

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2018

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on May 2, 2018, at the American Legion, 1708 Commonwealth Ave., Richmond.

Members Present

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Robert Sempek, Association of the United States Army
- Kenneth Shelton, Fifth Baptist Veterans Ministry
- William Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association
- Tim Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- John Clickener, Marine Corps League
- Frank Wickersham, Military Officers Association of America
- Jim Cuthbertson, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Raymond Kenney, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- David Sitler, Reserve Officers Association
- Perry Taylor, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Dan Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Adam Provost, Virginia National Guard Association
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association
- Jim Icenhour, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Al Pianalto, Vice Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation, representing Rich Schollmann
- Steven Combs, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services, representing Commissioner John L. Newby II

Members Absent

- Rick Oertel, American Legion
- Curtis Jennings, Disabled American Veterans
- Lauren Augustine, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
- Robert Herbert, Legion of Valor
- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Karen Jeffries, Navy Mutual Aid Association
- Jon Ostrowski, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Charles Montgomery, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Robert Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Dan Miller, Disabled American Veterans
- Chip Moran, National Association for Uniformed Services

- Craig Cressman, Navy Mutual Aid Association
- Robert Barnette, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- John Cooper, AMVETS
- Tom Wozniak, Air Force Association

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Asst. Sec. Leslie Frazier, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Carrie Ann Alford, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Annie Walker, DVS
- Charlie Palumbo, DVS
- Alison Foster, DVS
- Glendalynn Glover, DVS
- Brian Pickral, DVS
- Major General Tim Williams, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
- Brigadier General Walt Mercer, DMA
- Captain Ryan Strait, DMA
- Cassy Horn, DMA
- Karla Boughey, Veterans Services Foundation (VSF)
- Mike Hayden, Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC)

Others Present

- Matt Underwood, US Department of Agriculture
- Nick Pinero, The Gilbert Foundation
- Carl Holcomb, VA Army National Guard
- Mike Flanagan, Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
- Brian Mulligan, American Legion
- Erica Eccleston, American Legion
- Teresa Rijkten, American Legion
- B. Gay, American Legion
- Maggie Wickersham, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Jack Hilgers, MOAA

Items included in the Agenda Packet

Agenda

December 20, 2017 meeting minutes (Agenda Item V)

Reports (Agenda Item VI)

- Board of Veterans Services
- Veterans Services Foundation
- Virginia War Memorial Board

Copy of SJ207 *Commending DVS Benefits Section* (part of Agenda Item VII)

Handouts for DVS Employment & Transition presentation (Agenda Item VIII)

New Business (Agenda Item IX)

- JLC Constitution – 4 changes for review

- Report on 2018 JLC Initiatives during Session
- Potential 2019 JLC initiatives
- Spring 2018 Work Plan
- By-laws, Article I – Officers and Their Roles

Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation & Thoughts

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

Chaplain L. T. “Tim” Whitmore delivered an opening prayer, including a mention of JLC member Dan Dennison, who was absent due to chemotherapy treatments.

Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, and Introduction of Guests

The roll was called, and 21 of the 26 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented at the time of the roll call. A quorum was determined. Mr. Jim Icenhour, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS); Mr. Al Pianalto, Vice Chairman, representing the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF); and DVS Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs, representing Commissioner John L. Newby II, were recorded as present.

Chairman Juliano asked the guests in attendance to introduce themselves. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Juliano welcomed them to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda, Approve December 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Juliano asked for approval of the December 20, 2017 meeting minutes and agenda. Mr. Adam Provost made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Chip Moran to approve both the minutes, and the meeting agenda. The motions carried **unanimously**. (Agenda is *Attachment 1*)

Special Presentation

Deputy Commissioner Steve Combs, Chairman Juliano and Vice Chair Frank Wickersham presented Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins to the JLC members who are Vietnam Veterans and rotating off the Council on June 30. Pins went to Bart Barton (AFA), Rich Mansfield (AMVETS), Tim Whitmore (KWVA), Chip Moran (NAUS), Glenn Rodriguez (NSVA), and Dan Miller (DAV). A round of applause was given by all in attendance.

Additional JLC members who are Vietnam Veterans will receive their pins at the July 25 meeting.

REPORTS

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Jim Icenhour gave the BVS report (*Attachment 2*).

Veterans Services Foundation

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Vice Chairman Al Pianalto gave the VSF report and stated he was at the meeting on Chairman Rich Schollmann's behalf because Rich had a heart attack last Friday (*Attachment 3*). After the meeting, Chaplain Whitmore stated he would send a card to Mr. Schollmann.

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Mr. Bill Barrett gave a detailed report from the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC). (*Attachment 4*).

Virginia War Memorial Board

Chairman Juliano gave a report on the April 17 War Memorial Board meeting, and upcoming events for Memorial Day Weekend. (*Attachment 5*).

Ms. Alford and Mr. Combs included a few more details on the upcoming events for Memorial Day weekend. Ms. Alford stated that she would add the contact information for the events in the follow up email.

Update from the Office of the Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs

Leslie Frazier, Assistant Secretary for Veterans & Defense Affairs, gave a brief update on what Governor Northam and Secretary Hopkins have decided will be their focus for veterans during the Northam Administration. The Governor and Secretary will focus on employment, healthcare, and education. The powerpoint slide is included as *Attachment 6*.

Update from the Adjutant General of Virginia

Maj. General Tim Williams, Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard, gave a brief update to the JLC members on Guard readiness. He currently has crews in Kosovo and crews preparing to receive orders to deploy.

He said that the federal budget is not where it should be and that means mounting responsibilities for the states. He is currently able to meet demands, but has a growing need for recruiting and training new guardsmen. Virginia is in competition with North Carolina and Tennessee – both of whom offer free tuition to guardsmen as an incentive to join up in their states versus Virginia.

His top priority is raising the state active duty pay and other benefits to be more competitive with recruiting new guardsmen and not losing Virginians to other states.

He also stated he needs better protections for his soldiers when injured. Virginia Guard spent a lot of time in the U.S. Virgin Islands after the hurricanes last fall. One soldier was injured while in the USVI, and state duty and protections for the injured soldier were not adequate.

Another concern is keeping employers "at the table" willing to hire guardsmen. Due to the current situation of multiple and lengthy deployments this is a major issue. General Mercer added that underemployment and unemployment are the two biggest problems the Guard faces. The old 1916 "one weekend a month and two weeks a year" model is not how the current guard operates. Trainings and activated duty can last weeks.

Mr. Barton asked Gen. Williams to expand on the issue of State Active Duty pay. Gen. Williams gave the example of Guardsmen on duty during the events in Charlottesville last August. His MPs were in full tactical gear standing shoulder to shoulder with the State Police, and dealt with dangerous situations. After taxes, their pay was \$20 per day.

VETE Director Annie Walker asked about leave and benefits, since one of her managers is Reserves and she is dealing with the issues he mentioned. She wondered about state employees donating vacation days for employees who have drills and activated duty.

Gen. Williams agreed that something needs to be done to help guard and reserves and their employers to keep everyone at the table, but doesn't know what that might look like.

Mr. Boyer asked about employers following the law and keeping jobs open. Gen. Williams responded that employers will not necessarily keep the current job open, but offer a lower wage, less important job when the guardsman returns. Or, they simply do not hire guardsmen because they know they will have to keep the job open and that is a big reason for unemployment.

