priority #1: Institutionalize Virginia Values Vets (V3) initiative through a change to the Code of Virginia or an Executive Order.

HB1906 (Anderson): authorizes the Department of Veteran Services (DVS) to develop a program to reduce veteran unemployment. **Passed House and Senate, Approved by Governor**

SB829 (Puller): authorizes DVS to develop a program to reduce veteran unemployment.

Passed Senate and House, Approved by Governor

Budget Item 462: provides up to \$300,000 the second year from the general fund for training and equipment purchases to support the Virginia Values Veterans Program. Such funds may be used by companies hiring returning or disabled military veterans for new full-time jobs located in the Commonwealth that pay an annual salary of at least \$30,000 and for which the returning or disabled military veteran is employed continuously throughout the year. A full-time job is defined as a minimum of either 35 hours per week for at least 48 weeks or 1,680 hours per year. **Passed Senate and House, Approved by Governor**

BVS Priority #2: Appropriate funding for DVS Tele-Vet system and improved use of social media: (1) \$150,000 in FY14 (General Fund – one time) to develop and deploy a Tele-Vet system to reach Virginia veterans who do not own or have ready access to a computer; (2) \$25,000 (General Fund) per fiscal year in FY15 and beyond for system operation; and (3) \$20,000 (General Fund) annually for a wage employee to better engage Virginia veterans through social media, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and podcasts. **No action by General Assembly**

BVS Priority #3: Increase the DVS budget by \$30,000 (General Fund) per year to allow 10 DVS claims agents to attend the American Legion training and 10 agents to attend the VFW training.

Budget Item 462: provides \$30,000 to train up to 20 claims agents per year. **Passed Senate and House, Approved by Governor**

BVS Priority #4: Ensure that state veterans cemeteries have the financial resources necessary for essential maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements by:

(1) Authorizing use of federal funds for the Non General Fund portion of the maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements. Increase included in Budget Item 463, which **Passed Senate and House, Approved by Governor**

(2) Maintain the current charges for burial vaults for veterans and spouses and the burial fee for spouses. **Accomplished administratively by DVS**

BVS Priority #5: Assign a Senior Assistant Attorney General to the Department of Veterans Services on a full-time basis to provide legal services.

Budget Item 462: provides \$65,000 for this. **Passed Senate and House, Approved by Governor**

BVS Priority #6: DVS to partner with veterans service organizations (VSOs) to create a resource directory of non-DVS claims agents and share this information with members of the General Assembly. **This will be accomplished administratively by DVS.**

ATTACHMENT 6

Proposed JLC 2013-14 Initiatives

Proposed Initiative Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) 01

Electronic Return of Absentee Ballots by Overseas US Government Voters

1. **Objective:** To allow for electronic return of absentee ballots by US Government personnel overseas voters.

2. **Background:**

- a. Uniformed service personnel, their dependents, and overseas US Government civilian voters often experience difficulties in casting absentee ballots due to a number of factors, including the timely return of a voted ballot.
- b. Currently an overseas voter can electronically register and receive an absentee ballot, but the ballot must be returned via “snail” mail.
- c. SB830 (and SB874), as introduced in the 2013 General Assembly, intended to improve registration and absentee voting procedures for military and overseas voters to include authorization for pilot programs to vote by secure electronic means. SB874 was incorporated into SB830 and the latter passed the Senate unanimously. However, the House Committee on Privileges and Elections Subcommittee on Elections referred it to the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) for further study because they were not satisfied that the State Board of Elections (SBE) could provide adequate security to prevent voter fraud.
- d. SB830 stated that, *“The State Board of Elections shall provide instructions and procedures to enable uniformed-service voters outside the United States, as these terms are defined in subsections 9 and 10 of §24.2-452, to return voted military-overseas ballots securely by electronic format. In the event that a ballot is requested on or before but not sent by the deadline for making absentee ballots available under §24.2-612, the electoral board shall send the blank ballot, instructions, and return envelope form to the voter by the most expedited delivery service available or by electronic means if the voter so requests.”*
- e. The Impact Statement for SB830 states that the *“The State Board of Elections (SBE) reports that this legislation should not have a material fiscal impact on SBE. However, localities may experience increased costs depending on existing facilities and information systems requirements that would be needed to accommodate the secure return features.”*

3. **Discussion:**

- a. A number of knowledgeable technicians have supported the secure submission of absentee ballots from U.S. Government personnel serving overseas.
- b. Legislation is required to permit electronic return of the voted ballot from all US government personnel stationed overseas.

