

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2011

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on July 13, 2011, at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond.

Members Present

- Jeffrey Platte, Air Force Association
- Brett Reistad, American Legion
- Don Kaiserman, Association of the United States Army
- David Martinez, Disabled American Veterans
- James Jones, Korean War Veterans Association
- Roger Dimsdale, Legion of Valor
- Bruce Steeley, Marine Corps League
- Raymond Edwards, 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
- Frank Driscoll, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- David Coffield, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Carmen Gentile, Reserve Officers Association
- Nolan Jackson, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Daniel Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Michael Coleman, Virginia National Guard Association
- Jenny Holbert, Women Marines Association
- Thad Jones, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Dave Holt, Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation
- Paul Galanti, Commissioner of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- George Coker, American Ex-POWs
- Bruce Brown, AMVETS
- Abe Zino, Fleet Reserve Association
- Matthew Dailey, Non Commissioned Officers Association

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- Stu Williams, MOAA

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Steven Jack, Office of the Attorney General
- Jon Hatfield, Virginia War Memorial
- Anne Atkins, Department of Veterans Services
- Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services
- Eric Endries, Department of Veterans Services
- Jack Hilgers, Department of Veterans Services
- Dan Kemano, Department of Veterans Services
- Judy Reid, Department of Veterans Services
- Mike Rogers, Department of Veterans Services
- Danielle Weaver, Department of Veterans Services
- Cathy Wilson, Department of Veterans Services
- Al Pianalto, Delegate Kirk Cox's Office

Others Present

- Harry Warner, Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation
- Harry Weinstock, McGuire VA Medical Center
- Bill Haneke, Board of Veterans Services

Agenda Packet

- Agenda (Agenda Item II)
- Presentations (Agenda Item IV)
 - The three veterans boards
 - Veterans Services Organization Chart (S-1)
 - Board Classification (S-2)
 - Board Descriptions (S-3)
 - BVS and JLC Powers and Duties (S-4)
 - VSF Authority (S-5)
 - DVS Coordination Process (S-6)
- Reports (Agenda Item V)
 - Board of Veterans Services Report
 - Veterans Services Foundation Report
 - Department of Veterans Services Report
- Old Business (Agenda Item VII)
 - Proposed changes to the JLC Constitution and Bylaws
 - JLC Legislative Working Group Presentation (Power Point Slides)
- New Business (Agenda Item VIII)
 - List of Potential JLC 2012 Legislative Objectives
 - Proposed JLC Position Paper – Veterans Designation on Drivers License

Materials Distributed but not included in the Agenda Packet

- 2012 National Veterans Wheelchair Games information packet
- Virginia Veterans Cemeteries brochure
- We Are Virginia Veterans Conference Agenda

- 2011 Virginia War Memorial Patriot Tour
- VFW 2012 Position Paper – Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Veterans Service Organization
- NAUS 2012 Position Paper – Veterans Indicator on Virginia Driver’s License
- MOAA 2012 Proposed State Priority Legislative Objectives
- Lakeview Golf Course Victory for Vets Golf Tournaments

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Jenny Holbert called the meeting to order at 10:07 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 18 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC were recorded as being represented and a quorum was determined. The Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services, Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation, and Commissioner of Veterans Services were recorded as present. Mr. David Coffied joined the meeting about 11:30 a.m. and brought the total of Veterans Service Organizations represented to 19.

Approval of the agenda

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. William Townsley made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Michael Coleman. The agenda was approved **unanimously**. See *Attachment 1*.

Mr. Steven Combs asked for one small change to the Agenda. He asked that under Old Business the JLC Legislative Working Group report be moved before the Constitution & Bylaws Committee report. The change to the Agenda was approved **unanimously**.

Introductions of Guests

Chair Holbert asked that guests and staff introduce themselves. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chair Holbert welcomed them to the meeting.

2012 National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Commissioner Paul Galanti introduced Mr. Harry Weinstock, Administrative Officer Spinal Cord Injury & Disorders Service for the McGuire VA Medical Center (VAMC). Commissioner Galanti stated that he has been honored with the position of Chairman for the committee for the 2012 National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Mr. Weinstock stated that he appreciates the opportunity to address the Council on the upcoming event, which will be held in Richmond. He said that this is the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the world.

In 1981, the McGuire VAMC and the Paralyzed Veterans Association (PVA) held a small event in Richmond that has grown and moved across the country. Two years ago the event was held in Denver, Colorado and this year the event will be held in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. This will be the thirty-second wheelchair games. It is coming back to Richmond for the first time since the initial event.

In 350 days, 700 athletics along with trainers and family members will come to Richmond for the games. Seventeen events will be stretched over six days. There are 59 committees at McGuire VAMC that will be involved in every aspect of the games. To do all of this, McGuire will need about 3,000 volunteers. The event will need \$1.5 million to put on these games, of which half will be raised at the local level. PVA National will be providing \$750,000. The local PVA and the McGuire VAMC will need to raise the remaining money.

The official campaign will be launched after the games in Pittsburgh in about two weeks. Mr. Weinstock distributed a packet with information pertaining to the Richmond event. The organizers are looking for a huge amount of public activity and partnerships with local government, state agencies, community organizations, etc. These groups will be helping to raise funds and awareness. Mr. Weinstock can come back to the JLC to provide updates and meet with any groups that may be interested. Donations may be sent to McGuire VAMC designating the donation for the *National Veterans Wheelchair Events*.

In about three weeks a lot of information will be released in the media. The VAMC is participating in this event because it is also a rehabilitation center and sporting events are rehab programs. The testimonies from participating athletes are unbelievable. These events mean a lot to them.

Mr. Thad Jones asked if they had a mission statement as far as volunteerism. Mr. Weinstock said that the VAMC will be reaching out to students groups 16 years or older. This lets school students know that these veterans can do many things. A website is being set up for this event that will provide further information.

Chair Holbert thanked Mr. Weinstock for his presentation.

Review and Approval of May 18, 2011 meeting minutes

Chair Holbert stated that the minutes from the May 18, 2011 meetings had been distributed electronically.

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the May 18, 2011 minutes. Mr. Moran made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Townsley. The May 18, 2011 minutes were approved by **unanimous consent**.

Presentations

Virginia Veterans Cemeteries

Mr. Dan Kemano gave a PowerPoint presentation on Virginia Veterans Cemeteries. He thanked

the JLC for all of their efforts to help make the cemeteries successful. With the approved state funding, Mr. Kemano said that he can safely staff and equip the cemeteries. Copies of this presentation will be available and posted on the DVS website.

Mr. Kemano pointed out that the designation of “National Shrine Status” is a goal for every veterans cemetery to achieve. It makes a cemetery the best of the best. The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk) has reached this status and the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia) and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Dublin) are striving to achieve it.

Mr. Kemano reviewed the funeral services and the locations of the burial sites at each cemetery. He also explained the types of buildings used at each cemetery and their location. He said that there are feature areas at each of the cemeteries and he hopes that the Veterans Service Organizations will want to donate feature items in the future. One such feature he displayed was the Purple Heart feature in the nature of a signature stone monument.

