

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2011

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on May 18, 2011, at the Virginia Department of the American Legion, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

Members Present

- Jeffrey Platte, Air Force Association
- Brett Reistad, American Legion
- Bruce Brown, AMVETS
- Don Kaiserman, Association of the United States Army
- Abe Zino, Fleet Reserve Association
- James Jones, Korean War Veterans Association
- 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
- Frank Driscoll, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- 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
- Michael Coleman, Virginia National Guard Association
- 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

- George Coker, American Ex-POWs
- David Martinez, Disabled American Veterans
- Roger Dimsdale, Legion of Valor
- Bruce Steeley, Marine Corps League

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- John Prendergast, Marine Corps League

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- Ed Dauksz, Association of the United States Army

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Al Pianalto, Delegate Kirk Cox's Office
- Brandon DeGraaf, Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security
- Cindy Norwood, 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
- Bert Levesque, Department of Veterans Services
- Sandra Ranicki, Department of Veterans Services
- Judy Reid, 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
- Kate Kohler, PenFed Foundation

Agenda Packet

- Agenda (Agenda Item II)
- Proposed changes to the minutes of the March 23 meeting (Agenda Item III)
- Presentations (Agenda Item IV)
 - PenFed Foundation (Power Point Slides)
- Reports (Agenda Item V)
 - Board of Veterans Services Report
 - Veterans Services Foundation Report
 - Department of Veterans Services Report
 - Report of the JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council
- Old Business (Agenda Item VII)
 - JLC 2011 Plan of Action
 - JLC Legislative Working Group Presentation (Power Point Slides)
 - JLC Legislative Working Group – 2011 Work Plan
 - JLC Position Paper & FAQ Sheet Guidelines
 - Powers and Duties – BVS and JLC
 - Potential 2012 Legislative Objectives proposed to date

Materials Distributed but not included in the Agenda Packet

- PenFed Foundation packet
- Report to the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program Executive Strategy Committee
- 2012 Position Paper – 501(c)(19) status for Veterans Service Organizations
- Letter submitted by Nolan Jackson

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Jenny Holbert called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked Mr. Michael Coleman to lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

The roll was called, and 20 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC were recorded as being represented (19 by primary representative, 1 by an alternate), and a quorum was determined. The Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services, 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 a.m.

Approval of the agenda

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Brett Reistad made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Matthew Dailey. 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 March 23, 2011 meeting minutes

Chair Holbert stated that the minutes from the March 23, 2011 meetings had been distributed electronically.

Mr. Steven Combs stated that there were some proposed changes to the minutes. See *Attachment 2*. Chair Holbert asked for everyone to review these changes. The Council took a couple of minutes to review them.

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the March 23, 2011 minutes as amended. Mr. Frank Driscoll made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Peter Fairchild. The March 23, 2011 amended minutes were approved by **unanimous consent**.

Presentations

PenFed Foundation

Chair Holbert introduced Ms. Kate Kohler, COO of the PenFed Foundation. Ms. Kohler provided a brief introduction and then proceeded with her presentation (see *Attachment 3*). She reviewed three points with the council: 1 – PenFed is a grant making organization; 2 – PenFed has a Military Heroes Fund; 3 – PenFed offers alternatives to combat predator lenders. The PenFed Foundation has partnered with several Credit Unions at 20 different locations across the United States and is looking for more partners. She asked the Council to please add PenFed Foundation to their web-sites, Facebook and Twitter pages. Ms. Kohler provided business cards

and take away packets for those attending who are interested.

Ms. Kohler explained the Defenders Lodge initiative. PenFed is in the process of raising funds for construction of the facility. The Defenders Lodge will be similar to Fisher House facilities. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) had asked PenFed to build the first Defenders Lodge in California. She asked the Council if they would visit DefendersLodge.org and post a link to their website, Facebook, Twitter accounts, or other contacts. The Defenders Lodge in California will break ground in July. She asked the Council members to inform their counterparts in California about the lodge. Ms. Kohler said that she would like to be able to network with any of the Council's contacts. Some Council members stated that they would add PenFed Foundation to their websites.

Chair Holbert thanked Ms. Kohler for her presentation. Chair Holbert encouraged the VSOs to work with PenFed to see what more we can do to support their efforts.

Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC)

Ms. Sandra Ranicki, SBVCC Administrator, thanked the Council for inviting her to give them an update on SBVCC. She gave a brief history of SBVCC, and noted that SBVCC does not receive any State General Funds for operations. SBVCC's primary revenue sources are Medicare, Medicaid, USDVA per diem, private insurances and some private pay. The census averages around 154 residents (out of 160 available beds). During the month of April, 19 new residents were admitted and 9 discharged to home care. Veterans that cannot go straight home from being hospitalized are admitted to SBVCC. Each month SBVCC sets aside \$60,000 to reduce the balance on the State treasury loan which was required to support the Care Center opening.

The majority of the residents at SBVCC are there for long term care and the Care Center has become their home. Many different organizations, particularly Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), volunteer at SBVCC. The residents enjoy these visits. Ms. Ranicki thanked the Council for their time volunteering and for donations received from the VSOs. She noted that several of the residents attended the Honor Flight trip to Washington DC in April. The next Flight is scheduled for October and the Care Center hopes many more can make the trip. Ms. Ranicki reviewed other events in which the residents participate. For example, Fort Lee has several active duty units that volunteer and visit with the residents. The soldiers enjoy visiting with the residents and enjoy sharing their stories.

Ms. Ranicki announced that SBVCC recently had their annual USDVA certification inspection. She explained that nursing homes are inspected on a regular basis. The Care Center is licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia and is inspected by the Virginia Department of Health. SBVCC is certified annually by Medicare and Medicaid. SBVCC is also certified by the USDVA as previously mentioned. The results from the inspection were excellent and this is a testament to the wonderful staff at SBVCC. SBVCC has 212 full time employees and 98 part time employees.

Ms. Ranicki explained that when SBVCC was originally planned it was supposed to be a larger facility than what it is. Currently there are 160 resident rooms. SBVCC just received final notification that the funds for the planned addition to expand its size have been approved by the

USDVA, the General Assembly, and the Governor. This will give SBVCC a fourth wing with 40 rooms. She expects that construction will start in about 9 months and the new wing will open in about two years.

Ms. Ranicki explained to the Council that the majority of the residents are covered by Medicaid, and that Medicaid covers transportation to most doctor appointments. However, the McGuire VAMC is not a Medicaid-certified healthcare facility. This means that if a resident has an appointment at McGuire VAMC, Medicaid will not cover transportation costs. This creates a very large problem. The State Department of Medical Assistance Services advised that the simplest solution was to get an exception/waiver as has been done in two other states. However, Ms. Ranicki felt like this was an issue that would not be resolved any time soon.

Chair Holbert thanked Ms. Ranicki for her update. Ms. Ranicki invited everyone to please visit the SBVCC at their convenience.

Chair Holbert called for a break at 10:50 am. During this break the tape was changed. Chair Holbert called the meeting back to order at 11:00 am.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Thad Jones delivered the BVS report (see [*Attachment 4*](#)). The next BVS meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2011.

Veterans Services Foundation

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Representative, Mr. Rich Schollmann, delivered the VSF Board of Trustees (the Board) report in the absence of Chair David Richardson (see [*Attachment 5*](#)). The VSF meeting was held on May 4. The Board discussed the changes to the Foundation mission statement. Elections of new officers were held. The new chair is Mr. David Holt, 1st Vice Chair Ms. Juanita Farrow, and the 2nd Vice Chair Mr. Rich Schollmann. These positions will take effect on July 1. Mr. Schollmann reviewed the financial update and stated that as of May 15 VSF raised over \$94,500, and that \$85,000 of this money is for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP). Fundraising is at about the same level as last year, but some significant fundraising events are scheduled for this spring. The next VSF meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2011. Chair David Richardson sends his best wishes as he exits his position on the Board before the next JLC meeting.

Department of Veterans Services

Mr. Steven Combs, DVS Director of Policy & Planning, delivered the DVS report (see [*Attachment 6*](#)) in the absence of Commissioner Paul Galanti. Mr. Combs noted that the Commissioner is enroute from Washington, DC where he attended the USDVA POW Advisory Committee meeting. He should join the JLC meeting around noon.

Mr. Combs reviewed the budget items that will take effect July 1 and then stated that Commissioner Galanti asked him to thank the JLC members for their support. Mr. Combs also

thanked everyone for attending the Dedication Ceremony at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin on May 6. He invited everyone to please visit the cemeteries at their convenience. He noted that the General Assembly and the Governor also approved fund spending authority for \$280,000 and two non-general fund positions for the Outer Burial Container program.

Mr. Combs stated that the new Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery has not had its first internment. The cemetery staff is reviewing their punch list with the contractors. Once this list is completed the cemetery will be ready for internments. He said that Mr. Adrian Cronauer, emcee for the dedication ceremony and inspiration for the movie *Good Morning Vietnam*, has expressed his desire for internment at this cemetery. Mr. Lloyd Jackson stated that there are 22 internments waiting and complimented Ms. Anne Atkins for the remarkable job pulling this all together. Pictures from the ceremony will be available for viewing.

