

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 21, 2015**

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on October 21, 2015, at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Ave, Richmond.

**Members Present**

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Richard Oertel, American Legion
- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Robert Sempek, Association of the United States Army
- Curtis Jennings, Disabled American Veterans
- William Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association
- L.T. Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- Robert Herbert, Legion of Valor
- John Prendergast, Marine Corps League
- Stuart Williams, Military Officers Association of America
- James Cuthbertson, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- William Barrett, Jr, Military Order of the World Wars
- David Sitler, Reserve Officers Association
- Perry Taylor, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Daniel Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Adam Provost, Virginia National Guard Association
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association
- Donald Kaiserman, Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services
- Brad Antle, Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation
- John Newby, Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services

**Members Absent**

- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Jon Ostrowski, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Terry Labar, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Charles Montgomery, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Robert Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlistment Association

**Alternates Present (representing their VSO)**

- Frank Driscoll, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Robert Barnette, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlistment Association

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

- John Cooper, AMVETS

- Terrence Moore, Reserve Officers Association
- Vic Pena, Military Officers Association of America

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

- MG Tim Williams, The Adjutant General of Virginia
- Major Shelton, Virginia National Guard
- Al Pianalto, Office of Delegate Kirk Cox
- Senior Assistant Attorney General Cindy Norwood
- Leslie Frazier, Policy Director, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Glendalynn Glover, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Jon Hatfield, DVS
- Jack Hilgers, DVS
- Brittany Dickerson, DVS
- CarrieAnn Alford, DVS
- Steven Combs, DVS
- Tom Herthel, DVS
- Amy Beauchamp, DVS

#### **Others Present**

- Thad Jones, Board of Veterans Services
- Richard Schollmann, Veterans Services Foundation
- Lee Upright, Student Veterans of William & Mary
- Linda Honeycutt, guest of Perry Taylor
- Bill Whitt, Fleet Reserve Association

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

Agenda (Agenda Item II)

Draft minutes of July 15, 2015 meeting (Agenda Item III)

Reports (Agenda Item V)

- Board of Veterans Services
- Veterans Services Foundation

New Business (Agenda Item VI)

- Letter – Secretary Harvey to Chairman Barton re SVDA priorities for 2016 session
- List of JLC Appointed Officers for 2015-2016

#### **Items distributed at the meeting**

- List of Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs (SVDA) priorities for 2016 General Assembly Session
- MOAA position paper regarding Veterans Dockets
- VFW position paper regarding Virginia Taxes and Veteran Service Organizations

#### **Opening and Pledge of Allegiance (Agenda Item I)**

Chairman Harold Barton Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He welcomed the members, state officials, and guests, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Tim Whitmore delivered an opening prayer.

### **Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, Approval of the Agenda, and Introduction of Guests (Agenda Item II)**

The roll was called, and 19 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented. A quorum was determined. Mr. Don Kaiserman, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS); Mr. Brad Antle, the Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF); and Commissioner John Newby of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), were recorded as present.

Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Stu Williams, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried **unanimously**. The approved agenda is included as Attachment 1.

State officials and guests were introduced. Their names are recorded above.

### **Approve July 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes (Agenda Item III)**

Mr. Richard Mansfield made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Williams to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2015 meeting as drafted. The **motion** carried **unanimously**.

### **Department of Veterans Services Presentation**

Commissioner Newby asked that Major General Tim Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, be given a portion of his time for a few remarks. Chairman Barton turned the floor over to General Williams.

General Williams thanked the JLC members for what they do for the entire veterans community. He stated that he was happy to be able to address the body and to give a brief update on the status of the Virginia National Guard. He said that the Guard is facing budget pressures and restraints, but that this won't stop the focus of the Guard and what they are about. He noted that the Guard has had its busiest year since 2007, deploying 1,300 Army Guardsmen and 400 Air Guardsmen. The troops are mobilizing in record time and are staying on point. The Guard is in 45 locations across Virginia. He said that he is concerned about the federal FY16 budget because they are operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) budget at this point.

The General was asked question from the JLC members regarding the current strength of the guard and the current retention rate. The General stated that they are currently 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in recruiting and retention. Due to the current budget issues it is not easy but it is manageable and they will do what they have to do.

