

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 23, 2011**

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on March 23, 2011, at the Virginia Department of the American Legion, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

**Members Present**

- George Coker, American Ex-POWs
- Don Kaiserman, Association of the United States Army
- David Martinez, Disabled American Veterans
- Abe Zino, Fleet Reserve Association
- James Jones, Korean War Veterans Association
- Roger Dimsdale, Legion of Valor
- Bruce Steeley, Marine Corps League
- Raymond Edwards, Military Officers Association of America
- Robert Fairchild, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- William Townsley, Military Order of the World Wars
- Thomas Moran, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Matthew Dailey, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- David Coffield, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Carmen Gentile, Reserve Officers Association
- Nolan Jackson, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Daniel Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Jenny Holbert, Women Marines Association
- Thad Jones, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Rich Schollmann, Veterans Services Foundation Representative
- Paul Galanti, Commissioner of Veterans Services

**Members Absent**

- Jeffrey Platte, Air Force Association
- Brett Reistad, American Legion
- Bruce Brown, AMVETS
- Frank Driscoll, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Michael Coleman, Virginia National Guard Association

**Alternates Present (representing their VSO)**

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Dale Chapman, American Legion
- Terry Oglesby, AMVETS

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

- Edward Dauksz, AUSA
- Dan Miller, Disabled American Veterans
- John Clickener, Military Officers Association of America

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

- Al Pianalto, Delegate Kirk Cox's Office
- Cindy Norwood, Office of the Attorney General
- Jon Hatfield, Virginia War Memorial
- John Anderson, Department of Veterans Services
- Anne Atkins, Department of Veterans Services
- Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services
- Jack Hilgers, Department of Veterans Services
- Martha Mead, Department of Veterans Services
- Brian Pickral, Department of Veterans Services
- Judy Reid, Department of Veterans Services
- Mike Rogers, Department of Veterans Services
- Danielle Weaver, Department of Veterans Services

### **Others Present**

- Harry Warner, Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation
- Carl Matney, AUSA, Stonewall Jackson Chapter
- Hugh Sproul, AUSA, Stonewall Jackson Chapter
- Mark Donald, Sr., MOPH Department of Virginia
- Mary Jo Fields, Virginia Municipal League

### **Agenda Packet**

- Agenda (Agenda Item II)
- Reports (Agenda Item VI)
  - Board of Veterans Services Report
  - Veterans Services Foundation Report
  - Report of the JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council
- Old Business (Agenda Item VII)
  - Revised JLC 2011 Plan of Action

### **Materials Distributed But Not Attached to the Agenda Packet**

- Virginia Wounded Warrior Program Summary of Grant Activities

### **Opening and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Jenny Holbert called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and asked Mr. Pete Fairchild to lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination**

The roll was called, and 21 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC were recorded as being represented (18 by primary representative, 3 by alternates), and a quorum was determined. The Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services Chairman, a representative of the Veterans Services Foundation, and a representative of the Commissioner of Veterans Services were recorded as present. Commissioner Paul Galanti joined the meeting about 11:35.

### **Approval of the agenda**

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Bill Townsley made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. George Corbett. The agenda was approved **unanimously**. (*See Attachment 1*).

### **Introductions of Guests**

Chair Holbert asked that guests and staff introduce themselves. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chair Holbert welcomed them to the meeting.

### **Review and Approval of December 21, 2010 and January 13, 2011 meeting minutes**

Chair Holbert stated that the minutes from the December 21, 2010 and January 13, 2011 meetings had been distributed electronically. It was noted that Mr. Dave Martinez asked that the December 21, 2010 minutes be amended. Chair Holbert stated the minutes would be approved separately.

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the December 21, 2010 minutes. Mr. Bill Townsley made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Thad Jones. Chair Holbert then asked for discussion. Mr. Dave Martinez asked that the December 21, 2010 minutes be amended to include in the Public Comment section Mr. Roger Sullivan's main points which he presented to the Council.

Mr. Townsley made a motion to the minutes to include the fact that Mr. Sullivan spoke about the attendance and accomplishments of the DAV during the 2010 General Assembly session as compared to the JLC. The December 21, 2010 amended minutes were approved by **unanimous consent**.

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the January 13, 2011 minutes. Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Carmen Gentile. The January 13, 2011 minutes were approved by **unanimous consent**.

### **Presentations**

#### **2011 General Assembly: Overview of veterans/military legislation and budget.**

Mr. Steven Combs thanked the Council and stated that Commissioner Paul Galanti will be joining the meeting a little later, as he was attending the National Association of State Directors

of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) conference in Alexandria. Mr. Combs then gave a PowerPoint overview of DVS and the legislative and budget issues that occurred during the 2011 General Assembly Session. The PowerPoint presentation will be forward to the Council members at a later date.

Mr. Combs also covered the JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives and other significant veterans legislation. He stated that the results of the JLC initiatives will be discussed later in the meeting. Mr. Combs then moved on to the DVS staffing and budget. He announced that a new position for the “Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security” has been created. DVS will report to the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security versus the Secretary of Public Safety once the legislation is signed by the Governor. Mr. Combs continued with explaining the staffing and budget criteria for the care centers and the cemeteries. Mr. Combs stated that the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery should be completed next month. The grand opening ceremony will be announced as soon as the date is set. Everyone is invited. Mr. Combs thanked the JLC for their efforts. Mr. Combs then asked that Ms. Martha Mead review the grants for the VWWP.