Mr. Pianalto asked about the V3 program's effectiveness in helping Guard, and expanding V3 to encourage employers to hire Guard and Reserves. Gen. Williams said that right now, V3 is not where it needs to be for Guard and Reserves. He said that a subset of V3 targeting employers for Guard and Reserves and making up the difference in pay could be helpful. After 9/11 employers were supplementing the pay of guardsmen, but now after 17 years the good will is running out.

Mr. Cuthbertson asked if Virginia Guard have been sent to the southern border yet. Gen. Williams said not yet, but it is possible.

Mr. Ashton asked about the GI Bill and if guardsmen are eligible. Gen. Williams said it depends – with GI Bill and other benefits they get benefits if they are deployed on federal orders to a named op.

General Williams wrapped up by inviting everyone to the May 14th ribbon cutting on their new headquarters building. There will also be a small pinning ceremony for Vietnam Veterans.

DVS Update

Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs gave an update on DVS service lines on behalf of Commissioner Newby. He stated that the Commissioner was at a statewide Community Services Board (CSB) meeting today, which is the first of the Northam Administration and they are still an important partner for DVS, especially the Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) program.

Mr. Combs began with an update on the new Benefits offices opening in 2018-19, including the new Pentagon office opening soon, and the planned offices at Fort Belvoir in Northern Virginia and NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach. He also spoke of the opening of the new Benefits Office at the Emporia Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) and the potential opening of an office at the planned Richmond/West End CBOC.

He updated the Council with FY17 operational successes and stats. And, he shared what's new for FY19, including a women veterans coordinator and entrepreneurship coordinator – dependent on the state budget getting passed.

He gave an update on the construction of the new Veteran Care Centers, and announced the good news that in the recently signed federal budget the VA was given an additional \$700M for construction projects and Virginia will be getting \$60M for the two new care centers. Virginia will still pay 40% of the costs, but now has the commitment from the federal government to pay 60%. Since Virginia has already appropriated the funds we are still moving forward and will be reimbursed by the federal government for the construction. The estimated completion is now fall 2020. DVS will start staffing up the facilities several months in advance of that opening.

Mr. Barton asked if fall 2020 is a new projection, and about increasing the size of the two new centers with the new federal funds. Mr. Combs stated that the fall 2020 opening is a new projection due to changing the design of both VCCs to 128 beds, which increased the timeline. He said that there are no plans to expand the new facilities as of now. However, the Puller VCC in Fauquier County does have room to expand once it is built, if there is demand for more beds and there is funding. DVS will wait and see how quickly the VCC fills up and if there is a long waiting list, then an expansion might be considered. He said that the Virginia Beach site does not have room for expansion

The presentation was distributed to the members via email after the meeting.

Review of 2018 DVS budget and legislation

Ms. Alford gave a brief power point presentation of where DVS stood at the beginning of the Session with the Introduced Budget and where things stand now in the Special Session with the differences in the House and Senate versions of the budget. There is currently no new biennial budget, and both chambers need to pass a bill by June 30th. She also covered the DVS legislation and other top veteran and military-related bills that passed in the 2018 General Assembly session.

In particular, she covered the next steps in the constitutional amendment process for HB71/SB900, which were JLC priority number 1. The constitutional amendment question has been written, and Senator Reeves and Delegate Miyares briefed the Board of Veterans Services on the question at the BVS meeting on April 26. Ms. Alford will try to get the question wording to the JLC members as soon as possible for their assistance in promoting awareness of the question on the November ballot.

She also mentioned HB737, which allows for a “Vet” identifier on drivers’ licenses after July 1. She stated that Mr. Matt Leary with the DMV will come brief the JLC in July on how the JLC can assist the DMV and DVS with outreach and promoting the new driver’s license.

She mentioned HB533, which may cause some confusion. It does not direct DVS to work with DPOR to create licensure and certificates for TSMs – it only directs DVS to promote those that are already in place. As of now, and for the foreseeable future, MMAC is the only program on that list to help TSMs convert their military training to civilian licensure.

The presentation was distributed to the members via email after the meeting.

Presentation on DVS Employment and Transition Programs

Ms. Charlie Palumbo, Director of Employment and Transition Programs, and Ms. Alison Foster, VTAP Program Manager gave a short update on the Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP) and how it has grown since January 2017.

Ms. Foster started by stating that the VTAP team is all about building relationships with each instillation. It is all about the personality of each instillation, and our regional coordinators have spent many hours building relationships.

VTAP now has one program manager, one support staff, and two regional coordinators who focus on Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. VTAP is also partnering with the Virginia Chamber Foundation, the local chambers and others on events.

The regional coordinators assist with career coaching, employment readiness skills and connecting to V3 employers.

Since January 2017, VTAP has made 147 instillation visits, assisted 873 vets/TSMs, conducted over 1,000 referrals and hosted or attended over 200 events with about 500 people.

DVS also now has a unique MOU with the Virginia Chamber to launch a statewide initiative called HIRE VETS NOW. A handout explaining the program was in the packet (*Attachment 7*).

DVS is also working to build a transition alliance among federal, state, local governments and non-profit organizations, bringing everyone to the table. DVS is also partnering with Navy Mid Atlantic, which is another 1st of its kind agreement to help Navy TSMs.

Mr. Sitler asked about assisting vets/TSMs who are Virginians but not stationed in Virginia. Ms. Foster stated that we are working to reach out to them. DVS has a MOU with the USO Pathfinder program and our regional coordinators are frequently in their offices at Fort Belvoir and Norfolk. We also have a MOU with the DOD to get the names and addresses of all TSMs who list Virginia as their home of record. We send a ***Virginia Veteran Resource Guide*** and letter from the Commissioner so they know about all our programs.

Mr. Pianalto asked about expanding the VTAP program in Northern Virginia. Ms. Foster and Ms. Palumbo stated that they would like to expand but it is a budgetary and capacity issue at this point. Mr. Pianalto stated that might be something for the JLC to consider supporting as a 2019 initiative.

Mr. Whitmore asked about north of the James River/Peninsula area of Hampton Roads. Ms. Foster stated that the Hampton Roads Regional Coordinator does spend time at Joint Base Langley – Fort Eustis in Newport News. Ms. Alford added that SAA staff are at JBLFE every Wednesday to answer education and GI Bill benefits questions.

Mr. Barton asked about VTAP being part of the TAP training on base. Ms. Foster stated that it depends on the base, since each has its own personality and TAP training is left up to the managers and base commanders. The regional coordinators have good relationships with a few, but not all.

Mr. Ashton stated that he is a federal employee with the USDA and even he can't get into TAP classes to talk about the USDA's programs for veterans and agriculture. TAP is run by DOD and the Department of Labor.

Ms. Alford also added that Secretary Harvey had been a big advocate and was working to get VTAP access to the bases but since garrison commanders rotate every 2 years it is difficult and many do not want to work with us.

Mr. Miller asked about coordination with the VEC's veteran employment representatives. Ms. Foster stated that VTAP does work with and refer veterans to the local DVOPs and LVERs, and American Job Centers as well as V3.

VETE Director Annie Walker concluded the presentation with a few words about creating a "no wrong door" approach. Benefits and VVFS are pretty straight-forward service lines and veterans know what they are, but the VETE team, which handles education, transition and employment services is the one connecting veterans to lots of different programs and services.

