Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2019

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on October 16, 2019, at the American Legion, 1708 Commonwealth Ave., Richmond.

Members Present

- Tom Wozniak, Air Force Association
- Rick Oertel, American Legion
- John Cooper, AMVETS
- William Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association
- Tim Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- Robert Herbert, Legion of Valor
- Jim Barrett, Marine Corps League
- Frank Wickersham, Military Officers Association of America
- Jim Cuthbertson, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Craig Cressman, Navy Mutual Aid Association
- Preston Curry, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- David Sitler, Reserve Officers Association
- Perry Taylor, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Dan Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Robert Barnette, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Kevin Reynolds, Virginia National Guard Association
- Judy Reid, Women Marines Association
- Michael Dick, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Frank Finelli, Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation
- Acting Commissioner Steven J. Combs, Department of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- Michael Flanagan, Association of the United States Army
- Denice Williams, Disabled American Veterans
- Kenneth Shelton, Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry
- Lauren Augustine, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
- William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars
- Mike Boyle, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Jon Ostrowski, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Charles Montgomery, Vietnam Veterans of America

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Bob Sempek, AUSA
- Thomas Wendel, DAV
- Randy Reid, NCOA

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- Mark Atchison, MOPH
- Monti Zimmerman, MOAA

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Carlos Hopkins, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Assistant Sec. Jon Ward, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Glendalynn Glover, DVS
- Carrie Ann Alford, DVS
- Brian Pickral, DVS
- Roni Sepanski, DVS
- Annie Walker, DVS
- Charlie Palumbo, DVS
- Keta Fetters, DVS
- Beverly VanTull, DVS
- David Wingfield, VADOC
- Dalton Lee, DMV
- Walter Mercer, DMA
- Cassy Russell, DMA
- Howard Pisons, VSBFA
- Karla Boughey, Veterans Services Foundation (VSF)
- MacKenzie Heidelmark, District Director, Congresswoman Spanberger
- Chris Snider, Office of Senator Bryce Reeves

Others Present

- Maggie Wickersham, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Elaine Goldsworthy
- Sue Oertel, American Legion
- John Manning, 5th Baptist Veterans Ministry

Items included in the Agenda Packet

Agenda
July 24, 2019 meeting minutes (Agenda Item IV)
Reports (Agenda Item V)

- Board of Veterans Services
- Veterans Services Foundation
- Department of Veterans Services (not listed on agenda)

Update on Biennial Budget process (Agenda Item VI)
New Business (Agenda Item X)

- Potential 2020 JLC Initiatives (Agenda Item X.a)
- Voting Card to Rank Potential 2020 JLC Initiatives (Agenda Item X.b)
- Information for JLC Day 2020 (Agenda Item X.d)
- 2020 Meeting Dates (Agenda Item X.e)

Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation & Thoughts
Chairman Frank Wickersham called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m., and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In the absence of Chaplain Denice Williams, Vice Chair Bill Ashton delivered an opening prayer.

Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, and Introduction of Guests
The roll was called, and 20 of the 25 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. Mr. Michael Dick, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS); Mr. Frank Finelli, Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation (VSF); and DVS Acting Commissioner Steven J. Combs, were recorded as present. A quorum was determined.

Chairman Wickersham introduced the new BVS Chairman Michael Dick and asked him to give a few words of introduction. Mr. Dick said he was glad to be at the meeting and has just started a new job with the College of William & Mary and looks forward to working with the JLC.

Chairman Wickersham also introduced John Manning, 5th Baptist Veterans Ministry's soon to be new representative to the JLC.

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

Approval of the Agenda, Approve July 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes
Chairman Wickersham announced an amendment of the agenda as before the members, striking Agenda Item VII.b "Overview of HJ674 Report submitted to the General Assembly". Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Dave Sitler to approve the meeting agenda. The motion carried **unanimously.**

Chairman Wickersham asked for approval of the July 24, 2019 meeting minutes and agenda. Mr. James Cuthbertson made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. John Cooper to approve the minutes. The motions carried **unanimously.** (Agenda is *Attachment 1*)

REPORTS
Board of Veterans Services
BVS Chairman Michael Dick gave the BVS report stating that BVS met on August 22 at the Amelia Cemetery and received a report on the Veterans Care Centers from Acting Commissioner Steven Combs and VCC administrators Robyn Jennings and Todd Barnes. The BVS also held elections for chair and vice chair. He was elected chair to succeed Jim Icenhour and Ms. Tammi Lambert was elected vice chair. (*Attachment 2)*

Veterans Services Foundation
VSF Chairman Frank Finelli gave the VSF report and gave a thorough report to the JLC on the many issues and areas of focus currently for the VSF, including recent events such as Smithfield Foods presenting a check to Governor Northam and VVFS Director Carol Berg, the Dominion Energy Charity Classic, and an event with the Richmond Dragway organized by Ms. Karla Boughey. (*Attachment 3)*

Update on Biennial Budget process

Carlos Hopkins, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, began his remarks by stating that he and Ms. Alford had been going to a number of town halls around Virginia in the past few months and getting the word out to veterans and others in the community about DVS and all its' programs. The Secretary asked the JLC members to please share with your VSO membership all the information about DV that is given in these meetings, and help us get the information out to the veterans as he and Ms. Alford can only do so many town halls.

Secretary Hopkins then gave an overview of the budgetary process, mentioning the "biennial budget timeline" graphics in everyone's packets, and that the cabinet secretaries are working with the Governor and his staff on priorities. He said that the consensus with the 9.3% increase announced in the press this week is that reality often does not meet projections. In 2013 and 2009 after spikes in increased collections there was a drop off. Secretary of Finance Aubrey Lane is looking at a scenario where there is no extra money, even with the 9.3% increase in collections and the secretaries have all been tasked with finding savings in their agencies.

Secretary Hopkins discussed the Governor's priorities, including the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide – developing best practices and getting unfunded positions funded to provide supportive services. He mentioned a $10M infrastructure grant, that was secured with the support of the Hampton Roads Association and Senator Reeves and NOVA Association. This will help several things, including Fort Eustis and it's need to move the front gate to help current traffic backups on I-64 due to the current position of the gate.

The secretary is also working on expanding Credits to Careers to 4-year universities. SCHEV is supportive but the universities have different needs and systems that the Virginia Community College system which is one system. $1.5M is needed, and Education Secretary Atif Qarni is taking the lead.

Tuition assistance for the National Guard is also a priority and the secretary is hoping to see the funding in the budget. This would be for free tuition at state schools and is something other states are already doing. Secretary Hopkins is still focused on unemployment claims with guardsmen and funding the emergency response pay for state active duty and for the Citizen Defense Force.