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

Ms. Cathy Wilson, VWWP Executive Director, addressed the Council and thanked them for all of their support for VWWP. The VWWP continues to get National attention. She reminded the Council that at the beginning of this program VWWP had three regional directors that each covered a third of the state. One of these regional directors has been out on medical leave and should return in July. VWWP has been functioning with a limited staff for a very long time and has now been approved to get one regional director in each of the five regional consortia. She then introduced Mr. Bert Levesque, the new Regional Director for VWWP Region 4.

Mr. Levesque briefly told the members of his background. He hopes to be able to reach out to veterans who are in need of help and make sure they know the benefits to which they are entitled. He said that VWWP and other health service organizations will be sponsoring retreats for families and couples this summer. This is a great opportunity to get families together and to help them.

Ms. Wilson explained that Mr. Ed McIntosh, Regional Coordinator and Ms. Brandi Jancaitis, Case Manager/Outreach Coordinator, are members of Mr. Levesque's team in VWWP Region 4 and have been doing a fabulous job. VWWP partners with many public and private organizations.

Ms. Wilson covered the recent meeting of the VWWP Executive Strategy Committee. She hopes that this working group can become a formal organizational in the state structure. She reviewed grant activities (see [*Attachment 7*](#)) that are taking place and went into detail regarding the AmeriCorps program and how it will provide 20 staff personnel to help VWWP with diverse veterans related organizations such as Blue Star families.

Several Suicide Prevention summits have been held through the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Rehabilitated Services. These summits have been available to the military and the public. The feedback has been wonderful. Ms. Wilson commented that VWWP is on Facebook and needs to expand more into the social media. Mr. Levesque reminded the Council that there is a link on the DVS website that will take you to the VWWP website.

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Mr. Jeff Platte, JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC), gave the VMAC report (see *Attachment 8*). Mr. Platte asked the Council to visit www.SOS.virginia.gov. This website was put together by the First Lady of the Commonwealth so that military family members could come forward and say “I need help.” The website will also give organizations the ability to list what services they can provide to help the military families.

Mr. Platte said that Ms. Shannon Sullivan reported on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which continues to spread to other states. The JLC supported this initiative.

Another issue discussed at the VMAC meeting was unemployment insurance for spouses who have lost their jobs because service members are transferred into or out of Virginia. VMAC members indicated that this issue has been around for some time and is not likely to happen in Virginia in the current fiscal climate because the Commonwealth sees that as an unfunded federal mandate that should be resolved by the federal government. Mr. Platte noted that this is an important issue but that the Commonwealth can't handle it alone.

Mr. Platte concluded with discussion of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) issues. He said that it is important to remember that nothing is ever fully completed just because an agreement has been reached. As an example, he noted the issues surrounding the possible closing of Oceana Naval Air Station. In order to keep it open, an agreement was made with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) that the Commonwealth and the City of Virginia Beach would fund procurement of properties around Oceana to increase the flight safety zone. What happened was the funding became a local issue and the General Assembly decided to not continue funding its part of the agreement. It took a lot of work after the last General Assembly session to get the Commonwealth's share for the funding committed to keep good faith with the DoD. The point is that if an agreement is made to fix something, the parties involved have to stay on it to ensure it is fixed.

Virginia War Memorial

Mr. Jon Hatfield, Virginia War Memorial (VWM) Executive Director, addressed the Council and thanked them for their support. He explained that the VWM staff has been working the last few weeks on their budget submissions to seek funding for full-time security. He explained that at one time the Memorial had 24 hour security, but does not have it now. Currently, the Memorial has many valuable items that require 24 hour security. Mr. Hatfield said he would be seeking JLC help with this initiative.

Mr. Hatfield stated that the VWM has submitted a request for a parking deck to be constructed where the current parking lot is located because the number of visitors per year has increased substantially from about 21,000 annually to over 23,000 for the first seven months of this year. During the first full year Mr. Hatfield is projecting there will be 40,000 visitors. With this increase in visitors the Memorial parking area stays full and people will not visit because of the lack of parking. Mr. Hatfield explained that the new parking deck will be partially underground and will flow with the current drop off of the land. There will be an entrance and exit on Second Street at the bottom and an entrance and exit on First Street at the top.

Mr. Hatfield stated that this week the *Into Battle* film opened and invited everyone to see it. The film is 20 minutes and will put you in the middle of an active battle field. During the segment on the Korean War, snow will fall in the auditorium.

Mr. Hatfield announced that on Monday, May 30 the annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held at the VWM and everyone is invited to attend.

Wall of Honor

Ms. Cindy Norwood, Senior Assistant Attorney General, announced that the Wall of Honor ceremony is scheduled for May 26 at 10 a.m. The ceremony is to pay tribute to our military who have died serving in the Global War on Terrorism. There should be over 200 military personal attending. The ceremony will be held at the State Capitol South Portico.

Legislative Coordination

Chair Holbert said that there may be opportunities to work with the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) to help with the legislative program. She asked Vice-Chair Don Kaiserman to address the issue before the BVS Chairman, Mr. Jones, has to depart.

Mr. Kaiserman said that he would like to present the idea for the program and get a show of hands afterward to see if there is agreement with proceeding. The idea involves the JLC legislative program and how another partner, BVS, can be a big help. Both organizations have different missions. The BVS primary mission addresses the needs/requirements of DVS and monitoring DVS such as the claim processes and staffing at the cemeteries, and the education program. The JLC has been doing some of these tasks and not taking the benefit of what the BVS has to offer. The BVS mission would be to receive from the JLC those legislative objectives the Council has developed for the General Assembly for review and study. BVS then would come back to the JLC with their recommendations, or take them to DVS, or directly to the Governor. These are benefits the JLC can have from such a partnership.

Mr. Kaiserman said that among the benefits that the JLC can have is that many prominent members of the General Assembly sit on the BVS. Mr. Kaiserman said that his thought is that those people can agree to JLC legislative objectives and take them back to members of the General Assembly and be a big help. Additionally, their input, suggestions, and recommendations regarding how the JLC can more professionally present issues to the General Assembly can be beneficial.

Mr. Kaiserman observed that the idea is to get a working arrangement between the JLC and BVS on legislative issues. He thinks that all agree that the JLC's key function is getting legislation that can help the military community in Virginia. He asked for questions from the members.

Mr. Abe Zino commented that a partnership with BVS would be another vehicle for the JLC to get its objectives to the legislators and the Governor. The partnership would create a powerful team as a united front. Mr. Kaiserman gave an example of a legislative objective from last year dealing with the cemeteries which are an area that falls under BVS cognizance and could have

worked well as a partnership effort. Mr. Kaiserman said that there may be some overlapping of what has been done in the past, but a more formal arrangement should benefit all.

Mr. Frank Driscoll asked if the proposed arrangement was not creating unnecessary bureaucracy given the successes the JLC has had in the past. Mr. Kaiserman responded that it should be a method of reinforcing the JLC position papers using feedback from BVS. He did not believe it increased the bureaucracy. Mr. Zino concurred that the team approach is best.

Mr. Jones stated that as the BVS Chair he has no problems working with the JLC, but all must understand that BVS and JLC are two different groups. BVS is a policy organization and the JLC is an advisory group. It is true that in the past there were some objectives that the JLC took ownership, whereas the BVS should have received and acted on them. The BVS could pass them back to the JLC with recommendations. However, Mr. Jones emphasized that the BVS and JLC are two separate groups though they are working for the same cause, assisting veterans.

Mr. Thomas Moran questioned the role of the BVS in advocating legislative objectives. He said that it may be a conflict of interest for legislative members of BVS to advocate legislative objectives. He also did not believe it would be advisable for BVS to advocate veterans issues in the General Assembly. That is the JLC's job as the representative for 23 veterans service organizations. Mr. Jones concurred.

Mr. Bill Townsley **moved** that JLC accept a dotted coordination and cooperation line between JLC and BVS. Mr. Moran **seconded** the motion. Mr. Driscoll made a **substitute motion to table** the issue until the next meeting. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Moran. The **motion to table passed**.

Mr. Brett Reistad requested that the proposal be placed in writing so all would have a better understanding. Mr. Kaiserman said he would, but that the JLC Legislative Working Group handout (see *Attachment 9*) contained the pertinent information provided to the members in the meeting packets.

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

Commissioner Galanti

Chair Holbert observed that Commissioner Galanti had joined the meeting and asked if he would like to make additional comments.

