

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2013

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on December 18, 2013, at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

Members Present

- Brett Reistad, American Legion
- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Donald Kaiserman, Association of the United States Army
- Abe Zino, Fleet Reserve Association
- John Prendergast, Marine Corps League
- Stu Williams, Military Officers Association of America
- Robert Fairchild, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars
- Thomas Moran, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Matthew Dailey, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- David Coffield, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Carmen Gentile, Reserve Officers Association
- James Clem, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Thomas Gimble, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Bob Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Thad Jones, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Steven Combs (representing Rich Schollmann, Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation)
- Paul Galanti, Commissioner of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- George Coker, American Ex-POWs
- Allan McCroskey, Disabled American Veterans
- John Edwards, Korean War Veterans Association
- Tom Richards, Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.
- Shawn Otto, Virginia National Guard Association
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Jeffrey Platte, Air Force Association
- David Hawley, Disabled American Veterans

- Tim Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- John Velleca, Virginia National Guard Association

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- John Sabatini, AMVETS
- Vic Pena, Military Officers Association of America
- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Jim Hopper, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security
- Cindy Norwood, Office of the Attorney General
- Jon Hatfield, Department of Veterans Services
- Danielle Weaver, Department of Veterans Services
- Cathy Wilson, Department of Veterans Services

Others Present

- Steve Ludwig, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Bill Ashton
- Bill Whitt, Fleet Reserve Association
- Theresa Mason, RN, Breath of Fresh Air, CPR & Healthcare Training
- Marshall R. Henry, Jr., DAV

Items included in the Agenda Packet

Agenda (Agenda Item II)

Presentations (Agenda Item V)

- Excerpts from Governor McDonnell's Executive Budget Document (pages B-264 through B-266, Pages 1-1 through 1-3 from on-line Part E "*Budgets by Service Area – Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security,*"
- Review of JLC and BVS 2014 Initiatives – summary of actions to date, and list of recommended House and Senate patrons for JLC initiatives

Reports (Agenda Item VI)

- Board of Veterans Services Report
- Veterans Services Foundation Report
- JLC Representation to the Virginia Military Advisory Council Report
- Department of Veterans Services Report

Old Business (Agenda Item VII)

- Initiatives Postponed from July 17 and October 16 meetings
 - DAV-01, Position paper DAV-01, Exempt DAV Transportation Vans from Having to Pay Tolls
 - Position paper FRA-01, Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses

New Business (Agenda Item VII)

- Proposed 2014 Meeting Schedule
- Proposed 2014 Action Plan
- JLC 2014 Conference at the General Assembly (three documents)

- Notional Schedule
- Coordinating Instructions
- Guidelines
- Letter from Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness and Draft JLC letter of support

Items distributed at the meeting

- Summary of JLC and BVS 2014 Initiatives
- Schematic of Virginia War Memorial expansion
- Virginia War Memorial Board request for additional personnel, FY15-16 budget

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Don Kaiserman called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Vice-Chairman Thomas “Chip” Moran led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

The roll was called, and 21 of the 24 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented and a quorum was determined. Mr. Thad Jones, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS), Mr. Steven Combs (representing Mr. Rich Schollmann, the Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF)), and Commissioner Paul Galanti of the Department of Veterans Services were recorded as present.

Approval of the agenda

Mr. John Prendergast made a **motion, seconded** by Vice Chairman Moran, to approve the agenda as presented. The **motion** carried **unanimously**. The approved agenda is included as Attachment 1.

Introductions of Guests

Chairman Kaiserman asked Mr. Steven Combs to introduce the state officials and guests. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Kaiserman welcomed them to the meeting.

Approve October 16, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Brett Reistad made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. James Clem, to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2013 JLC meeting as drafted. The October 16, 2013 minutes were approved as drafted by **unanimous** consent.

Opening remarks

Chairman Kaiserman welcomed the JLC members to the meeting, reminding them of the critical mission the JLC plays in advocating for veterans issues with the Governor and General Assembly. He also reminded the members that the JLC 2014 Conference at the General Assembly is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2014.