Chairman Barton thanked General Williams for being at today's meeting, for his leadership and service, and for giving an excellent overview of the current state of the Virginia National Guard.

Commissioner Newby gave an overview of the Department of Veterans Services, highlighting each DVS Section and significant achievements of the past 12 months, and reviewing the changes, milestones and the growth of the Department of Veteran Services from 2003 – 2015. He noted the recently opened Benefits Services Offices in Chesapeake and Petersburg, explained DVS goals for 2014-2018, and spoke to the stellar support of the JLC, which enables DVS to be more effective in serving the veterans of the Commonwealth. He also stated that it is because of

the DVS-JLC partnership that we are able to work effectively and collaboratively with the Governor and General Assembly to champion for the cause of veterans and their families.

Commissioner Newby invited the JLC members to attend the ribbon cutting of the expansion of the Virginia War Memorial on December 17 at 1:00 p.m., noting that the Governor and members of the General Assembly will be present. He recognized Jon Hatfield for his hard work and dedication to the Virginia War Memorial. He encouraged the members to visit the Benefits Services Office closest to where they live, and to let DVS know when they are going so we can set up a special tour for them. He said that at least 18 out of 25 of the Benefits Services Offices have been renovated or are in new office space.

Commissioner Newby concluded his remarks by stating that the growth of DVS over the past 12 years has been huge, with the Department adding new missions, new programs, and new services. The JLC has been driving much of the change by advocating for the Department of Veteran Services' needs to the Governor and General Assembly. He recognized that there is still much to be done, but said that, with the JLC's help and support, we can make it happen. He thanked the JLC for everything they do to support veterans.

After his presentation, Commissioner Newby spoke briefly about the four initiatives Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs John C. Harvey, Jr. would like the JLC to support, outlined in Secretary Harvey's October 7 letter to JLC Chairman Barton ([\*Attachment 5\*](#)) and in the summary of the Secretary's initiatives ([\*Attachment 6\*](#)).

1. Veterans Care Centers: already a JLC initiative
2. A Bridge to Health Care Careers for Former Military Medics and Corpsmen: to help these former service members find jobs in hospitals and other health care settings and be able to perform duties they already know how to do, while getting the additional credentials for state licensure. He noted that Secretary Harvey is working with the Virginia Department of Health on this legislation, and that budget and personnel resources will be needed.
3. Veterans Dockets: continuing initiative to make Veterans Dockets an integral part of Virginia's justice system. The Commissioner noted that he and Secretary Harvey are working with the Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Virginia to find a path forward for the legislation that was left in committee last year.
4. Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Veteran Advisor and Resource Center: .to support veterans in navigating college experiences, including financial and benefits support, but also connecting them to other vets on campus and helping them adjust to college life.

Commissioner Newby answered several questions asked by the members.

A ten minute break was taken.

### **Reports (Agenda Item V)**

#### **a. Board of Veterans Services – *Don Kaiserman, BVS Chairman***

BVS Chairman Kaiserman delivered the BVS report to the JLC, included as [\*Attachment 2\*](#).

**b. Veterans Services Foundation – Brad Antle, VSF Chairman**

VSF Chairman Brad Antle delivered the VSF report to the JLC, included as Attachment 3. He stated the last VSF meeting was held on August 5, at which the rebranding of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) to Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) was discussed. He noted that VVFS made tremendous efforts to ensure that the rebranding went smoothly so donations to the VWWP/VVFS would not be affected. As of right now, there is an increase in donations made to VVFS. Chairman Antle encouraged the members to check out the new VSF and VVFS websites and shared this new VSF website, which makes it easier for people to donate. He also stated the Governor appointed three new VSF trustees in September. They are: Ms. Nicole Carry, Dr. Jack Lanier and Mr. Tom Mulrine. They are all veterans and well qualified to serve.

**c. Department of Veterans Services – John Newby, Commissioner**

Commissioner Newby's presentation to the JLC served as his report for this meeting.

**New Business (Agenda Item VI)**

**Approve JLC Appointed Officers for 2015-16**

Chairman Barton called the members' attention to the list of JLC Officers for 2015-16 included in the agenda packet (see Attachment 4). He explained that the JLC Constitution and Bylaws call for both elected and appointed officers.