Commissioner Galanti stated that he just returned from the USDVA POW Advisory Committee. He has had the privilege of having been a committee member for 15 years. Yesterday the committee listened to Mr. John R. Gingrich, who is Chief of Staff for the USDVA. Commissioner Galanti said that Mr. Gingrich opened his remarks by noting that the USDVA is the second largest U.S. government employer next to the DoD. Mr. Gingrich also said that USDVA employees are scattered all over the U.S., and that there are none that say they do not like veterans. The Commissioner said that there have been some complaints directed towards the

USDVA and the DVS. The complaints are that the two organizations do not like veterans. He said that couldn't be further from the truth. Both agencies work very hard for veterans.

Commissioner Galanti stated that the exemption from taxes on property for disabled veterans has turned into a big problem, but that DVS is not the agency that can do anything about it. He said that he would like the exemption to apply to all who are eligible, but that the USDVA sent out letters to all veterans and the information the letters contained has only served to confuse the issue. Additionally, it is the local Commissioners of Revenue that decide who will get the tax relief and who will not, but all Commissioners do not interpret disabled in a uniform manner. DVS has received numerous calls from Veterans who are not pleased. At the present time, the issue is in the hands of the Attorney General to prepare an opinion that will resolve the problem. Discussion continued with several members telling of their experiences with the diverse interpretations of the law.

Old Business

Report of the JLC Legislative Working Group

Mr. Abe Zino, JLC Legislative Working Group Chair, addressed the Council with a PowerPoint presentation (see *Attachment 9*). Mr. Zino stated that the presentation includes recommendations and that a motion will be needed at the end of his report to accept the recommendations. Mr. Zino thanked everyone on the Working Group for their help. He also noted that there is a vacant spot on the Working Group, as Mr. John Clickener had to step down from his role with the JLC.

The Working Group held its second meeting on April 15, 2011. The next meeting will be on Saturday, June 11, 2011. Mr. Zino reviewed the items that were addressed at the March 23 JLC meeting, including the Working Group's Charter; progress to date; and work plan for the next three meetings.

Mr. Zino next reviewed the Working Group's deliverables set forth in the slides: Timelines in the JLC 2011 Plan of Action (see *Attachment 10*); Goals of the Legislative Process; Legislative Guiding and Objectives/Principles. By the end of the year the JLC should have the final plan in place prior to the JLC Storming of the Hill in January 2012. He continued with the Working Group's additional recommendations and emphasized that the JLC Vice-Chair and the position of JLC Legislative Officer should be held by different members and that there should be an Assistant Legislative Officer appointed. The Current Vice-Chair and Legislative Officer, Mr. Kaiserman, agreed with this recommendation. Additionally, the Working Group recommended that it should be a permanent JLC committee and the members have staggered terms. Finally, he spoke of the importance of JLC Position Papers and what the papers should address in a one page standard format. Any additional pages should be Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to support the objective.

Mr. Combs stated that in the members information packets for the meeting are the 2011 Plan of Action (*Attachment 10*); JLC Legislative Working Group – 2011 Work Plan (*Attachment 11*); JLC Legislative Position Paper & FAQ Sheet Guidelines (*Attachment 12*); and Powers and Duties – BVS and JLC, (*Attachment 13*).

Mr. Townsley pointed out that the word “veterans” is not stated in these documents. For example, you ask “How does it benefit the Commonwealth?” What about veterans? Mr. Zino said that all of the recommendations were to support veterans, but agreed that it could be made clearer and agreed to add the word “veterans” to the documents.

Mr. Zino continued with the Working Group’s recommendations, stating that the JLC normally selects six to seven objectives for the year. He suggested that if 10 valid objectives were put forth for consideration, then perhaps the JLC should select six and hold the other four as back-up in case any of the top six should not become viable for any reason.

Mr. Coleman said that if the goal is to have six items on the objective list, and you think something may be questioned by the Governor, the JLC should present all ten and go with the Governor’s best six. This is because the JLC will not be able to go back to the Governor repeatedly with new options. New objectives cannot be thrown in at the last minute because, considering all of the issues with which the Governor must deal, they only will create confusion.

Mr. Dan Boyer questioned whether the JLC should drop objectives that the Governor does not support. If the objective is a true veterans’ need, the JLC should not fold on it, but should take it to the General Assembly. There was general agreement on this point. Mr. Kaiserman also agreed and stated that the JLC has many ways to get objectives accomplished through the General Assembly, if the Governor doesn’t agree with them. He also said that the objectives usually are sound because they have been well screened by DVS. The Council continued to discuss this option.

Chair Holbert reminded the Council that in the past, once the Governor’s priorities are announced in his budget, the JLC has complied with those priorities. Additionally, in an election year, it would be disastrous to change objectives because it would signal JLC confusion; that is that the JLC has a fragmented agenda. This also violates longstanding JLC legislative goals.

Commissioner Galanti stated in so many words that no one in his position would allow an organization under his cognizance to go against the Governor. Mr. Boyer added that prudence always has been the watchword in the JLC and that if the issue is viable and important, it can be further researched and brought up in following years.

Mr. Combs explained that the JLC can also identify issues that have non-legislative solutions, and that the DVS looks to the JLC for issue identification. These are not just issues that go into the JLC’s annual legislative package but issues that come up throughout the year and that can be handled administratively or scheduled for the following General Assembly session. Mr. Combs asked that the JLC keep referring issues to DVS even after the JLC had selected its 2012 Legislative Objectives at the July 13 meeting. He said that DVS can study the issues and report back to the JLC, and that the BVS is another great resource to study issues identified by the JLC. He emphasized that not every veterans issue has to go through the legislative or budget process. He used as an example the issue of unclaimed veterans cremains identified by the JLC in 2009. An administrative solution was identified and implemented, though the issue may now become a JLC legislative objective.

Chair Holbert commented that the Working Group presentation will be an active working document in progress, particularly as it relates to BVS and the on-going relationship development.

Mr. Zino finished his presentation with the need for the JLC and BVS to work together as specified in the Governor McDonnell's Executive Order 29 (EO 29). Mr. Combs explained that the Working Group discussed the relationship between the JLC and BVS, under DVS guidance, and that Mr. Kaiserman's proposal was supposed to be part of this presentation and not a separate, earlier discussion. Mr. Combs said that EO 29 looks to both groups for issue identification and development. He provided a description of BVS organization and described how they are in an excellent position to study issues that have been identified by the JLC. As an example of how this would work, the JLC could take a cemeteries issue to the BVS for them to research through their cemeteries committee and report back to the JLC with their recommendation.

Mr. Zino then asked for a **motion** to approve the recommendations as presented. Mr. Zino made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Kaiserman.

Chair Holbert asked for discussion. Mr. Platte said that the recommendation concerning referral of objectives to BVS had been discussed and a vote taken earlier to table a decision until the next meeting. Accordingly, it should not be a part of this motion.

Mr. Zino said that there will be a briefing at the next JLC meeting to explain the relationship between the JLC and BVS.

Mr. Coleman **moved to amend the motion** to accept the report, except the last recommendation that says issues will be referred to the BVS. Mr. George Corbett **seconded** the amended motion.

The recommendations of the JLC Legislative Working Group, as amended, were approved by **unanimous consent**.

Mr. Zino presented Commissioner Galanti with a cap from the USS William P. Lawrence DDG 110. Commissioner Galanti thanked Mr. Zino.

Chair Holbert reminded the Council that the JLC Legislative Working Group still needs a replacement for Mr. Clickener. Mr. Clickener was also working on the Branding Group to create a logo for the JLC and someone is needed to fill that position as well. Mr. Moran recommended Mr. Townsley to fill the position on the JLC Legislative Working Group. Chair Holbert appointed Mr. Townsley to the Working Group position. Mr. Bruce Brown offered to fill the Branding Group position, which Chair Holbert accepted.

Continued review of potential 2012 Legislative Objectives

Chair Holbert called on Vice-Chair Kaiserman to lead the discussion. Mr. Kaiserman reviewed the potential 2012 Legislative Objectives listed in Attachment 14. Six potential 2012 objectives

were presented at the March 23 meeting; however, the last one, dealing with job preference, was withdrawn by its sponsor, Mr. Townsley, as reported in the minutes of the last meeting.

Alternative Revenue Sources (year-end surplus, lottery, etc.)

Mr. Kaiserman said that he is trying to get a meeting scheduled with people who are trying to help the JLC with what was last year's legislative #1, Alternative Revenue Sources. He explained that it was clear that the JLC ran against opposition. He said that he has covered the subject before, but reviewed the situation again.

Mr. Kaiserman related that the JLC thought this would succeed, particularly with the success of several other states that have such a lottery in place. He reviewed the meetings that were held with the Directors from the Virginia Lottery and Virginia Department of Education. He believed that the JLC had neutralized their concerns regarding the objective. However, several things become evident last year regarding the way the JLC approaches legislative objectives: (1) JLC did not get the key leaders in the state behind the objective, and (2) a subcommittee can kill a bill, but the JLC never thought this would happen. Therefore, it is now recognized that the JLC must work both from top to the bottom and bottom up. Additionally, the JLC came across a lot of moral opposition to gambling and the lottery. However, there are several contacts in the legislature that can help with alternative ways to address this issue in 2012.

