

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2008

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) was held on December 18, 2008, at the American Legion Department of Virginia Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

Members Present

- Robert Gray, *American Ex-POWs*
- James Aucoin, *AMVETS*
- Samuel Wilder, *AUSA*
- Daniel Miller, *Disabled American Veterans*
- John Dozier, *Korean War Veterans Association*
- Richard Rinaldo, *Legion of Valor*
- John Bonnell, *Marine Corps League*
- Norman Jasper, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*
- Wes Edwards, *MOAA*
- Bill Townsley, *MOWW*
- Frank Driscoll, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*
- John Jackson, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*
- Thomas Stephen, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Frank Sherman, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*
- Mike Coleman, *Virginia National Guard Association*
- Daniel Boyer, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- Jenny Holbert, *Women Marines Association*
- Paul Galanti, *Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services*
- Vince Burgess, *Commissioner of Veterans Services*

Members Absent

- Mason Botts, *Air Force Association*
- Connie O'Neill, *American Legion*
- Thomas Snee, *Fleet Reserve Association*
- David Ellis, *NAUS*
- Richard Schneider, *Non-Commissioned Officers Association*
- Michala Smith, *WAVES*
- Frank Wickersham, *Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation*

Alternates Present (representing their Veterans Service Organization)

- Jeff Platte, *Air Force Association*
- Paul Hamaker, *NAUS*

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- George Coker, *American Ex-POWs*
- William Weise, *Legion of Valor*
- Bruce Steeley, *Marine Corps League*
- Don Kaiserman, *MOAA*
- Carmen Gentile, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Kim DeShano, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Don Ferguson, *Office of the Attorney General*
- Mike Pote, *Department of Human Resource Management*
- Jon Hatfield, *Virginia War Memorial*
- Anne Atkins, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Steven Combs, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jack Hilgers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Leslie Smith, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Judy Reid, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Kenneth Rich, *Department of Veterans Services*
- James Thur, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Catherine Wilson, *Department of Veterans Services*

Others Present

- Paul Hinkhouse, *USDOL/VETS*
- Robert Huffman, *Virginia National Guard Funeral Honors*
- Chip Moran, *NAUS*
- Eldo Platte, *Air Force Association*
- Hal Roesch, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- Hobey Stearns, *USCGCWOA, Norfolk*
- William Tucker, *DAV Chapter 6*
- Fletcher Walker, *DAV Chapter 6*
- Harry Warner, *Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation*

Agenda Packet

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes of the October 15, 2008 Meeting
- Board of Veterans Services Report to the JLC
- Veterans Services Foundation Report to the JLC
- Department of Veterans Services Report to the JLC
- Report on the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council Meeting of December 4, 2008
- Copy of e-mail highlighting changes to the JLC Constitution and By-Laws
- Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations' Constitution, with proposed changes, 12/18/08
- Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations' By-Laws, with proposed changes, 12/18/08

- Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations – Summary of 2009 Legislative Objectives and Point Papers
- Memorandum from Wes Edwards, MOAA representative, to the JLC regarding the DOD/Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children, with supporting documents
- 2009 Budget Document, Pages B-101 and B-102
- Excerpts from Governor Kaine's 2008-2010 Budget Reduction Plan
- Copy of e-mail to JLC members regarding proposed 2009 meetings
- JLC Members/JLC Alternate Members Contact Rosters

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Boyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

Eighteen of 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC were recorded as being represented (16 by a primary member; 2 by an alternate member), and a quorum was determined. Mr. Jackson arrived shortly after the start of the meeting, bringing the total to 19 of 23 VSOs represented. The Commissioner of Veterans Services and the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services were recorded as present.

Alternate JLC members and other guests were asked to introduce themselves and the Council welcomed the alternates and guests.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Burgess made a **motion** to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Miller, and **adopted** unanimously.

Review and Approval of October 15, 2008 meeting minutes

Led by Chairman Boyer

The Council reviewed the draft minutes of the October 15 2008 meeting. Chairman Boyer asked if there were any corrections. There were no changes and the minutes were adopted without change.