He explained that, per the Code of Virginia, the JLC Chairman or his designee serves as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Veterans Services, Veterans Services Foundation, and the Virginia War Memorial Board. He also noted that a JLC representative attends meetings of the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) and the Virginia Department of Elections Electronic Ballot Return Working Group. He stated that it was important that multiple members of the JLC step into these leadership roles, and thanked the members identified on the handout for agreeing to serve.

Mr. Robert Sempek made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Perry Taylor, to approve the slate of appointed officers as presented by the Chairman. The motion carried **unanimously**.

**Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs (SVDA) 2016 Budget/Legislative Priorities**

Chairman Barton called the members' attention to the letter from Secretary Harvey included in the agenda packet (see Attachment 5) and the copy of the Secretary's priorities distributed at the meeting (see Attachment 6). Chairman Barton stated that Secretary Harvey is asking that the JLC review his proposals and consider adopting them as JLC initiatives.

Chairman Barton noted that Secretary Harvey's Priority #1, Veterans Care Centers, is already a JLC initiative.

**SVDA Priority #3 (Veterans Dockets)**

Because this priority was similar to the MOAA position paper tabled at the July 15, 2015 JLC meeting, MOAA representative Stu Williams asked that the MOAA position paper be considered

as a basis for discussion. A copy of the position paper was distributed (see Attachment 7).

Mr. Mansfield made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Boyer, to “un-table” the MOAA position paper so that it could be discussed and reconsidered at a JLC initiative. The motion carried **unanimously**.

There was much discussion regarding this issue. The questions included how the veteran would get to the program, what the cost would be, what would the impact be on the legal system and is this something that could legally be done without discriminate against others, how much support do we have in the subcommittee for this proposal to make it to the general assembly. The locations that already have this program already in place were discussed. Hampton and Fairfax programs are fairly new. After much discussion, and input from Commissioner Newby, Chairman Barton, and Mr. Williams, all of the members’ questions were answered.

Mr. Williams made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Mansfield, to adopt the MOAA proposal and SVDA Priority #3 as a JLC initiative for 2016. The motion carried **unanimously**.

SVDA Priority #2, Bridge to Health Care Careers for Former Military Medics and Corpsmen

Ms. Leslie Frazier, SVDA Policy Director, provided an overview of this initiative. Mr. Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Robert Herbert, to adopt SVDA Priority #2 as a JLC initiative for 2016. The motion carried **unanimously**.

SVDA Priority #4, VCCS Veteran Advisor and Resource Center

Commissioner Newby explained that veterans need someone available to them to help them to navigate through the different systems to achieve success in school.

Discussion ensued over whether this item should be a JLC initiative, or whether the JLC should provide a letter of support. Mr. Jim Cuthbertson made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Boyer, to provide a letter of support.

Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs advised the Council to adopt all of the Secretary’s priorities as JLC initiatives so that the Secretary, the Commissioner, and others would have the JLC’s full support to get the proposals through the General Assembly.

Mr. Boyer made a **substitute motion, seconded** by Mr. Taylor, to adopt SVDA Priority #4 as a JLC initiative for 2016. The motion carried **unanimously**.

VFW – new proposal

Mr. Boyer introduced an initiative on Virginia Taxes and Veteran Service Organizations, proposed by the VFW (see Attachment 8). After reviewing the VFW’s proposed initiative, Mr. Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Whitmore, to adopt the VFW proposal as a JLC initiative for 2016. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Noting the time, Chairman Barton stated that prioritization of the four new proposals would be done at the next JLC meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Combs proposed that, in the interim, the four new initiatives be numbered JLC Initiatives 9-12, in the order discussed and approved by the JLC. Chairman Barton approved this.

Chairman Barton stated that the four new proposals would have to be put into JLC position paper format. Mr. Williams and Mr. Boyer will work with DVS on the MOAA and VFW papers, respectively. Mr. Cuthbertson volunteered to put the VCCS proposal into JLC format, while Mr. Bill Barrett volunteered to take the lead on the Medic/Corpsmen initiative.