4. **Recommendation:** That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation to permit the electronic return of absentee ballot by overseas US Government voters.

Proposed Initiative
MOAA-02

Business Incentives for Hiring Veterans

1. Objective:

To encourage businesses to hire and retain veterans and both take them off of unemployment and have jobs ready for veterans when they leave the military.

2. Background:

- a. The jobless rate for veterans who were in the service following September 11, 2001 was 9.9 percent last year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics for veterans of all ages. However, for veterans in the age group 18 to 24 the percentage is 20.4 percent. This far exceeds the employment rate for nonveterans for the same periods.
- b. The very successful Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program, under the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), educates employers and their human relations staff regarding the advantages in hiring veterans. Base funding will continue to be required for the V3 Program, however, the success of any program of this nature is retention of hired veteran employees.
- c. One new approach offered in the 2013 General Assembly Session under SB831 was to offer a Gold-Certified Veterans Employment Grant Fund which focused of employee hiring and retention and passed the Senate unanimously. Concern in the House focused around the perpetual nature of the grants rather than a one-time payment and the high annual salary (\$50,000) required to qualify.

3. Discussion:

The Gold-Certified Veterans Employment Grant Fund program should be revisited during the 2014 General Assembly Session to ensure that:

- a. V3 Program base funding continues;
- b. Payments justify hiring and retention goals;
- c. The minimum annual salary level of the employee is realistic (e.g., at least \$30,000).

4. Recommendation:

That the Governor and General Assembly adopt legislation that will support hiring and retention of veterans, particularly those who have served during the past decade.

Proposed Initiative
MOAA-03

Hiring and Retention of Benefit Services Agents

1. OBJECTIVE:

Provide funds to fully staff, train, and retain Department of Veterans Services claims agents along with full utilization of the automatic claims processing system to assure the timely development and submission of accurate veterans claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

2. BACKGROUND:

- a. Veterans are entitled to disability compensation from the federal government for injuries or illnesses resulting from military service. To obtain this compensation, Veterans must file claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA).
- b. Filing a claim is a long, complex process – most Veterans seek assistance to file a claim.
- c. To assist Virginia Veterans, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) operates 22 Benefits Field Offices that provide free assistance to Virginia Veterans in developing and filing claims for compensation and pension benefits with the USDVA.
- d. Virginia receives a considerable return on investment for helping Virginia Veterans. In FY10, DVS filed 26,431 claims on behalf of Virginia Veterans, resulting in an estimated \$122 million in new disability compensation payments. In FY11 the number of claims increased to 28,541 with an estimated fiscal impact of \$154 million
- e. DVS Benefit Field Offices are staffed by trained claims agents, particularly in using the automatic claims processing system, who provide direct, one-on-one assistance to veterans in developing and filing claims with the USDVA.
- f. Knowledgeable trained and experienced claims agents are in high demand and many DVS agents leave for higher paying jobs that DVS cannot match.
- g. DVS has had a 70 percent claims agent turnover during the past five years.
- h. DVS does not have the authority and financial resources to retain trained and experienced claims agents by being able to offer them competitive salaries based on their operational base.

3. DISCUSSION:

The solution is to provide sufficient authorization and funding so that DVS can offer competitive salaries based on each agent's operational base.

4. RECOMMENDATION:

That the Governor and General Assembly support competitive funding for DVS claims agents.

Proposed Initiative
MOAA-04

Implementing the Virginia Homeless Veterans Program

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To plan, implement, and sustain an effective program to eliminate homelessness within our Virginia Veterans population.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

- a. Homelessness within the Virginia Veterans population has been a long-term issue predating the War in Vietnam. JLARC completed a significant study in June 2010 documenting a baseline size and nature of issue. That study also stated that significant long-term funding and a dedicated program would be required to solve the problem. Recent studies by the VA, Veterans Advocacy Groups, and some localities fully support the urgent need to implement the JLARC study recommendations
- b. Those recent studies also establish that there have been significant increases in the number and percentage of women veterans and the children of veterans among the homeless.
- c. Governor McDonald specifically addressed Homeless Veterans in two major policy statements, his Executive Order 29 which directs the establishment of a Veterans Compact and in the establishment of a Homeless Working Group which includes the homeless veterans' population.
- d. The General Assembly approved two positions within the Department of Veterans Services to plan and coordinate an intensive program to dramatically reduce homelessness among veterans and their families. A HVP Director has been hired and the development of policies and procedures has begun.

