

**Board of Veterans Services
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
March 20, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Services (the BVS) was held on March 20, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Virginia War Memorial.

Members Present

1. Victor Angry
2. David Ashe (virtual)
3. Carl Bedell
4. Joe Campa
5. Jennifer Carroll-Foy
6. Scott Davidson
7. Tara Durant
8. Robert Eisiminger
9. Michael Feggans (virtual)
10. Malcolm Frost (virtual)
11. Jackie Glass
12. Joyce Henderson
13. Kevin Hoffman
14. Carlton Kent
15. Terrence McKnight
16. Matthew Miller (virtual)
17. Russet Perry (virtual)
18. Wendell Warner
19. Chuck Zingler, Department of Veterans Services
20. Katherine Martinez, Joint Leadership Council
21. Craig Colucci, Veterans Services Foundation
22. Pamela Seay, Virginia War Memorial Foundation

Members Absent

1. Jason Ballard
2. Joshua Thomas
3. Vincent Griffith

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

1. Jordan Stewart, Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
2. Joyce Reed, Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
3. Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
4. Kendra Ellison, DVS
5. Chris Garvin, DVS
6. Dara Hechter, DVS
7. Brandi Jancaitis, DVS

8. Ravi Padma, DVS
9. Jamie Staten, DVS
10. Tiffany Woody-Wiggins, DVS
11. Darius McKenney, Veterans Services Foundation

Guests

1. Brent Reiffer
2. Kayla Owen
3. Jay Putnam
4. Terry Durkin (virtual)
5. Maya Mahdi (virtual)

Items included in the Agenda Packet

- Draft Agenda
- DVS Update for the Board of Veterans Services
- Benefits Service Line Presentation
- JLC Update to the BVS
- VSF Update to the BVS
- VWMF Update to the BVS

Item I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chair Carl Bedell called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and led the BVS in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item II. Roll Call, Quorum Determination, and Introduction of Guests

The roll was called, and 13 members were represented in person and a physical quorum was determined. There were no objections to five members joining virtually. Four members (Senator Durant, Ms. Henderson, Delegate Glass, and Mr. Angry) arrived in person shortly after the meeting started, bringing the total number of members physical assembled to 17 of 25 members present, with five members virtually present, for a total of 22 of 25 members present.

The names of the state officials and guests who were present are listed above.

Item III. Approve Agenda

Mr. Kevin Hoffman made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Robert Eisiminger, to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion carried by unanimous assent. The approved agenda is attached.

Item IV. Approve September 26, 2024 and December 6, 2024 meeting minutes

Mr. Kevin Hoffman made a **motion, seconded** by Senator Carroll-Foy, to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2024 meeting. The motion carried by unanimous assent

Senator Carroll Foy made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Kevin Hoffman to approve the minutes of

the December 6, 2024 meeting. The motion carried by unanimous assent

V. Introduction of DVS staff and guests

Chairman Bedell called on Commissioner Zingler to introduce DVS staff and asked other guests to introduce themselves.

Item VI. DVS Operational Update

DVS Commissioner Chuck Zingler delivered the Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) Operational Update. He discussed his experience meeting the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs at a conference. He welcomed questions from BVS members on the impact of federal changes on veterans and their families.

Chairman Bedell paused the meeting at 9:50 a.m. so that the members could attend the 2025 Women Veterans Ceremony.

The meeting reconvened at 11 a.m.

DVS Benefits Director Guy Dinkins presented an update on the DVS Benefits Services section.

Item VII. Reports

- a. Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Vice Chair Katherine Martinez delivered the JLC report.
- b. Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Vice Chair Craig Colucci delivered the VSF report.
- c. Virginia War Memorial Foundation (VWMF) President Pamela Seay delivered the VWMF report.

Item VIII. New Business

- a. Procedures for June Board Elections and Transition Work Group: Chairman Bedell let the board know that a working group is being formed by Vice Chair Davidson to facilitate leadership transition. Vice Chair Davidson stated that meetings will be held on zoom as needed. He noted that he would send out another email communication with more information. Chairman Bedell encouraged members to take on leadership roles.
- b. Good of the Order Reports:
 - a. Craig Colucci expressed concern about the decline in veteran entrepreneurship and suggested a peer mentoring program. Commissioner Zingler suggested that Mr. Colucci collaborate with the Virginia War Memorial and John Maxwell to work on this issue.
 - b. Senator Carroll Foy stated that she is happy to be involved in policy initiatives and Women Veterans Day. She emphasized the value of the current bipartisanship, especially in passing the verification veterans' status legislation in partnership with Senator Durant.
 - c. Joe Campa said he was excited to be at the BVS meeting and thanked Benefits Director Dinkins for his brief. He stated that he learns something new at each

BVS meeting. He mentioned that a lot of veterans don't know how many offices of DVS exist.