Mr. Dan Boyer asked about what he is doing in Southwest Virginia? Secretary Hopkins said that they are focused on broadband in southwest Virginia and there is significant funding for that. He has also put together a SWVA Veterans Coalition of organizations, businesses, and elected officials. Meetings are in Abingdon.

Mr. Bill Ashton stated that he sits on the suicide prevention committee at the federal level and said "kudos to Brandi for all her hard work" and he stated that the need is to get the word out to veterans and families so they know about it and take advantage of it, or the program won't be effective.

Chairman Wickersham thanked Secretary Hopkins for his update. The charts distributed to the group are *Attachment 4*.

Presentation on DVS Programs for Employment & Transition: VTAP, Hire Vets Now, Entrepreneurship & Women Veterans

Chairman Wickersham introduced Deputy Commissioner Annie Walker, who explained, as she had at the July 24 meeting, that a new structure has evolved from the old "VETE" directorate of the Virginia Department of Veteran's Services ensures that every veteran has a full and fair opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential. She stated that VTAP is the "boots on the ground" to reach transitioning service members before they leave service. VTAP staff are on bases around Virginia, meeting TSMs and telling them about the programs and resources available.

She introduced Mrs. Charlie Palumbo, Director of Employment and Transition programs, who introduced the new VTAP Program Manager, Keta Fetters and Beverly Van Tull, Women Veterans Program Manager. Ms. Fetters gave a short introduction of herself.

Mrs. Palumbo started her presentation by stating that the VTAP team are all trained career coaches and assist with resume writing, resources, skills assessments and being the point person on bases for transitioning service members. VTAP now has a permanent team of one manager, one analyst, and three regional transition coordinators.

VTAP has implemented the Hire Vets Now Fellowship Program which is a MOU with Mid-Atlantic Navy, V3 companies and the Virginia Chamber Foundation to do internships under the DOD Skillbridge program for service members in the Navy who meet the criteria and have their C.O. sign off on the internship. Over 500 inquiries have been made, with over 100 applications and so far 5 service members have completed the internship program and all 5 have been offered employment. VTAP and Virginia Chamber of Commerce Foundation have partnered up to host Hire Vets Now networking events on military instillations across the Commonwealth. These events allow service members to meet and interact with participating businesses.

Mrs. Palumbo stated that the Entrepreneurship program goal is to build the Virginia Veteran ecosystem connecting, coordinating and disseminating information to veterans and spouses pursuing, starting, or running businesses. The position is currently open, since the person who was hired had been an entrepreneur himself and left the agency after nine months. But in that time, he created a driving interest in entrepreneurship and with partner organizations since he was a point person. He completed the SBA Boots to Business program and reached out to several organizations to start building the ecosystem. He created graphics and handouts and showed that the three problems for veteran entrepreneurs are – access to capital, community – you don't build up community relationships in the military because you are always moving, and training is a problem.

He helped start the pitch contest as part of the Women Veterans Summit, which was wildly successful and generated a lot of interest with women veterans.

Mr. Finelli asked about visibility with all of Skillbridge in Virginia? Ms. Palumbo said it would be nice but it's not scalable with the current staff and the current MOU is with the Navy. Mr. Finelli also asked about apprenticeship information and Ms. Palumbo said there is a person who gives out information on the apprenticeship opportunities. Finally, Mr. Finelli mentioned the Booz Allen Hamilton Military Spouse fellowship program and asked if the state was working on anything like that. Mrs. Palumbo said it is easier for big companies like BAH to do a mil spouse fellowship program because then they can hire them – it's being done by the bigger companies but there is no backing for internships or

fellowships for spouses with Skillbridge and DVS does not have the funding.

Mr. John Cooper asked what the relationship is with the TAP programs? Mrs. Palumbo said VTAP has a good relationship with TAP managers and it's getting stronger with the Hire Vets Now fellowship program. TAP at all the instillations is different based on the manager but DVS has good relationships and right now there is a HVN table set up at Naval Station Norfolk because of the MOU and the TAP folks will walk service members over to the HVN table.

Mr. Randy Reid asked if Coast Guard can participate as well? Ms. Palumbo said yes, all branches, plus the Coast Guard.

Mr. Ashton asked if they work with SBA? Mrs. Palumbo said yes, VTAP works with SBA and several team members have gone through the Boots to Business program, but SBA does not have much to offer veteran entrepreneurs at this point and that is where they have been working to fill the gap. VTAP is also working with PenFed and Seda Goff, who has been involved in the roundtables as well.

Mr. Ashton also asked if VTAP has signed up with the DOD milspouse employment program. Mrs. Palumbo said that she is familiar with the program and has partnered with them but not signed up.

Mrs. Palumbo handed the presentation over to Ms. Beverly Van Tull, women veterans program manager. Ms. Van Tull read her program's mission statement: Virginia's Women Veteran Program (VWVP) provides access to community resources to educate, unify, and empower Virginia's women veterans, who have served in the military in all eras; by ensuring they receive timely yet appropriate transition and benefits support; employment and education outreach; health and community advocacy.

Ms. Van Tull mentioned the roundtables, which have been conducted with Delegate Kathleen Murphy in the past year. There have been seven roundtables with 101 participants. The last two, in Tyson's Corner this summer and in Quantico in October were the best attended and had a new format with the round tables held at lunchtime to reach more women, and organized around a theme. This year's theme is small businesses, entrepreneurship and financial services. There is still a time at the end of the event for women veterans to ask broader questions and provide feedback on what other topics they are interested in learning more about. She gave the Council statistics gathered on the women veterans who have participated in the program. Ms. Van Tull said she is planning for the present and building for the future.

She talked about the Virginia Women Veterans Summit that had been in Hampton in May and the wonderful turn out of over 800 women veterans and 57 exhibitors. She played a four-minute video of the summit for the Council. Both the presentation and video were distributed to the council members after the meeting, and are available upon request.

There were no questions for Ms. Van Tull from the Council. Ms. Alford mentioned that the VSOs should consider being exhibitors and sponsors of the Summit next year in Richmond as it is a wonderful opportunity to interact with a large group of veterans. Any of the JLC members who also wanted to consider having a table or being a sponsor with their businesses or the VSO they represent should talk with DC Walker or Ms. Van Tull for all the details for next year. Ms. Van Tull thanked Ms. Alford for that and told the group the 2020 Summit will be June 16-17 in Richmond at the convention center.