3. **DISCUSSION:**

- a. Elimination of homelessness among Virginia's Veterans requires a long-term effort. During the first year (FY 2015) an effective Homeless Veterans Program (HVP) will require an operating budget of about \$450,000. The HVP should continue development of a targeted program incorporating the resources of the VA and the Virginia's Wounded Warrior Program which have established unique resources for assisting veterans. The HVP should also coordinate with community resources, identify locales to establish pilot programs, and identify grants which are available to reduce homelessness, and field test pilot outreach efforts (1 and multi-day Stand-downs in at least 2 urban areas and 4 multi-county rural areas, partnerships with emergency shelter providers, and transition housing in proximity to the Virginia VA Centers.
- b. The second year of the HPV (FY 2016) should be, based upon lessons learned with a goal to implement specific programs that effectively serve urban, suburban, and rural areas. These programs, in addition to immediately reducing homelessness, should continue to explore, test, and refine methods to enhance services throughout the Commonwealth. A budget of about \$970,000 may be required to implement the comprehensive statewide HVP.
- c. The goal for the out-years should be to provide an intensive and extensive delivery of services to eliminate homeless among Virginia's Veteran population. Future budget requests should be based upon the refined procedures developed to increase private/local government partnerships, to provide all levels of housing thru grants and local organizations, work with Virginia's Community Colleges to provide skilled job training, and providing counseling and health care using the Veterans Administration, Virginia's Community Service Boards, and local Free Health Clinics.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Governor and the General Assembly approve adequate funding in the FY 2015/ FY 2016 Biennial Budget for the Homeless Veteran Program in amounts to permit moving the Homeless Veterans Program forward. About \$450,000 and \$970,000 respectively.

Proposed Initiative
MOAA-5

Funding for Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

1. Objective: Provide funding to ensure that veterans and their families especially those affected by stress related conditions and traumatic brain injuries have access to a network of community-based services for healthcare, behavioral healthcare, rehabilitative services and other critical support.

2. Background:

- a. The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) was established in law¹ by the 2008 Virginia General Assembly to ensure that services to veterans and their families are readily available in all areas of the Commonwealth. It is operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services in cooperation with the Virginia Departments of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Aging and Rehabilitative Services. Benefitting from the support of the Governor and his Cabinet Secretaries for Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, Health and Human Resources, and Public Safety, the VWWP is guided by a state-level Interagency Executive Strategy Committee that comprises the agency heads of many of the health and human services agencies, the Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard, and the Director of the Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN 6) that serves Virginia. The program monitors and coordinates behavioral health, rehabilitative, and support services for veterans and their families and addresses a myriad of health and wellness issues such as housing, financial assistance, employment, primary healthcare and other community services.
- b. Virginia is home to approximately 837,000 veterans and is expected to grow to 850,000 in 2017. Included in this population are over 300,000 who served since September 11, 2001. The Virginia National Guard and Reserve components have been called upon as never before to deploy to combat zones.
- c. The challenges of the current conflicts are enormous. Data indicate that 38% of Soldiers and 31% of Marines report psychological symptoms. Among members of the National Guard, the figure rises to 49%. Psychological symptoms are significantly higher among those with repeated deployments.
- d. Funding for the VWWP comes from the General Fund, private donations through the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation and grants.

3. Discussion:

- a. Virginia should do everything in its power to attend to those who have been defending our liberties and who may need services and community support because of stress related injuries and/or traumatic brain injuries resulting from military service.
- b. The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program's vision for the future is "*Enhancing the quality of life for Virginia's veterans, service members and their families.*" This simple yet powerful statement is intended to provide guidance for the continued success and expansion of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, ensuring that the on-going focus is always Virginia's service members, veterans and families who have sacrificed their personal safety and needs to ensure freedom and liberty for all.

c. In FY 2012 VWWP increased by 220% the number of veterans and family members served (from 1650 to 5283) since it first started serving veterans and families in Virginia's communities in FY 2010. The success of the program ensures that demand for services will continue to rise, especially as the population of service members from Iraq and Afghanistan and their families return from deployment and renew their daily lives, employment, activities and community participation. It is expected that the impact of the wars will continue to be felt for decades, just as previous wars have affected the health and well being of service members and their families. It is critical that the Commonwealth continue to recognize and address these concerns.