Christmas wreaths are put out each year at the cemeteries. An organization in Suffolk raised \$27,000 in donations last year for the wreaths at the Suffolk cemetery. These wreaths are put out on the second Saturday of December and stay up until the first week of January. The placing of wreaths is an all-day event. Mr. Kemano invited everyone to attend.

Mr. Kemano displayed different views of each of the cemeteries and said that the Amelia cemetery has marble headstones and the other two cemeteries have granite. The granite headstones are preferred because they will last three times as long as the marble.

Mr. Kemano covered the staffing at each cemetery and how there is a filing system to keep track of the locations of the gravesites. The Dublin cemetery has pre-installed vaults that were paid for with federal money and veterans in this area will not have to pay for these vaults. At Suffolk and Amelia, veterans’ families have to purchase the burial vaults. The cemeteries purchase the vaults in volume and sell them to the veterans and spouses at cost. Grant requests have been submitted to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to install pre-placed burial vaults at Suffolk and Amelia. Virginia is on the federal funding priority list for these projects.

Mr. Kemano explained the “Missing in America Program.” At the Suffolk cemetery, services were held on Veterans Day for 10 sets of unclaimed cremated remains. The Suffolk cemetery is planning to hold more such services this year.

Mr. Kemano concluded by saying that the cemeteries will be starting a new service on Saturdays and Sundays to help family members find gravesites.

Chair Holbert thanked Mr. Kemano for this presentation.

The three veteran’s boards: powers, duties, and inter-relationship

Mr. Hilgers stated that at the last JLC meeting there was a discussion on the relationship between the JLC and the Board of Veterans Services. A request had been made to have the relationship

fully explained and this presentation has been developed to answer the questions posed at the last JLC meeting.

Mr. Hilgers reviewed the veteran's services organizational structure within the Executive Branch of the state government, including the roles of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS), Joint Leadership Council (JLC), Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees, and their relation to the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) (Attachment 2).

Mr. Hilgers noted that Governor McDonnell's Executive Order 29 directs BVS and JLC to develop legislation to be considered by the Governor for introduction in the 2012 and subsequent General Assembly sessions. Proposals shall be submitted via the DVS Commissioner by August 15 of each year. This requirement sets the stage for the briefing on the veteran's services organizational structure within the Executive Branch of the state government. The briefing provides a description of: (1) veterans services organizational relationships; (2) the uniqueness of the organizations involved; (3) the responsibilities of each; and (4) the DVS coordination issues involved.

The focus of the briefing is on the types of boards that support DVS and their relationships with higher authority. The first page (page S-1) is a graphic description of the relationships of the primary state organizations involved in veteran's services. These relationships are taken directly from the Code of Virginia which establishes three agencies under the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security and the boards that support the three agencies.

All primary relationships are connected by lines of authority (control or chain of command). Lines of authority include lines of direct support and lines of coordination/cooperation. DVS provides direct support to the Virginia War Memorial Foundation (VWMF) and VSF and DVS, in turn, is supported by VWMF and VSF to various degrees. Lines of direct support (provision of goods and services, but not control) include lines of coordination/cooperation.

The three agencies have supporting boards that are linked to some extent through lines of coordination and cooperation between them. These lines do not include authority or direct support. Accordingly, there is no need to reinvent board relationships. However, the reality of the situation is that though the three agencies and their boards are separate, DVS gets the fallout if there is a problem.

Mr. Hilgers then described the classifications of BVS, JLC and VSF boards, with VWMF boards by comparison as depicted on page S-2. These classifications are not all clear cut as can be seen. He explained the unique status of VWMF and VSF authority which dictates that they function as supervisory boards, regardless of their classification or lack thereof. He said that the status of the War Memorial boards would not be discussed further as they are not directly related to the other three boards as displayed on the organizational chart on page S-1.

Mr. Hilgers presented short descriptions from the Code of Virginia of the three boards that are linked by Virginia Code provisions (page S-3). He noted the uniqueness of each and that: (1) *ex officio* members on all boards provide another coordination/cooperation mechanism; (2) *ex officio* members have different voting status on each board; (3) the power of each board lies in its

unique membership; (4) the different reporting requirements of each board, including the JLC being required to advise DVS and BVS on matters of concern to veterans and their families.

Mr. Hilgers discussed the complimentary Powers and Duties of BVS and JLC boards (page S-4) and why the two boards are different and cannot be consolidated or eliminated. Additionally, he noted that neither board is authorized to advise nor report directly to the Governor. He then displayed (page S-5) the unique membership and authority of the VSF board, which is totally dissimilar to the other two boards and predicates its supervisory status. He said that this board will not be discussed further because it normally is not involved in the administrative and legislative issues that characterize BVS and JLC.

Mr. Hilgers returned to Executive Order 29 and its requirement for BVS and JLC to submit legislative proposals and how they must be coordinated by DVS. He said that DVS is the appropriate agency under the Code of Virginia to adjudicate BVS and JLC board issues dealing with requests for action on veterans issues. DVS has the authority to: (1) review; (2) approve; (3) return for further action; or (4) disapprove the request with appropriate rationale. Mr. Hilgers described how DVS should coordinate the activities of BVS and JLC as set forth on page S-6.

He said that the key elements of DVS's role in adjudication of board issues are:

- Ensure cooperative and efficient inter-relationships between DVS and BVS and JLC and to coordinate their administrative and legislative initiatives so they may be both mutually supporting and mutually exclusive.
- Forward only requests from BVS and JLC to other or higher authority that have been reviewed and approved by DVS.
- Have all requests from boards or councils for meetings with Executive Branch agencies submitted to DVS for scheduling.
- Be informed of all planned meetings and the subjects thereof with members of the Legislative Branch before they occur.

He followed with an example and said that the information on page S-6 could become a DVS policy that will clarify the relationships involved for all concerned.

Mr. Hilgers suggested that the motion tabled at the last JLC meeting on this subject be taken off the table and the motion withdrawn by its proposer. The rationale for this is that the relationship between the JLC and BVS is already established in the Code of Virginia.

Chair Holbert stated that, without objection, the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program report scheduled for later would be given next because the participants were under a time constraint due to other meetings.

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP)

Ms. Cathy Wilson, VWWP Executive Director, addressed the Council and expressed thanks for their support. She provided copies of the announcement for the upcoming "We Are Virginia Veterans on Campus" conference to be held at the Virginia Military Institute on August 9, 2011. Mr. Combs will be sending the information to the JLC members electronically and Ms. Wilson stated that posting on VSO websites or distributing in other forums would be appreciated.

She reminded the Council that VWWP has been functioning with a limited staff for a very long time. Authorization was recently given to have a regional director for each of the five regions. Mr. Bert Levesque, the new Regional Director for VWWP Region 4, was introduced at the last meeting and the VWWP is in the midst of advertising for the Region 1 position. Mr. Jim Thur is still covering a third of the state – Regions 1 and 2.

An automated VWWP data base is being developed with Virginia Tech. Once functional, the DVS Information Technology (IT) group will manage the database as well as the VWWP website.