Deputy Commissioner stated that he, Ms. CarrieAnn Alford, and Ms. Frazier would work with these members to prepare the new position papers.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Martha Mead, familiar to many members because of her work with VWWP and other veterans initiatives, addressed the JLC regarding a research project for the VCCS of which she is a part. She explained that a survey would be conducted as part of the study, which would provide valuable regarding veterans' transition, education, training and employment services. Once the survey is ready she would like to distribute it to the JLC members, who will then in turn distribute to their networks/VSOs. She asked that the JLC members assist, which was agreed to by unanimous consent. Ms. Mead will send the survey to Deputy Commissioner Combs, who will then distribute it to the JLC members.

### **Closing Remarks**

Chairman Barton reminded the members that the next meeting would be Friday, December 18, at which the Governor's proposed budget would be discussed.

### **Ad-hoc Legislative Working Group Meeting**

The Chairman announced that an ad-hoc legislative working group meeting would be held immediately following the adjournment of the main meeting. All present were invited to attend. A summary of this meeting is included as Appendix 1.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before this council, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

## **Attachment 1**

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations  
American Legion Building  
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond  
October 21, 2015  
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

### **AGENDA**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Harold Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Harold Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Approve July 15, 2015 meeting minutes – *Harold Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Department of Veterans Services presentations (10:15 – 11:00): *Commissioner John Newby and DVS Directors*
- V. Reports (11:00 – 11:15)
  - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Don Kaiserman, BVS Chairman*
  - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Brad Antle, VSF Chairman*
  - c. Department of Veterans Services – *John Newby, Commissioner*
- VI. New business (11:15 – 12:15) – *Harold Barton, JLC Chairman*
  - a. SVDA Priorities
  - b. Approve JLC Appointed Officers for 2015-2016
  - c. Other new business and open discussion
- VII. Public comment period (12:15 – 12:25)
- VIII. Closing remarks and prepare for next meeting – *Harold Barton, JLC Chairman* (12:25 – 12:30)
- IX. Adjourn (12:30)



## **Attachment 2**

### **BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations October 21, 2015**

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) last met on May 12, 2015. The results of this meeting and BVS committee meetings held in April were reported to the JLC on May 20, 2015.

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

The Board welcomed three new citizen members in July: Joana C. Garcia, Nick Kesler, and Laurie Forbes Neff. All bring invaluable experience in the military and veterans arena, and in their civilian positions, that will contribute to the Board's success. Don Lecky left the Board on October 1 – a replacement is expected to be announced in the next several weeks.

The BVS will hold its next meeting on December 9, 2015 at 10 a.m. at the American Legion Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Kaiserman  
Chairman

## **Attachment 3**

### **VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations October 21, 2015**

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held one meeting since the last JLC meeting. It was held on August 5, 2015 with a quorum present. The following events occurred and actions taken at the meeting, in addition to the usual reports and updates on VWWP and V3 plus a briefing on the Benefits Program. VWWP has changed its name to Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) as of 1 October 2015, but its services remain the same.

- (1) Reviewed Foundation income, expenses, and fundraising events conducted during FY15;
- (2) Approved the 4th Quarter FY15 VSF Financial Reports;
- (3) Approved VSF FY16 Goals and Objectives;
- (4) Approved proposed legislation for the FY16 General Assembly;
- (5) Approved changes to VSF-DVS Joint Policy #3;
- (6) Elected a new VSF Chair Brad Antle, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Rich Schollmann, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Al Pianalto;
- (7) Approved Pat Webb and Frank Finelli as Development Committee Chair and Vice Chair; and
- (8) Approved Jack Kavanaugh and Frank Driscoll as Finance Committee Chair and Vice Chair;
- (9) Approved Frank Wickersham as a Development Committee Advisor.

As of 16 October, the Foundation has received donations during FY16 of over \$230,000 with almost \$226,000 for VWWP/VVFS. This is about a 30% increase in revenue over the amount brought in to date in FY15. As always, the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities to realize this significant revenue level. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication of all DVS personnel.

With the great help of the DVS Communications Director, VSF has restructured its website. The new site can be viewed at [www.vvsf.org](http://www.vvsf.org).