Chairman Wickersham thanked Ms. Van Tull and called for a 15 minute break.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Ranking of Potential Policy Papers for 2020

Chairman Wickersham began by stating that Mr. Sitler, as legislative chair, would conduct the next part of the meeting but that he would hand the chair's gavel over to the vice chair when he wanted to speak as the MOAA representative. Chairman Wickersham called for a motion to move all 10 papers forward and discuss as a block. Mr. Sitler made the **motion, seconded** by Mr. Kevin Hoffman to move all 10 papers forward and discuss as a block. The motion passed **unanimously.**

Mr. Sitler began by referring everyone to the pages in their packets and that the group could determine papers are not ready and should be put in the "parking lot" for next year.

Chairman Wickersham asked if there was a motion to remove items?

Mr. James Cuthbertson stated he believed the broadband paper should be removed as it isn't fully a veteran issue.

Mr. Rick Oertel stated that it could be a letter of support instead.

Mr. Dan Boyer and Mr. Jim Barrett both agreed with the idea of a letter of support.

Chairman Wickersham handed the gavel to Vice Chair Ashton and spoke on behalf of MOAA, which believes broadband to be an old technology and the $50M price tag, some of which is already in the budget and the fact that it is not fully a veteran issue gives MOAA pause to support. Mr. Wickersham agreed on drafting a letter.

Mr. Dave Sitler, sponsor of the paper, said ROA would not have a problem with a letter of support.

Mr. Bill Ashton said that several of the VSOs on the JLC have been involved in the Governor's coalition created around this issue and lent their logos to a letter and a separate letter of support is a good idea as there is already involvement.

Mr. Barrett made a **motion**, **seconded** by Mr. Sitler to rescind the **JLC Support of the Governor's Commonwealth Connect Plan - Universal Broadband Access for Virginians** paper from the list and have a letter of support drafted. The motion passed **unanimously.**

Chairman Wickersham asked if there was a motion to remove other items?

Mr. Oertel stated that he would remove or table the paper **Phased-in System for Partial State Tax Exemption for Military Retirement Income.**

Mr. Sitler seconded the motion and stated that since the Council has not received the report of the HJ674 work group, they should table the paper until December.

Mr. Boyer stated that he thought the list should get down to 5 – 7 issues. The JLC should stick to precedent and not create the impression the JLC is a "grab bag" of ideas.

Mr. Ashton, the paper sponsor, spoke to the paper, reiterating some of the points made in the paper that

the idea is to create a phased-in system for exempting military retiree pay as most states do something. Mr. Ashton said that there are 59,563 retirees in Virginia, but he is unable to get any data on how many have left and moved to other states because of tax exemptions. He stated that this year the paper is a phased-in system for retirees who are 65 years old or older. Virginia is one of 9 states that do not offer any form of exemption from income taxes for retirees. DOD report says 60,000 veterans over 55 in Virginia and therefore it [the paper] should be taken forward.

There was discussion with Mr. Oertel and Mr. Sitler on the motion – if the motion was to table the paper until December, next year or indefinitely. Mr. Oertel said he would prefer to outright reject the paper but was amenable to a friendly amendment to the motion tabling it for one year.

Mr. Ashton asked Ms. Alford if the presentation that was stricken from the agenda will be given in December. She said yes.

Chairman Wickersham called the question, and asked Ms. Alford to restate the motion. She said the motion was to table the paper **Phased-in System for Partial State Tax Exemption for Military Retirement Income** until next year. Mr. Sitler made the **motion**, **seconded** by Mr. Cuthbertson. The motion passed **19 in favor and 1 opposed.**

Chairman Wickersham asked the National Guard representatives to speak to the Guard papers as a group.

Mr. Hoffman said the most important issue for VNGA is the **Virginia National Guard Emergency Response Pay** issue. And second is the tuition paper [**Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Increase**] but move that one to a budget amendment.

Mr. Robert Barnette said that the JLC should move forward with the paper **Tax Credits for Employers Who Hire National Guard and Reserves**.

Mr. Oertel made a **motion**, **seconded** by Mr. Cuthbertson, to remove the tuition assistance paper from the list for this year, and put in a letter of support if the funding is in the budget.

Mr. Cuthbertson stated that $500,000 is a big price for what we are considering.

Ms. Russell came forward and spoke to the paper, saying that it is, but the $3M listed in the paper is already in the budget so comparatively it is not a huge ask and it is $250,000 ask for FY22.
Assistant Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Jon Ward, stated that the tuition assistance is a top priority of Secretary Hopkins.

Mr. Bob Sempek asked for a point of order – is the question a letter of support?
Ms. Alford answered yes.

Chairman Wickersham called the question. Mr. Cuthbertson made the **motion**, **seconded** by Mr. Oertel to remove the **Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Increase** from the list and write a letter of support if it is in the Governor's budget. The motion passed **19 in favor and 1 opposed.**

Mr. Hoffman asked about ranking the remaining papers and Mr. Oertel made a **motion**, **seconded** by

Mr. Tim Whitmore, to accept the remaining seven papers. The motion passed **unanimously.**

Mr. Boyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuthbertson, to make the **2nd Resolution - Personal Property Tax Relief for Certain Disabled Veterans** the number one priority.

Chairman Wickersham handed the gavel to Vice Chair Ashton and spoke on behalf of MOAA, stating the JLC needs to stick with the initiative and see it through and show continued support and not back off half way through.

Mr. Oertel and Mr. Boyer agreed. Chairman Wickersham called the question. The motion passed **unanimously**.

Mr. Sitler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hoffman, to make **Virginia National Guard Emergency Response Pay** the number two priority.

Mr. John Cooper said AMVETS would like to see the voting paper, **Counting Military Absentee Ballots After Election Day**, be the number two priority.

Mr. Sitler withdrew his motion.

Mr. Boyer made a **motion**, **seconded** by Mr. Oertel to make the military ballots paper the number two priority.

Mr. Boyer stated that he agreed as the JLC has been working on the issue of voting and counting ballots for several years and this is a low-tech, low-cost solution that seems to satisfy all the arguments against previous efforts made by legislators.

Mr. Ashton asked if the General Assembly can move forward on this issue or if it is a constitutional amendment.

Ms. Alford stated that the General Assembly can move forward on it, and reminded the JLC that this paper is based on Senator Surovell's SB771 and he is standing by to submit it again in 2020 with the JLC's support. Chairman Wickersham asked Ms. Alford to read the recommendation from the paper. She read the paper's recommendation and clarified that it usually takes about two weeks for the State Board of Elections to certify the results that come through on Election Night, barring any issues. That means with election day on November 5, the elections will be certified on or about November 15, thereby allowing, hypothetically if this were already in place, ballots to be counted until November 13.