As the recipient of an AmeriCorps grant, the VWWP is piloting a Virginia Veterans Corps initiative in Region 5. The grant will be managed by, a recently hired part-time program director, Ms. Christina Lipin. The pilot will consist of 20 AmeriCorps volunteers that will be placed in a variety of organizations such as Blue Star families and the YMCA.

Ms. Wilson introduced LTC Eric Endries, USA, RET who is the new Regional Director for Region 5. Mr. Endries briefly told the members of his background. He stated that he is honored to be a part of VWWP and praised the JLC for everything that they do.

Ms. Wilson stated that she has been invited to speak at two sessions during the Association of Defense Community conference being held in Hampton Roads. One of the panels she will participate in will include someone for the Joint Chiefs of Staff office and the White House. This will be a great opportunity to further spread the word about the VWWP and veterans initiatives within the Commonwealth.

Ms. Wilson concluded by saying that the needs of our veterans that are returning from the current wars, and of their families, are getting top level attention. She asked that the VSOs represented at the Council please help to spread the word about the VWWP so we can continue and expand our reach to veterans and their families.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Thad Jones delivered the BVS report (*Attachment 3*). He pointed out on the report that Delegates Mark Cole, Kirk Cox and Vivian Watts have reached the end of their terms on the Board. They will be replaced with Delegates Rich Anderson, Mayme BaCote, and Chris Stolle.

Veterans Services Foundation

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Chairman David Holt delivered the VSF Board of Trustees (the Board) report (*Attachment 4*). He pointed out the last paragraph of the report, which notes that the Finance and Development Committee will meet before the next Board meeting scheduled for August 3. The VSF will also hold a Branding and Logo Development Subcommittee tomorrow, July 14 at Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center.

Department of Veterans Services

Commissioner Paul Galanti delivered the DVS report (*Attachment 5*). He stated that he met with the Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary's office for about an hour. The Commissioner was impressed with positive attitude displayed by VA employees that the Chief of Staff had found.

Commissioner Galanti stated that Mr. Kemano is the most dedicated employee in DVS and provided a wonderful presentation on the DVS cemeteries. Commissioner Galanti also praised Ms. Wilson for her tireless leadership of VWWP and doing a tremendous job. Commissioner Galanti finally thanked the JLC for its continuing support. Mr. Jones and Mr. David Martinez both thanked the Commissioner and the DVS staff for a job well done.

Mr. Martinez then asked the Commissioner for an update on TurboVet. Commissioner Galanti reported that a demonstration of the TurboVet system will be held tomorrow July 14 at the DVS HQ conference room., and invited the Council members to attend. Commissioner Galanti stated that he was pleased with the development of the system and that it will have a familiar look to the current system, meaning that current DVS employees will be able to learn the new system easily. He stated that he would keep the Council posted on the progress of development.

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Mr. Jeff Platte, JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) stated that there has been no meeting and therefore he had no report.

Virginia War Memorial

Mr. Harry Warner, Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation Executive Director, thanked the JLC members for their support. He mentioned that Mr. Jon Hatfield, the War Memorial Executive Director, should be attending the meeting a little later. Mr. Warner reported that the Virginia War Memorial (VWM) continues to do well with visitation. On Memorial Day approximately 1,500 people attend the services. The Army Birthday attracted about 400. The July 3 fireworks display in downtown Richmond was attended by about 30,000 people with approximately 5,000 at the VWM.

Mr. Warner said that another event would be coming to the VWM on September 17, 2011. The Patriot Tour will be held that day spearheaded by the American Legion Riders. This event will be a fundraiser for VWM. A Patriot Tour flyer was distributed to the JLC members and is available on-line.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Dan Boyer delivered the report of the Nominating Committee. He said that the committee had received only had two nominations, though they had considered other possible nominees. The Committee nominated Ms. Jenny Holbert for Chair and Mr. Don Kaiserman for Vice-Chair.

Chair Holbert called for a lunch break at 11:47 am. Chair Holbert called the meeting back to order at 12:20 pm.

Old Business

Report of the JLC Legislative Working Group

Mr. Thomas Moran, JLC Legislative Working Group member, said that the Group Chair, Mr. Abe Zino was not able to attend today's meeting. Mr. Moran addressed the Council with a PowerPoint presentation (*Attachment 6*). Mr. Moran thanked everyone on the Working Group and the DVS staff for their help.

The Working Group held its third meeting on June 11, 2011. Mr. Moran explained the Charter and Process for the Working Group. He reviewed the items that were addressed at the May 18, JLC meeting and specifically noted the Working Group's recommendation, and the JLC's approval, of referring issues identified to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for study and action.

Mr. Moran next reviewed the Working Group's deliverables for today's meeting set forth in the slides: Guidelines for meeting/working with the Governor; Guidelines for working with legislative leadership; Guidelines for involvement of non-JLC members in the JLC process (when needed, when appropriate, "how to" guides, etc). These recommendations are for the JLC's approval.

Mr. Boyer asked if item number one under the Review of May 18 JLC meeting was officially approved. Mr. Combs explained that these items were recommended by Working Group for referral to the Constitution and Bylaws committee for study and action. Following this presentation a report from the Constitution and Bylaws committee will be presented.

Mr. Moran continued with his presentation and reviewed the items that need to be done. The Guidelines for meeting/working with the Governor are recommended by the Working Group today for the JLC's approval. The Guidelines for working with legislative leadership is postponed by the Working Group to the next JLC meeting.

Mr. Mike Coleman then made a **motion** that the JLC accept the guidelines for meeting/working with the Governor as presented by the Working Group, **seconded** by Mr. Townsley. The Guidelines for meeting/working with the Governor were approved by **unanimous consent**.

Report of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Mr. Robert Fairchild reviewed the Constitution and Bylaws changes suggested by the Working Group. He said that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee had reviewed the changes, and that the Committee recommends that the changes be adopted by the Council. He noted that the proposed changes were only being put forward at today's meeting for consideration by the Council members, and that a vote on the changes would be scheduled for the next JLC meeting.

Mr. Fairchild thanked both Mr. Combs and Mr. Hilgers for their help with preparing the documents with the proposed revisions. He asked that the JLC review these changes between now and the next meeting.

Other Old Business

Chair Holbert stated that under Other Old Business two items that were tabled at the May 18 meeting need to be addressed. First was the tabled motion made by Mr. Townsley to accept a dotted coordination and cooperation line between JLC and BVS. Chair Holbert explained that with the report submitted by Mr. Hilgers that this issue has been resolved.

Mr. Townsley **moved** to table the item indefinitely, **seconded** by Mr. Martinez. The motion to accept the JLC dotted coordination and cooperation line between JLC and BVS was tabled indefinitely by **unanimous consent**.

Chair Holbert stated that Mr. Abe Zino had made a motion at the May 18 meeting to approve all of the recommendations presented by the Working Group. One of the recommendations was for the JLC to consider referring issues to the BVS for study and action as appropriate. The motion was amended by Mr. Coleman and seconded by Mr. George Corbett to accept the report, except the recommendation referring issues to the BVS. The motion to refer issues to BVS was tabled until this JLC meeting. Chair Holbert again noted that this issue had been addressed earlier by Mr. Hilgers.