- d. Senator Durant emphasized the value of the legislative bill matrix. She noted that local tax exemptions will be a continued conversation. She thanked members for giving her advocacy ideas.
- e. Robert Eisiminger noted that there are many organizations that work on suicide prevention efforts for veterans. He highlighted the organization "Face the Fight" and suggested they speak to the board. He emphasized the importance of collaborating with organizations who are already active in the community
- f. Katherine Martinez thanked the BVS for their collaboration with the JLC on behalf of JLC Chairman Aramony
- g. Kevin Hoffman explained that the Suffolk cemetery expansion was originally brought to JLC a few years ago. He discussed that organizations very impactful to cultivate meaningful change. He was glad to be a part of that.
- h. Victor Angry told everyone that June 5th will be his last BVS meeting. He thanked everyone for the great opportunity to serve under 3 governors for 12 years. One of his greatest passions is the veteran court docket in Prince William County.
- i. Terrence McKnight expressed concern that not many veterans know what DVS and the BVS do. He said that he did not know about Virginia War Memorial until he came for a board meeting, and he was born and raised in Virginia.
- j. Joyce Henderson stated that she thinks that each person on the board should reach out to veterans individually. She was able to help a veteran herself in collaboration with Commissioner Zingler and Chairman Bedell.
- k. Wendell Warner thanked Benefits Director Dinkins, he met with him one-on-one and is now able to help others.
- l. Scott Davidson: Agreed with Mr. Warner's remarks and emphasized the important of outreach. He also was unaware of the services that DVS provides for a long time.

Item X. Public Comment

Brent Reiffer shared some comments on behalf of Kayla Owen. He relayed her thanks to everyone for their work to restore VMSDEP and that she looks forward to sustaining the program. Mr. Reiffer also discussed the impact of personal property and real estate tax exemptions for veterans. He asked that all individuals with a stake to review the data and dive into the topic before drawing conclusions.

Item XI. Adjourn

Chair Bedell adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

**BOARD OF VETERANS
SERVICES (BVS)
AGENDA**

**March 20, 2025
09:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.**

**Virginia War Memorial
621 S. Belvidere St
Richmond VA 23220**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Carl Bedell, BVS Chairman* (09:00-09:02)
- II. Roll Call, Introduction of Members, and Quorum Determination – *Carl Bedell, BVS Chairman* (09:02-09:05)
- III. Approval of Agenda – *Carl Bedell, BVS Chairman* (09:05-09:06)
- IV. Approval of Minutes of the September 26, 2024 & December 6, 2024 meetings– *Carl Bedell, BVS Chairman* (09:06-09:08)
- V. Introduction of DVS staff and guests – *Carl Bedell, BVS Chairman* (09:07-09:08)
- VI. DVS Operations Updates (09:09-09:45)
 - a. DVS Operations, Priorities, and Updates – *Chuck Zingler, DVS Commissioner*
 - b. Department of Veterans Services Benefits – *Guy Dinkins, DVS Benefits Director*
- Transition to Women Veterans Week Ceremony - Shrine of Memory (09:45-10:45)
- VII. Reports (11:00-11:15)
 - a. Joint Leadership Council – *Bill Aramony, JLC Chair*
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Brad Williamson, VSF Chair*
 - c. Virginia War Memorial Foundation Update – *Steven Combs, DVS Deputy Commissioner*
- VIII. New Business (11:15-11:40)
 - a. Procedures for June Board Elections & Transition Work Group– *Carl*

- Bedell, BVS Chairman & Scott Davidson, BVS Vice Chairman*
- b. “Good of the Order” reports from BVS members and open discussion

IX. Public Comment – *Carl Bedell, BVS Chairman* (11:40-11:50)

Wrap Up & Adjourn



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Veterans Services

Charles A. Zingler
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0220
Fax: (804) 786-0302

Department of Veterans Services Update for Board of Veterans Services March 20, 2025

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Thank you for all you do on behalf of our veterans and their families. Your support and leadership have been instrumental in enacting change for veterans and their families. The Department of Veterans Services (DVS) strives to best serve the over 650,000 veterans living in Virginia. Our organization is constantly changing and improving to best serve the needs of veterans. We welcome your partnership as we continue to work to make Virginia the best state for veterans and their families.

At the beginning of the year, the General Assembly went into session, passing legislation to assist and recognize veterans' contributions to Virginia. Legislation was passed to support veteran suicide prevention efforts through the provision of copies of vital records. This will allow the DVS Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) team to more accurately identify the number of veteran suicide deaths in Virginia and better understand how to enact prevention, intervention and postvention. Expanding on DVS' work to support incarcerated veterans, legislation was passed to ensure that local jails are better able to identify justice involved veterans and provide them with resources for re-entry, thus reducing recidivism and homelessness. In addition, the accomplishments of women veterans were honored with the establishment of Women Veterans Day as an annual holiday on June 12, 2025 and subsequent years.