Mrs. Walker also mentioned the 2018 Virginia Women Veterans Summit and asked the JLC members to spread the word and take the cards on the tables and the full size flyers by the door and distribute them to all the women veterans they know. She also said she would love to see all the VSOs represented on the JLC as sponsors of the Summit next year because she knows they all have women veteran members and support women veterans.

NEW BUSINESS

Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee

Mr. Rich Mansfield delivered the report of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, which included four proposed amendments to the JLC Constitution (*Attachment 8*). He thanked his committee members, Mr. Ace Taylor and Mr. Adam Provost. He stated the changes were to tighten up the language to make it clear that the JLC is focused on advocacy, policy and legislation.

Ms. Alford reminded the members that they were sent these changes in writing to review before the meeting, and told in writing in the email that these amendments could trigger a Code change and need for legislation and everyone should have read the amendments ahead of the meeting.

The first proposed amendment, to Article II, 1. Aim and Purpose. – brings the wording in line with the JLC's mission statement by expanding the working of their aim and purpose. Mr. Cuthbertson offered a friendly amendment to change "military" to "active duty military personnel." There was no objection to the amendment.

The second proposed amendment, to Article III, 1. Eligibility. – added a fourth requirement,

again echoing the JLC's mission statement. Mr. Combs stated that eligibility qualifications for JLC member organizations were set forth in the Code of Virginia and that it would take legislation to change these requirements. He recommended to the Chair that the proposed amendment be stricken. Mr. John Clickener made the **motion, seconded** by Mr. Tim Whitmore to strike the amendment. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Mr. Barton reminded everyone that the Chairman of the committee had presented the amendments and they were now in discussion, so only a motion was needed, not a second.

The third proposed amendment, to Article III 1. Eligibility. – added an “f.” clause requiring a documented legislative program as a condition of eligibility.

The fourth proposed amendment, to Article III 2. Representation – added a new beginning statement capping the JLC to 26 VSOs, and when an opening occurs, giving priority to VSOs with the “largest potential legislative impact.”

Mr. Combs recommended these amendments be stricken.

Ms. Alford gave some background to the members. She stated that she receives 6-8 inquiries a year about joining the JLC. Many are non-profit organizations run by a veteran or for veterans, but with no statewide or national presence in the traditional VSO sense and no record of advocating for legislative priorities. She had a conversation with the committee chair about this and said the committee might want to consider if they want to make the requirements for eligibility more clearly tied to advocacy, policy and legislation, or if they would want to cap the membership at the current number, a larger number or not at all. The third and fourth amendments offered were what the committee came up with. She suggested that the new “clause f” could be amended to make it “preferred” instead of harder line “required.”

There was a good deal of discussion of these two amendments, most members tackling them as one thought.

Mr. Mansfield stated that without a cap and tighter parameters, the JLC will continue to grow and expand and could become unmanageable. The mission of the JLC could become diluted with groups not in unison.

Mr. Wickersham stated that this change reflects the purpose of the JLC and the types of members that should be part of the JLC. Not all organizations started by or controlled by a veteran or group of veterans should be considered because they don't focus on what the JLC does – groups that are social media based for the younger veterans – are they VSOs? Should they be on the JLC?

Mr. Pianalto asked about what happens to the small VSOs if you limit membership. Will you end up with vet groups with no voice?

Mr. Boyer stated that the JLC speaks for all Virginia veterans and should be giving a voice to all the veterans and veterans groups whether or not they are on the JLC.

Mr. Moran added that over half of the veterans in Virginia have not joined any group – the JLC still represents them. He also reminded the members that when the JLC was stood up, then-Gov. Warner set the criteria in the code to be representative. If things have changed and the way veterans join VSOs or groups have changed, then they need to take a hard look at the Code and representation and how the definition of veterans service organizations is written out.

Mr. Combs reminded the members that the JLC has been bigger in the past and the flow over time is organic, with VSOs disbanding and falling off the Council and new VSOs stepping in. He mentioned, as an example, this was the last meeting for NAUS, which will be disbanding in June.

Mr. Clickener stated that if groups step forward that do qualify and the membership is capped, then it becomes arbitrary. However, if there are groups on the JLC who are not active and actively supporting the mission and policy initiatives and interacting with the Governor and General Assembly, there should be a way to revoke their membership and get them off the JLC.

Mr. Whitmore mentioned the National Veterans Day Committee, and how they have a committee to review applications of VSOs and groups that want to be part of the organization. The committee recommends who should be allowed to participate. Why can't the JLC have a committee to review applications and send the preferred candidates who meet the requirements to the Governor for approval?

Mr. Barton asked the Chair if there should be a motion to table the amendments and bring this back at the July 25 meeting. The Chair stated that since no one had made the motion to strike, as Mr. Combs had suggested, a motion could be made to table and bring back.

Mr. Wickersham made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Moran, to table the remaining amendments and bring them back at the July 25 meeting for further discussion. The motion passed **unanimously**.

Mr. Mansfield asked the members to send him any further changes or amendments and all comments by 17 May. The committee will review and send out a report 30 days in advance of the July 25 meeting. He also stated that since he will be rotating off the JLC on June 30, a new chair of the constitution and by-laws committee will need to be named.

JLC at the General Assembly 2018: Reviewing Position Papers & Introduction of Potential Policy Positions for 2019

Mr. Sitler passed out the Spring Work Plan (*Attachment 9*) to the members. He reviewed the 2018 initiatives (*Attachment 10*), of which only 2018-01 passed the General Assembly. He mentioned that several of the initiatives that have been on the list for a couple of years now are going in the wrong direction and there is less support, not more for the policies/legislation.

Mr. Barton stated that he was deeply upset by how 2018-06 was handled and how it had not been picked up as legislation and felt the guard associations should have brought the issues with the patron and the lack of support from the TAG to the JLC at the December meeting. By the time he

found out there was no patron it was too late to file legislation or do anything about it. He called out the two guard associations. Mr. Barton also stated that there was a lack of unification with the JLC this year and sponsors were left on their own and it became that VSO's priority, and not the JLC's. It is supposed to be the JLC's priorities and the JLC is one unit and presents itself to the legislature as one – without that we lose our strength.

Mr. Barnette stated that he understood the frustration and thought he had a patron, but then there was an email sent to the patron saying the TAG did not support the issue so the patron withdrew his support and did not file a bill.

Mr. Clickener said that the best way is to always have multiple patrons – the JLC is supposed to always work to find at least two patrons because companion bills show more strength.

Ms. Alford said she wanted to add on to what Mr. Barton has said. She was not sure what happened during this Session, maybe it was the chaos of the new building and all the new legislators, but the JLC as a group did not show up. The patrons of the policy initiatives were on their own and did not get support. Things were splintered this year and it was very disappointing. Despite there not being a JLC day this year due to the new building, all members were told at the December meeting that they still needed to interact with the legislators on the priorities. They were encouraged to come to a Wednesday caucus meeting and meet with legislators, and come to Military Appreciation Night, but with most of the members that did not happen. She said when she was a LA to Senator Puller one JLC member would come to her office and run through all the priorities as JLC priorities. That needs to happen again, not just the VSO sponsor of a particular bill coming to talk to legislators about that one issue.

