

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
December 22, 2009

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on December 22, 2009, at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

Members Present

- Jeffrey Platte, *Air Force Association*
- George Coker, *American Ex-POWs*
- Brett Reistad, *American Legion*
- Bruce Brown, *AMVETS*
- Donald Kaiserman, *Association of the United States Army*
- David Martinez, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Abe Zino, *Fleet Reserve Association*
- James Jones, *Korean War Veterans Association*
- Bruce Steeley, *Marine Corps League*
- Robert Fairchild, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*
- Raymond Edwards, *Military Officers Association of America*
- William Townsley, *Military Order of the World Wars*
- Thomas Moran, *National Association for Uniformed Services*
- Frank Driscoll, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*
- Matthew Dailey, *Non-Commissioned Officers Association*
- Carmen Gentile, *Reserve Officers Association*
- George Corbett, *Vietnam Veterans of America*
- Daniel Boyer, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- Jenny Holbert, *Women Marines Association*
- Paul Galanti, *Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services*
- David Richardson, *Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees*
- Vince Burgess, *Commissioner of Veterans Services*

Members Absent

- Roger Dimsdale, *Legion of Valor*
- David Coffield, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*
- Nolan Jackson, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*
- Michael Coleman, *Virginia National Guard Association*

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Richard Rinaldo, *Legion of Valor*
- John Velleca, *Virginia National Guard Association*

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- Dale Chapman, *American Legion*
- Dan Miller, *Disabled American Veterans*
- John Bonnell, *Marine Corps League*
- John Clickener, *Military Officers Association of American*

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Beth Camphouse, *Office of the Secretary of Public Safety*
- Donald Ferguson, *Office of the Attorney General*
- Jon Hatfield, *Virginia War Memorial*
- Anne Atkins, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Steven Combs, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jack Hilgers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Judy Reid, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Mike Rogers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jim Thur, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Danielle Weaver, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Cathy Wilson, *Department of Veterans Services*

Others Present

- Harry Warner, *Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation*
- Camilla Schwoebel, *Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, Regional Coordinator for Region I – Northwest Region*
- Mark Taylor, *Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, Regional Coordinator for Region II – Northern Region*
- Sam Wilder, *MOAA State President*
- Celia Yette, *Virginia Office for Protection & Advocacy*
- Clyde Matthews, *Virginia Office for Protection & Advocacy*
- Dulaney Collins, *Virginia Aqua Massage*

Agenda Packet

- Agenda
- Proposed Changes to October 14 Minutes (Agenda Item III)
- Presentations (Agenda Item IV)
 - Copy of DVS section from Governor Kaine's Introduced Budget
 - Veterans Services Foundation presentation – PowerPoint slides
 - Virginia Wounded Warrior Program – *Virginia is for Heroes 2010* conference flyers
 - Virginia Office for Protection & Advocacy – Informational Handout
- Reports (Agenda Item V)
 - Board of Veterans Services Report
 - Veterans Services Foundation Report
 - Department of Veterans Services Report

- Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council Report
- Old Business (Agenda Items VI and VIII)
 - JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives – Summary Sheet
 - Position Papers
 - Real Estate Tax Exemption for 100% Disabled Veterans
 - Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
 - Automated Claims Processing System
 - Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery
 - Virginia War Memorial
 - Burial Vaults
 - Military and Veterans Court Programs
 - Military Family Relief Fund
- Proposed 2010 Meeting Schedule (Agenda Item IX)

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Dan 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

The roll was called, 21 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC were recorded as being represented (19 by a primary representative, 2 by an alternate), and a quorum was determined. The Commissioner of Veterans Services, Chairman of Board of Veterans Services and Chairman of Veterans Service Foundation Board of Trustees were recorded as present.

Approval of the agenda

Chairman Boyer asked for a **motion** to approve the agenda (*Attachment 1*). Mr. Carmen Gentile made a **motion**, seconded by Mr. George Corbett, to approve the agenda as presented. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Introductions of Guests

Chairman Boyer asked Mr. Steve Combs to introduce all non-JLC members. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Boyer welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Chairman Boyer thanked Mr. Dale Chapman of the American Legion for allowing the JLC to hold its meeting here at their facility. The facility was scheduled to be closed due to the holidays; however, Mr. Chapman opened the Legion building especially for the JLC meeting.