The Board has three new Trustees appointed by the Governor in September to take the places of Tom Gordy, Jack Kavanaugh, and Frank Wickersham. They are Ms. Nicole Carry, Dr. Jack Lanier, and Mr. Tom Mulrine. They all are veterans and well qualified to serve as Trustees

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2015 at the American Legion Building. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the First Quarter FY16 Financial Statement; (2) approval of FY16 Budget Adjustments, if any; (3) approval of the review and updates of VSF-DVS Joint Policies #3 and 4; (4) review VSF FY15 fundraising program and projections; (5) and appointment of new Trustees to Committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Antle  
VSF Chairman

## **VSF Milestones FY16\***

### July 1, 2015

Board Officers assume duties

### August 5 meeting (American Legion)\*\*

Review FY15 Goals and Objectives

Consider Goals and Objectives for FY16

Approve 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter FY15 Financial Statement

Approve review of VSF-DVS Policies, as required

Board Chair appoints Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs

Approval of Committee Chair/Vice Chair  
appointments

Approve tentative dates and locations (if available for 2016)

### November 4 meeting (American Legion)\*\*

Approve 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY16 Financial Statement

Approve budget adjustments, if any

Approve review of VSF-DVS Policies, if needed

Approve Bylaws and MOU changes, if any

### March 14, 2016

Request Budget input for FY17 due April 15

### March 30 meeting (TBD)

Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY16 Financial Statement

Approve budget adjustments, if any

Approve review of VSF-DVS Policies, if needed

Confirm dates and locations of 2016 Board meetings

Elect a nominating committee

### April 4

Nominating Committee put out call for candidates for officers' positions

### May 4 meeting (TBD)\*\*\*

Approve 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY16 Financial Statement

Approve budget adjustments, if any

Approve FY17 budget

Elect officers for FY17

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

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

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

## **Attachment 4**

### **JLC ELECTED OFFICERS: 2015 – 2016**

- Chairman: Harold H. (“Bart”) Barton, Jr.
- Vice Chairman: Marie G. Juliano

### **JLC APPOINTED OFFICERS: 2015 – 2016 (Proposed)**

- Legislative Officer: Richard Oertel
- Assistant Legislative Officer: David Sitler
- Chaplain: L.T. Whitmore
- Constitution & By-Laws Committee
  - Chairman: Daniel Boyer
  - Members: Perry Taylor and Adam Provost
- Nominating Committee
  - Chairman: Open
  - Members: Open
- JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC)
  - Primary: William Barrett
  - Alternate: Robert Sempek
- JLC Representative to the State Board of Elections (SBE) Electronic Ballot return working group
  - Primary: Stu Williams
  - Alternate: Vic Pena (A)
- JLC Representative to Board of Veteran Services (BVS)
  - Primary: Harold H. (“Bart”) Barton, Jr.
  - Alternate: Marie G. Juliano
- JLC Representative to BVS Committees
  - Cemeteries
    - Primary: Charlie Montgomery
    - Alternate: George Corbett (A)
  - Care Centers
    - Primary: John Prendergast
    - Alternate: John Clickener (A)
  - Benefits
    - Primary: Harold H. (“Bart”) Barton, Jr.
    - Alternate: Jeff Platte (A)
- JLC Representative to Veterans Services Foundation (VSF)
  - Primary: James Cuthbertson
  - Alternate: Mark Atchison (A)
- JLC Representative to the Virginia War Memorial Board (VWMB)
  - Primary: Marie G. Juliano
  - Alternate: Harold H. Barton, Jr.

## **Attachment 5**

### **LETTER: SECRETARY HARVEY TO JLC CHAIRMAN BARTON**

October 7, 2015

Mr. Harold H. Barton, Jr. Mulkey, Forbes, Reid & Barton  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law  
11711 Jefferson Ave.  
Newport, News, VA 23606


Dear Mr. Barton:

I enjoyed meeting with you a few weeks ago and look forward to building a strong partnership in support of veterans issues in the Commonwealth.