Ms. Mead addressed the Council regarding grants that VWWP has successfully obtained. Information on each of the grants was included in a handout distributed at the meeting (*see Attachment 6*). She said that the VWWP 2010 progress report had been forward electronically to all of the Council members and she briefly reviewed its contents. Ms. Mead said that a new region director for region IV had been hired. He is Mr. Bert Levesque and he will start to work on Monday, March 28. Then Ms. Mead presented a brief bio on Mr. Levesque. The region V director search is being finalized.

Ms. Mead reviewed each of the different grants. The VWWP is planning a conference at VMI on August 9<sup>th</sup> that will address the needs of students coming to campuses across the United States. The GI Bill is so robust that it is expected that there will be a large increase in the number of veterans applying to go to college. VWWP is also working on helping veterans who are homeless. The Council briefly discussed the homelessness issue in Virginia. Chair Holbert thanked Ms. Mead for her presentation.

Mr. Combs continued with his presentation and discussed veterans education and training, the Virginia War Memorial, and DVS leadership staffing and budget. Chair Holbert thanked Mr. Combs for his presentation.

### **DVS Benefit Services.**

Mr. John Anderson gave a PowerPoint presentation on DVS Benefit Services. He thanked the JLC for all of their efforts to help make DVS successful. Mr. Anderson reviewed the types of claims that are processed and pointed out that it takes 3-5 years to properly train a representative to handle the different types of claims. He explained that the General Assembly has appropriated funding to fill seven vacant Benefits positions after July 1, 2011. New offices will be established in Alexandria and Virginia Beach. The money budgeted includes funding for a county service officer liaison position. Mr. Anderson also pointed out that the DVS claims approval rate with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is going up. He further stated that not as many military personnel are getting out of the service or retiring. Chair Holbert thanked Mr. Anderson for his

presentation.

*Chair Holbert called for a lunch break at 11:32 am. During this break the tape was changed. Chair Holbert called the meeting back to order at 11:50 am.*

## **Reports**

### **Board of Veterans Services**

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Thad Jones delivered the BVS report (*Attachment 2*). Mr. Jones pointed out that the next BVS meeting will be a very active meeting. The meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2011.

### **Veterans Services Foundation**

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Representative, Mr. Rich Schollmann, delivered the VSF report in the absence of Chair David Richardson (*Attachment 3*). The VSF meeting that was held on March 9 did not have a quorum; therefore, several issues were tabled to be addressed at the next meeting. The next VSF meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2011.

### **Department of Veterans Services**

Commissioner Galanti commented on the NASDVA conference that concluded this morning. Commissioner Galanti reviewed the re-organization within DVS and that offices have been re-located to the Pocahontas Building 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the West Wing. He also extended an invitation to the Council to stop by and visit the offices. Commissioner Galanti said that Mr. Anderson has organized his staff to assist with the “beta testing” of TurboVet. Commissioner Galanti, Mr. Anderson, and other staff attended the TurboVet presentation for this test. Commissioner Galanti thanked Mr. Combs for the DVS report presentation held earlier in his absence.

### **Virginia Military Advisory Council**

Mr. Jeff Platte, JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC), was not able to attend. The VMAC report was included in Council members’ agenda packets for review (*see Attachment 4*). Chair Holbert asked that everyone please read the report at their leisure.

### **Virginia War Memorial**

Mr. Jon Hatfield, Virginia War Memorial (VWM) Executive Director, addressed the Council and thanked them for their support. The appropriated funds dedicated to the VWM will be used for security at the memorial. The memorial is open seven days a week. Mr. Hatfield extended an invitation to the Council to come and see one of their presentations. He then reviewed the two most recent presentations. He also stated that they are working on a strategic planning study that will map the memorial’s goals for the future. Mr. Hatfield will report on the results at the next JLC meeting. Mr. Hatfield reviewed the issue on the Memorial’s policy for placing names on the wall. The current policy has been in effect for the last 50 years and allows for names of those killed in combat during a war. Mr. Hatfield thanked the Council members that are volunteering at the Memorial and asked if more would like to volunteer. He also thanked the JLC for its support of the Honor Walkway Program.

*Chair Holbert called for a break at 12:06 pm. During this break the tape was changed. Chair Holbert called the meeting back to order at 12:12 pm.*

## **Old Business**

### **Review and update JLC 2011 Plan of Action**

Chair Holbert reviewed the proposed updates to the JLC 2011 Plan of Action (*see Attachment 5*). She also stated that the Plan of Action will continue to be updated through-out the year and will not be finalized until the end of the year. Chair Holbert reviewed and explained the changes. Some changes were made to August/September events due to the election of all General Assembly members scheduled for November. Chair Holbert then opened the proposed revisions for discussion. The Council members discussed the implications of this year's pending elections.

The JLC held several very successful forums last year with legislators. The consensus of the Council was to schedule forums for this year. Chair Holbert suggested that this be added to the Plan of Action. Mr. Combs suggested that Chair Holbert charge the Legislative Working Group to prepare guidelines for preparation of the forums and include Council members' experiences. These guidelines would be presented at a later date in preparation for the forums, which will be held after the November elections.

Chair Holbert asked for a motion to approve the revisions to the Plan of Action. Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to accept the changes and to recognize that they are a work in progress which may require additional changes. Mr. Martinez **seconded** the motion. The board briefly discussed the motion. The motion was approved by **unanimous consent**.