Review and Approval of October 14, 2009 meeting minutes

Chairman Boyer read the proposed change (*Attachment 2*) to the draft minutes of the October 14, 2009 meeting. The October 14, 2009 minutes were approved by unanimous consent with the proposed change.

Presentations

Governor Kaine's Introduced Budget

Mr. Steven Combs reviewed Pages B-166, B-167, B-168, B270, B271, and B284 of Governor Kaine's introduced budget. Governor Kaine's proposed budget for the 2010 – 2012 Biennium may be accessed at <http://www.dpb.virginia.gov/budget/buddoc10/index.cfm>. Mr. Combs discussed each line item briefly and explained the additional reductions to the DVS budget, which include reduced hours for the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) support position and reduced funding for administrative costs. He noted that the budget does not propose support for the Automated Claims Processing System or for the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. Mr. Combs pointed out that no additional reductions in direct services to veterans were proposed.

Mr. Carmen Gentile expressed his concerns for the budget reduction and wanted to know if this will be livable for DVS. Commissioner Burgess explained that the agency is maintaining as well as it can and that direct services to veterans have been protected as far as possible.

Commissioner Burgess stated that the economy will improve and praised Mr. Mike Rogers for the tremendous job he is doing with managing the DVS budget.

Virginia War Memorial

Mr. Jon Hatfield briefly gave an overview of the Virginia War Memorial "Request for Assistance," which was distributed at the meeting. Mr. Hatfield asked the Council for its continued support of the Memorial's budget request. Mr. Hatfield explained the differences between the budget requests presented at the last JLC meeting and this meeting, noting that he had been told by the Department of General Services (DGS) that even more funding will be needed to provide maintenance and security for the Galanti Education Center. Mr. Hatfield concluded by giving a brief overview of the construction of the Galanti Education Center and how the weather has affected construction. He stated that the grand opening is still scheduled for early fall.

Mr. Don Kaiserman said that he had spoken with an official from Virginia Correctional Enterprises (VCE), who told him that VCE would like to contribute furniture to the War Memorial. Mr. Kaiserman then brought up the issue of maintaining the flags at the Memorial and made a motion that the JLC members make a contribution to help pay to maintain the flags. Chairman Boyer asked Mr. Kaiserman to table this request until later in the meeting under New Business.

Veterans Services Foundation

Using the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet (*Attachment 3*), David Richardson, Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees, and Mr. Jack Hilgers, VSF Executive Director, provided an overview of the VSF and its programs, including VSF support for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP).

Chairman Boyer congratulated the VSF for the progress they have made over the past year.

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

Ms. Catherine Wilson, Executive Director of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, discussed recent VWWP activities. She noted that the VWWP currently has five regional consortia up and running and that the Program has received national recognition for its work.

Ms. Wilson advised the council that the VWWP is moving very fast with its education, outreach, marketing, and grant programs. Ms. Wilson brought the Council members' attention to the flyers for the 2010 Virginia is for Heroes Conference included in the agenda packet. Lastly, Ms. Wilson introduced Mr. Jim Thur, VWWP Northern Region Director.

Mr. Thur distributed a handout showing the VWWP Regional Consortia Catchment Areas, with a focus on Regions I and II, which overlap his area of responsibility. Mr. Thur drew the Council's attention to the table in the handout which shows the population, guard locations and military bases in Regions I and II. Mr. Thur reviewed some of the services available to veterans in Regions I and II, and explained how some Virginia veterans have to go to VA Medical Centers in adjacent states for care. Mr. Thur then introduced Ms. Camilla Schwoebel, the Regional Coordinator for Region I in the Northwestern Region. Mr. Thur gave a brief bio on Ms. Schwoebel, including her service in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Ms. Schwoebel, VWWP Regional Coordinator for Region I, Northwestern Region thanked the Council for inviting her to the meeting and for the Council's support of the VWWP. Ms. Schwoebel distributed a brochure with information on the services available in Region I. Ms. Schwoebel elaborated on some of these services, and reviewed some of the upcoming family and combat support group events being held in Region I.