Mr. Pianalto agreed and said he had the same experience when he was an aide. Legislators and aides are happy to talk to the JLC, but they are busy and do not have time for six different meetings with all the different JLC members on individual initiatives. The JLC needs to speak with one voice and respect the legislators' and LAs' time during Session.

Mr. Boyer stated that he came up for his VFW day, and called ahead to make appointments and saw one of the new legislators. It was difficult because they were busy but he did make the effort.

Several members asked about next year and Ms. Alford stated that, while the JLC will still not be able to secure a room and do JLC day as they have in the past, she will discuss at the July meeting options for everyone meeting in the morning and then going through the building. She mentioned that the groups that did have morning receptions at the SunTrust building did not get legislators and staff at their events because they didn't want to take the time to walk over to another building.

Mr. Sitler then directed attention back to the agenda packet and the list of potential policies for the JLC to take up in 2019 (*Attachment 11*). He asked everyone to take the list back to their VSOs and anything they want to work on needs to be in JLC format by June 25th for editing and distribution ahead of the July meeting.

Mr. Moran asked if this was a change in JLC procedure – wasn't it supposed to work that the

VSOs brought ideas to the JLC?

Ms. Alford answered that it is not a change in procedure but a list of ideas for the VSOs because no one has been bringing new ideas. Only one VSO in the past 2 years – the DAV, which is included on the list in front of the members – has brought a policy initiative forward. She asked everyone to review the list of policies that were former legislation or ideas brought to DVS. VSOs should brainstorm and bring new ideas to the JLC at the July meeting.

Mr. Sitler asked Mr. Combs and Ms. Alford to write up and present to the JLC at the July 25 meeting some strategies for advocacy during the 2019 Session. Mr. Combs agreed and said they would be able to do that. Ms. Alford agreed.

At this point in the meeting the agenda shifted and IX.e was moved up, then IX.f, then IX.d

Candidates for Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Boyer, chair of the nominations committee opened up the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. As Chairman Juliano is stepping off the JLC, the chairmanship is open.

Mr. Frank G. Wickersham, III, JLC Vice Chair, nominated himself for Chair.

Mr. Barton nominated Mr. Perry “Ace” Taylor for the office of Vice Chair.

Mr. Boyer accepted their nominations and stated that any other nominations needed to be sent to him as soon as possible. The list of candidates will be distributed 30 days before the next meeting.

Other New Business and Open Discussion

Chairman Juliano called on Mr. Cooper, who had an update on the Hampton Roads Veteran Treatment Docket. Mr. Cooper updated the Council that Judge Taylor is leading the charge and the Veteran Treatment Docket is now a separate docket. It is no longer part of the Hampton Roads Drug Court. Mr. Mansfield added that they still need help getting the word out about the docket as many veterans do not find out about it and that they may be eligible until right before sentencing, which is usually too late in the process to be part of the program.

Mr. Ashton mentioned his new job – he is now the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison (MVAL), for U. S. Department of Agriculture. He looks forward to working with veterans interested in agriculture and is happy to come talk to any of the VSOs about what he does.

Mr. Barton, who is rotating off the JLC on June 30 handed his JLC pin to his successor, Mr. Tom Wozniak, and congratulated him on his impending appointment to the board.

Discussion of Chairmanship – Chair Juliano Stepping Off

Chair Juliano stated that since she will be stepping off the JLC on 30 June, she is handing the gavel over to the Vice Chair to lead the July 25 meeting in the absence of a chair, as allowed by the JLC By-laws (*Attachment 12*). Mr. Wickersham thanked her and accepted the gavel.

Mr. Combs presented Chairman Juliano with the gift DVS gives all outgoing chairs – a plaque with her name and year of service, and a Virginia License Plate that says “JLC.” She thanked him and thanked the JLC for all their service and working with her for her year as chair. She announced that Ms. Judy Reid is being nominated to succeed her, but she will become the alternate for the Women Marines Association and still attend the meetings, just will be in the “peanut gallery” in the back. The Council gave her a round of applause.

Public Comment

There were no individuals seeking to make public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1
Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
May 2, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Opening & Pledge of Allegiance – *Marie Juliano, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Opening Prayer, *Tim Whitmore, JLC Chaplain* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, reminder regarding appointments & re-appointments – *Marie Juliano, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Introduction of guests – *Marie Juliano, JLC Chairman* (10:15 – 10:20)
- V. Approve Agenda & December 20 Meeting Minutes – *Marie Juliano, JLC Chairman* (10:20 – 10:25)
- VI. Reports (10:25 – 10:50)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services (BVS) – *Jim Icenhour, BVS Chairman*
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) – *Al Pianalto, VSF Vice Chairman*
 - c. Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC), *Bill Barrett*
 - d. Virginia War Memorial Board, *Marie Juliano*
 - e. Update from the Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, *Assistant Secretary Leslie Frazier* (5 minutes)
 - f. Update from the Virginia National Guard, *General Tim Williams, TAG* (5 minutes)
- VII. DVS Update and Review of 2018 DVS budget and legislation – *Steven Combs, DVS Deputy Commissioner* and *Carrie Ann Alford, Policy Director* (10:45 – 11:00)
- VIII. DVS Employment & Transition Programs – *Charlie Palumbo, Director of Employment & Transition Programs* and *Alison Foster, VTAP Program Manager* (11:00 – 11:20)
- IX. New Business (11:20 – 12:50)
 - a. Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee, *Rich Mansfield* (20 min)
 - b. JLC at the General Assembly 2018: Reviewing Position Papers – *David Sitler, JLC Legislative Officer* (15 minutes)
 - c. Introduction of potential policy positions for 2019 – *David Sitler, JLC Legislative Officer* (35 minutes)
 - d. Discussion of Chairmanship – Chair Juliano stepping off JLC on 30 June– *Marie Juliano, JLC Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - e. Candidates for Chair and Vice Chair may announce their intention to run – *Dan Boyer, Nominations Chair* (5 minutes)
 - f. Other New Business and Open Discussion – *Marie Juliano, JLC Chairman* (10 minutes)
- X. Public comment period – *Marie Juliano, JLC Chairman* (12:50 – 12:55)
- XI. Closing remarks – *Marie Juliano, JLC Chairman* (12:55 – 1:00)
- XII. Adjourn (1:00)
Lunch to follow

ATTACHMENT 2

**REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS
SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (JLC)**

May 2, 2018

*James O. Icenhour, Jr.,
Chairman*

Victor Angry

Carl Bedell

Paige Cherry

Chris Chon

Michael Dick

Joana C. Garcia

William G. Haneke

Delegate Gordon Helsel

Susan B. Hippen

Nick Kesler

M. Lyla Kohistany

Delegate Jason Miyares

*Delegate Kathleen
Murphy*

Belinda Pinckney

Senator Bryce Reeves

Efrain "Frank" Reyes

Julie Waters

Senator Jennifer Wexton

*Marie Juliano,
Chairman, Joint
Leadership Council of
Veterans Service
Organizations*

*Rich Schollmann,
Chairman, Veterans
Services Foundation*

*John L. Newby II,
Commissioner of
Veterans Services*

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on April 26, 2017 at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond, VA.