Mr. Cooper said that the last time the issue came before the General Assembly it wasn't clear why they didn't move forward but vets need to press the issue and supporting as 2nd priority will help do that.

Mr. Oertel said that it is something the legislators are always sympathetic to, just not the cyber piece and this is fairly low cost.

Bill Ashton asked if there was any cyber piece to this paper.

Ms. Alford answered no, there is not.

Mr. Reid stated that he could not support the ballots paper above the paper **Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans**, which he felt was more important and would help veterans more.

Mr. Oertel stated that he was the sponsor of that paper, but he felt the ballots issue would help more veterans as there are not many veterans who will qualify for the income tax subtraction.

Chairman Wickersham called the question. The motion passed **19 in favor and 1 opposed**.

Mr. Reid made a **motion**, **seconded** by Mr. Oertel, to make **Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans**, the third priority.

Chairman Wickersham asked Ms. Alford to please read the recommendation. Ms. Alford read, "That the Governor and General Assembly approve an individual income tax subtraction for 100% service-connected disabled veterans with a federal adjusted gross income, not exceeding 150% of the federal poverty level for a four-person household, who have not already claimed another exemption." She added that as the paper points out, the Virginia Department of Taxation estimates 1,371 veterans would qualify for this exemption. However, that is a best guess after working with DOD, it may be a few more or less, but it is definitely a small number.

Mr. Cuthbertson asked, then it's not much money? Ms. Alford answered no.

Chairman Wickersham called the question. The motion passed **unanimously.**

Mr. Hoffman made a **motion**, **seconded** by Mr. Sitler, to make **Virginia National Guard Emergency Response Pay** the number four priority.

Mr. Oertel agreed, saying he sat in on meetings about this proposal and as it has changed substantially from last year so that pay increase adjustments are now based on rank, it is now good and should be supported by the legislature.

Mr. Cuthbertson said the JLC stubbed our toe on this issue last year, this is more rational and we should support.

Chairman Wickersham called the question. The motion passed **unanimously.**

Mr. Barnette made a **motion**, **seconded** by Mr. Oertel, to make the **Tax Credits for Employers Who Hire National Guard and Reserves** the fifth priority.

Chairman Wickersham asked if there is a cost?

Mr. Barnette said no because it is a tax credit.

Chairman Wickersham called the question. The motion passed **unanimously.**

Mr. Ashton made a **motion**, **seconded** by Mr. Boyer, to make the paper **Counting Military Service as Credit in Teacher Salaries** the sixth priority.

Mr. Sempek agreed that it should be the sixth priority.

Mr. Hoffman asked how this is paid at the local level? Is it an unfunded mandate on the localities?

Chairman Wickersham passed the chair's gavel to Vice Chair Ashton and rose to speak for MOAA. Mr. Wickersham said Virginia has a county system, and that it is an unfunded mandate on the counties.

Several members asked for asked for clarification on if it is for new teachers only or new and current teachers.

Mr. Boyer read from the paper that "For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2020, compensation packages to new and current teachers in Virginia who are veterans of the U.S. armed forces should accurately reflect their education and experience in the military, with credit for their years of service, up to six years."

Ms. Alford said that each fall DVS has a group of William & Mary graduate students researching and issue and working on a project and this is the paper they are researching this year. They have been collecting information and interviewing people and will work with Secretary Hopkins and Secretary Qarni on possible funding solutions. She stated that the JLC could move forward with the paper at this time, vote to table it until December when the students will give their presentation or vote to put it in the parking lot until next year.

Mr. Boyer said that maybe it would be a good idea to table it until next year when they have all the information in and can assess it better.

Chairman Wickersham asked Mr. Ashton if he would accept that as a friendly amendment to his motion. Mr. Ashton agreed to accept the amendment to table the paper until next year. Mr. Oertel seconded the amended motion. The motion passed **unanimously.**

Mr. Sitler said that the list was now down to six.

Mr. Taylor made a **motion**, **seconded** by Mr. Sempek, to make **Microloans for Veterans Program (MVP)** the sixth priority.

Mr. Sitler called on Mr. Howard Pisons the new Executive Director with the Virginia Small Business Fiancing Authority (VSBFA) who said the VSBFA approves of the paper and the idea. He said he is a Marine Corps veteran and excited to be at the meeting and able to support the paper. The VSBFA finds it appealing because of the training and oversight attached to the funding and sharing the risk with banking institutions with the Tier 2 veterans.

Ms. Alford reminded the JLC members that this is the paper the William & Mary students researched last year and did a lot of good work to revise the policy and came up with the great idea of looping in the V3 banking institutions so that funding from the state and liability to the state remains minimal while helping a lot of veterans start businesses.

Mr. Ashton asked Mr. Pisons if he is a state employee. Mr. Pisons said yes, VSBFA is a part of the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity and they are all state employees.

Chairman Wickersham called the question. The motion passed **unanimously**.

All 6 final papers are included as *Attachment 5*.

Instructions on potential patron process

After all the papers had been voted on and approved to move forward, Mr. Sitler asked Ms. Alford to give the Council reminders about the next phase of the process.

Ms. Alford stated that due to several competitive House and Senate races this year the General Assembly may look very different in January and to not get too tied to a legislator as the patron. She said she would email the final list to the General Assembly Military & Veterans Caucus members that afternoon and the entire General Assembly the next day. She said that often, legislators do not tell her beforehand that they are going to put a bill in, and the legislative drafters will not tell legislators if others are putting in the same bill, so if a paper sponsor has a commitment from a legislator to please let Ms. Alford know to keep a somewhat accurate record of which papers are being turned into legislation and have multiple patrons. Depending on how Election day turns out, multiple patrons may be a good thing to have, she stated.

JLC Day 2020

Chairman Wickersham asked Ms. Alford to review the handout for JLC Day in 2020. Ms. Alford read through the hand out and stated again that no details would be worked on or finalized until after election day and there would be more discussion at the December meeting. (*Attachment 6*)

Ms. Alford also asked the group to work with their VSOs on their own "storming the hill" dates – while it can be useful to have the legislators think of the day as "veterans day" and see a large group, it can also get confusing for legislators with JLC priorities and the other priorities of individual VSOs. Additionally, there is merit to spreading out visits to maintain a constant presence of veterans meeting with legislators during session, she said.

Mr. Cuthbertson agreed that it was better to spread it out as to not get priorities confused and to keep veterans present in the building throughout session.