Mr. Thur thanked Ms. Schwoebel for her brief overview of Region I, and then introduced Mr. Mark Taylor, the Regional Coordinator for Region II (Northern Region) and gave a brief bio on Mr. Taylor, including his service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. Taylor distributed a flyer with information on services available in Region II. Mr. Taylor reviewed the makeup of his region and elaborated on some of the services provided to veterans in Region II. Mr. Taylor reported that Region II will be implementing concentrated programs in 2010, which will be of further assistance to veterans and their families. He said that Region II will partner with other programs in Virginia to get more support out to veterans.

Ms. Wilson concluded the VWWP presentation by fielding questions about VWWP from Council members. She reminded the Council that VWWP does not turn anyone away and that they will find the appropriate program to assist them.

Chairman Boyer thanked Ms. Wilson and her staff for their wonderful presentation. He then noted that because the meeting was running behind, the Council would hear the next presentation, break for lunch, and then hear reports.

Virginia Office for Protections & Advocacy

Ms. Celia Yette, a Disability Rights Advocate in the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA) reviewed the material on the VOPA Informational Handout included in the agenda packet. Ms. Yette told the Council that VOPA is an independent state agency, which

means that they are a state agency but do not work under the Governor. Ms Yette briefly discussed VOPA grant programs, including the traumatic brain injury grant. She reviewed how VOPA works with veterans at the McGuire VA Medical Center, to include providing information and reviewing disability rights. She stated that a VOPA goal for 2010 is to concentrate on the southwestern part of the state. Ms. Yette thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak to the JLC, and then answered several questions about VOPA and its work. Information on the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy may be found at www.vopa.state.va.us.

The Council took a lunch break between 11:40 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Chairman Boyer thanked the Air Force Association for their contribution towards the cost of today's lunch.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services Report

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Paul Galanti reviewed the BVS report (*Attachment 4*). Mr. Galanti stated that the Board's legislative and budget goals are the same as the Council's. Mr. Galanti said that he had helped DVS in preparing a briefing for Governor-elect McDonnell's transition team, and had participated with DVS in one of the team's meetings. The next BVS meeting will be January 11, 2010.

Veterans Services Foundation Report

VSF Chairman David Richardson delivered the VSF report (*Attachment 5*). He stated that the November 12 VSF meeting did not have a quorum due to inclement weather, but that a VSF Executive Committee meeting was held December 4 in order to further VSF operations. He noted that the VSF continues to raise private funds to support the VWWP, and that the VWWP has identified potential uses for the funds.

Department of Veterans Services Report

Commissioner Burgess delivered the report (*Attachment 6*) of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS).

Commissioner Burgess stated that Tammy Duckworth, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, will attend the VWWP conference scheduled for February 18, 2010. He added that Brigadier General Loree K. Sutton, Director of Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, has confirmed as well. He said that Governor-elect McDonnell has been invited to attend also but that no word had yet been received from his office.

Commissioner Burgess noted that Mr. Combs had reviewed the Governor's proposed budget earlier in the meeting, and asked the Council to read the budget challenges for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Burgess expressed his opinion that DVS is built on a strong foundation, which will help with the transition for the Governor-elect. Commissioner Burgess shared with the Council the presentation that DVS prepared for the transition team. He said that former Delegate Terrie Suit headed up this team, and that the meeting with the team went very well. He concluded by stating that his follow-up meeting on December 15 with VADM Hank Griffin, USN (Ret), a member of the transition team, had also gone very well.

Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council Report

Mr. Carmen Gentile, JLC Representative to the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council (VCSSC), reviewed the report (*Attachment 8*) prepared by Mr. Tom Stephen, who attended the joint VCSSC/Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) meeting, held on October 27, in Mr. Gentile's place.