### **JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives: What went right? What went wrong? Lessons Learned**

JLC Vice Chair Don Kaiserman addressed the Council and explained what the JLC has accomplished in this past year. The year was very successful. Five of the six legislative objectives were approved, including two of the three budget amendments in a very difficult fiscal year. As far as Lessons Learned, Mr. Kaiserman noted that the JLC shouldn't count on the General Assembly to perform as they did in prior years. Mr. Kaiserman gave an example of overlooking the House this year. He said that VSOs put all of the focus on the Senate and the first JLC objective died in the sub-committee of the House. The VSOs should contact both the House and Senate leadership and work simultaneously with the General Assembly's grass roots; from top to the bottom and bottom to the top. He said that if the appropriate sub-committee members are not reached, the objective is dead.

Mr. Kaiserman continued to discuss his meetings with legislators and how many were not aware of the JLC objectives. Mr. Kaiserman suggested that when meeting legislators for the first time that the JLC package should be presented. The package should include three elements: (1) the list of the JLC objectives; (2) the position papers; and (3) a list of people and their contact data, i.e. phone and e-mail info, that are meeting with the legislator for the legislator's follow-ups. After that, meet with the legislator again in about two to three weeks to see if they have any questions on the information that was provided. This will allow legislators time to review the information. If the second meeting is positive, then Mr. Kaiserman believes that this would be the time to ask the legislator if they would be a co-patron of an objective.

Mr. Kaiserman also suggested that the JLC have a combination of VSO members attend these visits. The JLC also can determine who has the best person to be the main contact and then let this person be the principal point of contact. He asked members to please submit any ideals to Chair Holbert. As soon as contact information is provided, it will be forwarded to the Council members. The Council continued discussing the meetings with legislators and related issues that face the JLC. Chair Holbert thanked Mr. Kaiserman for his review.

### **Report of the 2012 ad hoc planning committee and adoption of “game plan” for 2012**

Mr. Abe Zino addressed the Council with a PowerPoint presentation, which will be forwarded to Council members later. The following people make up the JLC Legislative Working Group: Mr. Steven Combs, Mr. John Clickner, Mr. Jack Hilgers, Mr. Chip Moran and Mr. Abe Zino. This committee held its first meeting on March 18, 2011.

Mr. Zino stated that the real goal of the Working Group is to put together a better way to address all the JLC approved objectives and present them to legislators. This would be a plan of attack based on the JLC Plan of Action. Mr. Zino commended Chair Holbert on her leadership and the formulation of the JLC Plan of Action. Mr. Zino said that the JLC needs to encourage all of the VSOs to speak to their legislators on the final objectives. He said that he had established a list of all of the JLC members and alternates to try to determine how many legislators are covered and those that need coverage. The list will be updated after the election and distributed to all hands.

During the presentation Mr. Zino reviewed the Working Group’s Goals, Objectives, and Principles. Council members discussed these. Mr. Zino asked members to email any suggestions they may have to him. Chair Holbert suggested Mr. Kaiserman join this committee to help in this process. Mr. Zino continued with the deliverables to be presented to the JLC to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Working Group. The next two Working Group meetings are scheduled for April 15, 2011 and June 16, 2011. Chair Holbert thanked Mr. Zino for his presentation. Mr. Zino thanked Mr. Combs for his assistance. No action is required at this time for this presentation and it will be forwarded electronically at a later date.

*Chair Holbert called for a break at 1:10 pm. During this break the tape was changed. Chair Holbert called the meeting back to order at 1:16 pm.*

### **Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee**

Mr. Fairchild gave the report on the Constitution and Bylaws. The committee consisted of Mr. Brett Reistad, Mr. Chip Moran and Mr. Fairchild. The committee has one recommendation to change *Chairperson* to *Chair*.

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the changes to the JLC Constitution and Bylaws as submitted by the committee. Mr. Townsley made a **motion**, which was **seconded** by Mr. Martinez. The changes to the Constitution and Bylaws were approved by **unanimous consent**.

## **New Business**

### **Initial review of potential 2012 Legislative Objectives**

#### **Alternative Revenue Sources**

Chair Holbert asked the Council if they wished to pursue Alternate Revenue Sources. She suggested that the JLC would be much better served if the requirement was defined as needs with dollar values attached.

#### **Excess Revenue Distribution**

Chair Holbert stated that it came to her attention that the JLC missed an opportunity to acquire funds from excess revenue distribution. The state has excess revenues each year and if there was legislation that authorized the distribution of some of these funds to veterans, DVS could have taken advantage of the opportunity. Mr. Combs explained that Senator Charles J. Colgan had proposed a bill for a proportional allocation from the state budget to DVS so that if the state budget reached the end of a fiscal year with excess funds, there would be a priority listing for distribution of some of the excess funds to DVS. Chair Holbert stated that this should be considered as a JLC legislative objective. This could provide an alternate source of revenue for DVS. The Council discussed the use of excess funds and suggested some areas where they could be used. Chair Holbert said that the JLC would take the initiative to get the legislation approved and can suggest where the funds would be spent. Questions arose regarding how much funding would be needed. Chair Holbert said that funding amounts requires a lot of work and suggested that funding requirements be tabled until DVS could provide some recommended amounts that would be needed. Commissioner Galanti concurred.

Mr. Combs explained that the funds may be placed in a non-reverting fund to be used for non-recurring expenses such as care center start ups. For example, if DVS should receive \$5,000,000 one year and can not spend it all, it could be set aside for following years. Chair Holbert concluded that the JLC will need to get a VSO representative to work with DVS to come up with a position paper. Mr. Moran said that NAUS would volunteer to help with this legislative objective.