One of our areas of focus this year is expanding our communications and outreach efforts to reach more veterans across the state and better understand what our veterans need and how we can best serve them. We are continuing to expand our Virginia Veterans Network (VVN) digital hub that launched on November 11, 2024. The platform currently has 4,566 unique users and 68 resource partners. As we continue to grow this platform, we ask for your assistance in identifying additional resource partners to integrate into the VVN. This platform has been in a critical tool in reaching out to veterans. If you haven't done so already, please sign up right away, and encourage the members of your VSO to do so.

Our Veterans Education, Transition, and Employment (VETE) Services team is working diligently to connect with Transitioning Service Members (TSMs) earlier and provide them with resources and mentoring to help ease their transition. Efforts to integrate these resources into the Virginia Veterans Network are ongoing.

and will allow streamlined access to mentoring and opportunities to upskill and reskill so that TSMs can make informed decisions on career paths.

Efforts continue at the Governor and General Assembly level to sustain the Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP). At DVS, our role with the VMSDEP is to certify eligibility for VMSDEP benefit in accordance with Code of Virginia requirements. The DVS VMSDEP team has already approved 607 applications this year, with many more to come before the start of the 2025-2026 academic year.

The Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) team is working to form interagency partnerships that will enhance DVS's work in suicide prevention and efforts to assist justice involved service members. With a focus on getting out into the community, the VVFS team holds regular outreach events across the Commonwealth. This year, VVFS is working to expand services to family and caregivers, as well as increasing peer support services.

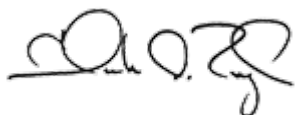
DVS Benefits is working to partner with VSOs to identify and work with additional veterans. To ensure the development of and retention of staff, the benefits training model has shifted from only having training staff in central office to each of the four Benefits regions having its own training specialist. This will ensure that staff feel prepared for diverse situations and increase retention.

The funds that the VSF raises are integral part of funding many of the programs and services that provide direct services to Virginia's veterans and their families.

A full slate of events is planned for this Spring at the Virginia War Memorial, including today's special ceremony – the capstone event of Women Veterans Week 2025. Other events include a Military Signing Ceremony on May 16 and the annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 26. DVS will also partner with VSOs and others to host Memorial Day ceremonies at the state veterans cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin, and Suffolk. We hope you will join us.

Thank you for your significant service to our Nation and our Commonwealth. You are an impressively talented group of leaders with relevant experience to the challenges we face. I look forward to working with you to serve our service members, veterans, and their families. Your ideas, vision, and efforts are solicited and important to me, our leadership, and those that we aim to serve!

With great respect and my personal appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Zingler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Charles A. (Chuck) Zingler
Commissioner

Benefits Service Line

Update Brief

March 20, 2025

Guy Dinkins, Director



Benefits Mission



To provide Virginia's veterans and their family members with accurate, timely and ethical education and assistance with obtaining the federal and state benefits they have earned through service and sacrifice to our Commonwealth and Nation

Benefits Strategic Alignment

All Benefits Service Line Objectives fall under the below Agency strategic objectives unless specifically noted otherwise.

VDVS DBP Strategy 2024-2026:

Goal 1: Ensure Virginia veterans and eligible family members receive timely assistance in filing for federal and state disability benefits.

2024 VDVS Strategic Plan 2024-2029:

Goal 4: Honor veterans' service, sacrifice, and legacy by promoting and providing high quality programs and services.

What did we accomplish?

- Implemented an AI software tool for Appeals.
 - Decreasing research time, improving accuracy – both benefiting our clients.
- Addressed regional span of control.
 - Split regional leadership allowing more office visits, improved management, helping with retention and career growth – ultimately improving the services offered to clients.
- De-centralized the training team.
 - Moved the trainers into the regions, under operational control. More personal contact, more tailorable training, better understanding of our strengths and weaknesses.
- Others:
 - VVN deployment, Virtual Appointments, Virtual Contact Center, 37% more Submissions than FY24...