At our April meeting we greeted newly appointed legislator, Delegate Jason Miyares, who represents the 82nd district, which is in Virginia Beach. Newly appointed legislator, Delegate Gordon Helsel, who represents the 91st district, which includes part of the peninsula, was unable to attend. Additionally, two board members who have contributed greatly, Mr. William Haneke and Delegate Chris Stolle, have come to the end of their terms of service.

We received updates from DVS on the agency's service lines, construction projects, budget and legislative agenda during the General Assembly Session and where things stand in light of the current Special Session. Senators Reeves and Wexton believe the Senate will resolve the budget soon, and including funding for a Women Veterans Coordinator at DVS.

The BVS consists of twenty-two members: fourteen citizen members, five legislators, and three *ex officio* members. Board members are in regular contact with the Department of Veterans Services to provide policy input on key operational issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Icenhour
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 3
VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT
Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
May 2, 2018

The Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees has held one Board meeting and a Development and Finance Committee meeting since the last Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations meeting on December 20, 2017. The Veterans Services Foundation and the Development and Finance Committees all met on March 29, 2018 at the American Legion Department Headquarters in Richmond.

In recognition of Vietnam War Veterans Day in the Commonwealth of Virginia (March 29), Secretary Hopkins, presented pins to the Vietnam Veterans who served in the military from 1961-1975. Those honored were Jim Boyd, Jack Hilgers, Jack Lanier, Tom Mulrine, Al Pianalto, Judy Reid and Frank Wickersham.

A Development Committee meeting was held prior to the full Board of Trustees meeting. The Development Chairman, Frank Finelli reported that while revenue is down, this is an excellent time to increase outreach to the donor base by extending appreciation and providing details on how donations are spent. The Chairman presented a Development plan and expressed that the involvement of each trustee and a strong collaboration with DVS was critical for this fundraising endeavor to be successful.

A Finance Committee meeting took place at the same time as the Development committee meeting occurred. Finance Chairman, Senator Walter Stosch, reviewed the role of the finance committee. After studying the new statute, it is clear that the trustees have new responsibilities. The overall charge of the trustees is to receive funds primarily through donations and to account for those funds in several different ways. The Finance Chairman presented a few items that he requested the Finance Committee members to consider. a). Establish a minimum reserve balance of \$800,000; b). Request DVS to submit adjustments to the budget based on the availability of cash balances and expected revenue; c). Consider a policy to address overspending in certain activities; d). Review inactive sub-funds and determine if the funds could be reallocated in an effort to consolidate the number of funds; e). Reimburse VSF trustees for mileage in compliance with state travel regulations as other DVS support boards are receiving.

The recommendations to establish a reserve fund of \$800,000 and the mileage reimbursement for VSF board members to that of other DVS support boards were approved by the trustees. The other recommendations will take more time to implement.

As of February 27, 2018, the Veterans Services Foundation had received donations totaling \$337,223.05. Overall, donations are down and spending has increased. A donation received from the PGA (Dominion Energy Charity Classic) on March 3, 2018 for \$146,153.23 was not included in the February report.

The next Veterans Services Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2018 at the American Legion Department Headquarters, Richmond.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Schollmann, Veterans Services Foundation Chairman

ATTACHMENT 4
Virginia Military Advisory Council Report

Madam Chairman, since this was the first meeting for this administration, we covered a lot of ground in 4 hours as we met at the Quantico Club in Quantico, Virginia. The Honorable Carlos Hopkins, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs opened the meeting by welcoming everyone; then he highlighted several key Bills passed by the current administration, to include HB 1085 which provides for open enrollment for military students at public schools, SB 786 which is also a public school Bill that *prohibits* students from being charged certain fees at school; HB 915, which was passed 2 years ago during the previous administration, has now been expanded to *permit* Registered Nurses to provide technical oversight and supervision to medics and corpmen returning to the states to work in hospitals without a license for a year; HB 2 requires the Board of Education to provide spouses of the Armed Forces who teach to receive licensure reciprocity for a period of one year. The final bill the Secretary keyed in on is HB 737 that now requires the DMV to issue drivers licenses displaying an indicator signifying that the holder of the driver's license is a veteran. Veterans no longer need 2 forms of ID to address their status as a vet.

Dr. Carol Schall and Ms. Holly Wittenberg, from Virginia Commonwealth University, spoke about their project on Autism Spectrum Disorder and they can support military family with children transitioning from high school to employment.

The next speaker was Mr. Barry Duval, President and CEO, Virginia Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber represents approximately 26,000 businesses in Virginia. The Commerce is a nonpartisan organization which endorses ideas of candidates on both sides of the aisle to advance the economy with a goal of being the voice of Virginia businesses. Mr. Duval spent time sharing with the group the Blueprint of Virginia 2025, an update to the original Blueprint of Virginia that was adopted in 2013. The Blueprint of Virginia is a comprehensive initiative that provides business leadership, direction, and long-range economic planning for Virginia. I would strongly recommend that you visit the website www.vachamber.com for a more extensive understanding of this long-range initiative. The Chamber is also expanding its Military Platform, providing veterans and their family jobs and expanding job training opportunities after their transition from the military. They have also recently established a Veteran Affairs, Industry Council to protect military assets.

Our one and only Commissioner, John Newby was recognized during the Secretary's opening remarks for the major accomplishments of his department in support of 800,000 plus veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Please join me in a round of applause for the dedication, professional excellence our Commissioner has brought to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Hooah! The Commissioner was very clear that his mission is to ensure our service members and their families get the help they need to secure jobs and training opportunities. Several key programs that were in their embryonic stages when the Commissioner took office that flourish today include the V3 Program where now 30,000 veterans have been hired as a result of working closely with transition offices on all military bases, and private and public businesses throughout the state. Secondly, the Military Medic and Corpsmen program that allows Medics and Navy Corpsmen to work in hospitals throughout the state under the supervision of a physician and RN for a year without a license.

The Governor and his wife were in attendance. His wife spoke before the break and thank the military members and veteran for proudly serving their country. The First Lady also expressed

her appreciation for the families and the support they provide to their men and women in uniform.

After a short break the Honorable Ralph Northam, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia expressed his appreciation for our service to the country and the Commonwealth. As an Army Veteran, he started in the Navy because he wanted to fly but as he said the Navy wisely tested his sight, so he ended up joining the Army. He is a trained Pediatrician and Neurologist and had a tour in Desert Storm. The Governor wants our help in continuing to make Virginia the most Veteran-friendly state in the country. He is extremely pleased with the number of veterans that received jobs and started businesses a result of the V3 program and would like to double the numbers in the next four years. Two other priorities of the Governor are our families as they transition from state to state and our children. As the 73rd Governor he is proud to be a veteran, and he will do everything within his power to ensure our veterans and their families are taken care of.

Mr. John Simmons, The Roosevelt Group and Charlie Perham, Matrix Design Group. This team was selected to advance some the priorities of the Secretary. They gave an update on the budget and indicated that President Trump is developing a new National Defense Strategic Plan. There is going to be a lot of development in new sources of Technology for our warfighters who are planning to compete and fight in a more diverse war zone, but the budget is not going to continue to grow the way it's grown in FY19.