Presentations

Virginia War Memorial

Executive Director Jon Hatfield

Chairman Boyer stated that he had asked Mr. Hatfield to attend the meeting to cover the following topics:

- The current rules governing the placement of names on the Wall of Honor at the Virginia War Memorial,
- Who makes the rules,
- Whether the rules have changed over time, and
- Whether all names currently on the Wall of Honor were killed in action

Chairman Boyer noted that the VFW had made the issue its #7 legislative priority for 2009, and that it was his understanding that Delegate Vivian Watts would introduce a bill to change the current policy.

Mr. Hatfield first reviewed the groundbreaking ceremony for the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center at the Virginia War Memorial, held December 17, 2008.

Mr. Hatfield then covered the following:

- That the Memorial was built, and the Vietnam names added, in a time before computers were in general use
- That he was the first employee of the Memorial, and that there was only one box of records from the time before he was hired
- Until now, the War Memorial Board of Trustees had never had a reason to doubt that any of the names on the Wall of Honor were of service members not killed in action
- That the War Memorial Board of Trustees had never conducted any research to determine if any of the names on the Wall were of service members not killed in action
- That as well as he can determine, the policy of the War Memorial Board of Trustees has always been (as indeed, it continues to be) that only the names of those Virginians certified by the Department of Defense as killed in action or died of wounds resulting from hostile enemy action are placed on the Wall
- That he can find no evidence of the policy ever being changed
- That the War Memorial Board of Trustees determined last year that the names of those Virginians killed in the Global War on Terror would be listed by year, instead of by city and county as was done for other conflicts, due to the indeterminate length of the Global War on Terror

Mr. Hatfield then gave two specific examples of cases where names were not placed on the Wall. In one case, the service member's home of record, according to the DoD, was in a state other than Virginia. In the other case, the service member was not killed in action. He expressed his understanding of the families' concerns in these cases.

Mr. Hatfield expressed his hope that the General Assembly and JLC would allow the War Memorial Board of Trustees the time to consider this matter. He then said that he hoped that those deliberating this issue would consider the ramifications of a change to the current policy. Mr. Hatfield expressed his opinion that if the current policy were changed for the Global War on Terror, that it should be changed for all prior wars honored by the Virginia War Memorial.

Mr. Hatfield noted that Delegate Frank Hargrove, Chairman of the War Memorial Board of Trustees, asked Congressman Eric Cantor to contact the U.S. Marine Corps with a request that the Marine Corps review the circumstances of the death of LCpl Darrell Schumann. Mr. Hatfield stated that the Marine Corps confirmed that LCpl Schumann's death was accidental and not caused by hostile action.

Mr. Hatfield stated that his staff was reviewing all 11,000+ names on the Wall of Honor, and that while the research is still underway, it would appear that there are some names on the Wall that do not conform to the current policy, but that he did not have a precise number. He expressed his opinion that if the current policy were changed, and if additional names had to be added to the Wall of Honor, he would have to submit a budget request for millions of dollars to expand the Shrine of Memory.

Mr. Hatfield thanked Chairman Boyer and the Council for the opportunity to speak to them about this important issue.

Chairman Boyer noted that the Council would discuss this issue later in the meeting, but asked if any Council members had an immediate question for Mr. Hatfield.

Mr. Miller asked if Mr. Hatfield would be available when the issue was discussed later in the meeting. Mr. Hatfield said he would be available.

Mr. Townsley asked if his staff had researched just the Iraq War. Mr. Hatfield replied that his staff was currently researching the names from the Korean and Vietnam Wars, but that they weren't finished yet.

Mr. Rinaldo asked if Line of Duty determination would be considered. Mr. Hatfield cautioned that if the current policy were changed, any changes should be carefully considered to avoid "opening Pandora's box." He cited just a few examples that would have to be considered, such as suicide, someone killed in a bar fight, someone killed when a pallet fell off a ship while it was being unloaded, and whether the person had to have been killed in a war zone or not. He said that he thought that dozens of situations might have to be considered.