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Mr. Jeff Platte, JLC Representative to the VMAC, noted that because the October 27 meeting was a joint VCSSC/VMAC meeting, he had also attended the meeting. Mr. Platte briefly reviewed the agenda of the October 27 meeting and the discussion that was held in reference to the Department of Defense Emergency Preparedness Initiatives.

Old Business

Review of 2010 Legislative Objectives, including actions taken to date

Chairman Boyer recommended that the Council not make any changes to the 2010 Legislative Objectives as submitted, based on what he has read and heard since the October 14 meeting. Mr. Brett Reistad said that the JLC Position Paper for the Virginia War Memorial would need to be updated to reflect the changes presented earlier by Mr. Hatfield. Chairman Boyer agreed with Mr. Reistad and asked him to make the changes as soon as possible.

Mr. Don Kaiserman spoke on the Military Family Relief Fund objective, noting that Delegate Bill Janis is looking for an administrative solution to this issue.

Chairman Boyer reviewed the patrons for the JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives, as of 12/4/09:

- *Real Estate Tax Exemption*: Delegate John O'Bannon and Senator Toddy Puller
- *Virginia Wounded Warrior Program*: Delegate Kirk Cox
- *Automated Claims Processing System*: Delegate Kirk Cox
- *Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery*: Delegate Bill Carrico and Senator John Edwards
- *Virginia War Memorial*: Delegate John O'Bannon
- *Burial Vaults*: Delegate Bill Carrico
- *Military and Veterans Court Programs*: Delegate Tommy Gear and Senator John Miller
- *Military Family Relief Fund*: Delegate Bill Janis and Senator Walter Stosch

Mr. Reistad stated that Senator Charles Colgan had agreed to patron the Virginia War Memorial objective. Chairman Boyer asked that the Council members continue to work on obtaining

Senate patrons for the objectives that do not have one. The Council discussed the difference between legislation and budget amendments and how each could affect the JLC's legislative objectives. The Council also clarified how the Council will use the terms *Patron* (General Assembly member) and *Sponsor* (the veterans service organization, represented on the JLC, responsible for coordinating actions related to JLC objectives).

Chairman Boyer then asked that the sponsor of each objective to give a brief update.

Real Estate Tax Exemption (sponsored by the DAV): Mr. David Martinez stated that the DAV has forward information to its members on the JLC Day at the General Assembly and reminded the members that significant support may be needed during committee hearings. Mr. Martinez said that he had not contacted the patrons for this objective yet, but had spoken to Delegate Riley Ingram about being a co-patron.

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (sponsored by MOAA): Mr. Sam Wilder (MOAA State President) said that he spoke to Delegate Kirk Cox in June, and that Delegate Cox would support this objective. Commissioner Burgess explained that DVS had provided draft language to Mr. Bill Flanagan, Delegate Cox's aide, regarding some changes to the VWWP legislation. Mr. Combs noted that the language had been requested by Delegate Cox for his consideration, and Commissioner Burgess added that Delegate Cox may choose not to submit the language.

Automated Claims Processing System (sponsored by KWVA): Mr. James Jones reported that he spoke to Mr. Flanagan in Delegate Cox's office. Mr. Jones said that Mr. Flanagan had told him that Delegate Cox's office was working with DVS on some changes to clarify the legislation on the Automated Claims Processing System. Chairman Boyer asked about funding for the System, and Mr. Combs answered that while \$100,000 was available in FY10, no funding had yet been proposed for FY11. Commissioner Burgess added that Delegate Cox may or may not submit the legislative changes requested from DVS.

Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (sponsored by NAUS): Chairman Boyer reported that he has spoken with Delegate Bill Carrico and Senator John Edwards, and that both were enthusiastic about supporting this objective.

Virginia War Memorial (sponsored by the American Legion): Mr. Reistad reported that he has been working with Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Harry Warner, and Delegate John O'Bannon on this objective, and that Delegate O'Bannon felt that a budget amendment was the best way to proceed with this objective. Mr. Reistad said that Senator Colgan also felt that a budget amendment was the best route to take. Mr. Reistad said the American Legion will hold its Day on the Hill on January 20.