Then the Honorable Lucian Niemeyer, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment where's a lot of different hats. He has been in his current job for 7 months and got a chance to look at what has taken place in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He indulged in some discussions with the Installation Commanders and talked about the way forward at the BRAC guy as he called it. First time in six-year the installation commanders did not get a request to provide an authorization document for base closures because Secretary Madison prefers to conduct studies first to determine what forces are required to be more ready and lethal as a fighting force, especially since the National Defense Strategic Plan just came out 6 months ago.

Lastly, the Honorable Hopkins went around the table to give the Installation Commanders an opportunity to speak before providing closing remarks.

After the Installation Commanders Roundtable, The Honorable Carlos Hopkins, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs made some closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.

ATTACHMENT 5
Virginia War Memorial Board Report
Report to the Joint Leadership Council
2 May 2018

The Veterans War Memorial (VWM) meeting Service Organizations met on April 17, 2017. At that meeting a film was shown on the TET Offensive which took place from January 30, 1968 – September 23, 1968. Militarily, Tet was decidedly an Allied victory, and a crushing military defeat for the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese, but the size and scope of the communist attacks had caught the American and South Vietnamese allies completely by surprise but was a turning point of the Vietnam war. The film was highlighted with personal stories of Virginia veterans who were interviewed and told of their participation and experiences of that conflict. It was an excellent and very emotional film.

Mr. Clay Mountcastle stated that the new expansion construction was still on track for the summer of 2019. The schedule slipped a little because of weather however, they still expect the effort to be completed on time with the new medal of honor Gallery and a Veterans Art gallery.

Educational Programs have been a huge success for middle and high school students and so far this year they have educated around 1700 students and 1000 adults and they are expanding their program to people of all ages with a focus of being a Lifelong learning institute.

Upcoming Memorial Day Weekend Events:

- On May 24, there will be a fundraiser in support of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation at Social 52, from 5-7pm, where 10% of patrons' bills will be donated directly to the Foundation. After dinner, kick off Memorial Day weekend with a screening of *Saving Private Ryan* at the Byrd Theatre. The movie is free, but guests encouraged to pay-what-you-can to support the Memorial.
<http://vawarmemorial.org/event/dinner-and-movie-night-go-out-give-back>
- On May 26, the 7th Annual "They Gave All" 5K (TGA5K) presented by Priority Automotive, from 8-11 a.m. The 5K course runs through some of the most scenic parts of Richmond, including Hollywood Cemetery, and along the city skyline viewing the James River. <http://vawarmemorial.org/5K>
- On May 27, The Foundation will host a *Walkway of Honor Commemoration Ceremony*, by Invitation Only, from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. The ceremony and reception is to thank donors for contributing bricks for the Walkway of Honor.
<http://vawarmemorial.org/event/walkway-honor-commemoration-ceremony>

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Juliano
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 6

Report from Veterans & Defense Affairs Assistant Secretary Leslie Frazier

Secretary Hopkins' and Governor Northam's Veterans & Defense Priorities:

Veterans and Defense Affairs Priorities

Employment

- Virginia Values Veterans (V3)
- Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC)
- Entrepreneurship

Health

- Suicide Prevention Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families
- Increasing Access to Healthcare

Education

- Academic credit for prior military training at 4-year institutions
 - More vocational training
-

ATTACHMENT 7
VTAP Presentation

Virginia Transition Assistance Program

Executive Summary

Mission:

The mission of the Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP) is to assess, coordinate, and disseminate opportunities for members of the armed forces and their spouses transitioning from military to civilian life by providing a pathway to employment, education, and entrepreneurship.

Goals:

- ★ ***Peer to Peer*** support to transitioning service members and their spouses
- ★ ***Outreach*** for the Commonwealth of Virginia, answering the question “Why Virginia?”
- ★ ***Partner*** with federal, state, local, nonprofit, and employers to provide the best possible resources to our service members and spouses

Significance:

The Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP) offers transitioning service members and their spouses the best Virginia has to offer. By providing peer-to-peer support through the transition process, VTAP works alongside the transitioning service member or spouse to make referrals that address specific needs. The referral services could include, but is not limited to resume review, introduction to the Virginia Labor Market index, connection with the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) certified companies for employment, and other DVS programs as applicable. The VTAP corps areas of focus are those seeking **employment, education, and entrepreneurship**, but we will also assist those with needs outside of those three core areas. We make a commitment to customer service, and always ensure that referrals are completed with follow up from the VTAP staff.

Over time, VTAP has developed a refined network of employers and other resources that have made a commitment to our transitioning service members and their spouses. Through that network, VTAP partners to offer multiple connection points with those seeking employment through networking events, job fairs, hiring events, and electronic communications promoting jobs and events. We want service members and spouses to start thinking about transition early!

Through outreach and services, VTAP provides a strong case for why a transitioning service member should call Virginia home post-transition.

For More Information: Visit the VTAP webpage at: <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment/virginia-transition-assistance-program-vtap/>, call us at 804-786-8060 or e-mail at VTAP@dvs.virginia.gov.





Virginia's **HIRE VETS NOW**, a statewide initiative launching in Spring of 2018, brings together transitioning service members, veterans and dedicated businesses to share in camaraderie, professional development and career networking.

Monthly networking events, held on military installations, will expand opportunities for veterans and military spouses to gain access to career openings with Virginia Values Veterans (V3) employers and Chamber members prior to transitioning from the military.

Virginia's **HIRE VETS NOW** is hosted by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, the Virginia Chamber Foundation and military installations throughout the Commonwealth.



2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 22

Fort Belvoir
11:30am-1:30pm

April 19

Fort Lee
3:30pm-5:30pm

May 10

Fort Lee
3:30pm-5:30pm

May 17

Fort Belvoir
11:30am-1:30pm

June 7

Naval Station Norfolk
11:00am-1:00pm

September 13

Fort Belvoir
11:30am-1:30pm

September 27

Naval Station Norfolk
11:00am-1:00pm

November 15

Naval Station Norfolk
11:00am-1:00pm

For more information, please contact **Cyndi Miracle** at the Virginia Chamber Foundation at c.miracle@vachamber.com or **804-237-1466**

ATTACHMENT 8
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
CONSTITUTION

Proposed amendments: edits in red; proposed additions in blue

Preamble

For God and Country, we the veterans of the Commonwealth of Virginia, have joined together to acknowledge our faith in our Creator; to reaffirm our belief in the principles of justice, freedom, democracy and loyalty to our country; to rededicate ourselves to the sanctity of our homes and our families; to re-establish the comradeship begun in our periods of service to our nation; and to pledge ourselves anew to the ideal of serving the veterans of the Commonwealth, their families and survivors, and each other through our association of our various service organizations and this Joint Leadership Council.

Article I - Organization

1. Organization Name. The name of this organization shall be the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations, hereinafter referred to as the JLC or the Council.
2. Organization Membership. The Council shall be composed of one representative from each qualifying veterans service organizations or his/her designated alternate. Representatives shall be appointed by the Governor. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services and the Chairmen of the Board of Veterans Services and Veterans Services Foundation shall serve as non-voting, *ex officio* members.
3. Location of Headquarters. The Headquarters of the JLC shall operate in a manner and place as determined by the Chair to be most effective. The office of the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services is available to the Chair and elected/appointed officials at their request.
4. Mission Statement. The Council provides advice and assistance to the Governor, General Assembly and the Department of Veterans Services on matters of concern to the veterans community and provides a conduit of information to and from the veterans service organizations on policy and legislation, pending and enacted, as well as information on existing services.