Mr. Hoffman again invited the JLC members to participate in the National Guard reception that will take place that evening as it worked out well last year. He said they were still working on the details, but if VSOs would like to chip in and help defray the costs of the reception that would be greatly appreciated as it is an expensive event for the Guard.

Other New Business and Open Discussion

Chairman Wickersham asked the members to approve the 2020 dates listed in their packets (*Attachment 7*). There was no dissent, the dates were approved.

Mr. Ashton mentioned the Veterans Experience Action Centers, which the VA has set up in states. He said that the VEACs brings VA, Veteran service organizations, community service providers and other government partners together to provide services, resources and information directly to Veterans and military families in their community, and spoke of the one in North Carolina, which was in partnership with the American Legion. It was over 3 days in September and 30 VA Administrators and 15 Veterans Service Officers (VSO's) on staff to assist veterans with existing or new claims with the VA.

Public Comment
Mr. Monti Zimmerman, MOAA Alternate stood and commended the group on creating a good list of priorities for the year.

Adjournment
Chairman Wickersham stated that the next meeting would be on December 18 at the American Legion building. There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

American Legion, Dept. of Virginia
1708 Commonwealth Ave., Richmond VA

October 16, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

REVISED PROPOSED AGENDA

I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Frank Wickersham, Chairman* (10:00-10:05)

II. Opening Prayer & Thoughts, *Bill Ashton, Vice Chair* (10:05-10:10)

III. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, welcome new BVS Chairman and introduction of guests – *Frank Wickersham, Chairman* (10:10 – 10:20)

IV. Approval of Agenda; Approval of July 24 meeting minutes – *Frank Wickersham, Chairman* (10:20-10:25)

V. Reports (10:25 – 10:40)
   a. Board of Veterans Services – *Mike Dick, BVS Chairman*
   b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Frank Finelli, VSF Chairman*
   c. Virginia War Memorial Board, *Marie Juliano*

VI. Update on Biennial Budget process from *Carlos Hopkins Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs* (10:40 – 11:00)

VII. Department of Veterans Services (11:00-11:50)
   a. Update on Programs for Veteran Employment & Transition: VTAP/Hire Vets Now, Entrepreneurship & Women Veterans – *Charlie Palumbo, Director of Employment & Transition*
   ~~b. Overview of HJ674 Report submitted to the General Assembly, *Carrie Ann Alford, DVS Policy Director & Frank Badillo from Dept. of Taxation*~~

VIII. BREAK

IX. New Business (12:00 – 12:40)
   a. Review Potential 2020 JLC Initiatives, *Dave Sitler, Legislative Chair*
   b. Rank final list of 2020 JLC Initiatives, *Dave Sitler, Legislative Chair*
   c. Instructions on potential patron process, *Dave Sitler, Legislative Chair & Carrie Ann Alford, DVS Policy Director*
   d. Discussion about JLC Day & Reception during 2020 Session, *Frank Wickersham, Chairman & Carrie Ann Alford, DVS Policy Director*
   e. Other new business and open discussion, *Frank Wickersham*

X. Public comment period (12:40 – 12:45)

XI. Closing remarks, next meeting, December 18 – *Frank Wickersham, Chairman* (12:45 – 12:50)

XII. Adjourn (12:50)
Lunch to follow

ATTACHMENT 2
REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS (JLC)
October 16, 2019

Since the last JLC meeting, the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on August 22, 2019 at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia.

At our August meeting we had a very informative presentation from Acting Commissioner Steve Combs and Robyn Jennings and Todd Barnes, administrators of Sitter & Barfoot and Virginia Veterans Care Centers (respectively).

We are working on updating our bylaws to reflect the changes going into effect on January 1, 2020 as a result of legislation that will add three seats to BVS as well as the Chairman of the War Memorial Foundation Board as ex officio. Additionally, on January 1, 2020 the Virginia War Memorial Board will sunset and BVS will assume all duties of support to the Virginia War Memorial.

We held elections for Chairman and Vice Chairman. Michael Dick, a retired Marine Corps Colonel, was elected Chairman and Tammi Lambert, an Army veteran, was elected Vice Chair. We also received progress reports from our three new working groups: Benefits, Carl Bedell, Chair; Education, Mike Dick, Chair; and Veterans and the Arts, Julie Waters, Chair.

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.

Our next meeting will be at the Virginia War Memorial on Thursday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dick
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 3

VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

Report to the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

October 16, 2019

VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on September 19, 2019 at the American Legion Department Headquarters in Richmond, Virginia. The Development and Finance Committees also met on the same date and at the same location. The Procedures and Policies met on August 6, 2019 in Richmond.
Chairman Finelli provided the Board an overview of accomplishments during Virginia FY20 including efforts to improve fiduciary oversight, enhance fundraising, and raise awareness of DVS programs, culminating in the Smithfield Foods check presentation ceremony with Governor Northam on August 22, 2019. He also presented a three-prong VSF fundraising strategy with a goal of $800k focusing on pursuit of existing donor pipeline, grass roots initiative for new donors, and development of corporate sponsors. Secretary Hopkins also presented priorities relating to the Governor's Challenge on Suicide Prevention.

The Development Committee discussed the Foundation's revenue priorities for FY20 that includes a Veterans Day direct mail letter and recruiting businesses to host a fundraising event benefitting the Foundation. Other campaigns planned will involve reaching out to the 200 top Virginia Businesses and V3 Companies. The Pipeline continues to be updated as Trustees make contact with various donors.

The Finance Committee reviewed the Proposed FY21 FY22 Budget presented by the Department of Veteran Services (DVS). It was proposed that before voting on the budget breakdown for the individual programs, it would be appropriate for the Trustees to hear from the various DVS program directors about their needs in order to use that information in support of fundraising activity. The directors will be invited to the December meeting to provide an overview of their expected needs in FY21 and FY22. The Finance Committee approved a number of recommendations that included the appropriation of $796,500 for DVS programs.

The Procedures and Policies Committee coordinated a broad range of actions relating to updated Bylaws and policies. The committee reviewed and recommended copies of the revised Bylaws, policies #1 and # 2 and legislation to be presented for approval before the Board.

The Foundation approved the 4th quarter financial report for FY19 with over $635,000 in donations and also noted that expenditures in FY19 were at the highest recorded at a total of $621,801. The Board approved the Finance Committee's recommendations regarding the Non-general Fund amount of $796,500 for FY21 and FY22.

The Foundation remains committed to increasing donations to sustain the rate of expense and looks forward to working with DVS as they present their anticipated needs for our Virginia Veterans and their families for the upcoming years. A strong collaboration between the Foundation and DVS will result in identifying and assisting additional Veterans and their families, who are in need.