Chair Holbert asked for a motion to accept the recommendation to refer issues to BVS. Mr. Moran made a **motion** to accept the recommendation, **seconded** by Mr. Corbett. The motion was passed by **unanimous consent**.

Chair Holbert noted that the Virginia War Memorial Executive Director, Mr. Jon Hatfield had arrived and invited him to address the JLC.

Mr. Hatfield stated that with the opening of the Galanti Education Center, the number of visitors to the Virginia War Memorial (VWM) has almost doubled. He thanked the JLC members for their support and stated that he was looking forward to the Council's continued support.

Mr. Hatfield explained that the VWM staff has been working the last few weeks on budget submissions to seek funding for full-time security. He explained that at one time the Memorial had 24-hour security, but does not have it now. However, it is needed to ensure the safety of the many valuable items that require continuous security. Mr. Hatfield said he would be seeking JLC help with this initiative.

Mr. Hatfield stated that the VWM has submitted a request for a parking deck to be constructed where the current parking lot is located. A deck is required because the number of visitors has increased substantially from about 21,000 annually to over 23,000 just for the first seven months of this year. During the first full year Mr. Hatfield projects there will be 40,000 visitors. With this increase in visitors the Memorial parking area stays full. With its lot full, additional people will not visit because of the lack of parking. Mr. Hatfield explained that the new parking deck will be partially underground and will flow with the current drop off of the land. There will be an entrance and exit on Second Street at the bottom and an entrance and exit on First Street at the top.

Mr. Hatfield stated that this week the *Into Battle* film opened and invited everyone to see it. The film is 20 minutes and will put spectators in the middle of an active battle field. During the segment on the Korean War, snow will fall in the auditorium.

New Business

Review and Adopt JLC 2012 Legislative Objectives

Mr. Don Kaiserman briefly reviewed the Potential JLC 2012 Legislative Objectives as follows:

1. State Sales Tax Exemption for 501(c)19 Veterans Service Organization (VFW)
2. Veterans Indicator on Virginia Driver's License (NAUS)
3. Restore Specific Professional Staffing in DVS (MOAA)
4. Reduce Veteran Homelessness in Virginia (MOAA)
5. Alternative Revenue Sources (MOAA)
6. Unclaimed Veterans Cremains (MOWW)

Mr. Kaiserman stated that all of these objectives would be pursued except for #3. This one will be forward to BVS for a study. Mr. Combs explained that while the BVS has accepted this study as one of their EO29 objectives, the objective has not formally been referred by the JLC to the BVS. Mr. Combs noted that this could be done today.

Mr. Boyer made a **motion** to forward the Restore Specific Professional Staffing in DVS to the BVS for study, **seconded** by Mr. Raymond Edwards. The motion was passed by **unanimous consent**.

Mr. Combs noted that Executive Order 29 requests that the BVS submit its legislative requests to the Governor through DVS by August 15. BVS has a scheduled meeting on August 10 where they will consider adopting the staffing recommendation. BVS will then report back to the JLC at the next JLC meeting regarding what recommendations they forwarded to DVS.

Mr. Kaiserman stated that each of the remaining objectives would be discussed by its sponsor.

1. State Sales Tax Exemption for 501(c)19 Veterans Service Organization – Mr. Boyer reviewed the position paper distributed at the meeting. He explained the objective and stated that these purchases are for non-resale items.

Mr. Boyer made a **motion** that the JLC adopt this legislative issue, **seconded** by Mr. Jeffrey Platte. The motion was passed by **unanimous consent**.

2. Veterans Indicator on Virginia Driver's License – Mr. Moran reviewed the position paper included in the agenda packet. He stated that this was an objective several years ago and was not successful because DMV claimed that they would have to make major changes to their system. He then stated that DMV is now making all of these changes to their system and this would be the perfect time for this objective to be adopted.

Mr. Townsley made a **motion** that the JLC adopt this legislative issue, **seconded** by Mr. Frank Driscoll. The motion was passed by **unanimous consent**.

3. **Restore specific Professional Staffing in the Department of Veterans** – forward to the BVS to study.
4. Reduce Veteran Homeless in Virginia – Mr. Kaiserman briefly reviewed this objective as stated in the “Proposed State Priority Legislative Objectives” recommended by MOAA. It was noted that there was no specific information presented. Mr. Hilgers stated that two position papers had been drafted by two MOAA Chapters and he read the details presented in one paper, as follows.
 - A 2010 JLARC study recommended a multi-pronged approach to reduce and prevent veteran homelessness in Virginia.
 - The JLARC study estimated that there were about 900 homeless veterans at any one time that were detracting from community development when they should be adding to that development.
 - Some of the recommended strategies from the JLARC study that the Department of Veterans Services could take, especially those that will make the greatest difference in reducing chronic homelessness, include:
 - Serving as an advocate for homeless veterans for Continuums of Care;
 - Provide sufficient claims agents and efficient claims processes to assist homeless veterans with federal claims;
 - Convene a work group of relevant state agencies to identify goals for reducing veteran homelessness and secure support for goal achievement;
 - Create and maintain a resource directory that includes information about homeless services and programs that are veteran specific in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and other relevant state agencies;
 - Conduct homeless “stand-downs to gather information on the number and locations of homeless veterans for use by community-based facilities and the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers to assist with outreach and provision of needed services.

Mr. Hilgers briefly explained the JLARC study that was done last year and that it is available through the JLARC website. Mr. Hilgers also stated that the Governor is working on an initiative for Homeless Veterans as mentioned in EO29. This objective would compliment the Governor’s initiative.

Several members thought that insufficient information was available to support this objective. Mr. Platte explained that this is a large objective and suggested that JLC take one initiative from the study and make that the JLC’s objective. Chair Holbert wondered why the JLC should take this as an objective when the Governor already has it on his agenda.

Mr. Townsley proposed that this objective be presented to the Governor as a resolution stating that JLC supports the JLARC recommendations and the Governor's initiative to reduce veterans homelessness and make Virginia the #1 friendly veterans state.

Mr. Townsley made a **motion** that the JLC adopt this legislative issue, **seconded** by Mr. Platte. The motion was passed by **unanimous consent**.

Mr. Townsley made a motion to amend the objective to make it a resolution to support the JLAC study and present it to the Governor as a resolution, **seconded** by Mr. Brett Reistad. The motion was passed by **unanimous consent**.

Mr. Townsley offered to draft the resolution with the help of the JLARC study for adoption at the next meeting.

5. Alternative Revenue Sources – Mr. Kaiserman explained that Secretary Terrie Suit has some suggestions and recommendations for consideration. She offered to do this after the sub-committee tabled the JLC's recommendation last year. Chair Holbert stated that the JLC should concentrate on needs and not ask for money without articulating a need for funds. General discussion indicated that this should not be a JLC legislative objective.

Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to table this objective, **seconded** by Mr. Driscoll. The motion was **tabled** by a vote of 14 to 1, with 2 members abstaining.