4. Recommendation: That the JLC recommend continued and increased funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program as a priority in the development and approval of the 2014-2016 biennial budget.

Proposed Initiative
MOAA-06

Measure if Virginia Veterans are Being Properly Served

1. Objective: Provide funding in the 2014-2016 biennial budget to commission an update to the 2010 Virginia Tech report “*Assessing the Experiences, Supportive Service Needs and Service Gaps of Veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia*” to measure progress in access to health care, behavioral healthcare and supportive community services, including employment, housing and financial assistance, for veterans, members of the National Guard and Reserves not in active federal service and their families in the Commonwealth.

2. Background:

- a. The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) was established in law¹ by the 2008 Virginia General Assembly to ensure that services to veterans and their families are readily available in all areas of the Commonwealth. It is operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services in cooperation with the Virginia Departments of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Aging and Rehabilitative Services. Benefitting from the support of the Governor and his Cabinet Secretaries for Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, Health and Human Resources, and Public Safety, the VWWP is guided by a state-level Interagency Executive Strategy Committee that comprises the agency heads of many of the health and human services agencies, the Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard, and the director of the Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN 6) that serves Virginia. The program monitors and coordinates behavioral health, rehabilitative, and support services for veterans and their families and addresses a myriad of health and wellness issues such as housing, financial assistance, employment, primary healthcare and other community services.
- b. Virginia is home to approximately 837,000 veterans and is expected to grow to 850,000 in 2017. Included in this population are over 300,000 who served since September 11, 2001. The Virginia National Guard and Reserve components have been called upon as never before to deploy to combat zones.
- c. The challenges of the current conflicts are enormous. Data indicate that 38% of Soldiers and 31% of Marines report psychological symptoms. Among members of the National Guard, the figure rises to 49%. Psychological symptoms are significantly higher among those with repeated deployments.
- d. To determine the target populations and its needs VWWP contracted for a study with the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance (VTIPG) in 2009. The VTIPG study assessed the current service experiences (consumer satisfaction), emerging and unserved needs and service gaps within the range of veteran’s services available in the Commonwealth of Virginia. While all veteran experiences and needs were assessed, particular consideration was given to the behavioral health and traumatic brain injury service needs of the veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). This study served as the foundation for confirming the infrastructure of the VWWP, and has been instrumental in accessing funds through grant approval.

3. Discussion: Continued evolution and support of the VWWP would be enhanced by measuring the needs of the current veterans population and those of their families and the measurement of

progress achieved in addressing those needs. The updated Needs Assessment will provide critical demographic data for continual quality and process improvement of the VWWP and its partner agencies and organizations.

4. Recommendation: That the JLC promote funding in the 2014-2016 biennial budget to commission an update to the 2010 Virginia Tech report “*Assessing the Experiences, Supportive Service Needs and Service Gaps of Veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia*” to measure progress in access to health care, behavioral healthcare and supportive community services, including employment, housing and financial assistance, for veterans, members of the National Guard and Reserves not in active federal service and their families in the Commonwealth.
1 §2.2-2001.1 of the *Code of Virginia*

Proposed Initiative
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) 01

Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses

1. **Objective:** To ensure that all Virginia Veterans have the ability to obtain a basic hunting and fishing license at no cost for those service members who have a 70% or greater military service disability.

2. **Background:**

- .The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) offers a lifetime hunting and fresh water fishing license to resident veterans with a permanent and total service-connected disability. VDGIF also offers a life-time trapping license to resident veterans with a permanent and total service-connected disability. The cost for either license is \$10.
- .Virginia veterans with a 70% or greater service-connected disability may purchase an annual state resident basic hunting license at half price. Veterans with a 70% or greater service-connected disability residing out of state may purchase an annual non-resident basic hunting license at half price.

3. **Discussion:**

- .Currently this entitlement only applies to service members that have a 70% or greater service-connected disability and there is a fee associated with this benefit.

4. **Recommendation:**

This entitlement should be for “All” Virginia Military Service Members that have a 70% or greater military service disability at no charge for the basic hunting and fishing license

Proposed Initiative
FRA-02

Veterans Retirement Tax Relief Plan

1. **OBJECTIVE:** The purpose of this position paper is to introduce a plan for the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide a tax relief for all Military Veterans when they retire at age 65 or older.