Mr. Wilder pointed out that in the War on Terror, the war zone was worldwide. He cited the specific example of the Pentagon and 9/11. Mr. Hatfield stated that the current policy is for those killed in action or by hostile action, but does not specifically cover war zones.

Chairman Boyer asked the Council members to hold any questions until later in the meeting, and stated his belief that the JLC should establish a position on the issue.

Virginia National Guard Funeral Honors

Robert Huffman, State Coordinator of the Virginia National Guard Funeral Honors Program.

Mr. Huffman covered the following topics:

- The mission of the Virginia National Guard Funeral Honors Program

- History of the Program
- Number of funerals conducted nationwide and in Virginia
 - 157 in Virginia in 2007 and 458 in 2008. He said he expects his teams to conduct between 700 and 800 services in 2009
- Service areas of the Virginia National Guard's four Military Funeral Honors Teams
- Military Honors Eligibility Requirements
- Documentation requirements
- Who requests Military Funeral Honors
- Types of Military Funeral Honors
- Authorized Provider Partnership Program (Veteran Service Organizations)

Mr. Huffman then shared four photographs of Military Funeral Honors, and distributed a brochure that details the services and eligibility requirements of the Virginia National Guard Funeral Honors Program.

Chairman Boyer thanked Mr. Huffman for his excellent presentation.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services Report

BVS Chairman Paul Galanti delivered the report of the Board of Veterans Services, which is included as Attachment 1 to these minutes.

Mr. Galanti reiterated his admiration for the work of the JLC and its success in advancing veterans issues with the Governor and General Assembly.

Mr. Galanti closed by saying that his best friend had died recently – Colonel John Ripley, USMC (Ret). Mr. Galanti told the Council about Colonel Ripley's funeral and how proud he was to be asked to serve as an honorary pallbearer.

Veterans Services Foundation Report

Chairman Boyer noted that VSF Chairman Frank Wickersham could not attend the meeting, but that the VSF report to the JLC was included in the agenda packet. That report is included as Attachment 2 to these minutes.

Chairman Boyer said that at the time of the last VSF meeting, over \$48,000 had been raised in support of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP), and since the meeting, an additional \$5,925 had been raised.

He reminded the Council that at the last JLC meeting, he challenged the VSOs represented on the JLC to support the VWWP. He said that at the last VSF meeting, Chairman Frank Wickersham challenged the VSF members to make a personal contribution to the Veterans Services Fund to help establish the Foundation's credibility as an organization in order to assist in fundraising efforts.

Department of Veterans Services Report

Commissioner Vince Burgess delivered the report of the Department of Veterans Services, which is included as Attachment 3 to these minutes.

Commissioner Burgess briefly discussed the recent budget cuts, and emphasized that his direction to the DVS staff was to try to minimize any cuts in direct services to veterans. He said that the current budget reductions would be continued into Fiscal Year 2010 on an annualized basis, and that there was an additional cut of \$10,000 on top of the current cuts. He noted that there were additional details in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Burgess introduced VWWP Executive Director Cathy Wilson, who introduced the three recently-hired VWWP Regional Directors – Kenneth Rich, Leslie Smith, and James Thur. Ms. Wilson told the Council about the success of the recent Virginia Wounded Warrior Summit.

The Council took a five minute break while the tape was changed.

Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council Report

Mr. Tom Stephen, JLC Representative to the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council (VCSSC), reported on the December 4, 2008 VCSSC meeting. Mr. Stephen's report is included as Attachment 4 to these minutes.

JLC Day at the General Assembly

Mr. Hilgers reported on the planning for the JLC Day at the General Assembly, scheduled for January 19, 2009. He stated that more information on the conference would be sent to the members in the near future, and emphasized the importance of a good turnout for this event.

Commissioner Burgess told the Council that the Department would have a display table at the General Assembly Building the week of January 19, and that he'd spoke with Chairman Boyer on how the JLC might participate in the display. He thanked DVS Communications Director Anne Atkins for her hard work in making the display a reality.

Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee

Mr. Miller delivered the report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee.