Presentations

Overview of Governor McDonnell's proposed budget and review of JLC and BVS 2014 Initiatives

Mr. Brett Reistad, JLC Legislative Officer and Mr. Steven Combs, DVS Director of Policy and Planning, reviewed the DVS and other veteran-related items in Governor McDonnell's introduced budget. They referred to the budget summary documents, excerpted from the Executive Budget Document, that were included in the agenda packet. The JLC members asked several questions about specific items in the budget, which Mr. Combs answered. He also reviewed the funding in the Governor's budget for the military and veterans education consortium.

Mr. Reistad led the discussion on the status of the JLC and BVS 2014 Initiatives, using the summary table, included in the agenda packet, as the point of reference.

After much discussion, the Council members agreed on the following:

1. That the recommended House patrons for the JLC initiatives, as agreed to at the October 16 JLC meeting, be approved with the following changes:
 - a. Delegate Rust be added as a patron for JLC 2014-04 (electronic return of absentee ballots);
 - b. Delegate Toscano be added as a patron for JLC 2014-05 (funding for homeless veterans programs);
2. That the recommended Senate patrons for the JLC initiatives, as presented by Chairman Kaiserman, be approved;
3. That the General Assembly patrons for JLC and BVS initiatives be asked to submit budget amendment requests in the following amounts (over and above funding included in Governor McDonnell's introduced budget):
 - a. JLC 2014-01 and BVS 2014-01 (DVS Benefit Services section): \$500,000 (GF) in FY15 and \$500,000 (GF) in FY16
 - b. JLC 2014-03 (Virginia Wounded Warrior Program): \$500,000 (GF) in FY15 and \$500,000 (GF) in FY16
 - c. JLC 2014-05 (Virginia Homeless Veterans Program): \$450,000 (GF) in FY15 and \$970,000 (GF) in FY16
 - d. JLC 2014-06 (VWWP study): \$190,000 (GF) in FY15.
4. That AUSA serve as the JLC sponsor for JLC 2014-02. With the change, the JLC sponsors are:

Initiative	Sponsor(s)
JLC 2014-01	VFW
JLC 2014-02	AUSA
JLC 2014-03	MOPH
JLC 2014-04	MOAA
JLC 2014-05	NAUS
JLC 2014-06	MOAA, with RVVC support
JLC 2014-07	MOAA, with DAV support

Chairman Kaiserman asked BVS Chairman Thad Jones to provide information on BVS-recommended patrons for the BVS initiatives as soon as the information was available. Mr. Jones agreed to do so.

An updated summary of the JLC and BVS initiatives, with information current as of December 18, 2013, is included as Attachment 2.

Note: Attachment 2 includes information on BVS-recommended patrons provided by BVS Chairman Thad Jones after the JLC meeting. Because the BVS information was requested at the JLC meeting, it is included in these minutes for the reference of the JLC members.

Chairman Kaiserman called for a break at 11:31 a.m. He called the meeting back to order at 11:39 a.m.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Thad Jones delivered the BVS report (Attachment 3). Mr. Jones reviewed the status of the three BVS 2014 initiatives. Mr. Jones noted that the BVS has five legislative members: Delegates Anderson, BaCote, and Stolle, and Senators Puller and Reeves. He said that the next BVS meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2014.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Jones for his report.

Veterans Services Foundation

Mr. Steven Combs explained that Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Chairman Rich Schollmann and Mr. Jack Hilgers were unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Combs delivered the VSF report (Attachment 4). Mr. Combs noted that the VSF has a new board member, Mr. Tom Gordy. The next VSF board meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2014.

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Vice Chairman Moran stated that the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) met on December 3, 2013. He then reviewed his report (Attachment 5).

Chairman Kaiserman stated that he would like to schedule a meeting with Governor-elect McAuliffe either before he takes office or right afterwards. He said he would like to discuss with the Governor-elect the role of the JLC.

Virginia War Memorial Board

Mr. Jon Hatfield, Executive Director of the Virginia War Memorial, represented the Virginia War Memorial Board. He thanked the JLC for allowing him to address the Council. He distributed a handout showing a rendering of the Virginia War Memorial addition. He explained that, because much of the DVS HQ offices will remain in the Pocahontas building, there have been design changes to provide more education space.