Mr. David Coffield said that he attended a budget meeting and stated that the State budget is a bi-annual budget. He said that this year only changes can be made to the budget because the actual budget was made a year ago. This must be considered as the JLC moves forward with this objective. Mr. Combs commented that in the next budget session in 2012 two things will happen: (1) amendments will be made to the current biennial budget and (2) the next biennial budget will be adopted.

#### **Lottery Revenue**

Chair Holbert asked the Council if it wanted to continue looking at the State Lottery as an alternate revenue source. Mr. Kaiserman pointed out that without alternate revenue resources DVS is going to have difficulties finding funds for various veterans needs. He said that DVS cannot depend on General Funds to support the needs of our veterans and their families. Mr. George Coker mentioned that many people do not favor the Lottery and that this problem needs

to be addressed to move forward. Chair Holbert concluded that JLC needs to establish a VSO to push the objective through and to develop a better position paper. The JLC will need to do a better job of educating legislators and others regarding this objective. Chair Holbert stated that no action is needed today and that MOAA has agreed to support this objective.

#### State Sales Tax Exemption for 501 (c) 19 VSOs

Mr. Boyer recommended that the JLC consider a legislative objective that would establish a State Sales Tax Exemption for 501 (c) 19 VSOs. There is sales tax exemption for other 501 (c) organizations, but not for 501 (c) 19 veterans organizations. He provided several examples of how this would be beneficial. Virginia's neighboring states Maryland and North Carolina have this sales tax exemption in place for 501 (c) 19 veterans organizations. Mr. Boyer is researching the issue and will move forward with submitting a position paper for this legislative objective. Chair Holbert thanked him for the VFW recommendation.

#### Restore Specific Professional Staffing with DVS

Mr. Wes Edwards stated that MOAA has another possible objective. The objective would be to improve: (1) service to veterans; (2) operational efficiency within DVS; and (3) regulatory compliance within DVS. DVS needs professional staffing to fill positions that are currently vacant or are in need of being established. A draft position paper is available from MOAA on this objective.

#### Reduce Veteran Homelessness in Virginia

Mr. Edwards said that another possible JLC objective proposed by MOAA would be for the JLC to consider some means of helping reduce the homelessness among Virginia veterans and their families. The objective would be to provide some of the resources required to do so. A draft position paper is available from MOAA on this objective.

#### Unclaimed Veterans Cremains

Mr. Townsley of the Military Order of the World Wars said that he would like to pursue the unclaimed cremains (cremated remains) of veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a JLC objective. DVS has a Memorandum of Understanding with one of the funeral director associations regarding unclaimed veterans cremains. There are two other funeral director associations that are not as yet partnering with DVS to identify and transfer unclaimed cremains. Mr. Townsley proposed that a legislative requirement be initiated to have funeral homes and others be required to provide the information needed to take care of unclaimed cremains in an honorable fashion. Mr. Moran of NAUS offered to assist as a VSO to support this objective.

#### Veterans Job Preferences versus Job Selection

Mr. Townsley also suggested that Job Preferences vs. Job Selection by the State be an objective. Job qualification tests seem to be a thing of the past because there are not very many tests being conducted. This reduces selection by a point system where veterans are given some additional consideration. Chair Holbert mentioned that a couple of years ago that there was change to the Virginia Code. Ms. Cindy Norwood read the Code section addressing job preference. The Council discussed the issue. Mr. Combs shared with the Council that in 2009 the JLC had a presentation by the State Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM). The DHRM Director discussed how veterans are selected in the state workforce and the provisions for hiring

preference. Further, DHRM analysis developed that veterans were overrepresented in the state work force and that there was not a shortfall of veterans being hired. Mr. Townsley stated that if this is the case then there is no reason to go forward with this proposal as a legislative objective.

### **Other matters requested by JLC Members**

Chair Holbert asked if there were any other proposed legislative objectives. Hearing none, she asked if there were other considerations to be brought forth and discussed.

Mr. Martinez stated that he has an issue that has nothing to do with legislation. It could address a possibility to cover the alternative revenue source requirement and may fall under the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF). The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) are having a walk in Newport News to raise money for veterans and it turns out there are a lot of Veterans Organizations holding events at the same time to help veterans. The VSF sent an email to clarify the status of the DAV walk because of questions raised by the DVS staff. The Virginia Department of DAV did not initially embrace the walk but now fully supports it because it has been cleared by the National Department of DAV. Mr. Martinez suggested that the walk and other events for the support of veterans fall under the cognizance of either VSF or DVS. If it is a fundraiser, the VSF should have the lead. The DAV has a good idea for fundraising but this needs to be expanded statewide to include other organizations so that such events can be coordinated. Chair Holbert proposed that the JLC explore this idea.

Chair Holbert addressed the issue of the Gold Star Wives in reference to the Real Estate Tax Exemption. One of the Gold Star Wives who is a survivor cannot take advantage of the Real Estate Tax Exemption because her spouse passed away before January 1, 2011 and she moved. The bill will go into effect January 1, 2011 and any survivor whose military spouse died before January 1, 2011 will not be able to take advantage of this legislation.

Chair Holbert stated that the JLC could partially remediate such problems by inviting Gold Star Wives to advise the Council and sit at the table like the VSOs. However, they would not be a member. They would be there only to provide advice and counsel on all issues that are addressed by the JLC on matters that are relevant to veterans' survivors. The Gold Star Wives addressed the Council in October. Mr. Townsley stated that if they have an issue they just need to present it to the JLC.