Mr. Miller thoroughly reviewed each of the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Miller, and **seconded** by Mr. Driscoll, to adopt the proposed changes to the JLC Constitution and By-Laws as presented, with the following modifications:

Constitution

- Article II, Paragraph 6: change "...member organizations shall publicize, promote, and lobby for priority..." to "...member organizations, shall publicize, promote, educate, and advocate for priority..."
- Article III, Paragraph 1c: change "...status as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4), organization..." to "...status as a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(19) organization..."
- Article IV, Paragraph 1e: change "Quorum Determination: A majority of the voting members of the Council shall constitute a quorum." to "Quorum Determination: A majority of the voting members of the Council, including an elected officer, shall constitute a quorum."
- Article IV, Paragraph 2d: change "At the direction of the Chairperson, the Secretary/Parliamentarian will request and record the vote of each organization." to "The Department of Veterans Services will record the vote of each organization."
- Article V, Paragraph 3g: change "...the new Chairperson will nominate..." to "the new Chairperson may nominate..."

By-Laws

- Article I, Paragraph 3: Move this paragraph to a new Article II and title the new Article "Department of Veterans Services." Re-number subsequent paragraphs of Article II and re-number subsequent articles.
- Article I, Paragraph 5 (Legislative Sponsor): Add new sub-paragraph **f** as follows: "Serve as a member of the legislative committee."
- Article II (Committees), Paragraph 2, line 3: delete "Council" at beginning of line.

The motion to adopt the proposed changes to the JLC Constitution and By-Laws, as modified, was **approved unanimously**.

Mr. Wilder expressed his concern that the JLC had not had the opportunity to advise the Governor on the JLC's 2009 Legislative Objectives.

Commissioner Burgess replied that the Department had briefed the Secretary of Public Safety on the JLC's 2009 Legislative Objectives, and that the Secretary's office had briefed the Governor's Policy Office, so that the Governor's office had been advised on the JLC's 2009 Legislative Objectives.

Mr. Wilder said that he would prefer that the JLC be able to present its legislative objectives directly to the Governor, and that he wished that he had a direct answer from the Governor as to whether he supported the JLC's objectives.

Commissioner Burgess responded that it has been his experience in 35 years of state government service that boards, councils, and departments have the opportunity to provide input upwards to the Governor, but that whether feedback is received from above depends on a variety of factors, including political sensitivity of the issue, how it fits in the overall legislative game plan for that year, etc.

Mr. Wilder said that he would like someone from the Governor's office to come to the JLC meeting and directly express the Governor's position on the JLC's legislative objectives.

Commissioner Burgess asked Mr. Combs to tell the Council about the "operating rules" under which the Department operates when he gives his budget presentation later in the meeting.

JLC 2009 Legislative Objectives

Chairman Boyer pointed the members to the summary of the JLC 2009 Legislative Objectives and supporting position papers, then reviewed the sponsors for each legislative item:

Chairman Boyer asked Mr. Combs to cover the Governor's introduced budget.

In response to Commissioner Burgess' request, Mr. Combs briefly discussed the budget development process. He noted that in normal budget years, Executive Branch agencies develop and submit budget requests – either for additional funds for current programs and services or to fund new programs and services. He said that the Department takes input from all of the boards, but especially from the JLC, in preparing its budget request. Mr. Combs said that the Department's budget is submitted after the JLC develops its legislative objectives, so therefore takes into account those objectives.

Mr. Combs then stated that the legislative request process works much the same way – that agencies submit legislative requests through their Secretariat to the Governor, for consideration by the Governor as part of his legislative package.

Mr. Combs called the members attention to the budget documents included in the agenda packet, which are taken from Governor Kaine's introduced budget. He briefly covered those parts of the proposed budget that concern the Department of Veterans Services, providing a brief explanation of each proposed budget reduction action.

Mr. Coleman asked if any funds were appropriated in FY10 for the TurboVet program. Mr. Combs replied that no funds were appropriated in FY10.