Mr. Hatfield stated that the Virginia War Memorial had approximately 65,000 visitors this year and that he expects the number of visitors to grow to over 100,000 per year in the next five years.

Mr. Hatfield noted that the Governor's introduced budget provided four new positions for the Virginia War Memorial, but only provided funding for three of the positions in FY15 and two in FY16. He called the Council members' attention to the motion, adopted by the Virginia War Memorial Board of September 20, 2013, calling for funding for five positions. On behalf of the Virginia War Memorial Board, he asked that the JLC endorse and support the Virginia War Memorial Board's budget and position recommendations. The Council members agreed to do this by **unanimous consent**.

Department of Veterans Services

Commissioner Galanti delivered the DVS report (*Attachment 6*). Commissioner Galanti commented that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Joint Peer Review Group (JPRG) had awarded the Virginia Department of Veterans Services' State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training (SAA) a rating of "Satisfactory," the highest rating a state SAA can receive. Commissioner Galanti said that he was very proud of this accomplishment.

Commissioner Galanti thanked the JLC for all that they do to help our veterans.

Chairman Kaiserman stated his appreciation for the team effort by everyone. He also thanked Commissioner Galanti and his staff.

Old Business

Review initiatives postponed from July 17 and October 16 meetings

Chairman Kaiserman noted that two proposed initiatives had been continued from the July 17 and October 16 meetings. Mr. Combs added that these initiatives, labeled DAV 2014-01 and FRA 2014-01, were included in the members' agenda packet.

Chairman Kaiserman recommended that both proposed initiatives be tabled and that the sponsoring organization consider bringing the initiatives to the JLC for consideration as part of the JLC's 2015 Initiatives.

Mr. Brett Reistad made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. James Clem, to table the two initiatives. The motion carries **unanimously**.

New Business

Approve 2014 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Stu Williams made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. George Corbett, to approve the 2014 meeting schedule as presented. Mr. Abe Zino made a **substitute motion, seconded** by Mr. Corbett, that the March 19, 2014 meeting be held at the Virginia War Memorial.

The **substitute motion** was approved by **unanimous consent**. The approved JLC 2014 meeting schedule is included as Attachment 7.

Vice Chairman Moran noted that the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration is ongoing and that he would like to invite a member of the Commemoration committee to address the JLC at the March 19, 2014 meeting. He offered to make arrangements. His suggestion was agreed to without objection.

Approve 2014 Action Plan

Mr. Jeff Platte made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. William Barrett, to approve the 2014 Action Plan as presented. The 2014 Action Plan was approved as presented by **unanimous** consent and is included as Attachment 8.

Prepare for JLC 2014 Conference at the General Assembly

Mr. Combs commented on all the great work done by Mr. Jack Hilgers in preparing for the JLC 2014 Conference at the General Assembly on January 9, 2014. Mr. Combs reviewed the notional schedule, coordinating instructions, and guidelines. Mr. Combs noted that the schedule was subject to change based on speaker availability, but that the start and end times and locations were firm. He said that an updated schedule will be provided prior to and at the Conference. Mr. Combs stated that Mr. Hilgers wanted him to remind everyone that they should arrive early to get a parking spot and to get through security.

Vice Chairman Thomas Moran stated that both primary and alternate JLC members should attend the Conference. Mr. Combs stated that the room in which the morning session will be held will only hold about 35 people, but that afternoon session will be in a larger room that could accommodate more people. Mr. Combs asked the members and alternates to let Mr. Hilgers know by January 6 if they will be attending the Conference.

Other new business and open discussion

Mr. Combs stated that the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) had sent a letter to the JLC requesting their support. Mr. Combs then reviewed the letter and the draft letter of support included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Jeff Platte asked about the VCEH's overhead costs and how much of their budget goes to services and how much to overhead. Mr. Platte and other members said that they would like to know more about the VCEH and have a better understanding of the group, its mission, and its structure before the JLC formally voted to support the VCEH's efforts.

Mr. Glenn Rodriguez made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Prendergast, to table the VCEH request until the next meeting, in order for the JLC to receive additional information on the VCEH. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Mr. Prendergast suggested that the JLC respond back to VCEH and let them know about the JLC's discussion and request for additional information. Chairman Kaiserman said he would take this for action.