Mr. Roger Dimsdale asked that if formal participation were accorded to this organization, what about Gold Star Mothers, Blue Star Mothers and Wives, and many other organizations that have an interest, but are not qualified to be members of the JLC. This could result in an expansion that may be beyond the scope of what was intended in the legislation that created the JLC. It also could create a situation that could overwhelm the JLC. Discussion continued and it was decided that any veterans related organization would be welcome to attend any of the JLC meetings, but not with a seat at the table and not on a continually invited basis.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Holbert asked if there were any public comments. None were presented.

Mr. Martinez thanked the Council members for their support of the real estate tax exemption for disabled veterans, and expressed the sincere appreciation of the DAV for the passage of the tax relief.

Mr. Townsley suggested that the Council move the Public Comment Period to the beginning of each meeting. Mr. Townsley then made a **motion** to move the Public Comment Period to the beginning of the meeting. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. George Coker. Mr. Townsley said this would give the Public the opportunity to leave before the meeting is completed if they need to do so. Commissioner Galanti stated this had been done in the past, but the public speakers ended up taking all of meeting time. Mr. Hilgers stated that, as a point of order, this action item is not on the agenda and time should be allowed for deliberation of this significant change to Council procedures. He proposed that this issue be tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Moran made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Boyer, to table the issue until the meeting. The motion passed without dissent.

### **Closing remarks**

Ms. Norwood announced that on May 22 a ceremony will be held for the Wall of Honor at 10:00 am on the South Portico of the Capital.

Mr. Combs reminded everyone of the military-veterans bill signing by the Governor at Fort Lee on March 31 at 12:30 pm. He asked members to please let him know if they will be attending so he can provide this information to the Governor's office.

Ms. Norwood commented on the wonderful job that Mr. Moran, Mr. Townsley, and Mr. Barton did on pushing through the new veterans treatment procedures for courts.

Mr. Zino stated, to help the DVS staff with preparing the minutes, if anyone has any suggestions or changes to the Council minutes to please provide them to Mr. Combs within 10 days of the meetings where the minutes are scheduled for approval.

Mr. Coffield stated that every year the PVA puts on a national veterans wheelchair event. This year the event will be held in Pittsburgh. In 2012 the event will be held in Richmond. The PVA is expecting approximately 600 people in wheelchairs. They will need about 3,000 volunteers to assist.

Chair Holbert said that because the meeting was running overtime, there would be no additional closing remarks.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Holbert adjourned the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations meeting  
American Legion Building  
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond  
March 23, 2011  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Review and approval of December 21, 2010 and January 13, 2011 meeting minutes – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Presentations (10:15 – 10:45)
  - a. 2011 General Assembly: Overview of veterans/military legislation and budget – *Steven Combs, DVS Director of Policy & Planning* (20 minutes)
  - b. DVS Benefit Services – *John Anderson, Director* (10 minutes)
- Break (10:45 – 10:55)
- V. Reports (10:55 – 11:30)
  - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
  - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *David Richardson, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
  - c. Department of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner* (10 minutes)
  - d. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program – *Cathy Wilson, Executive Director* (5 minutes)
  - e. Virginia Military Advisory Council – *Jeff Platte, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
  - f. Virginia War Memorial – *Jon Hatfield, Executive Director* (5 minutes)
- VI. Break/working lunch (11:30 – 12:00)
- VII. Old business (12:00 – 1:00)
  - a. Review and update JLC 2011 Plan of Action – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (10 minutes)
  - b. JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives: What went right? What went wrong? Lessons Learned – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Vice Chair* (10 minutes)
  - c. Report of the 2012 ad hoc planning committee and adoption of “game plan” for 2012 – *Abe Zino, Committee Chair and Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (30 minutes)
  - d. Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee – *Pete Fairchild, Committee Chair* (10 minutes)

Break (1:00 – 1:10)

VIII. New business

- a. Initial review of potential 2012 Legislative Objectives: *JLC Members* (20 minutes)
  - b. Other matters requested by JLC Members (20 minutes)
- IX. Public comment period (1:50 – 1:55)
- X. Closing remarks – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (1:55 – 2:00)
- XI. Adjourn (2:00)

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS March 23, 2011**

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on January 10, 2011.

At the meeting, the BVS:

- Received reports from the BVS standing committees (Benefits, Care Centers, and Cemeteries)
- Received the interim report of the *ad hoc* committee appointed to review BVS by laws
- Received reports from the *ex officio* members of the BVS (Chairs of the Joint Leadership Council and Veterans Services Foundation, and the Commissioner of Veterans Services)
- Adopted the 2011 meeting schedule, as follows:
  - Monday, January 10
  - Wednesday, April 13
  - Wednesday, June 15
  - Wednesday, September 14
  - Wednesday, November 16
- Adopted a plan of action to guide the Board's actions in 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Thad A. Jones  
Chairman

**ATTACHMENT 3**  
**VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION**  
**REPORT TO**  
**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**March 23, 2011**

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on March 9, 2011. A quorum was not present, therefore, an Executive Committee meeting was convened. The Executive Committee had a quorum. The following actions were taken subject to ratification by the board at its next regular meeting.

- (1) Received Board of Veterans Services Chairman's, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Chairman's, Virginia Wounded Warrior Program Executive Director's, and Virginia State Approving Agency Director's and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Commissioner's and VSF Committee Reports;
- (2) Reviewed Executive Committee Actions taken at the January 4, 2011 meeting;
- (3) Reviewed Foundation fundraising and fundraising events conducted to date during FY11;
- (4) Discussed the Foundation mission and changes thereto along with a proposed Foundation logo
- (5) Approved VSF FY11 Second Quarter Financial Report, subject to Board ratification;
- (6) Elected a Nominating Committee for FY12 Board officers; and
- (7) Confirmed that the next Board meeting will be held on May 4, 2011 at Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center.