Based on our conversations and in preparation for the next JLC meeting and the 2016 session, I would like us to be of one mind concerning legislative priorities. I specifically recommend the JLC adopt my top priorities -the four we have discussed – for this upcoming session. You already have my number one priority -the Veteran Care Centers -on your list, but I would like the JLC to also adopt the Medic/Corpsmen, Veteran Treatment Dockets, and VCCS academic resource center and advisor initiatives. Many of Virginia's veterans are young (especially those transitioning out), and we must develop workforce, educational, and other supportive policies that meet their needs. We truly only have one shot this year, with the Governor's introduced budget, to get these meaningful initiatives in place for our veterans.

I recognize the JLC's process of adopting legislative policies and priorities, and I respect it. I know that we did not have all of the details of my proposals ready to present at the July meeting, but we do now (the documents I previously shared with you). I am looking forward to further working with you to gain the JLC's support for our initiatives at the October meeting.

Sincerely,



John C. Harvey, Jr.

## **Attachment 6**

### **Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs – 2016 Budget/Legislative Priorities**

#### **1.) Veterans Care Centers**

- a. Background: Virginia is in need of two additional veterans care centers – one in Hampton Roads and one in Northern Virginia. To avoid further delay in designing the care centers by waiting on federal funds, legislation was passed during the 2015 General Assembly session to begin designing the two veterans care centers, but only fully constructing one.
- b. Goals: Bring the Hampton Road and Northern Virginia Veterans Care Centers on line several years earlier, by authorizing additional bond funding for full construction of the second care center.

#### **2.) A Bridge to Health Care Careers for Former Military Medics and Corpsmen**

- a. Background: Military medics and corpsmen receive extensive and valuable health care training while on active duty, but that experience does not always easily translate into comparable licenses/certifications required for health care jobs. These veterans may still need to spend **2 or more years** in school before obtaining a credential.
- b. Goals: Allow Virginia employers to recruit motivated employees from a pipeline of **11,000 medic and corpsmen** who transition out of the military every year; help fill workforce gaps and keep veterans' clinical skills up-to-date.

#### **3.) Veterans Dockets**

- a. Background: Many post-9/11 veterans are being diagnosed with mental health problems, but not all seek help. This results in many developing substance abuse and being involved in the criminal justice system. In the estimation of the public safety and legal communities, existing legislation to serve veterans in the criminal justice system does not provide the services needed by Virginia's veterans population.
- b. Goals: Establish Veterans Dockets to offer judicial monitoring of intensive treatment and supervision of offenders who have special conditions/needs based on military service; address underlying offender conditions that contribute to criminal behavior to enhance public safety, reduce recidivism, ensure offender accountability, and promote offender rehabilitation in the community.

#### **4.) VCCS Veterans Advisor and Resource Center**

- a. Background: The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) is a valuable workforce development tool for veterans. However, not all of the community colleges have a veteran advisor and/or resource center or effective use of either.
- b. Goals: Coordinate/centralize campus efforts for veterans to ease the transition from service to a civilian educational system; establish a dedicated Veteran Advisor to provide a "one-stop shop" for veterans from matriculation to graduation; provide a Veterans Center as a safe space for the veterans to relax, study, and share experiences.

## **Attachment 7**

### **MOAA**

#### **Military Officers Association of America Position Paper – 2016 General Assembly Court Dockets for Veterans**

**1. Objective:** To allow local jurisdictions to establish veterans dockets under the supervision of the Virginia Supreme Court to adjudicate cases involving veterans who meet specific criteria.

**2. Background:**

a. The Drug Treatment Court Act (§ 18.2-254.1) provides a model for the proposed dockets.

b. In some jurisdictions throughout the nation there have been established special “courts,” such as mental health courts, veterans courts, and re-entry courts. In reality, these “courts” are special dockets used by circuit and district courts to group together cases with defendants who meet defined criteria who might warrant special consideration.

c. Some jurisdictions in Virginia have already established and are using special dockets with grants from the federal Department of Justice without procedural guidance from Virginia’s Supreme Court.