Chairman Kaiserman drew the members' attention to a fundraising request he'd received from the Wounded Warrior Project, and emphasized that it was important that donors be able to differentiate between the Wounded Warrior Project and the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP). DVS Deputy Commissioner Cathy Wilson, who is also VWWP Executive Director, briefly reviewed the mission of the VWWP and noted that the VWWP website features a short film that explains the role of the VWWP and its impact on Virginia veterans, Guardsmen and Reservists not in active service, and their families. The video may be accessed through this link <http://vimeo.com/77792443>.

Vice Chairman Moran noted that DVS had recently hired two new VWWP Regional Managers, one of whom is Ms. Carol Berg in VWWP Region V (Hampton Roads). He spoke very highly of Ms. Berg and suggested that VSO members invite her to attend Hampton Roads-area VSO meetings to explain the role of the VWWP and the services it provides.

Mr. Pete Fairchild stated that the Military Order of the Purple Heart has a lot of artifacts and memorabilia at their different locations and wanted to know if the artifacts could be given to the Virginia War Memorial for display.

Mr. Stu Williams asked if anyone knew of any situations when legal remedies would be needed to prevent discrimination against homeless veterans. He asked the JLC members to contact him if they knew of any such issues.

Public Comment

Mr. Bill Ashton, a retired naval officer, noted that he had recently met with Delegate Bill Howell and Senator Richard Stuart regarding eligibility for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP). He noted that for a spouse or child to qualify, the military service member must have been killed in action, MIA, a POW, or at least 90% disabled due to service in an armed conflict. He said that he asked these legislators to support legislation eliminating the requirement that the 90% service-connected disability rating be related to service in an armed conflict, and that, rather, it be 90% service-connected. He asked for the JLC members' support on this issue.

Closing Remarks

Chairman Kaiserman thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and said that he is looking forward to a good turnout on January 9, 2014 for the JLC 2014 Conference at the General Assembly.

Vice Chairman Moran thanked Ms. Danielle Weaver and the American Legion staff for all they do in preparation for and in support of the JLC meetings.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Kaiserman adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m. A lunch was served after the meeting.

ATTACHMENT 1
Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
American Legion Building
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
December 18, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Approve October 16, 2013 meeting minutes – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Opening remarks – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:15 – 10:20)
- V. Presentations (10:20 – 11:10)
 - a. Overview of Governor McDonnell’s proposed budget – *Brett Reistad, Legislative Officer and Steven Combs, DVS Director of Policy & Planning* (30 minutes)
 - b. Review of JLC and BVS 2014 Initiatives – *Brett Reistad, Legislative Officer and Steven Combs, DVS Director of Policy & Planning* (20 minutes)
- VI. Reports (11:10 – 11:35)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Rich Schollmann, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - c. Virginia Military Advisory Council – *Chip Moran, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
 - d. Virginia War Memorial Board – *Jon Hatfield, Virginia War Memorial Executive Director* (5 minutes)
 - e. Department of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner* (5 minutes)
- VII. Old business (11:35 – 11:40)
 - a. Review initiatives postponed from July 17 and October 16 meetings – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (5 minutes)
- VIII. New business (11:40 – 12:10)
 - a. Approve 2014 Meeting Schedule – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - b. Approve 2014 Action Plan – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - c. Prepare for JLC 2014 Conference at the General Assembly – *Jack Hilgers, Development Director* (5 minutes)
 - d. Open discussion – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (15 minutes)
- IX. Public comment period (12:10 – 12:20)
- X. Closing remarks – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (12:20 – 12:30)
- XI. Adjourn (12:30)

ATTACHMENT 2

JLC and BVS 2014 Initiatives: status as of December 18, 2013

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (JLC)