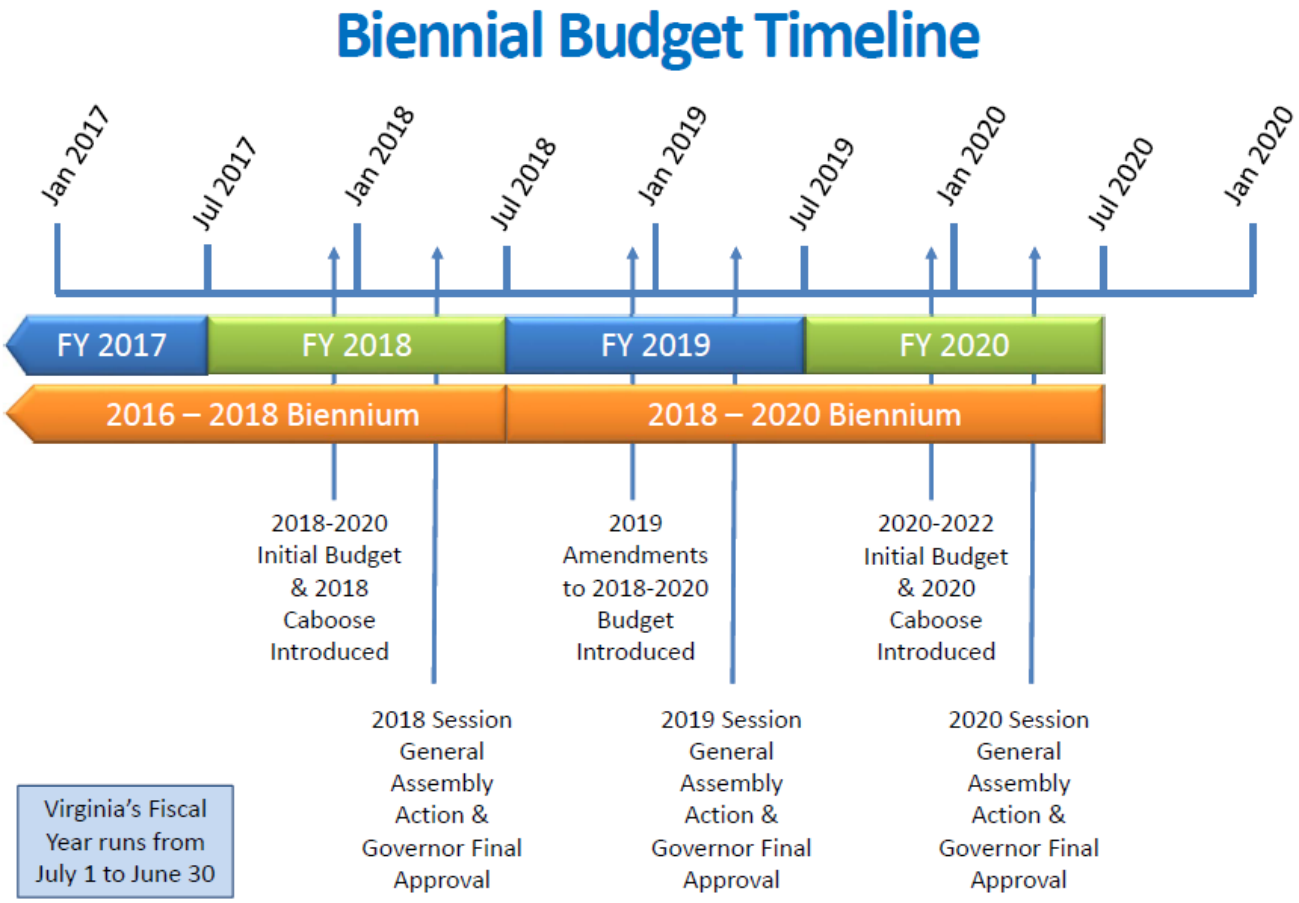
The 2019 Dominion Energy Charity Classic is scheduled for October 17-19 at the Country Club of Virginia in Richmond. A portion of those proceeds will benefit the V3 program.

The Foundation welcomed Robin Beres and Dr. Doug Cox to the Board of Trustees. Nicole Carry and Dr. Jack Lanier were also reappointed by the Governor.

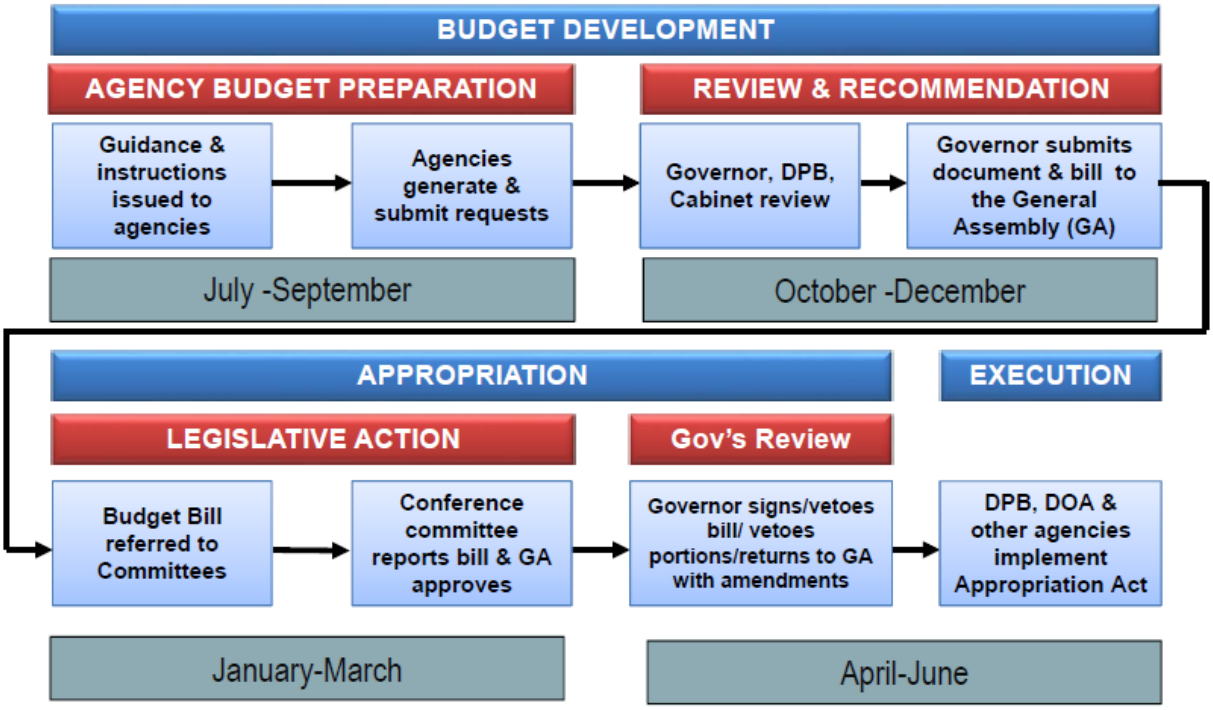
The next Veterans Services Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2019, location TBD.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frank Finelli
Chairman
Veterans Services Foundation