Mr. Kaiserman said that he didn't have to tell everyone in the room that if the JLC doesn't come up with an alternate revenue source, the veterans programs will be in serious jeopardy along with the benefits that are needed by the military community. The JLC cannot continue to expect that General Funds will be available even if the economy improves. Therefore, alternative sources of revenue will be critical. Mr. Driscoll asked, "What is the total amount of revenue needed?" Mr. Kaiserman said that the JLC needs to have a list of the items that need to be funded, but the amount isn't known now. Mr. Driscoll strongly recommended that the JLC not ask for funds unless it can specify how much is needed and for what.

Chair Holbert concurred with Mr. Driscoll and said that the Governor is very supportive of veterans but he had told her that he didn't think the lottery would work. The JLC needs to work with the Governor and Secretary Suit on this issue; however, the JLC should consider different legislative objectives based on needs rather than asking for alternative revenue sources. The JLC should focus on needs and requirements and have each of the needs as a legislative objective, rather than having an alternate revenue source as an objective unto itself. The JLC also should have multiple ways of reaching objectives by going working with the Governor and General Assembly to get the specific needs in the budget or by working with the Governor's staff to find alternative revenue sources for each need to meet the JLC objectives. The JLC must have the requirements identified and let the General Assembly and Governor decide how to fund them. The JLC is working backwards if they are looking for funding sources before identifying specific funding requirements. It's not the funding that is important, it is the solving of veterans needs as specified requirements.

Mr. Brown stated that one of the needs that should be considered is the need for claims agents. AMVETS is funding one such position at Fort Lee. This agent is struggling to keep up with the demands. If funds can be generated based on veterans needs, then the JLC can better support

Virginia's veterans with additional claims agents. The discussion continued with members' ideas regarding alternate sources of funds. Mr. Platte asked, "What was meant by alternative sources of revenue?"

Mr. Hilgers stated that "alternative revenue sources" is a term used by the General Assembly. It means to accept non-general funds for revenue. It can be everything but state tax payers' dollars. The discussion reverted back to games of chance like the lottery as sources of revenue. Mr. Hilgers stated that the JLC members need to get back to the basics as Chair Holbert suggested. What are the needs? What are the costs? The JLC will then have a basis to know what funding is needed. To ask for revenue without specific justification is the wrong approach. This objective or objectives should be planned around needs and not revenue.

Chair Holbert recapped that the JLC needs to identify needs, or find out from the DVS and the BVS what the needs are, and attach a dollar amounts to those needs over time. She observed that enough time had been taken on this issue and that the other legislative objective proposals need to be considered.

State Sales Tax Exemption for 501(c)19 Veteran Service Organizations

Mr. Dan Boyer addressed the Council on the State Sales Tax Exemption for 501(c)19 Veterans Service Organizations, which is the second on the list of proposed objectives in *Attachment 14* and is detailed in *Attachment 15*. Mr. Boyer said that he had discussed this objective with Mr. Bill White at the Virginia Department of Taxation. Mr. White was not opposed to the objective but said that he did not have a solution regarding why veterans organizations are not included. He suggested that the Chair of the Legislative committee that handles such matters be contacted. The Chair is Delegate Robert Orrock.

Mr. Boyer noted that Virginia's neighboring states Maryland, West Virginia, and North Carolina have this sales tax exemption in place for 501(c)19 veteran organizations for purchases that are not resale goods. Mr. Boyer asked the members for any additional information they can provide to justify the exemption for community services.

Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to accept the Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Veterans Services Organization as one of the JLC objectives for 2012. Mr. David Coffield **seconded** the motion. Chair Holbert stated that no action is needed at this time. She recommended that the JLC continue to gather information. She asked that everyone support Mr. Boyer and provide the information he needs. After additional discussion, Mr. Townsley withdrew his motion.

Restore specific Professional Staffing in the Department of Veterans Services

Reduce Veteran Homelessness in Virginia

Veterans Job Preference versus Job Selection

Mr. Kaiserman stated that these objectives have been proposed but the position papers have not been circulated to the JLC because they are being refined. They will be circulated before the next meeting in July. As was stated earlier, the last objective (dealing with job preference) had been dropped. Mr. Kaiserman also said that it is not too late to submit legislative objectives for consideration. These will be considered at the next meeting.

Unclaimed Veterans Cremains

Mr. Townsley commented on 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 be enacted to require funeral homes and others to provide the information needed to take care of unclaimed cremains in an honorable fashion. He stated that there should be a requirement in the Code of Virginia and not just an MOU to address the situation.

Public Comment Period Discussion

Chair Holbert picked up from the table the discussion on the Public Comment Period that was tabled at the last meeting. Mr. Combs reminded the Council that, as discussed by Commissioner Galanti at the last meeting, changing the Public Comment Period to the beginning each meeting could lead to the meetings taken longer to complete. The Council is not required to have a Public Comment Period. The time allowed can be limited to the time and amount of speakers. Additionally, Veterans Services Organizations (VSO) members can voice their concerns through their representatives. Chair Holbert asked if any Council member was opposed to the current time allowed. Hearing none, she stated that no further action is required at this time.

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. None were presented. She asked the members to please forward any proposed legislative objectives to Mr. Kaiserman.

New Business

Chair Holbert announced that Fort A.P. Hill will have a celebration on June 11, at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate their 70 anniversary.

Nominating Committee

Chair Holbert asked the following JLC members to serve on the nominating committee: Mr. Boyer, Mr. Reistad, and Mr. Brown. They all agreed and Mr. Boyer was named committee chairman.

Chair Holbert asked if there was any other New Business.

Mr. Jackson asked if all of the VSO's could email Mr. Jeff Perkins, Marketing Director for the Virginia Veterans Parade, lists of Veterans Service Organizations National and State publications. See handout that was distributed with Mr. Perkins contact information ([Attachment 16](#)).

Mr. Brown addressed the Council and discussed the Strickland issue; that is IRS Ruling 78-161. This issue has to do with veterans' disability and the IRS. The two systems, USDVA and IRS do not talk to each other and Mr. Brown suggested that Veterans should get with their tax consultant to make sure that they are credited appropriately. There is a three year statute of limitations so a veteran cannot claim more than three years, but it will rectify any problems with future taxes.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment

Chair Holbert adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations meeting
American Legion Building
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
May 18, 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 March 23, 2011 meeting minutes – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Presentations (10:15 – 10:45)
 - a. PenFed Foundation – *Kate Kohler, Chief Operating Officer* (20 minutes)
 - b. Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center – *Sandra Ranicki, Administrator* (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 – 1:20)
 - a. Report of the JLC Legislative Working Group – *Abe Zino, Group Chair* (30 minutes)
 - b. Continued review of potential 2012 Legislative Objectives: *JLC Members* (50 minutes)
- Break (1:20 – 1:30)
- VIII. New business
 - a. 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

Proposed changes to the minutes of the March 23, 2011 JLC meeting

Key:

- Deletions are noted with a ~~striketrough~~
- Additions are noted in *italics*

Page 6:

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 ~~the JLC~~ *VSOs* put all of ~~its~~ *the* focus on the Senate and the first JLC objective died in the sub-committee of the House. ~~The JLC must~~ *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.

Page 7:

Mr. Kaiserman also suggested that the JLC have a combination of ~~JLC~~ *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.

ATTACHMENT 3



PenFed Foundation
Because Military Heroes need heroes too

Presentation to Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

Presented By:

Kate Kohler, *PenFed Foundation Chief Operating Officer*

May 18, 2011



PenFed Foundation
Because Military Heroes need heroes too

Background

- **PenFed Foundation Mission:**
 - to meet unmet needs of the military wounded, veterans, families
 - to provide financial literacy with all programs
- **Founded in 2001**
- **PenFed CU underwrites labor costs + \$50k per annum**



PenFed Foundation
Because Military Heroes need heroes too

The PenFed Foundation Team

- Personnel:
 - 5-member team
 - 20-PenFed employee volunteers
 - 100 volunteers
- All labor cost paid for by PenFed
- Past start-up phase; seeking smart growth/
partnership to expand reach



PenFed Foundation
Because Military Heroes need heroes too

Programs and Special Project Overview

- **Military Heroes® Fund**
 - Provides the unmet needs of wounded soldiers and their families
 - Day care expenses for children of the wounded at military hospitals
 - Van conversion for severely injured service members
 - Emergency financial support (rent, utilities, mortgage)
 - *Online financial literacy training*
- **Asset Recovery Kit**
 - Hassle-free, confidential, and safe alternative to predatory payday lenders
 - *Coupled with financial counseling*
- **Dream Makers**
 - Grants for down payment to first-time low to moderate income homebuyer
 - Military, Veteran, or Department of Homeland Security Employee
 - *Home buying financial seminar education requirement*
- **Defenders Lodge**
 - Provides free lodging for veterans of all wars seeking treatment at the Polytrauma Center in Palo Alto, California