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>JLC Recommendation</i>	<i>Type (Budget or Legislation)</i>	<i>House Patrons (JLC-recommended)</i>	<i>Senate Patron (JLC-recommended)</i>	<i>Status as of 12/18/13 (in Governor's Introduced Budget or legislation filed?)</i>	<i>Requested action by General Assembly patrons (as of 12/18/13)</i>
JLC 2014-01	Provide additional funding to support hiring and retention of DVS claims agents	Budget	Anderson	Stosch	Governor's introduced budget includes funding for new Benefits Field office in Fredericksburg, but no funding to support hiring/retention of existing positions	Submit a budget amendment request for an additional \$500,000 (GF) in FY15 and \$500,000 (GF) in FY16 for DVS Benefits Services section
JLC 2014-02	Continue base funding for the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program	Budget	Cox	Puller	Governor's introduced budget includes \$450,000 (GF) base funding for V3 Program in FY15 and FY16	Ensure base program funding remains in General Assembly-approved budget
JLC 2014-03	Increase funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP)	Budget	Lingamfelter	Colgan	Governor's introduced budget includes \$372,835 (GF) and \$378,300 (NGF) for VWWP in FY15 and similar amounts in FY16. Includes \$108,617 (GF) and \$278,300 (NGF) for AmeriCorps grant and \$264,218 (GF) for VWWP regions.	Submit a budget amendment request for an additional \$500,000 (GF) in FY15 and \$500,000 (GF) in FY16 for DVS VWWP
JLC 2014-04	Enact legislation permitting the electronic return of absentee ballots by overseas uniformed military voters	Legislation	O'Bannon and Rust	Puller	SB11 (Puller) and HB126 (O'Bannon) have been pre-filed Delegate Rust has requested a House bill be drafted	Notify JLC when bills will be heard in subcommittee or committee

JLC 2014-05	Provide funding for the Virginia Homeless Veterans Program	Budget	Greason and Toscano	McDougle	Governor's introduced budget includes funding for state homeless programs but not specifically for homeless veterans	Submit a budget amendment request for \$450,000 (GF) in FY15 and \$970,000 (GF) in FY16 for DVS homeless veterans programs
JLC 2014-06	Provide one-time funding in FY15 to update the 2010 Virginia Tech report " <i>Assessing the Experiences, Supportive Service Needs and Service Gaps of Veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia</i> "	Budget	Yost	Howell	Governor's introduced budget does not include funding for study	Submit a budget amendment request for \$190,000 (GF) in FY15 for DVS VWWP. Note – this is one-time funding in FY15
JLC 2014-07	Pass a resolution to provide a Real Property Tax Exemption for Spouses of Military Killed in Action. Enact legislation to place a referendum on the ballot for the November 4 election	Legislation	Ramadan	Black	HJ8 and HB46 (Ramadan) have been pre-filed	Notify JLC when bills will be heard in subcommittee or committee

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES (BVS)

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>BVS Recommendation</i>	<i>Type (Budget or Legislation)</i>	<i>House Patrons (BVS-recommended)</i>	<i>Senate Patron (BVS-recommended)</i>	<i>Status as of 12/18/13 (in Governor's Introduced Budget or legislation filed?)</i>	<i>Requested action by General Assembly patrons (as of 12/18/13)</i>
BVS 2014-01	Provide additional funding to support hiring and retention of DVS Benefits Services staff	Budget	Anderson	Reeves	Governor's introduced budget includes funding for new Benefits Field office in Fredericksburg, but no funding to support hiring/retention of existing positions	Submit a budget amendment request for an additional \$500,000 (GF) in FY15 and \$500,000 (GF) in FY16 for DVS Benefits Services section
BVS 2014-02	Authorize two additional positions for state veterans cemeteries	Budget	BaCote	Reeves	Governor's introduced budget included two additional positions	Ensure positions remain in General Assembly-approved budget
BVS 2014-03	Enact legislation effecting a very limited change to the Code of Virginia in regards to the residency requirements of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program	Legislation	Stolle	Puller	Senator Puller has requested that legislation be drafted	Notify BVS and JLC when bills will be heard in subcommittee or committee

ATTACHMENT 3

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES

REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (JLC) OF VETERANS SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS December 18, 2013

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met last on July 24. The BVS meeting scheduled for November 13 was cancelled. The next BVS meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2014.