**3. Discussion:**

a. Virginia veterans who may carry invisible wounds of war and come in conflict with the law should be recognized for their situation.

b. Virginia veterans having difficulties based on prior service deserve a system of supervised treatment not provided by incarceration.

c. Treatment under a specialized court docket allows judicial monitoring of corrective treatment and supervision for those veterans who have special conditions and needs based on military service, mental illness, or difficulty in societal re-entry.

d. Needed is a procedure governing the establishment of such dockets, called “veterans dockets.”

e. Oversight provisions for veterans dockets should rest with the Virginia Supreme Court which would be responsible for overseeing and approval for:

- 1) the distribution of funds,
- 2) providing technical assistance,
- 3) providing training for judges who preside over problem-solving dockets,
- 4) providing training to providers of administrative, case management, and treatment services to problem-solving dockets, and
- 5) monitoring the evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency.

**4. Recommendation:** That the Governor and General Assembly pass legislation such as SB903 (Puller/Reeves) (2015 General Assembly) as introduced and passed in the Senate but failed in the House.

## Attachment 8

### **VFW Position Paper: Virginia Taxes and Veteran Service Organizations**

**ISSUE:** Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) are not identified as charitable nonprofit organizations in the Virginia Tax Code as they are in the Federal Tax code 501(c)(19). This allows VSOs to be vulnerable to tax levies by local governments and municipalities. This threatens their financial ability to do charitable work to support Veterans and Virginia communities.

**DISCUSSION:** The Department of Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is organized as a VSO under 501 (c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code[IRC]. This tax code was established by Congress in 1972 to provide special treatment to VSOs in recognition of their service to our nation. The Department has a group exemption from IRS under this tax code and most subordinate Posts in the Department are recognized by the IRS under this group exemption.

Many states have already followed the example set in 1972 by Congress. This is not the case for the State of Virginia. By not recognizing VSOs as charitable non-profit organizations, the State of Virginia tax code allows counties, cities, and towns to tax VSOs organized under IRC 501 (c)(19) however they deem appropriate. Essentially, VSOs may be treated like any other “for profit” business by state, county, city, and town officials within the State of Virginia. These taxes might include a real estate tax, meal tax, license fee, or any other tax or fee a local authority chooses to impose on local businesses. The VFW Post 7916, located in Occoquan, Virginia for over 52 years, has been informed that it may owe such taxes.

#### Virginia Taxes and Fees:

58.1-3703. Counties, cities, and towns may impose local license taxes and fees; limitation of authority.

18. (a) On or measured by receipts of a charitable non-profit organization except to the extent the organization has receipt from an unrelated trade or business the income of which is taxable under Internal Revenue Code 511 et seq. **For the purpose of this subdivision, “charitable non-profit organization” means an organization which is described in Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) and to which contributions are deductible by the contributor under Internal Revenue Code 170, except that educational institutions shall be limited to schools, colleges, and other similar institutions of learning.**

#### Virginia Retail Sales and Use Tax:

58.1-609.11 Exemptions for non-profit entities.

C. To qualify for the exemption under subsection B, a non-profit entity must meet the applicable criteria under this subsection as follows:

1.a. The entity is exempt from federal income taxation{i} **under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) under 501 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and, if it is exempt under 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, it is organized for a charitable purpose.**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly amend the Virginia Tax Code to identify Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (19) as a charitable non-profit organization.



## **Appendix 1**

### Summary of ad-hoc legislative working group October 21, 2015

An ad-hoc legislative working group meeting commenced at 1:15 p.m.

The following JLC members and DVS staff were present: JLC Chairman Harold Barton, JLC Vice Chair Marie Juliano, JLC Legislative Officer Richard Oertel, JLC Assistant Legislative Officer David Sitler, and DVS Director of Development Jack Hilgers.

Chairman Barton asked Mr. Hilgers to give them an overview of the Freedom of Information Act as pertaining to the JLC and its members. Mr. Hilgers covered requirements for formal JLC meetings and other meetings of two or more JLC members to discuss JLC matters including all meetings being open to the public and meeting requirements where the purpose is to hold discussions relating to JLC business. He handed out a Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council advisory on e-mail and public meetings.

Chairman Barton briefly covered the procedures for handling JLC legislative initiatives between this meeting and the next meeting of the JLC on December 18, 2015 and responded to a few questions. Mr. Hilgers mentioned that during 2011 a JLC working group put together a set of procedures for handling JLC legislative initiatives that had been approved by the JLC and that he would locate a copy and have it reproduced for use.

The Chair adjourned the working meeting at 1:25 p.m.