The Development and Finance Committees met before the Executive Committee meeting on March 9, 2011. Each Committee had a quorum. The minutes of the Development and Finance Committee meetings are posted on the Commonwealth Calendar as are the abbreviated minutes of the VSF Executive Committee.

As of 1 March, the Foundation raised over \$70,500, of which over \$61,000 is for VWWP, during FY11. Total fundraising and VWWP fundraising are at the same level as last year, however, several significant fundraising events will occur this spring. There have been only two new VSO contributions this quarter for VWWP since the last report to the JLC. The American Legion is to be congratulated for meeting its fundraising goal of \$3,500 for lighting the avenue of flags at the Amelia Cemetery.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2011, as mentioned above. It is expected to be a long meeting and will be held at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) ratifying Executive Committee actions; (2) approval of the 3rd Quarter FY11 Fund Statement; (3) review VSF FY11 fundraising program; (4) refinement of VSF mission statement and proposed logo; (5) approving the updates of the Joint VSF-DVS Policies yet to be reviewed (6) electing Foundation Board officers for FY12. There will be Finance and Development Committee meetings before the next Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David Richardson  
VSF Chairman

## **ATTACHMENT 4**

**Jeffrey L. Platte**

109 Colonels Way  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

March 15, 2011

**To:** Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

**Subject:** Virginia Military Affairs Council Meeting, March 9, 2011

1. The meeting was held at the Marine Corps Marathon Building, Marine Corps Base Quantico. MG Karl Horst chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1 PM. The agenda is attached.
2. There were two educational presentations to the Council.
  - a. Robert Mauskopf described the process emergency response medical supplies are provided in response to major crisis situations. Faced with a catastrophic event, plans and supplies are in place across the Commonwealth and would be “pushed” out to designated medical facilities.
  - b. The Propane Gas Association discussed their safety procedures and out-reach education efforts. They are available at all levels to provide propane crisis training to emergency responders. As a hazard material all transportation of bulk propane supplies are monitored.
3. Reports.
  - a. Brandon de Graaf provided the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness view of military related legislation at the recent session.
  - b. My review of JLC-VSO objections highlight our success and elaborated on Mr. de Graaf’s broader brush report.
  - c. Ms Terrie Suit recounted the on-going issues with the Oceana/Fentress BRAC requirements. Ongoing efforts in the Governors budget should bridge the short fall in this requirement. She believes continued Commonwealth legislative emphasis is required to maintain the trust of the military community. There appears to be a lack of understanding outside the Southside region on the importance of this enterprise.
4. There were no significant issues offered under Installation Update.
5. MG Horst adjourned the Council at 2:15 p.m. announcing the next meeting

Respectively Submitted,



Jeffrey L. Platte

JLC VSO Representative

Atch: March 9, VMAC Agenda



# **VIRGINIA MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MARCH 9, 2011 ~ MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO**

- 1:00 p.m.           **WELCOMING REMARKS**  
Major General Karl R. Horst, Chairman
- 1:10 p.m.  
**DISTRIBUTION**           **COORDINATED MEDICAL SURGE AND COUNTERMEASURE**  
Colonel (Ret) Robert P. Mauskapf, USMC  
Virginia Department of Health
- 1:30 p.m.           **PROPANE SAFETY AND CONSUMER OUTREACH**  
Dennis L. Cruise  
Virginia Propane Gas Association
- 1:45 p.m.           **REPORTS**  
  
**2011 General Assembly Update on Military Legislation**  
Brandon de Graaf  
Office of Commonwealth Preparedness  
  
**Joint Leadership Council**  
Jeff Platte  
  
**Oceana Fentress Military Advisory Council**  
The Honorable Terrie L. Suit, Vice Chair  
  
**Civil-Military Mutual Aid Subcommittee**  
Rear Admiral (Ret) Don Loren, USN  
  
**Citizen-Soldier Support Subcommittee**  
  
**Quality of Life Subcommittee**
- 2:45 p.m.           **INSTALLATION UPDATE**  
Group Discussion
- 3:00 p.m.           **CLOSING REMARKS**  
Major General Karl R. Horst, Chairman

**NEXT MEETING: May 11, 2011 – Fort Lee**

**ATTACHMENT 5**  
**JLC 2011 Plan of Action**  
**Proposed Revisions March 23, 2011 (amended)**

January 13 Conference at the General Assembly

- Advocate for 2011 Legislative Objectives
- Promote role of JLC, DVS, etc.

March 23 meeting

- 2011 General Assembly review
- **Finalize Review** “game plan” for 2012 Legislative Process, including: role of JLC Chair/Vice Chair, JLC Legislative Officer and Committee, JLC Sponsors, DVS Advisors
- Look ahead to 2012 General Assembly: initial review of potential 2012 Legislative Objectives
- Report of the Constitution and ByLaws Review Committee. If necessary, adopt changes to Constitution and ByLaws

**May 1**

- ***JLC members submit potential Legislative Objectives for discussion at May 18 meeting***
- ***Potential LO’s distributed to JLC members for review***

May 18 meeting

- Review potential 2012 Legislative Objectives
- Review ~~draft~~ Position Papers and FAQ Sheets *for potential objectives*
- Appoint Nominating Committee for Chair and Vice Chair

**June 27**

- ***JLC members submit potential Legislative Objectives for discussion at July 13 meeting***
- ***Potential LO’s distributed to JLC members for review***