The Board adopted three initiatives for the 2014 General Assembly session:

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Summary of actions taken to date (as of 12/16/13)</i>
BVS 2014-01	Benefit Services Section Funding	
BVS 2014-02	State Veterans Cemeteries Staffing	Two additional positions included in Governor's Budget
BVS 2014-03	Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) Residency Requirements	Senator Puller has requested that legislation be drafted

The BVS looks forward to continuing its outstanding partnership with the JLC in service to Virginia's veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Thad A. Jones
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 4

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations

December 18, 2013

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held one meeting since last JLC meeting. It was on November 6, 2013. The Development and Finance Committees met before the Board meeting. The following events occurred and actions taken at the Board meetings.

- (1) Received Board of Veterans Services Chairman's, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Chairman's, the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Commissioner's, and VSF Committee Reports and Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) and Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program Updates;
- (2) Reviewed Foundation income and fundraising events conducted during FY13 and FY14;
- (3) Approved VSF FY14 First Quarter Report;
- (4) Approved VSF-DVS FY14 Budget adjustments and reactivation of the Homeless Fund under VWWP;
- (5) Approved Bylaws changes including a Chapter on Protocol, Governance, and Communications;
- (6) Approved updates of three VSF-DVS Joint Policies relating to budgeting and a new VSF-DVS Policy on use of the Foundation Endowment Fund;
- (7) Approved a Development Committee Appointment;
- (8) Approved Board meeting dates of March 26, May 7, August 6, and November 5, 2014.

One new Governor's appointment was made since the last report to the JLC. It was Mr. Tom Gordy, who was commissioned as a U.S. Navy Reserve Public Affairs Officer. From March 2009 to February 2010, Tom was mobilized to active duty and served in Iraq as the Legislative Affairs Officer and Deputy Public Affairs Officer to U.S. Army General Orlando, Commander, Multi-National Forces Iraq. Tom currently is the President of the Armed Forces Marketing Council, a position he has held since March 2008.

As of 15 December, the Foundation has received about \$185,000, of which about \$165,000 is for VWWP, during FY14. Total fundraising is about the same as last year at this time. Again, the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities to realize this significant fundraising level. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication of all DVS personnel.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2014, but may be changed if the General Assembly session is extended. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the 2nd Quarter FY14 Fund Statement; (2) approval of FY14 VSF-DVS Budget adjustments; (3) review VSF FY14 fundraising program; (4) election of a nominating committee for FY15 officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Schollmann
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 5

To: Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC)

Subject: Virginia Military Advisory Council

Date: 3 December 2013

Location: Headquarters, Combined Arms Support Command Headquarters Bldg., James Madison Conference Room, 22nd & “B” Streets, Fort Lee, Virginia

1. Council Members:

See attached list

2. Rear Admiral Dixon Smith (Chair) Commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic opened the meeting at 1300 by welcoming the Council members and guests. Most notable of these was Ms. Nancy Rodriguez, Chief of Governor Elect Terry McAuliffe’s transition team. Vice-Chairman James Hopper, Secretary of Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, was also in attendance.

3. The Agenda for the meeting consisted primarily of briefings given by each of the Commanders from the 17 Active Duty and Virginia National Guard Installations in the State. These briefings contained the installation missions, demographics such as size, number of military and civilian members, annual budgets, and issues or concerns. Most notable were at that time concerns of the effects of the impending sequestration and issues based on the budget situation. One of the notable items of concern shared by military installations in the Hampton Roads area was that of tunnels, impending tolls and traffic congestion based on limited infrastructure.

4. Another Agenda item was one initiated by Colonel David Maxwell, Commander USMC Base Quantico. His discussion was “Commonwealth Recognition of On-Base Drunk Driving Violations” and the possibility of a cooperative effort between base commanders, JAGs and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. This initiative would have military members convicted of DUIs on base to have their driving privileges revoked in Virginia. There was some lively discussion on this issue, as Vice-Chairman Hopper had invited Mr. Eric Fisk, Office of the Attorney General, and a DMV representative to be on hand to discuss the pros and cons. Because of the delicate legal nature of this issue, it was tabled until the next meeting while more information could be secured, researched and discussed by the agencies involved.