Mr. Wilder asked if the Governor's introduced budget included any funding for new veterans' programs or for any of the JLC's legislative objectives. Mr. Combs replied that it did not.

The Council took a 15-minute lunch break.

Chairman Boyer next brought the Council's attention to prioritizing the JLC's 2009 Legislative Objectives.

Chairman Boyer proposed that the Automated System for the Electronic Preparation of Veterans' Disability Claims be the #1 priority. A **motion** was made by Mr. Wilder, **seconded** by Mr. Sherman, and **approved unanimously** to make this the #1 priority.

Chairman Boyer proposed that the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children be the #2 priority. A **motion** was made by Mr. Platte, **seconded** by Mr. Edwards, and **approved unanimously** to make this the #2 priority.

Chairman Boyer proposed that the Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries be the #3 priority. A **motion** was made by Mr. Jasper, **seconded** by Mr. Driscoll, and **approved unanimously** to make this the #3 priority.

Chairman Boyer proposed that the Homeless Veterans Study be the #4 priority. Discussion and debate ensued. A **motion** was made by Mr. Wilder, **seconded** by Mr. Townsley, and **approved unanimously** to make this the #6 priority.

Vice Chair Holbert made a **motion** that the Military Family Relief Fund be the #4 priority. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Jasper. Discussion and debate ensued. The motion to make the Military Family Relief Fund the #4 priority was **approved**, with Mr. Miller and Mr. Stephen dissenting.

By default, the Real Estate Tax Relief for 100% Disabled Veterans became the #5 priority.

Commissioner Burgess asked Mr. Combs to briefly review the Department's two bills for the 2009 session. Mr. Combs said that the first bill concerns technical changes related to the Veterans Services Foundation. The second bill is related to the requirement that Department claims agents provide out-of-office services at least once a week. He said that the proposed bill would allow the Department the flexibility to keep providing the service in those areas of the state that most need the service, while discontinuing the service in those areas where veterans may be better served by keeping the field office open five days a week instead of just four. Commissioner Burgess pointed to the example of the McGuire VAMC field office, where he believes that veterans can be better served by keeping the claims agents in the office five days a week. There were no questions about the proposed legislative change.

Chairman Boyer turned next to VSO financial support for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program. He pointed out that his challenge that the VSOs support the VWWP is meant to establish the JLC's credibility in this area and that the JLC is behind the programs for which it has advocated. He noted that VSOs had differing abilities to support the program, and that this was not a competition.

Chairman Boyer reiterated his request that all VSOs participate, and noted that no contribution was too small, but that it was important that all VSOs represented on the JLC support the VWWP.

Chairman Boyer introduced VFW State Commander Hal Roesch, who explained the VFW's reason for advocating for a change to the current policy related to the names on the Virginia War Memorial Wall of Honor. The VFW believes that the names on the Wall should include those Virginians killed in the line of duty while serving in a hostile fire zone in the current and future conflicts.

After extensive discussion, Mr. Wilder made a **motion** that the JLC take no position on this issue at this time. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Townsley. After additional discussion, Mr. Rinaldo made a **substitute motion, seconded** by Mr. Hamaker, that the JLC form a panel to study the issue. Discussion ensued on the substitute motion. Mr. Rinaldo then made a **motion to amend** his substitute motion, **seconded** by Mr. Hamaker, that the JLC does not have position at this time, but that the JLC supports a study by the Virginia War Memorial Board of Trustees to fully examine this issue. The **amended motion** was **agreed to unanimously**.

Public comment period

There was no public comment.

Preparation for January 19 conference and 2009 meeting schedule

Chairman Boyer reiterated the importance of a good turnout at the January 19 conference. He then called the Council's attention to the proposed 2009 meeting schedule.

Mr. Townsley made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Jasper, to adopt the following 2009 meeting schedule:

- Wednesday, March 25
- Wednesday, May 20
- Wednesday, August 12
- Wednesday, October 14
- Thursday, December 17

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 2:15.