6. Unclaimed Veterans Cremains – Mr. Townsley reviewed this objective. Unclaimed Cremains exist in Virginia. The JLC has tried to get the funeral homes, mortuaries, etc. to advise DVS when they have unclaimed veterans cremains so that they can be interred. DVS developed an MOU two years ago to be signed by the four main funeral home organizations. Only one has signed. The other organizations are not cooperating. Mr. Townsley proposed that this situation needs to be rectified through legislation to specify that any unclaimed veterans cremains be identified and reported to DVS within 60 days.

Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to accept this objective, **seconded** by Mr. Moran. The motion was passed by **unanimous consent**.

Chair Holbert asked if there were any other proposed legislative objectives to be considered.

Mr. Jon Hatfield asked to have Phase II construction at the memorial considered. Phase II is for an in-ground two level parking deck with a two story office building above which is part of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation's six year Capital Plan. He stated that there are currently some parking issues with the current parking lot overflowing at least two times a week. Mr. Hatfield and the Commissioner have a meeting scheduled with Secretary Terrie Suit next week to discuss this proposal. This could possible be a legislative objective for the JLC.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Holbert said that Mr. Kaiserman has been nominated for Vice Chair and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Mr. Townsley nominated Mr. Moran for Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Driscoll, who moved nominations be closed. The Chair asked the nominees to step out of the room during the voting. The JLC voted for the Vice-Chair candidates. Mr. Kaiserman won.

Chair Holbert stated that the Nominating Committee nominated Ms. Jenny Holbert for JLC Chair. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor. No other nominations were presented from the floor and Ms. Holbert was chosen as JLC Chair by acclamation.

Other New Business

Chair Holbert asked if there was any other New Business.

Mr. Moran asked to address the JLC on Senator Mark Warner's behalf. He announced that, for those who live in the Tidewater area, on Friday, July 29th at 3:00 p.m. Senator Warner would like to meet with a select group of veterans to hold a round table discussion. The meeting will be announced to the public. Senator Warner has some comments he would like to make on veterans issues. Senator Warner would like input from the JLC members and would like a representative from each VSO to participate. One of the subjects he would like to discuss is Homeless Veterans. Senator Warner hopes to hold more of these round table meetings throughout Virginia. Please let Mr. Moran know by July 25th who would like to attend this meeting.

Mr. David Holt stated that he distributed a brochure on the Victory for Vets Golf Tournaments scheduled for September 5 and 6, over Labor Day weekend, in Harrisonburg. This will be a fundraiser for VWWP. Mr. Holt stated that some help would be appreciated to get the word out. The VFW and the AMVETS in Harrisonburg fully support this initiative.

Public Comment

Chair Holbert asked if there were any public comments.

Mr. Boyer stated that he would happily accept any MDA donations today.

Mr. Hilgers stated that Mr. Roger Dimsdale, who had to leave early, just completed a year as National President of the Legion of Valor. Mr. Hilgers asked the JLC members to please congratulate Mr. Dimsdale when you see him.

Mr. Corbett stated that Mr. Martinez had to leave early but wanted him to express his concerns for the Public Comment time on the Agenda.

Chair Holbert stated that the next JLC meeting will be November 9, after the elections. This will also give the Governor time to review and identify any solutions for the JLC legislative objectives.

Adjournment

Chair Holbert adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations meeting Virginia War Memorial

621 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond

July 13, 2011

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

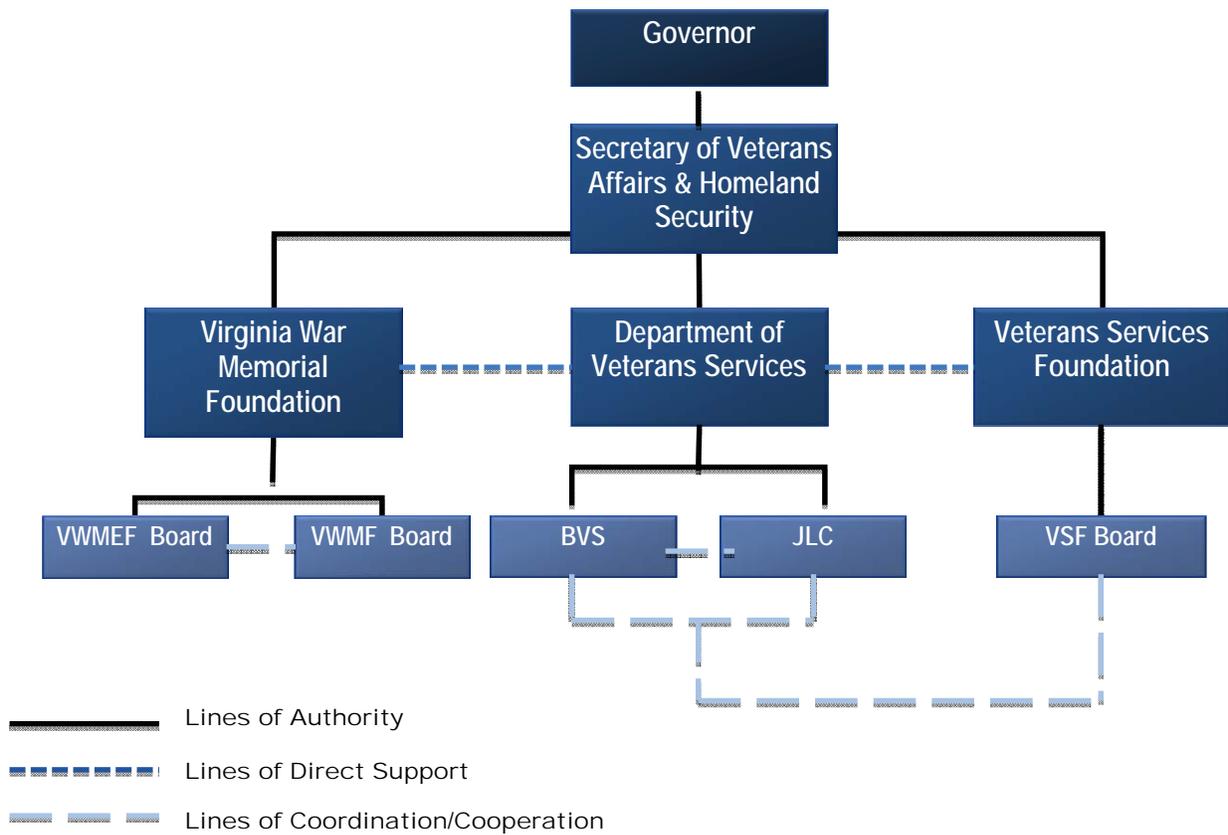
- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Review and approval of May 18, 2011 meeting minutes – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Presentations (10:15 – 11:00)
 - a. 2012 National Veterans Wheelchair Games – *Harry Weinstock* (10 minutes)
 - b. Virginia Veterans Cemeteries – *Dan Kemano, Director* (15 minutes)
 - c. The three veterans boards: powers, duties, and inter-relationship – *Jack Hilgers, Director of Development* (20 minutes)
- V. Reports (11:00 – 11:45)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *David Holt, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - c. Department of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner* (10 minutes)
 - d. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program – *Cathy Wilson, Executive Director, and Eric Endries, Region 5 Director* (10 minutes)
 - e. Virginia Military Advisory Council – *Jeff Platte, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
 - f. Virginia War Memorial – *Jon Hatfield, Executive Director* (5 minutes)
 - g. Nominating Committee – *Dan Boyer, Chair* (5 minutes)
- VI. Break/lunch (11:45 – 12:15)
- VII. Old business (12:15 – 12:40)
 - a. Report of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee – *Robert Fairchild, Chair* (5 minutes)
 - b. Report of the JLC Legislative Working Group – *Chip Moran, Group Member* (15 minutes)
 - c. Other old business (5 minutes)
- VIII. New business (12:40 – 1:50)
 - a. Review and Adopt JLC 2012 Legislative Objectives: *JLC Members* (60 minutes)
 - b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (5 minutes)