2. **BACKGROUND:** An exemption for military retired pay has been proposed several times in recent years, including House Bill 981 from the 2010 General Assembly, which was left in committee. The Department of Taxation estimated that the bill would reduce state General Fund revenue by \$242 million the first year and \$160 to \$170 million a year after that. Of course, any reduced revenue would have to be made up for by:

- a) Reducing services or funding less expensive way to provide those services.
- b) Eliminating services, agencies, or by consolidating positions to be more efficient.
- c) Raising taxes or finding other sources of revenue such as the lottery or hot lanes on I - 95.
- d) Increasing the number of Virginia State Residents and businesses.

For comparison, the General Fund portion of the DVS budget is approximately \$8.5 million a year and 100 positions. If the Department of Taxation calculations are correct, you'd have to eliminate 20 agencies the size of DVS to offset the reduced revenue. However, when the big picture was reviewed, there will be a positive cash flow for the Commonwealth of Virginia instead of a negative one. Based on the Department of Taxation initial finding, the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) considered, and rejected, making this one of their legislative objectives a last year. The JLC has tried to focus on objectives that it considers to: "need to have, rather than nice to have," and this proposal was eliminated from consideration for that reason. Given the current real-time environment and because many other states are taking the lead on the issue, the FRA is recommending that the JLC revisit this legislative objective and join our **SIX** other neighboring states and the **40** other states in reducing or eliminating the state income tax which is currently being withheld or the Commonwealth could lose potential residents and businesses which will result in **a loss of millions of dollars income for the state.**

3. **DISCUSSION:** The one thing that may have been overlooked in the initial findings is that more Veterans would select Virginia as their home state instead of living in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, North Carolina, Delaware and DC if there was more tax relief for military veterans. With the DoD cuts on the raise for CY 2014, a proposed benefit such this, could help keep Military Veterans in Virginia and that would have a profound effect on the Commonwealth. With 46 out of 50 having these benefits for military personnel and veterans, it's time of the Commonwealth of Virginia to lead the pack and be the most Veteran friendly state in the country or we will lose valuable resources that men and women bring to the table after years of defending our great nation.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** The FRA is proposing a plan that will provide all military veterans with a tax credit of \$5,000 when veterans retire at age 65 or older. Let's make Virginia the best Veteran friendly state in the **Nation.**

Proposed Initiative

FRA-02

Veterans Retirement Tax Relief Plan

State	Military Retirement Pension Exempt from State Taxation	Amount of Exemption or Exclusion
Alabama	Yes	exemption (Alabama Department of Revenue at http://www.ador.state.al.us/)
Alaska	No state income tax	NA
Arizona	Income exclusion	Up to \$2,500 exclusion (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 43-1022) (additional information at http://usmilitary.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.revenue.state.az.us/)
Arkansas	Income exclusion *	Up to \$6,000 (Ark. Code Ann. § 26-51-307) http://usmilitary.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.ark.org/dfa/
Colorado	Income exclusion *	Up to \$20,000 for those age 55 to 65; up to \$24,000 for those age 65 or older (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 39-22-104)
Connecticut	Income exclusion *	Connecticut exempts 50% of federally taxable military retirement pay from the state income tax. The exemption applies to federal retirement pay to members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Army and Air National Guard (CGS § 12-701(20)(B)(xvii)).
Delaware	Income exclusion *	Up to \$2,000 of any pension income for people under age 60; up to \$12, 500 for people age 60 or older. http://www.state.de.us/revenue/PIT_FAQ.shtml
District of Columbia	Income exclusion	The lesser of \$3,000 or the military retirement pay for people age 62 or older (D.C. Code Ann. § 47-1803.02)
Florida	No state income tax	NA
Georgia	Income exclusion *	Up to \$15,000 for those age 62 or older and are totally disabled (GA. Code Ann. § 48-7-27)
Hawaii	Yes	Full exemption (Hawaii Rev. Stat. § 235-7(a)(3))