Article II – Operating Principles

1. Aim and Purpose. As a separate and distinct entity of veterans service organizations of Virginia, it is the JLC's objective to advise and advocate with the Governor, General Assembly and the Department of Veterans Services regarding policy and legislation on matters of concern to veterans, military, Virginia National Guard and Reserves and their families ~~be mindful of and to address and advocate for the needs of Virginia's veterans.~~

2. Jurisdictional Control. The JLC consists of volunteer, non-profit organizations and is self-governing. It exercises control over procedures and matters discussed in accordance with this Constitution and all duly approved By-Laws and operating procedures.
3. Solidarity. The JLC is organized as a single body that expresses its purposes at meetings held at times and places approved by its members.
4. Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution and By-Laws of the JLC, along with duly approved procedures, once ratified, will be the governing authority of the JLC.
5. Non-partisan. The JLC shall be non-partisan and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles, or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office.
6. Support of Veterans Programs. The JLC, through its elected/appointed officials, and through its member organizations, shall publicize, promote, educate, and advocate for priority veterans programs that are presented to, approved by, and prioritized by the JLC at its Regular or Special Meetings. The JLC recognizes the individuality and sovereignty of each service organization. In some cases, support and prioritization of issues may differ. In the rare instances in which differences arise, each organization shall have the right to abstain from support, or to establish its own legislative priorities.

Article III – Eligibility and Representation

1. Eligibility. Qualifying veterans service organizations shall be 1) composed principally of and controlled by veterans of the United States Armed Forces, 2) a registered nonprofit organization in good standing, incorporated for the purpose of promoting programs designed to assist veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their Virginia-domiciled surviving spouses, orphans, and dependents, ~~and~~ 3) active and in good standing with its parent national organization, if such a parent organization exists, and 4) since the primary mission of the JLC is to provide advice and guidance to the Governor and the General Assembly, show a proven commitment to working with the state or federal government on policy and/or legislative solutions for veterans, military and/or national guard.

In order to qualify for membership, veterans service organizations should provide the following documentation to the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Department of Veterans Services:

- a. Congressional Charter or Articles of Incorporation – To show that the organization is “composed principally of and controlled by veterans of the United States Armed Forces” and that the organization was “incorporated for the purpose of promoting programs designed to assist Virginia-domiciled veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents”;
- b. By-Laws – To show that the organization is “composed principally of and controlled by veterans of the United States Armed Forces” and that the organization was “incorporated for the purpose of promoting programs designed

to assist Virginia-domiciled veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents”;

- c. Letter from the Internal Revenue Service designating its status as a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(19) organization – To show that the organization is “a registered nonprofit organization in good standing”;
 - d. A statement of good standing from the parent organization, if such an organization exists – To show that the organization is “active and in good standing with its parent national organization”;~~and~~
 - e. Confirmation from the State Corporation Commission of the current status of the organization, if available – To show that the organization is “in good standing”;
and
 - f. A documented legislative program with outreach throughout the Commonwealth is required – To show national/global legislative outreach is highly desired since many Virginia residents currently serve outside the Commonwealth.
2. Representation. In the interest of manageability and to retain its effectiveness, membership in the JLC shall be limited to a maximum of 26 veteran’s organizations. When an opening occurs, priority consideration will be given to those with the largest potential legislative impact.
- a. Each member organization is responsible for recommending a member for appointment to the Council by the Governor. When appointed, this member will act on behalf of his/her organization.
 - b. ~~a-~~Representatives shall be appointed for terms of three years.
 - c. ~~b-~~Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the un-expired terms.
 - d. ~~e-~~No person shall be eligible to serve for or during more than two successive three year terms.
 - e. ~~d-~~If a representative cannot attend a Council meeting, he/she may designate an alternate to attend the meeting in his/her place. When representing his/her organization, the alternate shall have the same responsibilities and duties as the appointed representative.

ATTACHMENT 9

Spring Work Plan

May 3 – June 25

- JLC members submit potential initiatives, with draft papers preferably in JLC format.
- JLC Chairman & Legislative Committee review proposals submitted to date and shares with DVS Policy Director for review.
- Legislative Committee and DVS provides feedback/guidance to VSO sponsors.

June 25:

- JLC Chairman distributes potential 2019 JLC Initiatives to members for review.
- JLC members share potential 2019 JLC Initiatives with their VSO leadership and membership to solicit feedback, comments, additional ideas, etc.

July 15:

- JLC members submit any additional potential 2019 JLC Initiatives – or concepts for initiatives based on state/national conferences.
- Additional proposals from state/national conferences must be sent to the Legislative Committee NLT Friday, July 20 to be included in the meeting packet for consideration at the July 25 meeting.

Summer meeting: July 25

ATTACHMENT 10

Status of JLC 2018 Initiatives – as of March 10, 2018 – SINE DIE

INITIATIVE	RECOMMENDATION	STATUS
JLC 2018-01 <i>Residency Requirement, Constitutional Amendment, 2nd Resolution</i>	That the 2018 General Assembly pass resolutions identical to the one passed by the 2017 General Assembly (HJ562), thereby continuing the process to amend Virginia’s Constitution to provide parity for surviving spouses of 100% disabled veterans and those Killed in Action.	Budget Amendment: Item 83 #8h (Del. Mirayres) FY19: \$100,000 FY20: \$0 <i>To fund informational advertising for a voter referendum to pursuant to the passage of the HB/HJ.</i> Legislation: HB71/HJ6 (Miyares) – 2/7: Passed House (98-0); 3/1: Passed Senate (40-0) SB900/SJ76 (Stuart) – 2/12: Passed Senate (40-0); 2/28: Passed House (98-0) Governor signed both on 3/23
JLC 2018-02 <i>Electronic Return of Voted Ballots by Overseas Military</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support of a pilot program for the electronic return of absentee ballots by Virginia’s deployed military service members to enfranchise their voting privileges.	Budget Amendment: Item 83 #2h (Del. Landes) FY19: \$1,452,757; FY20: \$622,757 Item 83 #3h (Del. Tran) FY19: \$500,000 FY20: \$500,000 Item 83 #3s (Sen. DeSteph) FY19: \$100,000 FY20: \$0 Legislation: HB1058 (Del. Tran) – 2/7: Laid on the Table HB1139 (Del. Landes) – 2/7: Laid on the Table SB559 (Sen. DeSteph) – 2/12: Passed Senate (31-9); 3/6 Left in House Appropriations
JLC 2018-03 <i>Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program (VECRP)</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support, in the amount of \$1,000,000 in FY19 and \$1,000,000 in FY20, to establish a Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program.	Budget Amendment: Item 120 #4h (Del. Keam & Del. Hodges) FY19: \$1,100,000; FY20: \$1,100,000 Item 120 #1s (Sen. McPike & Sen. Barker) FY19: \$1,000,000; FY20: \$1,000,000 2/18: Budget amendments not included in House or Senate budget Legislation: None needed
JLC 2018-04 <i>Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve an individual income tax subtraction for 100% service-connected disabled veterans with a federally adjusted gross income, not exceeding 250% of the federal poverty level for a four-person household, who have not already claimed another exemption.	Budget Amendment: Item #5s (Sen. Reeves) Language Only Legislation: HB792 (Del. Miyares) – 2/5: Continued to 2019 SB473 (Sen. Reeves) – 1/31: Passed By Indefinitely (PBI)
JLC 2018-05 <i>Removing Combat Requirement for VMSDEP</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly remove the requirement that a veteran’s disability rating be combat related. Instead, a permanent service-connected disability rating of at least 90%, plus satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran’s spouse or child for VMSDEP benefits.	Budget Amendment: Item 141 #2h (Del. Leftwich) FY19: \$900,000; FY20: \$900,000 Item 466 #1s (Sen. Stuart) FY19: \$900,000; FY20: \$900,000 Legislation: HB748 (Del. Leftwich) – 2/5: Laid on the Table HB1332 (Del. Torian) – 2/13: Left In Committee SB259 (Sen. Stuart) – 2/7: Continued to 2019
JLC 2018-06 <i>Increase State Tax Subtraction for National Guard to \$5,000</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.	Budget Amendment: None Legislation: None