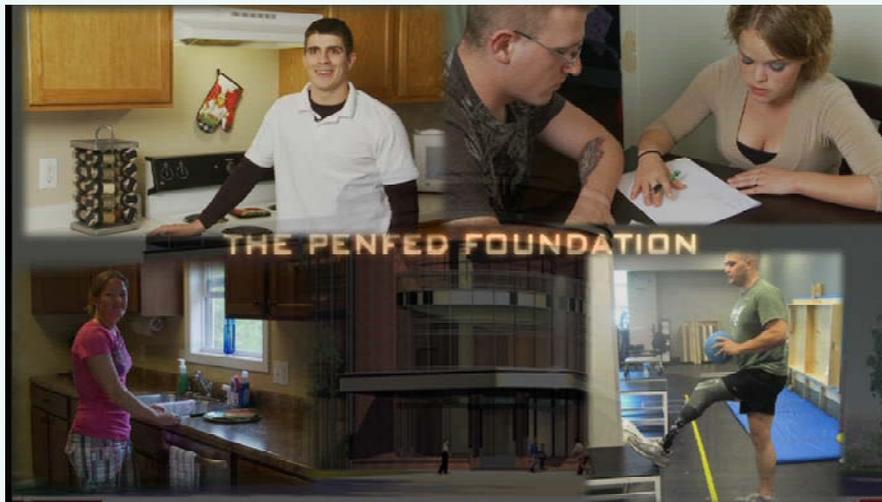
PenFed Foundation
Because Military Heroes need heroes too

Results

- **Military Heroes® Fund**
 - 2010 - Provided nearly \$330,000 in grants:
 - \$30,000 day care
 - \$40,000 wounded, ill, injured partnerships
 - \$245,000 emergency financial assistance
 - \$15,000 holiday events: Fisher House/Mologne House at Walter Reed
- **Asset Recovery Kit**
 - 2010: Aided over 900 families to avoid predatory lenders with \$400,000 in no-interest loans
 - \$1.8 million since inception
 - Face-to-face counseling
- **Dream Makers**
 - 2010: Provided 51 families, \$254,000 leveraging \$7 million of mortgages
 - Helped over 200 families, many of whom served in Iraq and Afghanistan, into their first homes with down-payment grants
 - Home-buying seminar
 - Since inception leveraged over \$20 million in mortgages



PenFed Foundation
Because Military Heroes need heroes too



ATTACHMENT 4

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS May 18, 2011

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) last met on January 10, 2011. The April 13 meeting was cancelled due to the expected lack of a quorum, and was rescheduled to April 27. However, that meeting was also cancelled due to the expected lack of a quorum.

The Board meets next on Wednesday, June 15. Other meetings for 2011 are:

- Wednesday, June 15
- Wednesday, September 14
- Wednesday, November 16

The Board is working to meet the requirements of Executive Order 29, which directs the Board to submit, by August 15 and through the Department of Veterans Services, budget and legislative proposals for consideration by the Governor for the 2012 General Assembly session.

Respectfully submitted,

Thad A. Jones
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 5

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations May 18, 2011

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on May 4, 2011. A quorum was present. 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, the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Commissioner's, and VSF Committee Reports;
- (2) Ratified Executive Committee Actions taken at the January 4 and March 9, 2011 meetings;
- (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 Third Quarter Financial Report and Budget Extension;
- (6) Approved changes to VSF-DVS Joint Policies 1, 2, 3, and 4
- (7) Approved a change to the Foundation Mission Statement
- (8) Elected FY12 Board officers; and
- (9) Confirmed that the next Board meeting will be held on August 3, 2011 at the Virginia War Memorial.

The Development and Finance Committees met before the Executive Committee meeting on May 4, 2011. Each Committee had a quorum. The minutes of the Development and Finance Committee meetings are posted on the Commonwealth Calendar as are the minutes of the VSF Meeting.

As of 15 May, the Foundation raised over \$94,500, of which over \$85,000 is for VWWP, during FY11. Total fundraising and VWWP fundraising are at the same level as last year, however, several significant fundraising events are occurring this spring. There have been only two new VSO contributions from the American Legion and the VFW for VWWP since the last report to the JLC.

The Board of Trustees elected the following officers for FY12:

- Chair, David Holt
- 1st Vice Chair, Juanita Farrow
- 2nd Vice Chair, Richard Schollmann

In keeping with the VSF Board Bylaws, their terms will be effective July 1, 2011.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2011, as mentioned above. It is expected to be a long meeting. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the 4th Quarter FY11 Fund Statement; (2) approval of the FY12 Budget; (3) review VSF FY11 and FY12 fundraising programs; (4) refinement of VSF proposed logo; (5) approving the updates of the two remaining Joint VSF-DVS Policies; and (6) review of FY12 Goals and Objectives. There will be Finance and Development Committee meetings before the next Board meeting.

As this is the last report of the current VSF Officers, on behalf of 1st Vice Chair, Meade Spotts, 2nd Vice Chair Supriya Christopher, and myself, we sincerely wish the JLC all the best for the future.

Respectfully submitted, David Richardson
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 6

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS May 18, 2011

The 2011 General Assembly approved the following increases to the DVS FY12 budget, which have been signed by the Governor as Chapter 890, 2011 Virginia Acts of Assembly:

- Benefits:
 - \$402,403 (GF) to fill seven vacant positions
 - \$82,306 (GF) to establish a County Veterans Service Officer liaison program
- Cemeteries:
 - \$387,164 (GF) and one position for cemetery operations
 - \$280,000 (NGF) and two positions for burial vault program
- VWWP:
 - \$300,000 (NGF) appropriation increase for federal grant funds
- Care Centers:
 - \$3.3 million (GF) for 35% state share of the 40-bed addition to the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center.
 - \$5 million (NGF) appropriation increase for operations
 - Authorization to apply for federal grant funds (65% of project costs) for Virginia Veterans Care Center renovations
 - Authorization to apply for federal grant funds (65% of project costs) to construct care center in Southwest Virginia
- Virginia War Memorial
 - \$100,000 (GF) for security

It would appear that there won't be any budget reductions in FY12, but all bets are off for FY13 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Galanti
Commissioner

ATTACHMENT 7

Report to the VWWP Executive Strategy Committee Summary of Grant Activities Virginia Wounded Warrior Program July 14, 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

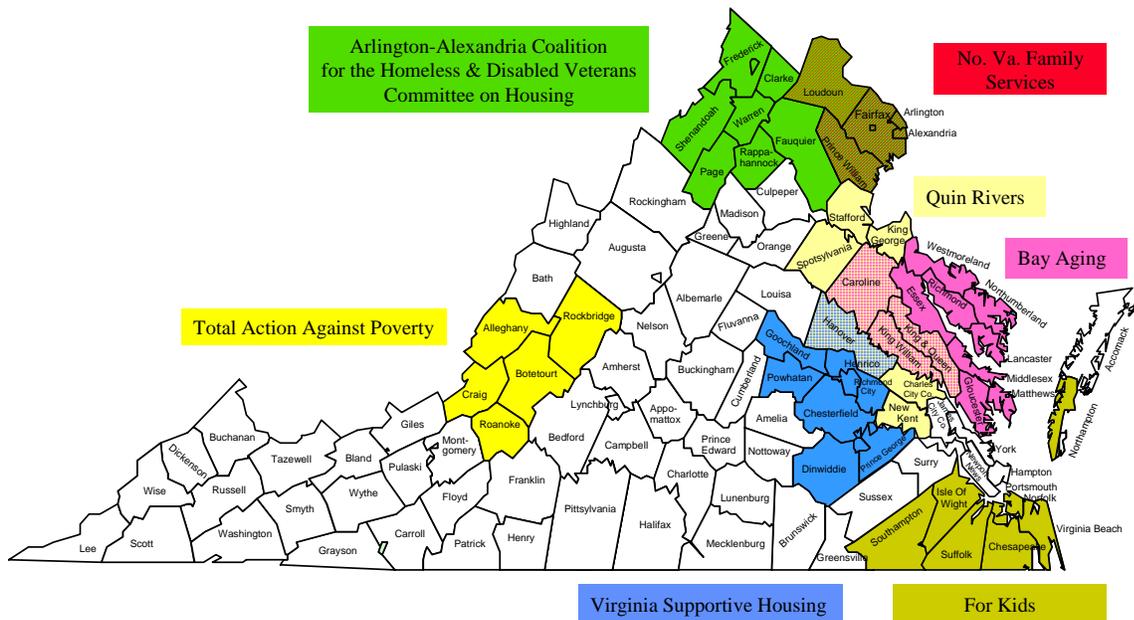
In cooperation with the State Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service, upon notification of the AmeriCorps grant award VWWP will apply for funding to employ 3 VISTA workers to provide administrative support to the Virginia Veterans Corps for a period of 3 years. These positions will be 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 **\$50,000** 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 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.