Idaho	Income exclusion	Taxpayers age 65 and older or age 62 and disabled may exclude \$19,920 (single filers) or \$29,880 (joint filers) (Idaho State Tax Commission at http://www.tax.idaho.gov/Conformity_to_%20IRC_%202004.htm)
Illinois	Yes	Full exemption (35 ILCS 5/203) additional information at http://www.iltax.com/LegalInformation/letter/rulings/it/2000/ig000073.pdf
Indiana	Income exclusion	Up to \$2,000 for retirees age 60 or over (single filers) and up to \$4,000 for joint Filers (additional information at http://www.in.gov/dor/individual/deductions.html#lottery)
Iowa	Income exclusion *	Exclusion of up to \$12,000 (joint returns), and up to \$6,000 (other returns) of military retired pay (Iowa Department of Revenue at http://www.state.ia.us/tax/educate/faqinc.html#13)
Kansas	Yes	exemption (Kansas Department of Revenue at http://usmilitary.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.ink.org/public/kdor/)
Kentucky	Yes/Income exclusion *	Full exemption for people who retire before January 1,1998 ; for those who retire after this date, partial exemption
Louisiana	Yes	Full exemption (Louisiana Department of Revenue at http://www.rev.state.la.us/forms/publications/20162(6_04).pdf)
Maine	Income exclusion *	Up to \$6,000 exclusion; amount reduced by Social Security benefits and railroad retirement benefits (Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. Tit. 36 § 5122(2)(M)) (Additional information at http://mainegovimages).
Maryland	Income exclusion *	Up to \$5,000; must be at least age 55 on last day of taxable year and an enlistee at time of retirement. Amount is reduced by 50% of the amount by which federal adjusted gross income exceeds \$17,500 (Md. Code Ann. Tit. 10 § 207) (additional information from Department of Revenue at http://usmilitary.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.marylandtaxes.com/ Maryland raised their subtraction modification on all military retirees and their spouses receiving SBP, a \$5000 reduction in 2006. This was signed into law by Governor Erlich.
Massachusetts	Yes	Full exemption (Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. Tit. 62 § 2(a)(2)(E) (additional information from Massachusetts Department of Revenue at http://www.dor.state.ma.us/)
Michigan	Yes	Full exemption (Mich. Stat. Ann. 206 § 30) (additional information from Department of Treasury at http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,1607,7-121-24321-6440--F,00.html)
Minnesota	Income	\$14,500 (single filers) and \$18,000 (joint filers); taxpayer must be age 65 or older

	Exclusion *	
Mississippi	Yes	Full exemption (Miss. Code Ann. § 27-7-15)(additional information from Mississippi State Tax Commission at http://www.mstc.state.ms.us/taxareas/individ/rules/ireg704.pdf)
Missouri	Income exclusion	A \$6,000 pension exclusion for single filers and \$12,000 for joint filers is allowed for people earning below certain income limits (Missouri Department of Revenue at http://dor.mo.gov/tax/personal/faq/individ.htm#q11)
State	Military Retirement Pension Exempt from State Taxation	Amount of Exemption or Exclusion
Montana	Income exclusion *	There is a \$3,600 exclusion, if adjusted gross income is less than \$30,000. (Montana Department of Revenue at http://discoveringmontana.com/revenue/forindividuals/individualincome/calculationiit.asp)
Nevada	No state income tax	NA
New Hampshire	No state income tax	NA
New Jersey	Yes	Full exemption (N.J. Stat. Ann § 54A:6-26)
New Mexico	Income exclusion*	Taxpayers age 65 or older may exclude up to \$8,000 of income from any source (\$16,000 for joint filers), if they earn less than \$28,000 in any year)
New York	Yes	Full exemption (Tax Law § 612)
North Carolina	Yes/Income exclusion *	Full exemption for persons with five years of creditable service as of August 12, 1989; otherwise a deduction of up to \$4,000 (\$8,000 for joint filers) is allowed (N.C. Gen Stat. § 105-134.6 and North Carolina Department of Revenue at http://www.dor.state.nc.us/taxes/individual/benefits.html)
North Dakota	Income	exclusion An exclusion of up to \$5,000 is allowed for people at least age 50; the amount must be reduced by any Social Security benefits the person gets (North Dakota state tax commissioner at http://www.state.nd.us/taxdpt/misc/faq/indincome/#mp4)
Ohio	No	\$200 retirement credit available (Ohio Department of Taxation at http://tax.ohio.gov/) Oklahoma Income exclusion Up to \$5,500 (Okla. Stat. Ann. Tit. 68 § 2358)
Oregon	Yes	Pre 1991 retirees fully exempt; post October 1, 1991 retirees may exclude a portion of their income using a specified formula (additional information from