Burial Vaults (sponsored by the VFW): Chairman Boyer reported that Delegate Carrico will support this objective, and that he would ask the Delegate whether this would be done through legislation or a budget amendment. He noted that a relatively small amount of money was needed to allow DVS to provide burial vaults at cost to veterans and their

families. Chairman Boyer asked Commissioner Burgess if DVS had the resources to support this objective if no money was provided by the General Assembly, or if the VSF could support this. Commissioner Burgess explained he would have to take this issue to the BVS, which could request that the VSF support this initiative.

Military and Veteran Court Programs (sponsored by MOWW): Mr. William Townsley said he spoke with Delegate Tom Gear yesterday and that a draft of the bill is 99% completed. Mr. Townsley said he also spoke to Senator John Miller, who supports the objective. Mr. Wes Edwards added that having specific numbers would strengthen the JLC's argument. Mr. Combs noted that Ms. Wilson is pursuing grant funds to implement Objective 5B, the education program.

Military Family Relief Fund (sponsored by VNGA): Chairman Boyer noted that Mr. Kaiserman had briefed the Council earlier on this issue, and asked him if he had anything further. Mr. Kaiserman said that he continues to work with Delegate Janis and Senator Stosch on this issue.

Chairman Boyer wrapped up discussion on the JLC Legislative Objectives by asking the members to "get on with it."

JLC Day at the General Assembly

Chairman Boyer asked Mr. Jack Hilgers to review the schedule for the January 18 JLC Conference at the General Assembly. Mr. Hilgers called the members' attention to the notional schedule included in the agenda packet, and emphasized that it is subject to change. He reviewed the schedule of events, the legislators that would speak at the Conference, and covered some of the logistical details. Mr. Hilgers said that Council members were welcome to invite others from their organization, but that space in the General Assembly Building and Capitol would be very limited. Mr. Hilgers said that he would provide, by e-mail to the JLC members, additional information on building access, parking, gallery and office visits, etc.

Ms. Anne Atkins stated that the Department of Veterans Services will have a display table at the General Assembly Building the week of January 18. She said that a different DVS program would be featured each day of the week:

- Monday, January 18: benefits
- Tuesday, January 19: VWWP
- Wednesday, January 20: education
- Thursday, January 21: care centers
- Friday, January 22: cemeteries

JLC Brick Program

Mr. Hilgers said that all of the veterans service organizations (VSO) represented on the JLC had contributed towards the purchase of a JLC brick for the Virginia War Memorial's Walkway of Honor. He said that there would be 10 VSO bricks surrounding the JLC brick, and encouraged more VSOs to purchase a surrounding brick. He said that the deadline to purchase a surrounding

brick had been extended to January 31. Mr. Kaiserman added that individuals may purchase a brick, and that they should contact himself, Mr. Hilgers, or Mr. Warner for more information.

New Business

2010 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Boyer discussed the proposed meeting schedule for 2010, and noted that only four regular meetings would be held, versus five regular meetings in past years.

The proposed meetings are:

- Wednesday, April 21
- Wednesday, July 21
- Wednesday, October 6
- Tuesday, December 21

In addition, he proposed that the 2011 JLC Conference at the General Assembly be held on Monday, January 17, 2011.

The proposed meeting schedule was agreed to without objection.

Chairman Boyer noted that the 2011 Legislative Objectives would be set at the July 2010 meeting, along with elections of new officers.

Open Discussion

Chairman Boyer took this opportunity to revisit the motion put forward by Mr. Kaiserman earlier in the meeting regarding the flags at the War Memorial. Chairman Boyer suggested that the JLC recess so that this issue could be discussed, not as a Council, but among the 23 individuals present. The JLC recessed at 1:00 p.m. to discuss this issue.

During this recess the tape was changed. Chairman Boyer called the meeting back to order at 1:15 pm.

H.R. 23, The Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009

Mr. Edwards and Mr. John Clickener distributed material on H.R. 23, The Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009, which is being considered by the Congress. Mr. John Clickener noted that he was bringing this issue to the JLC not as a MOAA representative but as a private citizen. He said that H.R. 23 had passed the House and gone to the Senate. He said that S.R. 663 was being considered by the Senate, and suggested that individuals and VSOs contact Senators Webb and Warner to sign on as co-patrons.