Benefits Director
Guy Dinkins, 00006

West Region

Erin Smither, Director 00131 Roa

Training

Vacant RT 70004 Roa

Southwest

Sandy Newberry, ARD 00087 Taz

Abingdon

Vicki Herndon, VSR 00007
Shawn Sturgill, VSR 00042

Big Stone Gap

Ruby Sanders, VSR 00044
Melissa Sampson, VSR 00142

Danville

Nicole Crews, VSR 00118
Kenny Lebron, VSR 00022
Afton Drawbond, VSA W0044(S)

Tazewell

Laura Cecil, VSR 00063

Wytheville

Joshua Blevins, VSR 00160
Sean Kell VSR, 70028

Northwest

Frank Hubbard, ARD 00081 Roa

Harrisonburg- JMU Valor Ctr

Brian Moyers, VSR 00016

Lynchburg

Felicia Linthicum, VSR 00011
Janice Benejan, VSR 00038

Roanoke

Salem VAMC

Rebecca Ward, VSR 00045
Lisa Huffman, VSR 00072
John Payne, VSR 60016
Vacant VSR 00132
Vacant VSA W0081

Staunton

Jeremy Etienne, VSR 00041
Brandon Csady, VSR 60055
Marlyn Cullen, VSA W0056

Central Region

Kim Miles, Director 00019 Pet

Training

April Meisel, RT 00004 Hen

Southcentral

Samantha Sohnly, ARM 60011 Ric

Emporia/South Hill

Susan Spence, VSR 00013

Fort Gregg-Adams

Edwin Hercules, VSR 00026
Vacant VSR 60013

Petersburg-VCRC

Leeiron Meredith, VSR 60012
Tishayla Williams, VSR 70005
Shakirah Gaines, VSAW0009(S)

Richmond VAMC

Amber Patton, VSR 00010
Kyle Estep, (F)VSR 00028
David Ringle, VSR 00157
Tracy Bynum, VSR 00123
Marvin Tomlin, VSR 00105
Ondrae Edwards, VSA W0013(S)

Northcentral

Vacant, ARD 00073 Hen

Charlottesville

Jeannette Flint, VSR 00046
Rene Sanchez, VSR 00141

Henrico

Rachel Davis, VSR 00088

Fredericksburg 1

Mary Stephens, VSR 60014
Vacant VSR 60046
Vacant, VSR 60095

Luz Gonzalez, VSA W0049(S)

Fredericksburg 2

Harry Schein, VSR 70032
Vacant, VSR 70031

Deputy Director

Tom Holley, 60006

Vacant TD 60009

Tevis Saunders, LOC 60020
Heather Ramsey, SCOC 00001
Ana Biondo, OA W0082

Center of Excellence

Tiffany Cash, Director 00062

John Drawbond, CS 00139
Jenny White, CS 00107
Jamie Ratcliffe, CS 00029
Mary McInnis, Sr CS 00144
Matthew Wright, CS 00153
Lisa Burch, Admin Asst 00064

Strategy, Technology & Innovation

Craig McCarty, Director 00005

Appeals

Vieng Siklar, Director 00012

Eric Wilson, Atty 70001
Frank Singh, Atty 70006
Samantha Jordan, Atty 00024
Samantha Cohen-Allen AS 00061
Joseph Harrington, Atty 60049
Emon Northe, Atty 00147
Andrew Michael Atty 00161
Bill Libby, Atty Leg Liaison 60054
Cheryl Hall, Admin Asst 60039
Molly Vaughan, VSA W0003

Current as of:
3/10/2025

North Region

William Triplett, 60025

Training

Herman Troy RT 00021 Man

Front Royal

Christie Monahan, VSR 00091
Nathan Reiger, VSA W0019(S)

Loudoun

Daniel Kim, VSR 60047
Robert Hudson, VSR 60050

Manassas

Julie Pulsifer, VSR 00014
George Johnson, VSR 60015
Jennifer Letterle, VSA W0014

Pentagon

Patricia Sands, VSR 60048
Carrie Vinson, VSR 00119
Namibia Bailey, VSA W0058

Quantico

Jessica Diaz, VSR 00015
Johnnie Bourque, VSR 00146
Neasha Horton, VSR 70007
Chandler Tapley, VSA W0026

Beltway

Kathy Andrews, ARD 00023 FtBel

Arlington

Barbara Soto-Rodriguez, VSR 00170

Fairfax

Amos Griffin, VSR 00036
Michael Cummings, VSR 60019
Eulalia Jeter, VSA W0024(S)

Fort Belvoir

Elizabeth Steiner, VSR 00158
Rose Marie Castro, VSA W0061(S)

Springfield

Patti Shields, VSR 00039
Charles Reynolds, VSR 60097
Pamela Plamondon, VSR 60045
Gwendolyn Hines AVSR 00159

East Region

John Henry, Director 00131

Training

Gordon Adkins RT 00132 VAB-Pem

Southeast

Ashley Laster, ARM 00164 Nor

Norfolk

Amanda Clarke, VSR 00025
Raymond Ellis, VSR 00090
Felicia Davis, VSR 00155
Jason Zalasky, VSR 00075
Brittany Benton, VSR 00020
Stasha Brown, VSR 00069
Johanna Winters, AVSR 00102