July 13 meeting

- Consider all potential 2012 Legislative Objectives
- Review ~~draft~~ Position Papers and FAQ Sheets ***for potential objectives***
- Vote and prioritize 2012 Legislative Objectives, appoint JLC Sponsors
- Elect Chair and Vice Chair
- Appoint Legislative Officer, form Legislative Committee

August/September

- Legislative Committee meets to finalize Position Papers and FAQ Sheets
- Distribute Position Papers and FAQ Sheets to JLC and post on JLC website
- Chair and ~~Vice-Chair~~ ***Legislative Officer*** meet with Governor
- ~~Legislative Committee secures General Assembly Patrons~~

October 5 meeting

- Report on the meeting with the Governor
- ~~Report on General Assembly Patrons~~
- Prepare for meetings with General Assembly members (how to schedule a meeting, presenting JLC Objectives, responding to questions, feedback to the JLC sponsor, etc.)
- ***Legislative Officer and Committee outline game plan for post-election meetings with legislators***

November (post election)

- *Legislative Committee secures General Assembly Patrons*
- Meet with General Assembly members
- Hold legislative forums

December 20 meeting

- Review Governor's Proposed Budget
- *Report on General Assembly Patrons*
- Plan for 2012 Conference at the General Assembly

**ATTACHMENT 6**  
**Report to the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organizations**  
**Summary of Grant Activities**  
**Virginia Wounded Warrior Program**  
**May 24, 2011**

**A. Grant Proposal**

*VWWP Virginia Veterans Corp (AmeriCorps)—funding available September, 2011.*

VWWP in partnership with the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service within the Virginia Department of Social Services submitted a **\$265,000** proposal to the Corporation for National and Community Service in January, 2011. The grant requires a 24% match, 70% of which will come from in-kind donations of staff from partner organizations. The AmeriCorps grant will fund a Virginia Veterans Corp Program. This program will place a full time AmeriCorps Director and 40 part time AmeriCorps members within VWWP and partner organizations in Region V (Tidewater) for expanding services to veterans and their families. The plan is to establish a pool of “navigators”, who will help veterans and families access services for healthcare, behavioral health care, social services or other individual and family needs. Plans are to expand the program statewide in subsequent years.

*VISTA Workers to be Engaged to Support Virginia Veterans Corps*

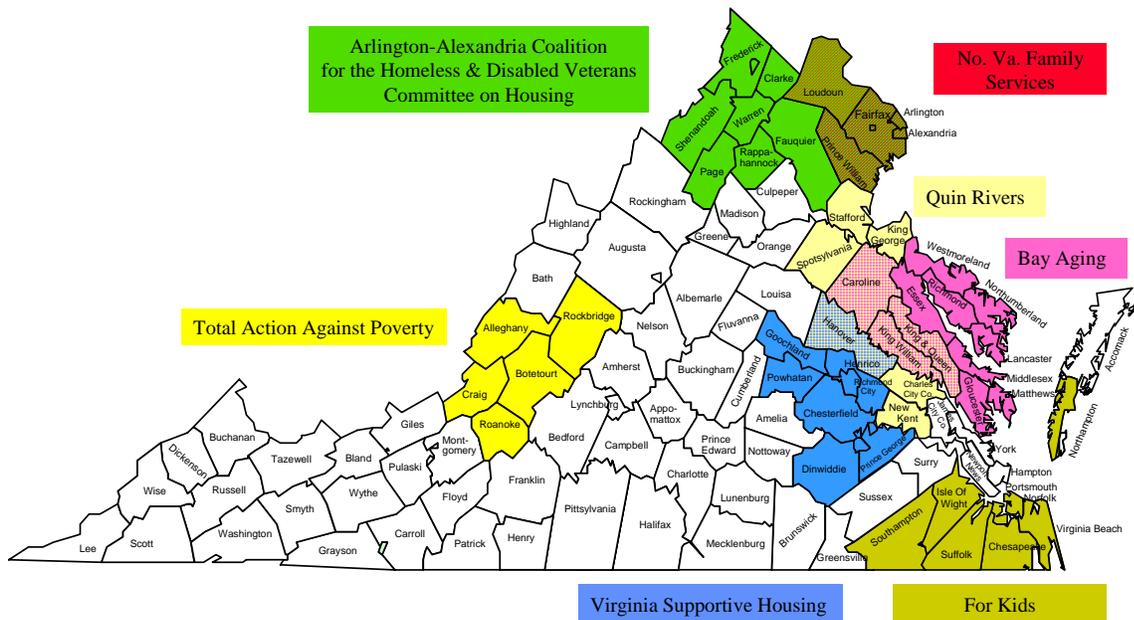
In cooperation with the State Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service, VWWP has applied for funding to employ 3 VISTA workers to provide administrative support to the Virginia Veterans Corps for a period of 3 years. These positions will be fully funded by the Corporation. The three VISTA workers will help with program design and implementation, training plan development and training implementation and design of the National Service Day recognition and volunteer recruitment and involvement. The value of this grant is approximately **\$30,000** per year.

*Supportive Services for Veterans and Families*

VWWP partnered with 7 non-profit organizations across the Commonwealth to support VA funded grant proposals for providing supportive services to veterans and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. VWWP staff participated in the recent Homelessness Summits held at each VAMC in Virginia and at the national level. The following map shows the breadth of the programs across the Commonwealth that applied for this funding with strong support and technical assistance from VWWP and Commissioner Galanti.