ATTACHMENT 4



Budget Creation Process and Timeline



ATTACHMENT 5

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF
VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

101 N. 14TH ST, 17TH FLOOR
RICHMOND VA 23219

Air Force Association
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Virginia National Guard Association
Women Marines Association

Summary of 2020 JLC Policy Initiatives

Each policy paper can be accessed at: ***https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2***

Initiative	*Recommendation*
JLC 2020-01 *2nd Resolution – Personal Property Tax Exemption*	That the Governor and General Assembly approve legislation, and send to the voters via ballot initiative, creating a standardized, statewide personal property tax exemption for one vehicle for 100% service-connected, total and permanent disabled veterans.
JLC 2020-02 *Counting Military Absentee Ballots After Election Day*	That the General Assembly enact and the Governor sign legislation that directs Virginia registrars receive and count military overseas absentee ballots postmarked on or before election day and which arrive by 5:00 p.m. on the second business day before the State Board of Elections meets to certify the results of the election.
JLC 2020-03 *Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans*	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 150% of the federal poverty level for a four-person household, who have not already claimed another exemption.
JLC 2020-04 *Virginia National Guard Emergency Response Pay*	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate budget and legislative support to ensure that all Virginia National Guardsmen are paid at least at the E6 rate when they are called to SAD in emergency situations.
JLC 2020-05 *Tax Credits for Employers who Hire VNG and Reserves*	That the Governor and General Assembly approve Tax credits for employers of National Guard members and self-employed National Guard members.
JLC 2020-06 *Microloans for Veterans Program (MVP)*	That the Governor and General Assembly provide an appropriation in the amount of $1,000,000 in FY20 and $1,000,000 in FY21 for the Microloan for Veterans Program fund.

	Letters of Support *In 2019, the JLC voted to show support for four issues via letters of support rather than inclusion in the formal list of policy initiatives*
Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and Their Families	The JLC hopes that focus on this important issue in Virginia will lead to potential cutting-edge solutions and policies. We stand ready to assist the Governor and the members of this Challenge in any way needed. As a starting place, at our April 17 meeting, we voted unanimously on the following: 1. Make a commitment to pass out the cards from the Governor's challenge; 2. Put the information about the Governor's Challenge and presentation on suicide prevention in VSO newsletters; and 3. Send a formal letter through the Chairman to the Governor supporting the Challenge and committing to support its' efforts.
Funding for new Care Centers in biennial budget	The JLC fully supports providing the funding necessary to open and operate our two new veterans care centers – the ***Puller Veterans Care Center*** and the ***Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center*** – and requested the Governor include it in his introduced biennial budget for FY21-22. The JLC has always, and will continue to, support our commonwealth-run veterans care centers.
Commonwealth Connect - Universal Broadband Access for Virginians	The JLC supports the Governor's efforts to fund VATI with $50M in funding to help Virginia's progress towards universal broadband access. Several member VSOs have signed on as Commonwealth Connect Coalition partners.
Virginia National Guard Scholarship	The JLC supports the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs efforts for a Virginia National Guard Scholarship program to fully cover Guardsmen seeking a degree or certification in Virginia to bring Virginia in line with other states' National Guard benefits.
	Each letter will be posted to the JLC website after submission to the Governor and Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs ***https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2***

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Virginia National Guard Association
Women Marines Association

October 16, 2019

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Position Paper 2020-01
2nd Resolution of Personal Property Tax Relief for Certain Disabled Veterans

OBJECTIVE: To create a unified, cohesive system for personal property tax relief to certain disabled veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

BACKGROUND:

- Virginia's counties and independent cities currently have a patchwork system of personal property tax relief for veterans. Most offer no exemption, but among those that do offer something, how much relief – partial or full – and which veterans qualify varies widely.
- This creates confusion and distress among veterans who move from a locality with personal property tax relief to a new locality that does not.
- The Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Department of Virginia has passed resolutions at the past two state conferences (Res 10, Res 19) calling for personal property tax exemption for one vehicle for veterans who qualify for the real property tax exemption.
- Vehicles such as SUVs and vans that are retrofitted to accommodate disabilities can have high value and therefore high personal property tax rates.

DISCUSSION:

- As a Commonwealth, there is supposed to be uniform policies and tax exemptions.
- The Commissioners of the Revenue and other assessing officials are supportive of personal property tax exemption on one vehicle with the same requirements as the real property tax exemption.
- This would allow veterans who are 100% service-connected, total and permanently disabled, as rated by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, and therefore qualified for the real property tax exemption to also qualify for exemption on one vehicle.
- This is another way to support low-income veterans, many of whom often risk losing their vehicle due to late payments and fines.
- Localities would still be able to keep existing partial or full exemptions for other veterans in place, if desired.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Governor and General Assembly approve the 2nd resolution and corresponding legislation creating a standardized, statewide personal property tax exemption for one vehicle for 100% service-connected, total and permanent disabled veterans and send it to the voters on November 3, 2020.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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Women Marines Association

October 16, 2019

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Position Paper 2020-02
Counting Military Absentee Ballots After Election Day

OBJECTIVE: To ensure the continued commitment of the Commonwealth of Virginia to fully support of our military servicemen and women who are serving overseas, by enabling returned overseas military ballots to be counted when received after the polls close and before 5:00 p.m. on the second day before the State Board of Elections meets to certify the election results.

BACKGROUND:

- Currently, absentee ballots received by the local registrar after 7:00 p.m. on Election Day are not counted.
- In 2017, over 50 overseas absentee ballots arrived for the 28th House of Delegates race the morning after the election – but they were not counted. Even though the margin was razor thin and a recount was called, those ballots were never counted.
- While federal law allows the military to register to vote and request a ballot by electronic means, in Virginia those voted ballots cannot be returned electronically, but must be returned via "snail mail."
- Mail delays are common, especially for those service members in remote or hostile areas. The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act requires that all [absentee] ballots be mailed to service members not less than 45 days before an election, however, at least 36 days may be needed to transmit the ballots – and that is without shipping delays.