Portsmouth

Lynette Hawk, VSR 00150
Carla Johnson, VSA W0017

Va Beach-Oceana

Florence Addison, VSR 00156
Simonee Butler, VSR 60007

Va Beach-Pembroke

Shelley Knight, VSR 00040
Christie Bishop, VSR 60096
Rachel Knight, VSR 00122
Harmony White, VSA W0022(S)

Northeast

Debi Blackmore, ARM 00093 HE

Accomac

Wendy Ainsworth, VSR 00085
Jamie LeCates-Brown VSR 00151

Hampton Executive Drive

Jeneen Hamilton, VSR 00152
Armond Shipp, VSR 70027
Ann Cooper, VSA W0008(S)

Hampton VAMC

Erica Charity, VSR 60010
Christina Aaron, VSR 00121
Brittani Johnson, AVSR 00095(S)

JBLE - Eustis

Mary Curtis, VSR 00140
Cara Cameron, VSA W0010

JBLE - Langley

Darnisha Vinson, VSR 00018

Williamsburg

Jennifer Smith, VSR 60053
Serita Lee, VSR 00017
Kenneth Richardson, VSA W0045

FY25 Lines of Effort and Objectives

- **Reach new Veterans**
 - Increase new client services by 5% through dedicated outreach/VVN promotion.
 - Partner with the VA to host two regional Veteran Experience Action Centers.
- **Improve the Client Experience**
 - Develop and retain a professional, experienced workforce.
 - Increase average tenure to 7+ years through a Career Development Plan.
 - Expand veteran access to the Benefits Caregiver claims and appeals.
 - Expand incarcerated veteran access to VSRs.
 - Utilize data gained from a new, more precise customer feedback system to improve processes and change how we train.
- **Improve Service Line Efficiency**
 - Explore the use of AI to assist with disability claims research and development.
 - Establish objective performance measures at the employee level.
 - Digitally integrate existing software programs (VVN/VESA/VIMS) to improve cross-service communication and client handling.

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Benefits – ACCOMPLISH

Reach and serve new Virginia Veterans by partnering with the VA to host 2 regional Veteran Experience Action Centers (VEACs) (DPB Goal 9).

When will we know we are there?

- When the VEAC(s) has been completed, or denied by the VA.

What are the deliverables?

- Request & Discussion with the VA – COMPLETE
- Formally request VA support – PENDING
 - *Dependent on available VA funding.*
- VEAC Planning meetings - PENDING

What is the impact?

- Providing Virginia veterans greater and access to their Benefits through a focused/advertised program.

What is the ask?

- Commissioner formal request for support.
- Benefits staff time (reduction in office availability) to plan/support.
- HQ investment in statewide advertising and marketing.

Benefits – FIX

Develop and retain a professional workforce, increasing our average tenure to 7+ years through a Career Development Plan.

When will we know we are there?

- **When average tenure for Benefits personnel is at or above 7 years.**

What are the deliverables?

- **Experience raises (internally funded) – COMPLETE / BUDGET EXHAUSTED**
- **Professional development training program – COMPLETE / IMPLEMENTED**
- **Awards program rebuild – COMPLETE / IMPLEMENTED**
- **Career Development Plan – COMPLETE / PENDING FUNDING**
- **Performance Feedback/Training improvements – IN PROGRESS**

What is the impact?

- **A highly experienced professional staff serving Virginia's veterans , resulting in increased efficiencies, increased production, and increased revenue for the Commonwealth.**

What is the ask?

- **\$2.26M in FY26 for full CDP Implementation**
- **\$386K in FY27+, decreasing to \$119k by FY31**

Benefits – FIX

Retain our seasoned professionals - (Background data)