ATTACHMENT 1

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS December 18, 2008

The Board of Veterans Services met on October 8, 2008. At the meeting, the BVS:

- Received reports from the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations, the Veterans Services Foundation, and the Department of Veterans Services
- Received reports from the standing committees of the BVS.
 - One item of particular note was presented as part of the BVS Cemeteries Committee report: the shortfall in equipment-replacement funds for Virginia's two state veterans cemeteries.
 - The Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia has unmet equipment replacement needs totaling approximately: \$146,000 in FY10, \$25,000 in FY11, and \$63,000 in FY12.
 - The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery has unmet equipment replacement needs totaling approximately: \$29,000 in FY10, \$43,000 in FY11, and \$21,000 in FY12

BVS member Al Sample chaired the Veterans Workforce Development Taskforce.

- The taskforce was established by Secretary Marshall, and examined ways to assist veterans in finding employment and employment-related training and credentialing
- The Taskforce was comprised of representatives from various state agencies, the Chairman of the Virginia Military Advisory Council, the Adjutant General, the Commissioner of Veterans Services, Delegate Vivian Watts, Senator Frank Wagner, and corporate owners and senior executives with prior military service
- Mr. Sample briefed the JLC at the August 13 meeting
- The report was submitted to Secretary Marshall on August 25.

The next BVS meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2009 at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Galanti
BVS Chairman

ATTACHMENT 2

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organizations (JLC) December 18, 2008

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on December 3, 2008. The meeting:

- (1) Held Standing Committee meetings.
- (2) Reviewed Foundation fund raising conducted during 2008.
- (3) Adopted FY09 Goals and Objectives based on the Strategic Planning Initiative.
- (4) Appointed a Foundation Manager to handle Foundation operations on a daily basis.
- (5) Recognized the Lakeview Golf Club along with David and Judy Holt for their outstanding fund raising initiatives in support of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program.

The Development Committee produced a Fundraising Plan and a Branding and Outreach (Public Relations) Plan. Both were reviewed during the Committee meeting and it was decided to initially focus on corporate donors. The Finance Committee recommended changes to the Trustees By Laws to clarify its role and reviewed the need for defining the authority of the Foundation to administer the Veterans Services Fund in conjunction with the support that the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is providing.

The Foundation Board Chairman mentioned that he had submitted the first VSF annual report to the Secretary of Public Safety setting forth Foundation accomplishments. It was as a result of the clarification of VSF and DVS being separate agencies directly under the authority of the Secretary, unlike the Board of Veterans Services and JLC that report to the DVS Commissioner.

Foundation fund raising for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) had reached over \$48,000 at the time of the meeting. Since then to date, an additional \$5,925 has been raised to meet the fund raising goal for FY09. The Foundation Board Chairman emphasized the role of Board members in contributing and conducting fund raising. The JLC Chairman reported that he had challenged the Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC to step up their support for VWWP and report, at the December 18, 2008 meeting on their progress.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2009. The meeting will be held at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond. Items for the next meeting include: (1) adoption of By Laws changes proposed by the Finance Committee and possibly others to reflect the Foundation's relationship with DVS and the role of the Foundation Manager; (2) report on progress of clarifying Fund administration, (3) review fund raising program progress, (4) refinement of fund raising and public relations programs for FY 09 and FY10, and (5) discussion of VSF Strategic Planning along with short and long-range goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Wickersham
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 3