Suicide Prevention Summits

In collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Health, VWWP has planned 7 Suicide Prevention Summits across the Commonwealth in May and June, 2011. These Summits are designed to address the prevention of suicide across the lifespan but also to focus on the unique needs of veterans and their families. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will provide data on the scope of the problems across the state, including available data on veteran suicides. State agencies and programs, including VWWP, will present resources available to communities to address suicide prevention and resiliency. Communities will work together in facilitated afternoon sessions to develop an action plan with specific steps for each locality.

VWWP is also in discussions with the Virginia Department of Health regarding piloting an on-line training program for veterans and families at risk of suicide due to behavioral health problems.

VWWP Funded Grant Activities

VWWP	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
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)	
Other Agencies				
VCU SCI	\$148,370			\$445,060 (total)
DBHDS XSM	\$125,000	\$250,000 (total)		
HVRP TAP	\$200,000		\$600,000 (total)	
DBHDS Suicide Prevention	\$ 50,000			

ATTACHMENT 8

Jeffrey L. Platte

109 Colonels Way
Williamsburg, VA 23185

May 13, 2011

To: Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

Subject: Virginia Military Affairs Council Meeting, May 11, 2011

1. The meeting was held at the Richmond Convention Center, Richmond, VA. MG Karl Horst chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM. The agenda is attached.
2. There were two educational presentations to the Council.
 - a. Elizabeth Mancano, representing the Office of the First Lady, discussed Mrs. McDonnell's outreach to military families. She highlighted the Serving our Service Member Families initiative. This program provides a readymade opportunity for Veteran Service Organizations to reach out across the Commonwealth to support serving members of the military. Visit www.sos.virginia.gov to get involved.
 - b. The Rider Alert Program was discussed by Mr. Witmer and Mr. Lawrence. This program is worldwide and encourages motorcycle rider's participation. Essentially there are two parts. First there is a simple card with emergency contact information card that is placed in a rider's helmet. Since helmets generally are always attached during an "unscheduled dismount" the drivers contact data is available. The second piece is the sticker attached to rider's helmet with warns casual passersby not to remove the helmet until EMT personnel arrive. This is of particular interest in military circles due to a spike in motorcycle accidents this year.
4. Reports.
 - a. Shannon Sullivan reviewed the Quality of Life subcommittee actions. The Interstate Compact for Military Children continues to spread. Currently 37 states are members. The issue of unemployment compensation for relocating military spouses continues to be thorny issue. The Commonwealth views this as an unfunded Federal issue. The subcommittee is looking for agenda items.
 - b. Secretary Suit reminded all that military issues in the Commonwealth are not "local." All citizens benefit from a robust military presence and regions cannot take a local parochial view on issues that are not in their backyard. The \$15M Oceana-Fentress issue is a case to avoid in the future.
5. The VMAC bid farewell to MG Horst and will be searching for a new Chairperson.
6. MG Horst adjourned the Council at 2:50 p.m. announcing the next meeting at Norfolk Naval Base tentatively set for September 28.

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey L. Platte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being the most prominent part.

Jeffrey L. Platte

JLC VSO Representative

Atch: May 11, 2011, VMAC Agenda



VIRGINIA MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

MAY 11, 2011 ** RICHMOND

- 1:00 p.m. **WELCOMING REMARKS**
Major General Karl R. Horst, Chairman
- 1:10 p.m. **RIDER ALERT PROGRAM**
Steven Witmer, Motorcycle VA, Inc
Rob Lawrence, Richmond Ambulance Authority
- 1:30 p.m. **SERVE OUR SERVICE MEMBERS PROGRAM**
Elizabeth Mancano, Office of the First Lady
- 1:45 p.m. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**
Quality of Life
Shannon Sullivan, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic
Oceana Fentress Advisory Council
Terrie L. Suit, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security
Civil Military Mutual Aid
Rear Admiral (Ret) Donald P. Loren, USN
- 2:30 p.m. **VICE CHAIR REMARKS**
Terrie L. Suit
CLOSING REMARKS
Major General Karl R. Horst, Chairman
- Meeting is adjourned to enjoy the exhibits at the AUSA Sustainment
Conference

ATTACHMENT 9

JLC 2011 Plan of Action

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
- 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 (LO’s) for discussion at May 18 meeting
- Potential LO’s distributed to JLC members for review

May 18 meeting

- Review potential 2012 Legislative Objectives
- Review 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 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 Legislative Officer meet with Governor

October 5 meeting

- Report on the meeting with the Governor
- 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 10

JLC Legislative Working Group

May 18, 2011

Members

- Abe Zino – Chair
- Don Kaiserman
- Chip Moran
- John Clickener (former member)
- Jack Hilgers
- Steve Combs

Charter and Process

- Charter: Position the JLC for success in the 2012 General Assembly and beyond
- Process: JLC Legislative Working Group will meet prior to each JLC meeting to develop guidelines for review and approval by full Council

Progress to Date

- Initial meeting – March 18
 - Preparation for March 23 JLC meeting
 - Goals of the JLC Legislative Process developed
 - Legislative Guiding Objectives/Principles developed
- 2nd meeting – April 15
 - Preparation for May 18 JLC meeting
 - 2011 work plan adopted
 - Deliverables identified
 - Additional meetings scheduled

Work Plan: June 11 meeting

- Preparation for July 13 JLC meeting
- Deliverables:
 - Guidelines for meeting/working with the Governor
 - Guidelines for working with legislative leadership
 - Guidelines for involvement of non-JLC members in the JLC process – when needed, when appropriate, “how to” guides, etc.

Work Plan: September 10 meeting

- Preparation for October 5 JLC meeting
- Deliverables:
 - Guidelines for meetings with legislators
 - Meetings to take place after the November 8 election
 - “How to” documents for use after the November 8 election (how to schedule a meeting with a legislator, how to set up a forum, etc.)
 - Guidelines for maintaining JLC unity and dealing with “maverick” VSOs

Work Plan: November 19 meeting

- Preparation for December 20 JLC meeting
- Deliverables:
 - Guidelines for maintaining a clear line between the JLC legislative objectives and other veteran-related legislation/budget.
 - JLC works as a body to adopt a specific set of recommendations.
 - Process takes a considerable period of time.
 - Because of the JLC's deliberative process, the JLC is not set up to take a specific position on budget items or legislation not recommended by the JLC.
 - However, the JLC can express a broad/general support for legislation/budget items that support Virginia veterans.

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 1

- Recommend guiding principles for the JLC Legislative Officer and Committee
 - Timeline
 - Goals of the Legislative Process
 - Legislative Guiding Objectives/Principles
 - Additional Recommendations

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 1 Timeline

- The timeline laid out in the JLC 2011 Plan of Action, as amended at the March 23 meeting, should be followed
- No changes are recommended at this time

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 1 Goals of the Legislative Process

(As presented at the March 23 JLC meeting)

- JLC Speaks with One Voice.
- All JLC members encourage their VSOs to support legislative objectives.
- Legislative process recognizes and accommodates the internal procedures of individual VSOs.
- JLC legislative process allows adequate time for JLC Representatives to carry JLC proposals back to their leaders/members to secure input and buy-in, while also putting the responsibility on JLC representatives for timely action.
- Support of the JLC 2011 Plan of Action.
- JLC will continue to focus on and advocate for issues that are in the best interest of the veteran and military communities.
- JLC issues need to serve the needs for ALL Veterans.
- JLC will ensure that all JLC members have input to and buy-in to the process. This is a Team Effort!

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 1

Legislative Guiding Objectives/Principles

(As presented at the March 23 JLC meeting)

- JLC success is built on unity and teamwork.
- Touch the right people at the right time.
- JLC is a non-partisan organization. Do not make the JLC legislative objectives part of November's election.
- Time for deliberation is vital.
- The JLC 2011 Plan of Action builds in time for deliberation, while at the same time setting specific deadlines.
- JLC will continue to focus on the “need to have” rather than the “nice to have.”
- JLC legislative objectives should meet a demonstrated need.
- Quantify the expected results, if possible.
- Identify the problem/issue we are trying to solve or the need we are trying to meet.
- Remember that JLC success is built on who we are and how we do things, not on our win/loss record.

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 1

Additional Recommendations

- The Position Paper for each proposed JLC Legislative Objective should address the following
 - Need: what is the problem?
 - Goal: what do we want to accomplish? What is the desired end state? How does the proposal benefit the Commonwealth?
 - Expected results: what will happen if the expected goal is met?
 - Requirements: what will it take to meet the goal/expected results?
 - Alternatives: are there different ways the goals of this objective could be met?
- Because of its importance to the JLC Legislative Process, the position of JLC Legislative Officer should not be held by the JLC Chair or Vice Chair (**recommend referring to Constitution and ByLaws Committee**).