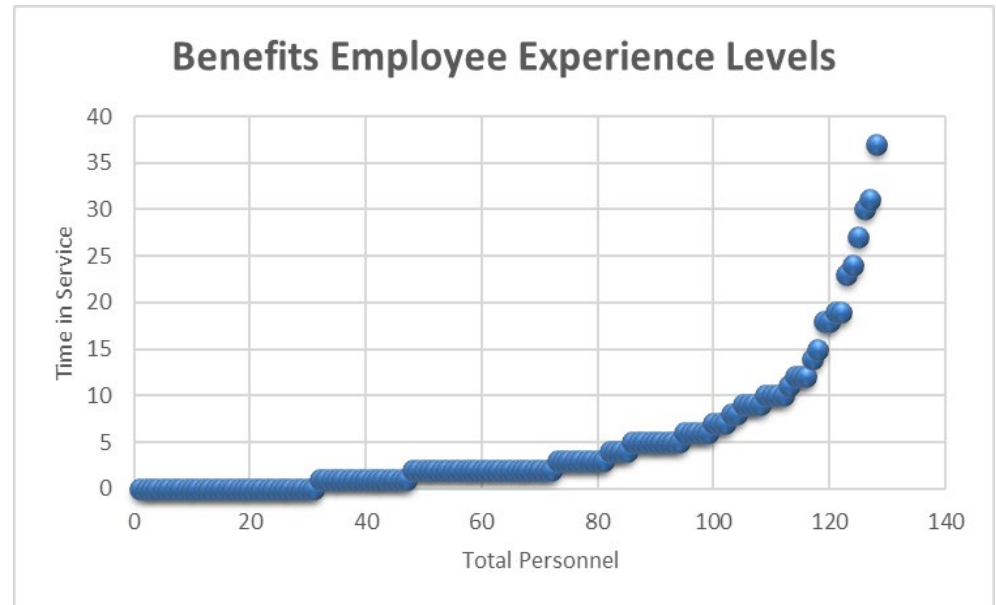
FY24 Retention data:

Based on our current rates, Benefits will turn over 44% of our total positions and 35% of our customer facing positions in FY24. That rate is the same as FY22 and FY23. (* Note that while this does create upward mobility/opportunity, it also results in an inexperienced workforce).

As of 3/1/2025:

- 128 positions filled, 7 vacant
- 24% have less than 1 year exp
- 37% have less than 2 years exp
- 52% have less than 3 years exp
- 66% have less than 5 years exp

Average total tenure is 5 yrs...
(4 if you don't count the 4 most exp'd)





Questions?



101 N. 14TH ST., 17TH FLOOR
RICHMOND VA 23219

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

*Air Force Association
Air Force Sergeants
Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United
States Army
Disabled American
Veterans
Fifth Baptist Veterans
Ministry
Fleet Reserve Association
Hope for the Warriors
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans
of America
Legion of Valor of the
U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Officers Association
of America
Military Order of the
Purple Heart
Military Order of the
World Wars
Navy Mutual Aid Association
Northern Virginia Veterans
Association
Paralyzed Veterans of
America
Reserve Organization of
America
Student Veterans of America
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National
Guard Enlisted
Association
Virginia National Guard
Association
Wounded Warrior Project*

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES March 20, 2025

The Joint Leadership Council (JLC) met on December 12, 2024 (in-person); December 20, 2024 (virtual); and March 6, 2025 (in-person).

The JLC 2025 “Day on the Hill,” originally scheduled for January 9, 2025, was held January 23, 2025. JLC members met with legislators and advocated for the JLC 2025 initiatives. A summary of results of the JLC 2025 Initiatives is attached.

A new Veterans Service Organization (VSO) – Northern Virginia Veterans Association – joined the JLC on December 20, 2024. Two VSOs – the National Vet Court Alliance and the Women Marines Association – are currently without a representative, meaning that the number of VSOs represented on the JLC is 25.

The JLC met March 6, 2025 in person to review JLC initiatives and lessons learned. As of March 6, four of five JLC 2025 initiatives had passed both chambers of the General Assembly or were in the Governor’s budget. The Virginia Military Survivor Dependent Education program was funded two more years. The General Assembly budget included funding to upfit the Virginia War Memorial Carillon for a Memorial and Education Center.

A summary of the JLC 2025 Initiatives and the JLC 2025 Meeting Schedule and Work Plan is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Aramony Chair

Atchs: Summary of JLC 2025 Initiatives
JLC 2025 Meeting Schedule and Work Plan

Summary of 2025 JLC Initiative Outcomes

#	Summary	House Patron Bill #	Senate Patron Bill #	Status
1	Verification of Veteran Status – Jails	Thomas HB2071 Fowler HB2522	Durant SB1251	HB2522 incorporated into HB2071. HB2071 passed House (95-Y 0-N) and the Senate (38-Y 0-N) to establish this in Code. SB1251 passed House (97-Y 0-N) and Senate (40-Y, 0-N) to establish this in Code.
2	Stop Unscrupulous Firms from Exploiting Veterans	Sewell HB1911 Herring HB2112	Reeves SB1222 Aird SB1226	HB1911, HB2112 were left in House Commerce and Labor SB1226 was struck at the request of the patron in Senate General Laws. SB1222 was passed by indefinitely in House Rules.
3	Virginia National Guard Tuition	Feggans HB1595	Hashmi SB1106	HB1595 passed House (99-Y, 0-N) and Senate (38-Y 0-N). SB1106 passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) and (95-Y, 0-N)
4	Suffolk State Veterans Cemetery – land purchase (budget)	GOV Budget Item C-52.20	GOV Budget Item C-52.20	In GOV budget. Budget conference committee did not make any changes.
5	Women Veterans Day		Carroll Foy SJ250	Agreed to by the Senate by Voice Vote. Agreed to by House (97-Y 0-N)