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS December 18, 2008

- State Budget Reductions
 - All state agencies were required to submit 5, 10, and 15 percent reduction plans
 - DVS goal was to minimize cuts in direct services to veterans
 - The DVS General Fund budget was reduced by \$586,689 in FY09 and \$596,380 in FY10 (7% of DVS General Fund Budget)
 - Some of the impact to DVS services include:
 - Four (4) vacant benefit services positions will remain unfilled
 - Layoff one (1) administrative position
 - Eliminate two (2) wage positions devoted to community outreach and workforce development
 - Reduced support services for contracts, procurement, and capital projects
 - Reduced funding for TurboVet (\$50,000 vs. \$100,000)
 - Reduction of \$27,922 in the amount of community grant funds available under the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
 - These cuts are on top of reductions of \$288,236 in FY08 and \$38,642 in FY09
- Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
 - Executive Director, Executive Assistant, and three Regional Directors now on board
 - Virginia Wounded Warrior Program Summit – “Painting a Moving Train” held November 6 and 7 at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center and remote sites
 - Community funds distribution process begins: January – March 2009
- Automated system for the electronic preparation of veterans’ disability claims (aka TurboVet)
 - \$100,000 appropriated by 2008 General Assembly to continue development
 - \$50,000 reduction as part of budget shortfall
- Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC)
 - SBVCC is now set up to receive the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reimbursement
 - SBVCC Addition of up to 80 beds is ranked #71 on the VA’s Priority List of Pending State Home Construction Grants for FFY09
- Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC)
 - VVCC is in the early stages of two capital improvement projects:
 - Expansion and resurfacing of the VVCC parking lot to accommodate the increased number of visitors to the facility

- Improvements to the facility's delivery area to provide greater turnaround space for trucks. This will speed deliveries of supplies, food, and other material
- Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center
 - New care center of up to 240 beds is ranked #72 on the VA's Priority List of Pending State Home Construction Grants for FFY09
- Benefits
 - In FY08, the VA Roanoke Regional office adjudicated 12,318 claims submitted by DVS on behalf of Virginia veterans. Over 63% of the claims were approved, and over \$28 million in retroactive payments were awarded
- Cemeteries
 - Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery: 591 burials in FY08
 - Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia: 213 burials in FY08
 - Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin:
 - Deed transfer ceremony was held on September 22. Governor Kaine, Congressman Boucher, Senator Edwards, other state and local officials, and many members of the veterans community were in attendance.
 - Architect selected in October
 - Expected VA construction grant is \$7.8 million
- State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training
 - As of June 30, 2008, there were 846 Virginia facilities approved to provide education and training to eligible veterans and their dependents. This is an increase of 71 facilities from last year
 - In FY07, over 21,000 veterans used their G.I. Bill benefits at a post-secondary education facility in Virginia
 - These benefits totaled almost \$136 million

ATTACHMENT 4

Thomas M. Stephen, Jr.
8295 Ironclad Drive
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111-4537

December 5, 2008

TO: Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

RE: Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council Meeting of December 4, 2008

1. Secretary of Public Safety, the Honorable John W. Marshall called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., on December 4th, 2008. The meeting was held in the first floor conference room of the Patrick Henry Building, Richmond, VA.
2. The Council members first received a briefing regarding the mission of the Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP) being sponsored through the J1, Virginia National Guard.
3. Tom Stephen, Liaison from the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) provided an update on the JLC's 2009 Legislative Objectives, which will be heavily emphasized when member VSO representatives meet with members of the General Assembly and representatives from the Governor's office, etc. on January 19th, as the JLC "Storms the Hill" to gain support for these legislative objectives. Tom emphasized the naming change from TurboVet to Automated System for the Electronic Preparation of Disability Claims. He then went through all the update point papers for each of the 6 legislative objectives, and emphasized how difficult it may be to get some of these objectives into legislation due to the financial budget crisis the Commonwealth is experiencing. He also indicated that the JLC would meet again on December 18th, after the Governor released his budget updates.
4. LTC Thomas Morgan, J1, Virginia National Guard Joint Staff then provided an update on the Military Family Relief Fund being administered through the National Guard for emergency relief of military reservist, National Guardsmen and their families, who are Virginia residents
5. Cathy Wilson, Director of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) was introduced to the council by Commissioner Vince Burgess. Mrs. Wilson provided information on the activities of the VWWP and the new staff members recently hired to carry out the VWWP's programs. Most recently, the VWWP sponsored an educational seminar held in Fishersville with remote sites around the state.
6. Agency updates from VMAC, Department of Military Affairs, DVS, Coast Guard Reserve, and Navy Reserve.
7. There being no further business, Secretary Marshall adjourned the meeting around 12 Noon.

Respectfully Submitted
//Signed//
Thomas M. Stephen, Jr.