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 1 Additional Recommendations

- To provide backup, assistance, and continuity during the JLC Legislative Process, the JLC Chair should appoint an Assistant JLC Legislative Officer (**recommend referring to Constitution and ByLaws Committee**)
- To continue to produce and provide guidance documents and procedures for the JLC Legislative Process, the JLC Legislative Working Group should be continued as a permanent committee of the JLC (**recommend referring to Constitution and ByLaws Committee**)
- To ensure continuity and “corporate knowledge,” the members of the JLC Legislative Working Group should be serving “staggered terms.” In other words, ensure that the terms of all members of the Working Group do not expire at the same time (**recommend referring to Constitution and ByLaws Committee**)

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 1 Additional Recommendations

- JLC Point Papers and FAQ Sheets should always focus on the positive aspects of the issue at hand and should be written accordingly (**recommended for adoption by JLC as part of Legislative Guiding Objectives/Principles**)
- FAQ Sheets will serve as a positive backup to the position papers, and will vary in length depending on the complexity of and opposition to the issue (**recommended for adoption by JLC as part of Legislative Guiding Objectives/Principles**)
- NOTE: See handout: “JLC POSITION PAPER & FAQ SHEET GUIDELINES”

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 2 Backup Objectives

- JLC goal is to adopt 2011 objectives at July 13 meeting
- However, the JLC may receive valid objectives after the July meeting
 - Summer conventions/annual meetings
 - VSOs may need additional time to consider or develop potential objectives
- Objectives adopted on July 13 may be “overtaken by events”
 - JLC should consider dropping these objectives

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 2 Backup Objectives

- Issues may come up throughout the year, not just when the JLC is looking for them in the spring
- JLC may identify issues that have non-legislative solutions (ex. veterans cremains)
- JLC can pass both legislative and non-legislative issues to DVS at any time for study/resolution

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 2 Backup Objectives

- Recommendations:
 - Develop/identify issues on a continuing basis
 - Backup objectives should be considered, as they arise, for possible inclusion in the current year's initiatives
 - Backup issues may be brought forward to the following year (e.g., 2013)
 - Pass both legislative and non-legislative issues to DVS at any time for study/resolution

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 3 Referrals to BVS

- Governor McDonnell's Executive Order calls for both the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) and the JLC to develop legislation to be considered by the Governor for introduction in the 2012 and subsequent General Assembly sessions
- Proposed legislation must be submitted through DVS by August 15

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 3 Referrals to BVS

- BVS is organized into committees covering Benefits, Care Centers, Cemeteries, and other issues
- BVS is capable of supporting legislative/non-legislative issues that they develop on their own or that are passed to them by the JLC

April 15 meeting – Deliverable 3 Referrals to BVS

- Recommendation: that issues (both legislative and non-legislative) be referred to the BVS as appropriate

ATTACHMENT 11

JLC Legislative Working Group

2011 Work Plan

1. April 15 meeting: Prepare for May 18 JLC meeting.
 - a. Work on Legislative Working Group Recommendation 2: At the May 18 meeting, the working group will recommend some guiding principles for the JLC Legislative Officer and Committee (time-line, expected results, procedures, etc.).
 - b. Work on Legislative Working Group Recommendation 4: Consider having one or two backup objectives, in case a primary objective or objectives “falls out” between July and December.
 - c. Work on Legislative Working Group Recommendation 5: Consider referring some proposed objectives to the Board of Veterans Services for study, and, if appropriate, advancement to the Governor.

2. June 11 meeting: Prepare for July 13 JLC meeting.
 - a. Work on Legislative Working Group Recommendation 3: The working group will draft some recommended guidelines for the meeting with the Governor, to include working with the Governor’s staff, what to do if the Governor expresses concern about an objective, etc.
 - b. Work on Legislative Working Group Deliverable 1b: Recommendations for legislative committee – Guidelines for working with legislative leadership.
 - c. Work on Legislative Working Group Deliverable 1c: Recommendations for legislative committee – Guidelines for meeting/working with the Governor.
 - d. Work on Legislative Working Group Deliverable 4: Recommendations for involvement of non-JLC members in the JLC process – when needed, when appropriate, how to guides, etc.

3. September 10 meeting: Prepare for October 5 JLC meeting.
 - a. Work on Legislative Working Group Recommendation 1: JLC Legislative Officer and Committee will draw up the game plan for the meeting with our legislators. Meetings to take place after the November 8 election.

- b. Work on Legislative Working Group Deliverable 1a: Guidelines for meetings with legislators.
 - c. Work on Legislative Working Group Deliverable 2: “How to” documents for use after the November 8 election (how to schedule a meeting with a legislator, how to set up a forum, etc.).
 - d. Work on Legislative Working Group Deliverable 3: Guidelines for maintaining JLC unity and dealing with “maverick” VSOs.
4. November 19 meeting: Prepare for December 20 JLC meeting.
- a. Work on Legislative Working Group Recommendation 6 (as it applies to the General Assembly): Maintain a bright, clear line between the JLC legislative objectives and other veteran-related legislation/budget. JLC works as a body to adopt a specific set of recommendations. The process takes a considerable period of time. Because of the JLC’s deliberative process, the JLC is not set up to take a specific position on budget items or legislation not recommended by the JLC. However, the JLC can express a broad/general support for legislation/budget items that support Virginia veterans.

ATTACHMENT 12

JLC POSITION PAPER & FAQ SHEET GUIDELINES

JLC Position Papers are used to provide a one page overview of the (1) problem that exists, stated as an objective or goal to be achieved; (2) the background regarding how the need originated and what steps taken to alleviate the problem; (3) discussion relating to solving the problem and the expected results; and (4) recommendation to the Legislature and Governor to alleviate the problem. These are the basic elements of the paper. Copies of previous point papers may be used as examples. They may be obtained from Steven.Combs@dvs.virginia.gov. A brief example of a successful issue follows:

Special Judicial Procedures for Veterans and Military Service Members

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To help veterans and military service members who have been charged with a crime by allowing localities to establish special judicial procedures. These procedures would emphasize use of available treatment options as an alternative to incarceration and would benefit veterans, military service members, and the community.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - Military service entails high costs to service members and their families. In addition to the risk of death or physical injury, service members, especially those in combat, face situations that place them under extreme mental stress.
 - (Other information as required.)
3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - Unique resources and treatment options are available through federal, state, local, and private agencies, providing effective alternatives to incarceration.
 - (Other information as required, including indicating that a FAQ Sheet with additional information is attached.)
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** The JLC recommends that the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation that would authorize (but not require) localities to establish special judicial procedures for veterans and military service members.

Each element of the position paper should focus on the positive aspects of the issue, be written in the third person, not use personal pronouns (particularly “we”), be reviewed by at least two other people other than the author, and address the following:

1. Need – what is the problem? (Usually addressed in the Background element.)
2. Goal – what do we want to accomplish? What is the desired end state? How does the proposal benefit the Commonwealth? (Addressed in the Objective element.)
3. Expected results – what will happen if the expected goal is met? (Usually addressed in the Background and/or Discussion elements.)
4. Requirements – what will it take to meet the goal/expected results? (Addressed in the Discussion element.)
5. Alternatives – are the different ways the goals of this objective could be met? (May be discussed in the Background or Discussion elements, if essential to the problem solution. Otherwise they are best left to an accompanying FAQ sheet.)

Do not discuss unanswerable issues. Do not discuss vulnerabilities unless there is a solution.

Subjects relating to the problem that cannot be covered in the position paper, if essential to answering possible questions about the issue, should be covered in a Frequently Answered Questions (FAQ) sheet that may be attached to the position paper. If attachment is essential, the existence of the FAQ sheet should be mentioned in the position paper. An example of a FAQ Sheet for the Special Judicial Procedures for Veterans and Military Service Members follows.

2011 Frequently Asked Questions

Special Judicial Procedures for Veterans and Military Service Members

Why do veterans end up in court?

The Afghanistan and Iraq wars have produced hundreds of thousands of combat troops who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or major depression, have experienced a traumatic brain injury (TBI), or have a combination of these wounds. While nonveterans have PTSD, studies show a greater risk of anti-social or criminal behavior in veterans diagnosed with the disorder, especially when it is exacerbated by alcohol and drugs.

According to a recent U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs-University of San Francisco study, 418,000 of the roughly 1.9 million service members who have fought in or supported the wars suffer from PTSD. Countless other veterans from World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and other conflicts also suffer.

As of August 2008, approximately 250,000 veterans were imprisoned on any given day – about 9.4% of the total daily imprisoned population – according to the National GAINS Center Forum on Combat Veterans, Trauma and the Justice System.

How do veterans courts work?

The program features mentors, who are mostly veterans themselves, assisting participants with enrollment into treatment programs at local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals. Mentors also assist with job placement and educational benefits.

Many jurisdictions throughout the country have instituted a Veterans Court program, which allows defendants facing charges to avoid prison in exchange for strict monitoring and enrollment in treatment programs.

Are veterans courts successful?