		the Department of Revenue at http://egov.oregon.gov/DOR/PERTAX/faq-military.shtml)
Pennsylvania	Yes	Full exemption (72 P.S. § 7301(d)(i) & (iii). 72 P.S. § 7301(d)(iii); additional information at (more information at Department of Revenue at http://www.revnuce.state.pa.us/revenue/cwp/view.asp?a=238&q=171013)
South Carolina	Yes/ Income exclusion	Military retirement for service in the National Guard and Reserves for state or federal service is fully exempt; up to \$10,000 is exempt for service in any other military component for taxpayer over age 65 and \$3000 for tax payers under age 65 (South Carolina Department of Revenue at http://www.sctax.org/default.htm ATTACHMENT 12)
South Dakota	No	state income tax NA
Tennessee	No	Income NA (State income tax only for dividends and interest income) (Tennessee Department of Revenue at http://www.state.tn.us/revenue/misc/hallfaq.htm#hall6)
Texas	No	state income tax NA
Utah	Income exclusion	Up to \$7,500 for single filers and \$15,000 (joint filers) over age 65; \$4,800 for single filers and \$9,600 for joint filers under age 65, depending on age (Utah Code Ann. § 59-10-114))
Vermont	No	Follows federal tax rules
Virginia	Income Exclusion *	\$6,000 for taxpayer age 62 – 64; \$12,000 for tax payer age 65 or older
Washington	No	state income tax NA
West Virginia	Income exclusion	\$2,000 or more depending on years of service (W. VA. Code § 11-21-12) Wisconsin Yes Full exemption (Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Publication 126 (11/04)). http://www.dor.state.wi.us/pubs/pb126.pdf
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes Full exemption (Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Publication 126 (11/04)). http://www.dor.state.wi.us/pubs/pb126.pdf
Wyoming	No	state income tax NA
		Source: State statutes, state tax department websites, and NCSL State Personal Income Taxes on Pensions and Retirement Income: Tax Year 2003 http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/rpt/2005-R-0131.htm

Proposed Initiative
FRA-03

Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program

1. **Objective:** To ensure that students attending a Virginia public college or university as part of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) have the resources necessary to pursue their education.

2. **Background:**

- The VMSDEP, formally known as the War Orphans Education Program, provides education benefits to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became at least 90 percent disabled as a result of military service in an armed conflict.
- Military service includes service in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, the Virginia National Guard, or the Virginia National Guard Reserves. Armed conflict includes military operations against terrorism or as the result of a terrorist act, a peace-keeping mission, or any armed conflict after December 6, 1941.
- Under VMSDEP, tuition and required fees are waived.
- Students may also receive a stipend – currently capped at \$1,500 per year – toward room, board, books, and supplies. The amount of the stipend is dependent on the amount of annual state funding for the program (currently \$1,250,000 per year), the number of enrolled students, and enrollment status.
- Benefits are available for up to four years or the equivalent.
- The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) reports that the cost of room, board, books, and supplies increased \$1,590 between 2007-08 and 2011-12 – from \$7,839 to \$9,429. This represents a 20% increase.
 - During this same period, the number of students using VMSDEP benefits rose from 696 to 994, a 43% increase.

3. **Discussion:**

- An increase in the stipend cap from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year would account for past increases in the cost of room, board, books, and supplies, as well as for allowing for increases expected in the 2013-14 and future school years.
- The number of VMSDEP students is expected to continue to rise.
- An increase of \$600,000 (GF) per fiscal year would provide adequate resources to cover both past and expected near-term growth in program costs.

4. **Recommendation:**

1. That the Governor and General Assembly should increase the per-student annual stipend cap to \$2,000, and appropriate an additional \$600,000 (GF) per year for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program.

2. This entitlement is for “All” Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents of military service members who are 90% disabled as a result of military service.

ATTACHMENT 7

Submitted by Mr. Bill Townsley

Joint Leadership Council
Plan for action (Proposal)

After both the July JLC and BVS meetings, our combined proposed objectives will be public knowledge.

We need to start considering now, how we are going to get our legislators involved.

I suggest the FORUM approach that has worked successfully in the past. Just ask the Richmond and the Hampton Roads area JLC members.

The forums would be generated by us in our local area utilizing a suitable conference venue and format .

Invitees:

- Any JLC, BVS or DVS persons who wish to attend
- All local State Delegates and Senators (R and D) you can muster for a single 1.5 to 2 hour event.

Purpose: To review the various proposals and get the legislators opinion on whether they might be willing to sponsor or support any or all of our joint objective

Four areas of primary interest

- Richmond
- Hampton Roads
- Northern Virginia
- Southwestern Virginia