Other issues

Mr. Rinaldo asked Mr. Hilgers if it would be advantageous to make co-patron sign-up sheets available prior to the start of the General Assembly session. Mr. Hilgers explained that the sheets are usually not available until the first day of the session.

Mr. George Corbett said that Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227, has asked Delegate David Bulova and Senator Chap Peterson to introduce a joint resolution recognizing the “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.” Mr. Corbett said this event is generally held at the end of March each year.

Annual Financial Disclosure

Ms. Danielle Weaver stated that Annual Financial Disclosure Filings are due to the Secretary of the Commonwealth on January 15, 2010. Ms. Weaver said that Conflict of Interest Forms were distributed to the Council, and that she would notarize the forms if turned into her today. Otherwise, Council members should have the forms notarized and should return them to DVS by January 8. She noted that only the primary VSO representative, not the alternate, needs to complete the form.

Public comment period

No public comments were made.

Preparation for upcoming meetings

Chairman Boyer reminded the Council that the JLC Conference at the General Assembly is scheduled for Monday, January 18.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
American Legion Department of Virginia Building
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
December 22, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Dan Boyer, JLC Chairman* (5 minutes)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
- III. Review and approval of October 14, 2009 meeting minutes – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
- IV. Presentations
 - a. Governor Kaine’s Introduced Budget – *Steve Combs* (5 minutes)
 - b. Virginia War Memorial – *Jon Hatfield* (10 minutes)
 - c. Veterans Services Foundation – *David Richardson and Jack Hilgers* (15 minutes)
 - d. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program – *Cathy Wilson and Jim Thur* (15 minutes)
 - e. Virginia Office for Protection & Advocacy – *Celia Yette* (10 minutes)
- V. Reports
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *David Richardson, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - c. Department of Veterans Services – *Vince Burgess, Commissioner* (10 minutes)
 - d. Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council – *Carmen Gentile, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
 - e. Virginia Military Advisory Council – *Jeff Platte, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
- VI. Old business
 - a. Review of 2010 Legislative Objectives, including actions taken to date (30 minutes)
- VII. Break/working lunch (30 minutes)
- VIII. Old business (continued)
 - a. Review of 2010 Legislative Objectives, including actions taken to date (50 minutes)
 - b. JLC Day at the General Assembly – *Jack Hilgers* (5 minutes)
- IX. New business
 - a. 2010 meeting schedule – *Steve Combs* (5 minutes)
 - b. Open discussion (10 minutes)

- X. Public comment period (5 minutes)
- XI. Prepare for upcoming meetings – *Chairman* (5 minutes)
- XII. Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Proposed changes to October 14 minutes

On page 8, change the following to read:

Mr. Townsley made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Frank Driscoll, to recommend the following:

1. That enabling language be passed during the 2010 General Assembly
2. That education programs be initiated with the legal and criminal justice communities *to include those cited by Mr. Edwards and Mr. Kaiserman*
3. That a study be commissioned to further explore the issue and identify ways to further help veterans who come in contact with the legal and criminal justice communities

ATTACHMENT 3

VSF PowerPoint Presentation

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

JLC Briefing

December 22, 2009

Veterans Services Foundation Tasks

Administer the Veteran Services Fund

Provide Funding for Veterans Services

Raise Revenue from all sources to Support the
Fund

Veterans Services Fund

- A Special Non-reverting Trust Fund
- Carried on the Accounts of the State Comptroller
- Administered by the Foundation

- May Consist of:
 - Donations, Contributions, Gifts, Bequests
 - Grants
 - Revenues Transferred from Other State Programs
 - Funds Appropriated by the General Assembly

Board of Trustees

A Corporate Board
Legally, Morally, and Fiscally Responsible

Governed by the Code of Virginia
and
Board By Laws, Policies and Procedures

Board Structure
Members, Committees, Leadership

VSF Board of Trustees Membership

- The VSF Board is comprised of 19 members, including, 16 non-legislative citizen members and 3 *ex-officio* members. Eight non-legislative citizen members are appointed by the Governor, five by the Speaker of the House of Delegates and three by the Senate Committee on Rules.
- The DVS Commissioner serves as an *ex-officio*, voting member as do the Chairs of the Veterans Services Board and the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations.