JLC 2025 Meeting Schedule and Work Plan

2025 General Assembly (Jan 8 – Feb 2025)

- Attend JLC Day on the Hill (January 23) – link up at VFW 9808 or AL HQ
- Attend General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus (GAMVC) meeting held every Wednesday at 8 a.m. beginning Jan 15 (Optional). Meetings are held in the State Capitol – Senate Room 3 on the Plaza Level.
- Attend Virginia National Guard Reception, January 22, 6 p.m. @ the Library of Virginia (Optional)
- Attend Annual GAMVC “Military Appreciation Night” Reception, February 11, 6 p.m. @ the Virginia War Memorial (Optional)
- Implement duty roster to provide coverage during the entire session

First Quarter Meeting (March 6, 10 a.m. @ Virginia War Memorial)

- Conduct AAR of 2025 General Assembly actions
- First call for potential 2026 JLC initiatives
- Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee
- Nominating Committee requests candidates for Chair & Vice Chair

April – June

- Identify potential initiatives for 2026
- Review impacts from 2025 session
- Submit draft proposals for review at Second Quarter meeting
- VSOs socialize with their members for feedback and suggestions

Second Quarter Meeting (June 18, 10 a.m. @ Virginia War Memorial)

- JLC Sponsors present to the body
- Initiatives are initially accepted or rejected to move forward
- Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair

Meeting – Legislative Objectives Committee (July or August - TBD)

- Review proposed JLC 2026 initiatives received to date
- Provide feedback to JLC sponsors

Third Quarter Meeting (September 18, 10 a.m. @ Virginia War Memorial)

- Final Review of proposed 2026 Initiatives. Take Yes/No vote and prioritize
- Set date for JLC 2026 “Day on the Hill”
- JLC Chair submits JLC 2026 Initiatives to DVS Commissioner (for transmission to Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and Governor)
- Announce and Approve Chair-Appointed Officers for 2025 - 2026
- Discuss plan for engagement with Executive and Legislative branch officials prior to and during 2026 General Assembly session

September – December

- Each JLC member to engage with two Senators and five Delegates about the JLC and its 2026 Initiatives (in-person or virtual)

Adopted 12.12.2024

Updated 02.04.2025

- Advocate for JLC initiatives with elected leaders, through your VSO, letters to the Editor, etc.
- Sponsors find and confirm patrons for JLC 2026 initiatives
- NLT November 30: JLC Chair submits Annual Report to DVS Commissioner and Board of Veterans Services
- Attend VSF and BVS meetings, workgroup meetings

Fourth Quarter Meeting (December 19, 10 a.m. – Virtual)

- Review Governor's Proposed Budget
- Receive DVS Agency proposed budget and legislation
- Review and approve any additional 2026 initiatives
- Review list of patrons
- Report results of engagement with legislators
- Review plans for JLC 2026 Day on the Hill



VIRGINIA VETERANS
SERVICES FOUNDATION
Virginia is for Every Veteran

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION MARCH 13, 2025

Status of the Board: The Board remains at 15 of 16 positions filled now with no Trustees awaiting replacement. This continues the largest fill rate for a second consecutive quarter. The current fill rate has allowed the Chair to assign additional Trustees to fill Board positions and elevate the 1st and 2nd Vice Chairs to fulfill additional duties in support of the Foundation.

New Trustees: No new Trustees have joined the Board.

Committee Assignments: All Trustees have been assigned to serve on one of the three Committees and Chair's of the Development and Finance Committees are in place. Mr. Jarris Taylor is now assigned as the Chair for the Procedures and Policies (P&P) Committee and will continue the important work of that committee.

Recent Events & Fundraising/Donations:

- **Estate donation:** VVSF is honored to be receiving a sizable donation to support the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery. We expect to have this donation completed sometime this month and to host an event in recognition of the donor and his family. VVSF will provide additional information on the recognition event in keeping with the desires of the donor and their family.

Upcoming Events:

- **Fundraising Events (More information will be provided when available)**
 - Fredericksburg area Fundraising Event – March 2025 (Date/Location TBD)
 - Northern Virginia area Fundraising event – April 2025 (Date/Location TBD)
 - Peninsula area Fundraising Event – Apr 25 (Date TBD/Location: JRCC)
 - Northern Virginia area Fundraising Event – May 2025 (Date/Location TBD)
- **The next VVSF Board Meeting will be held at 10 AM – 12 PM, on June 12, 2025 at the Virginia War Memorial.**

Brad Williamson

Brad Williamson
Chairman, Board of Trustees



2025 Events Calendar

Visit our website and register for e-news alerts for details on these events and others at VaWarMemorial.org/events.