Yes. The Buffalo, NY veterans court, the oldest in the country and the model for many other similar criminal justice procedures, boasts a zero percent recidivism rate.

Is this concept constitutional?

Some have expressed concerns about the constitutionality of this effort. To allay these concerns, the JLC requested that a staff attorney in the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia review the draft legislation to ensure it is constitutional. We have been assured that HB1691 and SB1063, as presently amended, are not unconstitutional.

Won't this cost a lot of money?

While there may be some initial costs, the long term savings are tremendous. No prison, no homelessness, no recidivism, etc. Society benefits.

What resources are currently available in Virginia to help veterans?

Programs available through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs are integral to the success of veterans courts/criminal justice procedures. The three Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) in the Commonwealth have treatment programs designed to help veterans suffering from PTSD, TBI, depression, and substance abuse. Each VAMC has a Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator to assist veterans in accessing these treatment programs.

What other states have veteran’s courts/criminal justice procedures?

Veteran courts/criminal justice procedures are now operating in over 30 communities in 18 states:

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| Alaska | Minnesota |
| Arizona | Missouri |
| Arkansas | Nevada |
| California | New Hampshire |
| Colorado | New York |
| Florida | Oklahoma |
| Georgia | Pennsylvania |
| Illinois | Texas |
| Michigan | Washington |

Won't this stigmatize veterans?

No. Experience in veterans courts/criminal justice procedures across the country has shown: “In Veterans Court, you have a sense of pride. You don't feel like you're going through this alone. That sense of pride may add to the success rate of the Buffalo program. The military person is different, in a very good way,” said Anne Constantino, who works with the Buffalo Veterans Court program.

What about others, such as first responders, who may suffer PTSD, depression, or brain injury following a highly traumatic situation?

First responders are around their peers all the time following such an event, i.e., they aren't sent home in a wounded status as a veteran is from a 24/7 war zone. Also, if a traumatic event happened, the first responders are probably placed in casual or admin status and sent to professional counseling immediately while waiting for an internal investigation to be completed.

ATTACHMENT 13

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES

§ 2.2-2452. Board of Veterans Services; membership; terms; quorum; compensation; staff.

- A. The Board of Veterans Services (the Board) is established as a policy board, within the meaning of § [2.2-2100](#), in the executive branch of state government. The Board shall have a total membership of 19 members that shall consist of five legislative members, 11 nonlegislative citizen members, and three ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: three members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; two members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and 11 nonlegislative citizen members to be appointed by the Governor. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services or his designee shall serve ex officio with full voting privileges; and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Services Foundation and the Chairman of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations or their designees shall serve ex officio without voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the Board shall be citizens of the Commonwealth.

In making appointments, the Governor shall endeavor to ensure a balanced geographical representation on the Board while at the same time selecting appointees of such qualifications and experience as will allow them to provide expertise and insight into:

1. Best practices in benefits claims services, medical and health care management, or cemetery operations;
2. Performance measurements and general management principles; and
3. Nonprofit volunteer operations and management.

Each of the three areas of expertise shall be represented on the Board by at least two different appointees per area of expertise in order to allow for the Board to be capable of developing reasonable and effective policy recommendations related to the services provided to veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents by the Department of Veterans Services.

§ 2.2-2454. Powers and duties of Board.

The Board shall have the power and duty to:

1. Advise and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Veterans Services upon such matters as may arise in the performance of his duties;
2. Investigate issues related to the provision of care and services to veterans, upon request of the Commissioner of Veterans Services or the Governor;
3. Study all matters affecting the welfare of Virginia citizens who are veterans or dependents or survivors of such veterans, and make recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services;
4. Develop recommendations for policies and procedures related to the efficient and effective delivery of the services provided by the Department of Veterans Services;
5. Establish policies related to the coordinated delivery of veterans services, in consultation with those agencies, entities, and organizations, including counties, cities, towns or other political subdivisions of the Commonwealth capable of providing such services;
6. Monitor the administration of all laws concerning veterans and their dependents;
7. Review and advise the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services on the Department's strategic plan;
8. Based on rigorous cost-benefit-value analysis, provide recommendations to the Department of Veterans Services regarding future projects and the acquisition of facilities that may benefit the State's veterans, including but not limited to veterans cemeteries and veterans care centers; and
9. Provide recommendations to the Department of Veterans Services and the Veterans Services Foundation created in § [2.2-2715](#) regarding gifts, grants, and other resources from public and private entities and organizations to support veterans services.

(2003, cc. [657](#), [670](#).)

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

§ 2.2-2681. Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations; membership; terms; chairman; quorum; compensation.

- A. The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the Council) is established as an advisory council, within the meaning of § [2.2-2100](#), in the executive branch of state government. The Council shall be composed of one representative from each qualifying veterans service organization, to be appointed by the Governor, and the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services and the Chairmen of the Board of Veterans Services and the Veterans Services Foundation or their designees, who shall serve as nonvoting ex officio members. Each veterans service organization representative may designate an alternate to attend meetings of the Council in the absence of such representative.

§ 2.2-2682. Powers and duties.

- A. The Council shall have the following powers and duties:
1. Advise the Department of Veterans Services regarding (i) methods of providing support for ongoing veterans services and programs, and (ii) addressing veterans issues on an ongoing basis;
 2. Recommend issues that may potentially impact veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents;
 3. Advise the Department of Veterans Services and the Board of Veterans Services on matters of concern to Virginia-domiciled veterans and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents;
 4. Promote and support existing veterans services and programs;
 5. Recommend and promote implementation of new efficient and effective administrative initiatives that enhance existing veterans services and programs or provide for necessary veterans services and programs not currently provided; and
 6. Maintain a nonpartisan approach to maintaining and improving veterans services and programs in the Commonwealth.
- B. The chairman shall report to the Commissioner and the Board of Veterans Services the results of its meetings and submit an annual report on or before November 30 of each year.

C. The Council may apply for funds from the Veterans Services Foundation to enable it to better carry out its objectives. The Council shall not impose unreasonable burdens or costs in connection with requests of agencies.

(2003, cc. [657](#), [670](#); 2008, cc. [467](#), [768](#).)

ATTACHMENT 14

Potential JLC 2012 Legislative Objectives **Proposed at the March 23 meeting**

- Alternative Revenue Sources (year-end surplus, lottery, etc.)
- State Sales Tax Exemption for 501(c)19 Veterans Service Organizations
- Restore specific Professional Staffing in the Department of Veterans Services
- Reduce Veteran Homelessness in Virginia
- Unclaimed Veterans Cremains
- Veterans Job Preferences versus Job Selection

ATTACHMENT 15

2012 Position Paper

Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Veterans Service Organizations

1. **Objective:** To establish an exemption from the state and local Sales or Use Taxes in the Code of Virginia for Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs).
2. **Background:**
 - The IRS has recognized VSOs as exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - The Code of Virginia 58.1-609.11. Exemptions for nonprofit entities provides an exemption for sales or use taxes for entities exempt from federal income taxation under 501 (c) (3) or 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - VSOs classified as 501 (c) (19) perform essentially the same functions as those classified as 501 (c) (3) or 501 (c) (4).
 - For example, the VFW Congressional Charter establishes “charitable” as one of the purposes of the organization
 - In 2010, the VFW Department of Virginia and Auxiliaries reported the expenditure of \$1,852,292 and a donation of 339,052 volunteer hours in support of numerous community activities for the citizens of the Commonwealth
 - The VFW volunteer hours cited are valued at \$8,926,533, making the total value of contributions approximately \$11.0 million annually
 - Similarly, in 2009, the American Legion reported the expenditure of \$3,193,679 and a donation of 452,411 volunteer hours in support of community service
 - Other smaller VSOs also contribute dollars and hours in support of community service

3. Discussion:

- Given the level of community service performed by VSOs as expressed in dollars and hours, VSOs should be accorded the same sales and use tax exemption as 501 (c) (3)s and 501 (c) (4)s
- An exemption would free sales and use tax dollars spent on maintenance, cleaning, and office supplies for additional community service expenditures.
- VSOs that provide food/beverage service in conjunction with Bingo operations would no longer be double taxed.
- Currently VSOs pay sales tax on purchase of supplies and sales tax on gross proceeds.
- The neighboring states of Maryland, West Virginia, and North Carolina provide sales and use tax exemption for VSOs.
- Providing sales and use tax exemption to VSOs will continue Virginia's move toward making Virginia "the most veteran-friendly state in the nation."

4. Recommendation:

That the Governor and General Assembly establish a sales and use tax exemption in the Code of Virginia for VSOs.

ATTACHMENT 16

Nolan Jackson's Handout

Fellow Council Members:

Jeff Perkins, Marketing Director for the Virginias Veterans Parade needs your help in compiling a list of Veterans Service Organizations National and State publications.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would e-mail Jeff at jperkins@boxley.com phone numbers, address or e-mail address of your organizations publications.

Thanks,

Lloyd Nolan Jackson
Roanoke Valley Veterans Council