- c. Other new business (5 minutes)
- IX. Public comment period (1:50 – 1:55)
- X. Closing remarks – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (1:55 – 2:00)
- XI. Adjourn (2:00)

ATTACHMENT 2

Briefing on Veterans Services Organizational Structure

S-1



Classification of Executive Branch Boards, Commissions and Councils
The classifications equate to each board's level of authority.

"Advisory" - A board, commission or council shall be classified as advisory when its purpose is to provide advice and comment to an executive branch agency or office.

- (1) An advisory board, commission or council serves as a formal liaison between the agency or office and the public to ensure that the agency or office understands public concerns and that the activities of the agency or office are communicated to the public.
- (2) An advisory board, commission or council does not serve a regulatory or rule-making purpose.
- (3) It may participate in the development of public policy by providing comment and advice.

"Policy" - A board, commission or council shall be classified as policy if it is specifically charged by statute to promulgate public policies or regulations.

- (1) It may also be charged with adjudicating violations of those policies or regulations. Specific functions of the board, commission or council shall be enumerated by law.
- (2) Policy boards, commissions or councils are not responsible for supervising agencies or employing personnel.
- (3) They may review and comment on agency budget requests.

"Supervisory" - A board, commission, or council shall be classified as supervisory if it is responsible for agency operations including approval of requests for appropriations. A supervisory board, commission, or council appoints the agency director and ensures that the agency director complies with all board and statutory directives. The agency director is subordinate to the board.

JLC – Advisory

BVS – Policy

VWM Board of Trustees – Policy However, functions under supervisory authority

VSF Board of Trustees – Not Classified However, functions under supervisory authority

VWM Education Foundation Board – Not Applicable Is a 501 (c) (3) organization

BVS, JLC, and VSF Boards

The following provides a summary background from the Code of Virginia.

Board of Veterans Services (BVS)

BVS is a policy board that is composed of 11 nonlegislative citizen members appointed by the Governor and five legislative members appointed by the General Assembly. The Commissioner is an ex officio voting member and the JLC and VSF Chairs are ex officio nonvoting members. The power of BVS is in the composition of its membership.

The board is charged with having at least three standing committees responsible for veterans benefits, veterans care services, and veterans cemeteries. BVS responds to the DVS Commissioner, but no formal periodic reports are required.

Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations

JLC is an advisory council composed of one representative from each qualifying veterans service organization (VSO) appointed by the Governor. There currently are 23 member VSOs representing over 250,000 veterans. Each VSO representative may designate an alternate to attend meetings in the absence of the primary representative. The Commissioner and Chairs of BVS and VSF are ex officio nonvoting members. The power of the JLC is in its VSO membership.

JLC is required to report the results of its meetings to the Commissioner and BVS and submit an annual report.

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees

The VSF or the Foundation is a body politic and corporate agency under the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, separate from but directly supporting DVS.

The Foundation is governed and administered by the board of trustees that perform a supervisory function. The trustees board is composed of eight nonlegislative citizens appointed by the Governor and eight nonlegislative citizens appointed by the General Assembly. The Commissioner and Chairs of BVS and JLC are ex officio voting members. The power of the Foundation Board is in its membership expertise.

The Foundation is authorized to: (1) administer the Veterans Services Fund; (2) allocate funding to DVS for veterans services and programs; and (3) accept and raise tax-exempt gifts and bequests to support the Veterans Services Fund. Inter-agency relations between VSF and DVS are covered by a MOU executed under the cognizance of the former Secretary of Public Safety.

The VSF trustees submit a quarterly report to the DVS Commissioner on funding levels and services. They also submit an annual report to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security. The Auditor of Public Accounts annually audits the Foundation accounts.

Board of Veterans Services

Appointees

Have expertise in (1) benefit claims services, (2) medical and health care management, and (3) nonprofit volunteer operations and management.

Powers and Duties

1. Advise and recommend to the Commissioner on his performance of duties
2. Investigate issues related to veterans care and services, if requested by the Commissioner or Governor (JLC 1, 2, 3)
3. Study matters affecting veterans and their families and make recommendations to the Commissioner (JLC 1, 2, 3)
4. Develop recommendations for DVS policies and procedures for delivery of services (JLC 1, 5)
5. Establish policies for the coordinated delivery of veterans services, in consultation with other state and local agencies and other organizations (e.g., VSOs)
6. Monitor administration of veterans related laws (JLC needs to do)
7. Review and advise the Commissioner on the DVS strategic plan
8. Analyze and recommend to DVS regarding future projects that may benefit veterans (JLC 1, 5)
9. Provide recommendations to DVS & VSF regarding donations, grants, and other resources

Joint Leadership Council

Appointees

Representatives of VSOs

Powers and Duties

1. Advise DVS on (1) methods of providing support for veterans services and programs, and (2) addressing veterans issues (BVS 2, 3, 6)
2. Recommend issues that may impact veterans and their families (BVS 2, 3, 6)
3. Advise DVS & BVS on matters of concern to veterans and their families (BVS 2, 3, 6)
4. Promote and support veterans services and programs (BVS needs to do)
5. Recommend and promote new efficient and effective admin initiatives to serve veterans (BVS 4, 8)
6. Maintain a nonpartisan approach to veterans services and programs
7. Report to the Commissioner and BVS results of meetings and submit an annual report
8. May apply for funds from VSF to better carry out JLC objectives, without imposing unreasonable burdens or costs

Veterans Services Foundation

Appointees

The majority of appointees shall be active or retired chairmen, chief executive officers, or chief financial officers for large private corporations or nonprofit organizations or individuals who have extensive fundraising experience. They also, insofar as possible, shall be veterans.

Authority

1. Administer the Veterans Services Fund and make allocations of revenue from the Fund to the Department of Veterans Services to provide supplemental funding for the Department's services and programs;
2. Accept, hold, and administer gifts and bequests of money, securities, or other property, absolutely or in trust, for the purposes for which the Foundation is created;
3. Enter into contracts and execute all instruments necessary and appropriate to carry out the Foundation's purposes;
4. Take such actions as may be reasonably necessary to seek, promote, and stimulate contributions for the Fund;
5. Develop other possible dedicated revenue sources for the Fund; and
6. Perform any lawful acts necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the Foundation.