May 10

Storytime at the Memorial

Free, no reservation required
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

May 26

Commonwealth of Virginia's Memorial Day Ceremony

June 11

At Ease on the Bus

Mariners' Museum — A behind the scenes tour of the Wet Lab, where conservation work is being done year-round to preserve the remains of the USS *Monitor*, the world's largest marine archaeological metals conservation project.

June 15

Performance — Father's Day concert by the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra

June 27

Hill of Heroes Installation — Join us for the installation of 12,000 American flags on our hillside representing the names engraved on the Shrine of Memory.

September 11

Commonwealth of Virginia's 9/11 Patriot Day Ceremony

September 12

Sips on the Skyline

September 19

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Leadership in America:

Kelly McKeague — "MIA: The Search Continues"

September 20

Exhibition opens to the public "Virginia's Missing in Action: The Search Continues"

Yes, Your Support Mattered in 2024

Your support helped us reach nearly a million people, on-site, online, and on the air.




Visitation to vawarmemorial.org, our YouTube programs, Vimeo, and scholarscompass.vcu.edu totaled more than **320,000**.

The viewership of our Memorial Day and Veterans Day commemorations broadcast on CBS affiliates expanded to **120,000** households. 



Our programs are also promoted in the e-newsletter of the Department of Veterans Services, which has nearly **500,000** subscribers.

More than **52,000** people visited on-site and another **7,200** people were served through community outreach programs. 

102

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ALL LEARNERS

38

OFF-SITE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

4

ADMIRAL JOHN MAROCCHI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS were awarded to students entering an ROTC program at a Virginia university 

24

ASSISTANCE GRANTS Awarded to Schools for Field Trips

Lessons in leadership to cadets in JROTC and ROTC, Scouts, and candidates for Boys and Girls State

Virginia War Memorial worked with the Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion Posts, high schools, and universities across the state.

Our Mighty Pen Project celebrated its tenth year in 2024

This free creative writing program for veterans and their families offers seminars, produces veteran-written one-act plays with Firehouse Theatre, and streams podcasts on multiple platforms. Selected stories, plays, and poems are included in our annual literary journal.



MIGHTY PEN PROJECT™





Thank you for a record-breaking 2024.

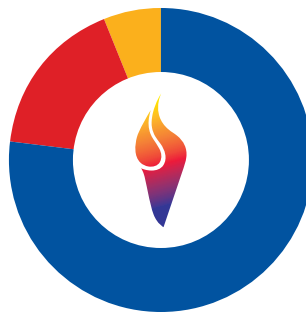
Your support has made the Virginia War Memorial the premier state memorial in the country. Virginia's veterans deserve nothing less.

Virginia has the second-largest active-duty population in the country. The Commonwealth is also home to more than 700,000 veterans. Our active-duty, reserve, and military veterans follow generations of men and women who have served at home and abroad. By example, they inspire love of country in current and future generations.

A Note About Our Financial Statements

As we went to press, the draft of the annual audit of our financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2024, had been reviewed. The numbers, which will be made available on our website when accepted by our board of directors, show how the Virginia War Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit continues to grow.

Thank you.



\$1,722,000 — 2024 expenses net of endowment investments, cost of goods sold, and cost of direct benefits to donors

- 77%** — Program expenses
- 17%** — Management expenses
- 6%** — Fundraising expenses



OUR MISSION

To preserve the stories of veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice, to honor all veterans and active-duty military, and to inspire love of country through education.

OUR VISION

A global audience will recognize the valor and sacrifice of Virginia's military veterans in the pursuit of liberty, democracy, justice, and peace for all.



621 South Belvidere Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

BVS 2025 Meeting Schedule

General Assembly 2025 Session (begins Wednesday, January 8)

- Attend “JLC Day at the General Assembly” – Thursday, January 23
- Attend meetings of the General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus (starting Wednesday, January 15, 0800)

Thursday, March 20, 9 a.m. (in conjunction with the Women Veterans Ceremony)

- Location: Virginia War Memorial

Thursday, June 5, 10 a.m.

- Location: Virginia War Memorial, Richmond (tentative)

Thursday, September 11, 10 a.m. (in conjunction with Commonwealth’s Patriot Day Ceremony)

- Location: Virginia War Memorial, Richmond

Monday, November 10, time TBD (in conjunction with Marine Corps 250th Birthday Celebration in conjunction with VA250)

- Location: Virginia War Memorial, Richmond