# Potential SSVF Applicant Service Areas

March 4, 2011



## B. Funded Grants

### *VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities: Common Ground: Linking Wounded Warriors and Community Support Providers*

VCU/PPD continues to be the training partner for VWWP. The \$348,000 grant to VCU is in the final year of implementation. Due to budget downturns in the CNI fund, the funding for this fiscal year will be reduced by 11%. Discussions are underway with DRS regarding the availability of future funding.

VWWP and VCU/PPD are currently planning a Conference for Colleges and Universities scheduled for August 9, 2011 at VMI. The objectives of the conference are to raise awareness of college and university personnel of the needs of student veterans returning to campus in record numbers due to the more generous provisions of the new GI bill, to educate administrators and student veterans about community resources available for student veterans and how to bring those resources to campus, to make important connections to VWWP for student veterans coping with issues of combat stress or TBI and to encourage the development of Student Veterans Organizations on campus. The Conference will feature model programs already developing across the Commonwealth. An Advisory Committee of Student Veterans and Administrators is assisting with conference planning. In addition, VCU/PPD is working with VWWP Region III to provide training for the new hires in that region. An in-service training for DVS Benefits Services Staff and VWWP staff statewide is planned as well as a fall webinar on addressing the needs of military/veteran children and families.

### ***VWWP Criminal Justice Partners Training***

VWWP, in partnership with DBHDS was awarded a federal grant of **\$71,250** from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to fund a targeted educational program for judges, court personnel, and other criminal justice partners across the Commonwealth. This grant is renewable for up to 4 years. To date, the project has successfully completed two of the project's four objectives, including comprehensive research required for the development of the training curriculum, development of the training curriculum, and an evaluation tool for court and criminal justice personnel on the health, behavioral health needs and resources available to justice-involved veterans and their family members.

A number of initial pilot trainings have been scheduled for May in Wytheville, Pulaski and Christiansburg and will be open to all target audiences. Project leadership is currently preparing a grant continuation request for the project's second year, which will focus on the initial statewide roll-out of the project utilizing the VWWP's existing networks and partners.

### ***VWWP Expansion in Southwest Virginia, VWWP Region III***

Partnering with the Virginia Department of Health, the State's Office of Rural Health, VWWP was awarded a federal grant of **\$296,667** renewable for 3 years from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for *The Flex Rural Veterans Health Access Program*. The Region has hired a full time Regional Coordinator, Lisa Yost, who previously served as one of the two Resource Specialists for the Region. In addition, 5 new Resource Specialists have been hired (one of whom replaces Lisa) for expansion of VWWP and implementation of the grant-funded requirements. One of the unique features of this initiative is outreach and partnerships with rural health care providers and expansion of health and behavioral health services through the increased use of technology. Performance measures have been established and agreed upon by federal officials and a report is being submitted for grant renewal.

### ***Cross Systems Mapping to include Veterans Involved in the Criminal Justice System***

In September, 2010, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) was awarded a \$250,000 two year Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program competitive grant from the Department of Justice to expand the Cross Systems Mapping Initiative. Cross Systems Mapping (XSM) is a collaborative effort where localities participate in workshops to identify services available in a locality, referral sources and referral patterns and the community resources needed to expand the effectiveness of services delivery. Ben Shaw, Peer Specialist, VWWP Region I participated in a recent workshop in Staunton and found it very valuable for informing law enforcement, court personnel, community mental health and substance abuse providers and local jail personnel about the availability of VWWP to work with veterans and also to make critical connections with community providers for referral and support for veterans and their families. Martha Mead, VWWP Special Projects Coordinator, has been trained as a facilitator in XSM and is working with DBHDS to ensure that VWWP staff and the VA Criminal Justice Outreach staff are involved in the workshops.

### ***Student Veterans with Spinal Cord Injuries and Traumatic Brain Injuries***

VCU Rehabilitation Research and Training Center was awarded a \$445,000, 3 year grant in July,

2009 to prepare veterans with spinal cord injuries for college. This program is progressing well. VWWP has supplemented this federal grant with resources to develop web site content that will guide veterans with disabilities through college. VCU is developing the website content in collaboration with VWWP and the DVS State Approving Agency. Once approved, the content will be added to the [www.WeAreVirginiaVeterans.org](http://www.WeAreVirginiaVeterans.org) website.

***Homeless Veterans Reentry Program***

VWWP has supported numerous grant proposals for services expansion. Leveraging this support, the Roanoke Office for Total Action Against Poverty (TAP) was awarded \$200,000 by the U.S. Department of Labor to provide employment services to homeless veterans who live in the cities of Roanoke and Salem and the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt, Alleghany, Franklin and Craig. Working closely with the VWWP, the Salem VAMC, and other area veteran and homeless veteran service organizations, including two area veterans per diem programs – TAP’s Transitional Living Center Per Diem program and the Trust House Per Diem program – the TAP-This Valley Works (TVW) homeless veterans reintegration program provides job training for approximately 60 homeless veterans through associated TVW programs. This grant is renewable for 2 years.

**VWWP Funded Grant Activities**

<b>VWWP</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>
DCJS Criminal Justice Partners Training	\$71,250			285,000 (total)
HRSA Flex Rural Veterans Health Access	\$296,667		\$900,000 (total)	
CNI VCU/PPD VWWP Training	\$116,000		\$348,000 (total)	
<b>Other Agencies</b>				
VCU SCI	\$148,370			\$445,060 (total)
DBHDS XSM	\$125,000	\$250,000 (total)		
HVRP TAP	\$200,000		\$600,000 (total)	