VSF Board Committees

Executive Committee (Planning,
Adjudication)

Finance Committee (Admin., Budgeting,
Audits)

Development Committee (Fundraising,
Public Relations)

VSF

Leadership & Management

Embodied in the Board as a Whole
Through
Committee and Board Teamwork

Officers – Chairman, 1st Vice and 2nd Vice Chairs
Staff – Executive Director and DVS Personnel

VSF Summary

- Foundation Tasks
- Veterans Services Fund
- Board of Trustees
- Board Structure
- Leadership & Management

VSF Conclusion

QUESTIONS

ATTACHMENT 4

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS December 22, 2009

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) last met on July 15, 2009. The October 28, 2009 meeting was cancelled as a cost-saving measure.

BVS members continue to work with the Department of Veterans Services on benefit, care center, and cemetery-related issues. Specific focus areas include:

- Automated claims processing system (BVS Chairman and Benefits Committee)
- Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (BVS Chairman and Benefits Committee)
- Construction of the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Cemetery Committee)
- Operating funds for the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Cemetery Committee)
- Replacement equipment for the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia (Cemetery Committee)

The BVS Chairman helped the Department prepare for meetings with Governor-elect Bob McDonnell's transition team. On December 9, the Chairman briefed the transition team's Military/Veterans Committee, headed by former Delegate Terrie Suit, on the work of the Board, the JLC, and the Veterans Services Foundation.

Legislative members of the Board continue their support of JLC and veteran's legislation, with several agreeing to patron legislation or bills related to the JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives.

The January 11, 2010 BVS meeting will be held at the American Legion Building in Richmond. The 2010 meeting schedule will be adopted at the January 11 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Galanti
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 5

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) December 22, 2009

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on November 12, 2009. A quorum was not present due to inclement weather. The following briefings were presented without action taken.

- (1) Received Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) Executive Director's detailed Report;
- (2) Received Board of Veterans Services Chairman's, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Chairman's, and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Commissioner's Reports;
- (3) Received Standing Committee Reports;
- (4) Reviewed Foundation fundraising conducted to date during FY10;
- (5) Reviewed VSF FY10 1st Quarter Financial Report and FY10 budget adjustments;
- (6) Reviewed FY10 Goals and Objectives, Joint Policy revision, and Bylaws changes.

The Finance Committee met on November 4, 2009 and the Development Committee on November 12, 2009. The minutes of the Finance and Development Committee meetings are posted on the Commonwealth Calendar. The VSF Finance Committee report contains the first of FY10 DVS budget reductions that effect VSF operations. The Committee recommended that the Foundation take action to accommodate those shortages.

As a result of a lack of a quorum and no action taken, a VSF Executive Committee meeting was held on December 4, 2009 to take such actions necessary to direct the affairs of the Foundation until the next Board meeting in accordance with the Board Bylaws. All Executive Committee actions are subject to ratification at the March Board meeting. The following actions were taken.

- (1) Approved the VSF FY10 1st Quarter Financial Report to the DVS Commissioner;
- (2) Approved FY10 budget adjustments for the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, the Suffolk veterans cemetery, VWWP, and the Foundation Support Fund;
- (3) Approved establishing a JLC Support Fund to allow for JLC fundraising and JLC expenditures;
- (4) Approved VSF-DVS Joint Policy #6 revision giving VWWP greater sub-fund flexibility;
- (5) Approved Board Bylaws changes to provide for a Nominating Committee;
- (6) Approved the following dates for 2010 Board meetings; March 24, May 5, August 4, and November 3, 2010.

The Foundation had raised almost \$60,000, of which almost \$56,000 is for VWWP, as of December 4, 2009. While this is about \$7,000 more than last year at this time, the Foundation sill is almost \$20,000 short of its mid year goal of \$75,000 for VWWP.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2010, after the General Assembly adjourns.