ATTACHMENT 11

2019 Potential Priorities

	Issue	Idea
1	Voting	Pilot Program for Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act; secure return of voted military-overseas ballots by electronic means - Requires the State Board of Elections to establish and supervise a pilot program for the secure return of voted military-overseas ballots by electronic means for deployed active duty and National Guard deployed outside of the U.S. [ACTIVE DUTY] [QUALITY OF LIFE]
2	Voting	Counting absentee ballots received after the polls close. Require absentee ballots cast by military and overseas absentee voters received after the close of the polls on election day, but before 5p on the day before the State Board meets to ascertain the results of the election be counted and included in the results. [ACTIVE DUTY] [QUALITY OF LIFE]
3	Tax Relief	Provide Property Tax Relief for Disabled Veterans. Commissioners of the Revenue, with the assistance of DVS and DMV, would create an application for the exemption of one vehicle for a veteran with a rating of at least 90% disabled. Additionally, there is no overarching state regulations and a patchwork and unequal system has cropped up. Current issue: when a veteran moves from one locality that offers a partial or full exemption to one that offers none. CORVA had suggested tying it to the DV plate. However, current law has no minimum rating for the DV plate. There are also some other plates that are free of charge or are service connected that a veteran might not want to give up (Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Silver Star, Vietnam War, etc). DAV would like the JLC to support a statewide, systematic approach to providing property tax relief to disabled veterans on one vehicle. [VETERANS] [QUALITY OF LIFE]
4	Tax Relief	Request a Study - DVS and Department of Taxation to study the feasibility of exempting military retirement income from taxation. Request the agencies convene a joint working group to study the feasibility of exempting military retirement income from taxation, which was brought before the JLC by one member VSO, in 2018, but set in our "parking lot" and not added to the 2018 priorities. [VETERANS] [QUALITY OF LIFE]
5	Entrepreneurship	Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program [BUDGET] This amendment would provide funding to establish a veteran specific microloan program within the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority, including 1 FTE. This program is for start-ups that cannot obtain funding through traditional banks/loan programs or through private investors. Veterans will have to agree to go through financial and business mentorship programs as part of the condition of the loan. [VETERANS] [ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT]
6	Entrepreneurship	Amend the Virginia Public Procurement Act to assist service disabled veteran businesses with a procurement enhancement program. Establishes a statewide SDVOB procurement enhancement program, with a statewide goal of 5% utilization in all discretionary spending by state agencies in procurement orders, prime contracts, and subcontracts to SDVOBs. [VETERANS] [ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT]
7	Employment	Request a Study - DPOR to study certification and licensing opportunities for veterans. As a follow up to Del. Freitas' HB533, which directs DVS to promote awareness among veterans of the acceptance of substantially equivalent military training, education, or experience by DPOR, or any other board named in Title 54.1. Currently MMAC is the only program which fits this description. A study by DVS and DPOR could explore if other areas could benefit. This would assist veterans in transitioning to the civilian workforce. [VETERANS] [WORKFORCE; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT]
8	Employment	Protections for Military Spouses in Employment - Military spouses who are often passed over for jobs because employers assume they will be leaving soon. Virginia has no incentives for hiring military spouses, nor protections against discrimination in employment hiring practices. [ACTIVE DUTY SPOUSES] [WORKFORCE; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; QUALITY OF LIFE]
9	Education	Expand Credit for military experience to 4-year institutions (currently just VCCS) Most 4-year institutions of higher learning are already complying with the law, even though it only applies to VCCS. [ACTIVE DUTY; VETERANS] [EDUCATION]
10	DVS	Rent for the Virginia War Memorial - with the expansion completed in 2020, the rent will go up and the VWM will need an increase in appropriated funds. This was a JLC priority in 2016, but DVS did not need the funding request at this point. The construction project at VWM is now at the point where this is a priority for DVS. [AGENCY][HONORING VETERANS; OUTREACH]
11	DVS	Benefits Offices - Opening new offices. To improve access and assistance to veterans, the General Assembly should continue to support opening new offices around the state. Three are currently in the works for 2018-19 and staff will need to be hired and trained. [AGENCY][HONORING VETERANS; OUTREACH]
12	National Guard	Support increasing the state active duty (SAD) pay for Virginia National Guard. This was shown to be more effective in recruiting and retaining Guardsmen, as well as more cost-effective than a tax subtraction, in a 2017 research study conducted by William & Mary MPP students. This has the support of DMA and Gen. Williams. [NATIONAL GUARD] [QUALITY OF LIFE; WORKFORCE]

ATTACHMENT 12
**JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

BY-LAWS

Article I – Officers and Their Roles

1. **Chair** (Elected Officer). The Chair of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC, or, the Council) shall be the Chief Executive of the JLC. He or she shall:
 - a. Preside at all meetings.
 - b. Enforce the Constitution, By-Laws and duly approved operating procedures.
 - c. In cooperation with other officers and Council members, be responsible for furthering the aims and purposes of the Council.
 - d. Advise the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services, the members of the General Assembly, and the Governor of Virginia on veteran-related matters.
 - e. Promote those legislative programs and recommendations approved and prioritized by the JLC.
 - f. Appoint those officers named in Article V, Paragraph 2, of the JLC Constitution to serve a term concurrent with his or her own, subject to confirmation by Council members. He or she shall nominate replacements, as needed.
 - g. Attend meetings of other Department of Veterans Services' Boards as specified in the Code of Virginia and other Commonwealth boards and committees dealing with veterans' issues. In the event that neither the Chair nor the Vice-Chair can attend, appoint a JLC member or alternate member to attend, represent the JLC, and report the meeting results to the Council. The Chair shall appoint a JLC member as acting chair to preside at any JLC meeting from which both the Chair and Vice-Chair anticipate that they will be absent.

2. **Vice-Chair** (Elected Officer). The Vice-Chair shall:
 - a. In the absence of the Chair, preside at all meetings of the JLC and attend other veterans related meetings as required in Article I, Paragraph 1.g. or appoint a JLC member or alternate to attend, represent the JLC, and report the meeting results to the Council.
 - b. Keep himself or herself fully informed of all issues and activities in which the JLC is involved.
 - c. In the event of the stated, or obvious, inability of the Chair to perform his or her assigned duties, assume those responsibilities until the JLC has elected a new Chair.