DVS Coordination Process

The role of DVS in adjudication of board issues:

- a. Ensure cooperative and efficient inter-relationships between DVS and BVS and JLC and to coordinate their administrative and legislative initiatives so they may be both mutually supporting and mutually exclusive.
- b. Forward only requests from BVS and JLC to other or higher authority that have been reviewed and approved by DVS.
- c. Have all requests from boards or councils for meetings with Executive Branch agencies submitted to DVS for scheduling.
- d. Be informed of all planned meetings and the subjects thereof with members of the Legislative Branch before they occur.

A generic example of the process follows:

In most cases, the procedure for commencing interactions between DVS, the BVS, and the JLC is for the JLC to identify an unmet need or issue for development.

- The need then may be passed to the BVS for its insight and recommendations on best practices, management and performance requirements, non-profit operations and other considerations.
- The BVS then would validate the requirement and pass its recommendation to DVS for consideration.
- DVS may consider internal resources or external resources, including VSF resources, to address the unmet need.
- DVS may pass the issue back to BVS or JLC for further consideration.

When BVS identifies a need, it would be passed to DVS for consideration and the JLC for information or coordination. DVS may consider internal resources or external resources to address the need.

DVS needs may be passed to the BVS for vetting and recommendations, and then passed to the JLC or other agency for advise, as appropriate.

DVS, in consultation with the Chairs of BVS and JLC shall determine which activity may take the lead on analyzing any one issue. All concerned shall ensure the highest degree of cooperation and coordination in both the administrative and legislative processes.

ATTACHMENT 3

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS July 13, 2011

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) last met on June 15, 2011.

The next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 10. Other meetings scheduled for 2011 are:

- Wednesday, September 14
- Wednesday, November 16

At the June 15 meeting, Commissioner Galanti requested, and the Board agreed, to study the following matters for possible inclusion in the Board's report on Executive Order 29 (EO29):

- Department of Veterans Services (DVS) staffing
- Ratio of claims agents to veterans
- Virginia Veterans Cemetery Woods Memorial Walkway project
- Pre-planning study: Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center

In addition, the Board will consider these initiatives for possible inclusion in its EO29 report:

- Changing the voting status of the Chairs of the Joint Leadership Council and Veterans Services Foundation from non-voting member to voting member of the Board
- Increasing the number of citizen Board members from 11 to 15, in order to give the Board more strength and depth on its committees
- Matters related to the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program and mental health care for Veterans

The Board is working to meet the requirements of EO29, which directs the Board to submit, by August 15 and through the Department of Veterans Services, budget and legislative proposals for consideration by the Governor for the 2012 General Assembly session.

Also at the June 15 meeting, the Board adopted several proposals to strengthen the organization and functioning of the BVS, approved several revisions to the Board's Bylaws, and approved new Board member committee assignments.

Delegates Mark Cole, Kirk Cox, and Vivian Watts have reached the end of their terms on the Board. Each has rendered stellar service to the Board, and, especially, to Virginia's Veterans over the past eight years, and they will be sorely missed. However, three outstanding new Delegates have joined the Board – Rich Anderson, Mayme BaCote, and Chris Stolle. Like our outgoing Delegates, the new Delegates are staunch supporters of Veteran's issues, and I know they will make a real impact on the Board and on Veteran's services in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Thad A. Jones
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 4

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations July 13, 2011

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on May 4, 2011. The results of that meeting were reported to the JLC at its meeting on May 18, 2011.

As of 30 June, the Foundation raised over \$110,500, of which over \$101,000 is for VWWP, during FY11. Total fundraising and VWWP fundraising are above that of last year and almost have reached the FY08 level. For FY12, pledges have been received for \$15,000 for VWWP and several significant fundraising events are occurring this summer.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2011, as mentioned above. It is expected to be a long meeting. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the 4th Quarter FY11 Fund Statement; (2) approval of the FY12 Budget; (3) review VSF FY11 and FY12 fundraising programs; (4) refinement of VSF proposed branding and logo development program; (5) approving the updates of the two remaining Joint VSF-DVS Policies; (6) updating the Bylaws to conform to 2011 changes to the Code of Virginia; and (7) review of FY12 Goals and Objectives.

There will be both Finance and Development Committee meetings before the next Board meeting. Additionally, the Branding and Logo Development Subcommittee of the Development Committee will meet tomorrow, July 14, at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center.

Respectfully submitted,

David Holt
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 5

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
REPORT TO
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
July 13, 2011**

Highlights of current operations

- ***Cemeteries***
 - Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery
 - First burial was June 20.
 - 23 burials in June.
 - Several critical items still needed to be completed by the contractor.
 - Memorial Day Ceremonies
 - Memorial Day ceremonies were held at the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk) and the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia).
 - Approximately 350 – 400 people attended the Suffolk ceremony. Guest speakers were Major Jeremy S. Mushtare, U.S. Army, and Delegate Chris Jones.
 - Approximately 200 – 250 people attended the Amelia ceremony. Guest speakers were Chuck Sepich, Director of the McGuire VA Medical Center, and Delegate Tommy Wright.
 - No ceremony was held at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery because no burials had been performed, and because the cemetery has not yet been officially accepted by the Commonwealth. An open house was held instead.
 - Burials for June 2011 and FY11

Cemetery	Burials June 2010	Burials FY11	Total burials to date
<i>Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk)</i>	64	766	3,990
<i>Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia)</i>	22	302	2,629
<i>Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Dublin)</i>	23	23	23

- ***Virginia Wounded Warrior Program***
 - Virginia Veterans Corps
 - Pursuit of the AmeriCorps grant to establish the Virginia Veterans Corps was successful; the amount of final funding is still to be announced.

- This grant will fund the Virginia Veterans Corps Program, an AmeriCorps Director, and either full-time or part-time AmeriCorps members within VWWP and partner organizations. The plan is to establish a pool of “navigators” to 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 Corps program will begin operations in VWWP Region V, Tidewater area, but plans are to expand the program statewide in the future.
 - VWWP pursued this grant in partnership with the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service within the Virginia Department of Social Services and it was submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service in January.
 - Christina Lipin has been hired as the part-time AmeriCorps Program Director in Region V.
 - Homeless Veterans
 - Jim Thur, Region 1 and 2 Director, attended the National Coalition on Homeless Veterans (NCHV) Conference in June with Secretary Terrie Suit.
 - Bert Levesque, Region 4 Director, attended the Governor’s Homeless Outcomes Advisory Committee meeting on June 6.
 - Staff changes
 - Eric Endries is new Region 5 Director.
 - Interviews will be held soon for new Region 1 Director. Jim Thur will continue to serve as Region 2 Director.
 - Suicide Prevention Workshops
 - VWWP partnered with the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) on suicide prevention workshops that have been and are being held at seven locations throughout the Commonwealth.
 - These one day summits are a way for communities to come together to learn about how suicide is affecting their communities, prevention resources and services available to them, their communities' needs in regard to suicide and what they can do to address those needs.
 - Summits were held in seven locations across the state:

Abingdon	May 10
Roanoke	May 11
Harrisonburg	May 24
Fredericksburg	May 25
Chesterfield	June 1
Annandale	June 6
Hampton	June 15
 - We are Virginia Veterans on Campus Conference:

- Conference for student veterans and academic leaders.
 - August 9 at VMI.
 - To register, go to <http://wearevirginiaveterans.org/>.
 - Secretary Terrie Suit will open the conference; Commissioner Galanti will close.
- **Care Centers**
 - Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC)
 - Governor Bob McDonnell, the First Lady, and Secretary Suit visited and toured the SBVCC on June 6. WWII Veterans were recognized in honor of D-Day.
 - Colonel Van Barfoot was interviewed by Channel 6, Richmond on Monday, May 30. The interview may be viewed at <http://www.wtvr.com/news/wtvr-barfoot-memorial-day,0,6063711.story>.
 - SBVCC: On Monday, May 30, Memorial Day, Famous Dave’s Restaurant catered a meal for residents at SBVCC to honor Veterans. See Channel 12 video at <http://www.nbc12.com/story/14750954/ashland-restaurant-thanks-war-veterans-for-service>.
 - The Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC)
 - Organized a trip to the National D-Day Memorial on June 6 for VVCC residents.
 - On May 26, VVCC hosted and fed between 550 and 600 motorcycle riders who were participating in the “The Run for the Wall.” The event was very successful. More information on The Run is available at <http://www.rftw.org>.
 - **Benefits**
 - Claims Report for June 2011 and FY11:

	Number of Claims Adjudicated by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	Number of Claims Granted by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	Percentage of Claims Granted	Retroactive awards to Virginia veterans of \$5,000 or greater
June 2011	1,452	1,096	75%	\$4,479,725 for 196 claims
FY11	15,962	12,063	76%	\$57,586,923 for 2,534 claims

- Retroactive awards over \$50,000 – June 2011:
 - \$370,890 – to a claimant in Pound
 - \$253,614 – to a claimant in Hampton
 - \$238,228 – to a claimant in Orange
 - \$218,795 – to a claimant in Chesapeake
 - \$184,776 – to a claimant in Pulaski
 - \$137,966 – to a claimant in Chesapeake

- \$93,010 – to a claimant in Dumfries
 - \$86,458 – to a claimant in Suffolk
 - \$83,404 – to a claimant in Cedar Bluff
 - \$79,727 – to a claimant in Appalachia
 - \$78,525 – to a claimant in Evington
 - \$75,513 – to a claimant in Norfolk
 - \$60,213 – to a claimant in Virginia Beach
 - \$50,649 – to a claimant in Spotsylvania
- Virginia Military and Survivors Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP): Each month, DVS reviews approved USDVA claims to determine if the veterans survivor/dependent may be eligible for the VMSDEP. Review of June claims found 112 approved claims that indicated that family members may be eligible for VMSDEP. A stipend of up to \$1,500 per student is provided to offset costs such as room, board, books, and supplies. This program is ever growing and the additional \$250,000 added for FY12 stipends for students is greatly appreciated.
- ***Education***
 - Additional duties under the Post 9/11 GI Bill Improvement Act
 - The Virginia State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training (SAA) is preparing to assume additional duties under the Post 9/11 GI Bill Improvement Act.
 - In addition to approval, supervision and outreach functions at educational institutions, businesses and industries that request and provide training to Veterans and their dependents, the SAA will conduct Compliance Surveys at selected schools beginning October 2011.
 - These new duties will assist the SAA in monitoring the graduation and gainful employment rates of Veterans.
 - The SAA will begin training for the new duties this month with an on-site training session from the USDVA Regional Education Compliance Survey Specialist and the Education Liaison Representative and continue with several national trainings in June and July.
 - Compliance Surveys are conducted at schools and establishments to verify enrollment data, award actions and previous payments for accuracy and to ensure that payments made to eligible Veterans are in keeping with USDVA regulations. The records are reviewed and audited to determine compliance and investigations conducted pertaining to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Section 504, of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; Section 404 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Galanti
Commissioner

ATTACHMENT 6

JLC Legislative Working Group

July 13, 2011

Members

- Abe Zino – Chair
- Don Kaiserman
- Chip Moran
- Bill Townsley
- Jack Hilgers
- Steve Combs

Charter and Process

- Charter: Position the JLC for success in the 2012 General Assembly and beyond
- Process: JLC Legislative Working Group will meet prior to each JLC meeting to develop recommendations for review and approval by full Council

Review of May 18 JLC meeting

- The Working Group recommended, and the JLC adopted, the following:
 1. Timeline for the JLC Legislative Process
 2. Goals of the JLC Legislative Process
 3. Guiding Objectives/Principles
 4. Format and content of JLC Position Papers
 5. Backup objectives should be considered, as they arise, for possible inclusion in the current year's initiatives or carryover to the following year
 6. JLC can develop/identify issues on a continuing basis and pass both legislative and non-legislative issues to DVS at any time for study/resolution

Review of May 18 JLC meeting

- The Working Group recommended, and the JLC approved, referring these issues to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for study and action:
 1. Position of JLC Legislative Officer should not be held by the JLC Chair or Vice Chair
 2. JLC Chair should appoint an Assistant JLC Legislative Officer
 3. The JLC Legislative Working Group should be continued as a permanent committee of the JLC
 4. Members of the JLC Legislative Working Group should serve staggered terms

Deliverables for Today's Meeting (as outlined in work plan)

1. Guidelines for meeting/working with the Governor
2. Guidelines for working with legislative leadership
3. Guidelines for involvement of non-JLC members in the JLC process – when needed, when appropriate, “how to” guides, etc.

Guidelines for meeting/working with the Governor

1. The JLC should identify issues and unmet needs, and recommend objectives and goals, to the Commissioner of Veterans Services.
2. If possible, the Commissioner will address the issue/need/objective/etc. with internal resources or through cooperation with state/external resources (i.e., DVS would look for an administrative solution first – one that does not require a Code change or more \$)

Guidelines for meeting/working with the Governor

3. If the issue/need/objective/etc. cannot be addressed with internal DVS resources or through cooperation with state/external resources, then the Commissioner will consider advancing the issue/need/objective/etc. to the Governor (through the Secretary of Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security - SVAHS) to be addressed through the Executive budget and legislative process
4. DVS, the SVAHS, and the Governor's office will work to develop solutions and the resources required (Code change, financial, manpower, etc.) to implement the solutions

Guidelines for meeting/working with the Governor

5. The JLC will work in cooperation with DVS, et al to advocate for the solutions/resources proposed by the Governor

Deliverables for next JLC Meeting

1. Guidelines for working with legislative leadership (*postponed from July 13 JLC meeting*)
2. Guidelines for involvement of non-JLC members in the JLC process – when needed, when appropriate, “how to” guides, etc. (*postponed from July 13 JLC meeting*)
3. Guidelines for meetings with legislators (Meetings to take place after the November 8 election)
4. “How to” documents for use after the November 8 election (how to schedule a meeting with a legislator, how to set up a forum, etc.)
5. Guidelines for maintaining JLC unity and dealing with “maverick” VSOs