5. Due to time constraints the remaining 2 agenda items were moved to the next meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1630.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chip Moran
Thomas “Chip” Moran
Vice-Chairman JLC
NAUS Representative

Members of the Virginia Military Advisory Council

Rear Admiral Dixon Smith (Chair), Commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic
The Honorable James Hopper (Vice-Chair), Secretary of Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security
Colonel John Allen, Joint Base Commander, Joint Base Langley-Eustis
The Honorable Rich Anderson, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
The Honorable Bill Bolling, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia
Captain Mark Bridenstine, Commander, Norfolk Naval Shipyard
Colonel Paul K. Brooks, Garrison Commander, Fort Lee
Major General Jeffrey Buchanan, Commanding General, Joint Forces Headquarters “National Capital Region”
Captain Christopher Chope, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Oceana
Captain Lowell D. Crow, Commanding Officer, Naval Weapons Station Yorktown
Captain David Culler, Jr., Commanding Officer, Naval Station Norfolk
The Honorable Ken Cuccinelli, Attorney General
Lieutenant Colonel Peter E. Dargle, Garrison Commander, Fort A.P. Hill
The Honorable Marla Graff Decker, Secretary of Public Safety
Captain Joel D. Dolbeck, Commanding Officer, USCG Base Portsmouth
Colonel Gregory Gadson, Garrison Commander, Fort Belvoir
Paul Galanti, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Veterans Services
Captain Frank Hughlett, Commanding Officer, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story
Captain Jake Johansson, Commanding Officer, Naval Support Acty., Hampton Roads
Brigadier General Mark K. Johnson, USAF, Commander Defense Logistics Agency
Colonel William Korsen, Garrison Commander, Fort Pickett
The Honorable L. Scott Lingamfelter, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
Captain John K. Little, Commander, Coast Guard Sector Hampton Roads
Major General Daniel B. Long, The Adjutant General of Virginia
Rear Admiral (Ret) Donald P. Loren, USN
Colonel (Ret) Norma Magpoc, USA
Colonel David W. Maxwell, Commander, USMC Base Quantico
Captain Peter Nette, Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity South Potomac
Colonel Paul B. Olsen, Commander, Norfolk District, US Army Corps of Engineers
The Honorable Bryce Reeves, Member, Senate of Virginia
Rear Admiral Markham Rich, Commandant, Naval District Washington
Colonel Fern O. Sumpter, Joint Base Commander, Joint Base Myer “Henderson Hall”
Major General (VA) John D. Taylor, Commanding General, Virginia Defense Force
Rear Admiral Elaine C. Wagner, Commander, Navy Medicine East Commander, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth/Chief, Navy Dental Corps
Lieutenant General (Ret) David Weisman, USA
Major General Larry D. Wyche, Commander, USA Combined Arms Support Command

ATTACHMENT 6



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Veterans Services

Paul E. Galanti
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0286
Fax: (804) 786-0302

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

From: Paul E. Galanti, Commissioner

Date: December 18, 2013

Subject: Department of Veterans Services report

I am pleased to report to you on some of the recent accomplishments of your Department of Veterans Services:

- The Department's State Approving Agency (SAA) for Veterans Education and Training has been awarded a rating of "Satisfactory" by the Joint Peer Review Group (JPRG), which is comprised of representatives of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Education unit and the National Association of State Approving Agencies. A "satisfactory" rating is the highest rating an SAA can receive. The JPRG recognized that the Virginia SAA has done an excellent job in continuing to meet or exceed all of its contractual obligations in ensuring access to quality education and training for Virginia veterans.
- The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) has welcomed aboard two new regional directors:
 - Ms. Carol Berg in VWWP Region V (Hampton Roads). Ms. Berg previously served as the Executive Director of *Operation Homefront* in the Greater Hampton Roads area;
 - Mr. Shane Fletcher in VWWP Region III (Southwest Virginia). Mr. Fletcher served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, has served in the U.S. Army Reserves since 2001, and was deployed to Iraq in 2005-2006.
- Construction continues on the 40-bed addition to the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. Completion is expected in late 2014 with the first new residents expected to be admitted in early 2015.