It will be held at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the 2nd Quarter FY10 Fund Statement and additional FY10 budget adjustments; (2) adoption of a revised policy associated with in-kind donations, and (3) review VSF FY10 fundraising program. There will be Finance and Development Committee meetings before the next Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David Richardson
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 6

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
REPORT TO
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
December 22, 2009**

Governor Kaine's Introduced Budget

- Continues budget reductions implemented in September 2010
- Proposes some additional budget reductions:
 - *Hours for VSF support position* – changes from 25% reduction in FY10 to 50% reduction in FY11 and FY12
 - *Administrative costs* – changes from \$5,000 reduction in FY10 to \$7,200 reduction in FY11 and FY12
- Reduced funding from *Central Appropriations* budget, which reflects changes in retirement and other benefit contribution rates
- Does not propose support for Automated Claims Processing System or Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery
- No proposed reduction to Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
- No additional reductions proposed in direct services to veterans
- Proposes NGF appropriation for VWWP grant funding
- Includes budget language allowing DVS to apply for federal grant funding to expand the Horton cemetery

DVS Budget Challenges for 2010-2012

Project	Goal	Challenges
Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Dublin)	Open the cemetery in Fall 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40,000 needed in FY10 • \$300,000 in FY11 and ongoing • \$30,000+ (one-time) for road signs in FY11 • Low burial rate the first few years means 90 to 95% of funding must come from GF (70% GF at other two cemeteries)
Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia) Equipment Replacement	Ensure Amelia Cemetery has proper equipment to conduct operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemetery has been operational for 12 years • Original equipment is wearing out and needs to be replaced • Equipment needed: dump truck, backhoe, two pickup trucks, three mowers, and other equipment
Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center	Start design as soon as federal matching funds are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal FY10 Priority Funding list will be released shortly. HRVCC barely missed federal FFY09 funding cutoff

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two years to design and build means care center could open in FY12 • \$5 - 6M in GF support needed for startup, but may not be available given current budget situation. DVS exploring other options
Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center Addition	Start design and construction as soon as federal matching funds are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal FY10 Priority Funding list will be released shortly. SBVCC barely missed federal FFY09 funding cutoff • Shorter design/construction timetable means addition could open in FY11 • SBVCC should be able to support start up with internal resources
Virginia Veterans Care Center	Complete major maintenance and renovation projects, including roof replacement, nurse call system replacement, and parking lot expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal grant funds will not cover all needs • VVCC has limited internal resources due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cash reserves used for SBVCC startup ○ DVS sets lowest possible fee structure for residents, which limits accumulation of cash reserves • Other problems may arise due to the age of the facility. DVS tries to anticipate needs and request federal grant funding, but lag between grant application and award means that some projects have to be funded solely with internal funds

Other Challenges

Project	Goal	Challenges
Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center	Start design and construction as soon as federal matching funds are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVS has submitted application for federal grant assistance • DVS continues to search for potential location and partnership
Burial vaults for state veterans cemeteries	Rectify disparity (highlighted by JLC) between national cemeteries and Virginia state veterans cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVS has submitted applications for federal grant funding to retrofit cemeteries in Amelia in Suffolk • Even with federal grant funding, state funding may still be needed because of topography, oversized caskets, etc.

Gubernatorial Transition

- DVS, like all state agencies, were asked to submit a detailed transition report to Governor-elect McDonnell's transition team. A copy of that report was sent to you by e-mail.
- On December 9, I met with the transition team's Commonwealth Preparedness/Military/Veterans Committee, which is led by former Delegate Terrie Suit. Accompanying me were BVS Chairman Paul Galanti, Virginia War Memorial Executive Director Jon Hatfield, and DVS Policy & Planning Director Steve Combs.
 - I thought the meeting went very well. Committee members asked a number of questions on Department operations and finances.
 - The committee
- I had follow-up meeting on December 15 with VADM Hank Giffin, USN (Ret), the committee member who has the lead on veterans issues. This meeting also went well.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent M. Burgess
Commissioner