- Final inspections were conducted on December 11th on the pre-installed outer burial container construction projects at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk) and Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia). Both projects passed final inspection, meaning they are ready to open, though, as with any construction project of this nature, minor corrections will be needed through the winter and spring (correct some erosion issues, sod placement, seeding, etc.).
 - 4,090 outer burial containers were installed in Suffolk and 1,610 in Amelia.
 - The first burials in the new garden sections will be conducted on December 18 (Suffolk) and December 19 (Amelia).
 - As of these dates, there will be no charges for an outer burial container in the new outer burial container garden sections, and DVS will suspend charges for outer burial containers for second burials in the existing garden sections. This will save veterans and their families between \$400 and \$1,300 per burial.

- Design work continues on the expansion of the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond. Construction is expected to start in late-Spring 2014 and be completed in mid-2015;

As the JLC begins its 11th year serving Virginia's veterans, I would like to thank you for all that you've done to make the Department of Veterans Services a great success, and especially for your unflagging devotion in advocating for new and improved services for our veterans. As I noted in the last report, our success is your success, and vice versa. We have accomplished great things together in the past ten years, and I expect that the next ten will be just as successful!

ATTACHMENT 7

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

2014 Meeting Schedule – Approved December 18, 2013

- Thursday, January 9: JLC Conference at the General Assembly
- Wednesday, March 19, Virginia War Memorial
- Wednesday, May 21, American Legion HQ
- Wednesday, July 16, American Legion HQ
- Wednesday, October 15, American Legion HQ
- Wednesday, December 17, American Legion HQ

2015

- Thursday, January 15, 2015: JLC Conference at the General Assembly

ATTACHMENT 8

JLC 2014 Action Plan – Approved December 18, 2013

January 9 Conference at the General Assembly

- Advocate for 2014 JLC and BVS Initiatives
- Promote role of JLC, BVS, DVS, etc.

Before March 19 meeting

- New JLC representative/alternate orientation (as required)

March 19 meeting

- 2014 General Assembly review (legislation, budget)
- Look ahead to 2015 General Assembly: initial review and discussion of potential 2015 JLC Initiatives
- Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee (annual review)

NLT April 30

- JLC members submit potential 2015 JLC Initiatives for discussion at May 21 meeting.
NOTE: Must be in JLC Position Paper format

NLT May 7

- Potential 2015 JLC Initiatives distributed to JLC members for review
- JLC members share potential 2015 JLC Initiatives with their VSO leadership and others in their VSO to solicit feedback, comment, additional ideas, etc.

May 21 meeting

- Continued review and discussion of potential 2015 JLC Initiatives
- Review of prior-year JLC initiatives and current status
- Appoint Nominating Committee

NLT June 25

- JLC members submit potential 2015 JLC Initiatives for discussion at July 16 meeting.
NOTE: Must be in JLC Position Paper format

NLT July 2

- Potential initiatives distributed to JLC members for review
- JLC members share potential 2015 JLC Initiatives with their VSO leadership and others in their VSO to solicit feedback, comment, additional ideas, etc.

July 16 meeting

- Review and discuss all proposed 2015 JLC Initiatives
- Adopt and prioritize 2015 JLC Initiatives
- Appoint JLC sponsors
- Elect Chair and Vice Chair

NLT July 30

- JLC Chair appoints JLC Appointed Officers (who will serve in an acting capacity until approved by the Council at the October 15 meeting)
- Legislative Officer forms Legislative Operations Committee
- Legislative Operations Committee finalizes JLC Position Papers
- Distribute Position Papers to JLC and post on JLC website
- Submit initiatives to Governor McAuliffe through DVS

August

- Joint JLC/BVS meeting with Governor McAuliffe (request date/time/location in May) to review/discuss JLC and BVS 2015 initiatives and other veterans issues

October 15 meeting

- Report on the meeting with the Governor
- Legislative Operations Committee recommends General Assembly Patrons for the JLC to recommend to the Governor
- Prepare for meetings with General Assembly members
- Approve JLC Appointed Officers for 2014-2015
- Ratify the Compact with Virginia's Veterans

October/November/December

- Submit recommended patrons to Governor McAuliffe through DVS
- Meet with General Assembly members
- Hold legislative forums

December 17 meeting

- Review Governor's Proposed Budget
- Report on General Assembly Patrons
- Plan for 2015 Conference at the General Assembly
- Adopt 2015 meeting schedule
- Adopt 2015 Action Plan