DISCUSSION:

- In 2018, Senator Surovell patroned SB771 to solve this problem, but it did not make it out of committee.
- After the November 2018 election, the State Board of Elections (SBE), reported over 6,770 absentee ballots were returned after polls closed and were not counted.
- The JLC has been working to find a solution to the disenfranchisement of Virginia military men and women since 2013. This is a sensible solution that addresses the privacy concerns brought up by Verified Voters.
- This solution is low-tech, cost effective and easily implemented by the localities to ensure the enfranchisement of our deployed military.

RECOMMENDATION: That the General Assembly enact and the Governor sign legislation that directs Virginia registrars receive and count military overseas absentee ballots postmarked on or before election day and which arrive by 5:00 p.m. on the second business day before the State Board of Elections meets to certify the results of the election.

THE 25 ORGANIZATIONS OF THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HAVE MORE THAN 250,000 MEMBERS

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October 16, 2019

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Position Paper 2020-03
Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans

OBJECTIVE: To allow individual income tax subtraction for the amount of annual retirement compensation received for service as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, or the Virginia National Guard, for 100% service-connected disabled veterans with a federal adjusted gross income not exceeding 150% of the federal poverty level for a four-person household.

BACKGROUND:

- Virginia currently allows qualifying taxpayers to claim a subtraction for up to $20,000 of disability income. Disabled veterans who already claim this subtraction would not qualify for the new program or would have to drop this subtraction and claim the new one.
- D.C. and Maryland offer exemptions ranging from $3,000 to $5,000.
  - North Carolina offers a full exemption for retirees with five years of service as of August 12, 1989; otherwise, retirees may claim a deduction of up to $4,000.
  - Kentucky offers exemptions of $41,110 and West Virginia $20,000.

DISCUSSION:

- While Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) is not subject to federal or Virginia taxation, Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) are generally subject to both federal and Virginia taxation.
- Available reports do not provide specific data on the exact number of 100% service-connected disabled veterans in Virginia, however, the VA has given a reasonable estimate of **1,371** disabled Virginia veterans who would qualify for this benefit.
- Department of Taxation considers implementation of this bill as routine, and does not require additional funding.
- No subtraction would be permitted if another Virginia subtraction or deduction for such service has been claimed.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Governor and General Assembly approve an individual income tax subtraction for 100% service-connected disabled veterans with a federal adjusted gross income, not exceeding 150% of the federal poverty level for a four-person household, who have not already claimed another exemption.

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October 16, 2019

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Position Paper 2020-04
Virginia National Guard Emergency Response Pay

OBJECTIVE: To ensure Virginia's continued commitment to the men and women of the Virginia National Guard, through raising the minimum National Guard Emergency Response Pay (ERP) to equal the currently used DOD pay table plus a 2-10% increased adjustment, depending on rank.

BACKGROUND:

1. During state emergencies, Guardsmen are brought into an Emergency Response role as temporary state employees at a very low pay band.
2. Other state employees involved in emergency response work overtime and go home or to a hotel, however, Guardsmen on duty are not eligible for overtime pay, put in 12-18 hours per day, and are typically quartered in austere conditions such as an armory or tent.
3. Since January 2014, the VNG has mobilized 2,570 personnel to respond to hurricanes, winter storms and flooding, often with only 12 hours to report for Emergency Response duty.

DISCUSSION:

1. During the Charlottesville "Unite the Right" Protests in August 2017, Guardsmen stood side-by-side with Virginia State Police, in extremely stressful and challenging conditions, and were woefully undercompensated compared to the state police.
2. While in an Emergency Response capacity, Guardsmen are often forced to use vacation time or take leave without pay from their civilian jobs when military leave runs out, and most employers do not supplement the pay difference.
3. Current Emergency Response pay amounts are determined by DOD pay tables. An E-1 VNG Soldier/Airman earns about $89.75 per day, before taxes, which on a 12-hour shift equals $7.48 per hour – less than the federal minimum wage.
4. When Guardsmen are federally activated they receive hazard pay, separation pay, housing allowance and other allowances dependent on their circumstances. When Guardsmen are activated by the Governor they only receive their base pay, housing, and meal allowance, all of which are taxed.
5. It is essential that Guardsmen are compensated at a reasonable rate to promote a positive work environment when conducting critical, emergency response missions to send the message to Guardsmen that their efforts are valued equally to other emergency response agencies.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate budget and legislative support to ensure that all Virginia National Guardsmen receive a 2-10% adjustment to the current pay table for NG Emergency Response Pay.

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Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
Virginia National Guard Association
Women Marines Association

October 16, 2019

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Position Paper 2020-05
Tax Credits for Employers Who Hire National Guard and Reserves

OBJECTIVE: To ensure Individual and corporate income tax credit; employers of National Guard members and self-employed National Guard.

BACKGROUND:

- Provides for taxable years 2019 through 2023 a non-refundable tax credit against individual and corporate income taxes for wages paid by an employer to an employee who is a Virginia National Guard member or Reserves.
- Income of a self-employed National Guard member or Reservist attributable to his business would also qualify for a non-refundable tax credit against individual and corporate income taxes for wages paid for taxable years 2020 through 2024.
- For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2020, but before January 1, 2025, a self-employed National Guard member shall be allowed a credit against the tax levied pursuant to § 58.1-320 or 58.1-400 for income attributable to his trade or business during the taxable year.

DISCUSSION:

- The amount of the credit shall be:
  - 25%, if such member was in a military pay status for 65 days or more during such taxable year; or
  - 15% if such member was in a military pay status for 45 days or more during such taxable year.
- The credit should not be allowed if such member was in a military pay status for less than 45 days during such taxable year.
- The taxpayer should be allowed to carry unused credits over for up to five taxable years within the taxable years of 2024 to 2028.
- The amount of the credit claimed shall not exceed the total amount of tax imposed pursuant to § 58.1-320 or 58.1-400 upon the employer for the taxable year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Governor and General Assembly approve Tax credits for employers of National Guard members and self-employed National Guard members.

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October 16, 2019

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Position Paper 2020-06
Microloans for Veterans Program (MVP)

OBJECTIVE: To establish the Microloans for Veterans Program, through the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority's system of microloans, available solely to Virginia veteran entrepreneurs establishing business ventures based in Virginia.

BACKGROUND:

- Entrepreneurship is the "third leg of the stool," (along with Education and Employment) for Virginia veterans. It is a key for veterans and the New Virginia Economy.
- Current programs, such as the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Boots to Business program, Bunker Labs, Capital Post, and the Arsenal are focused on training and mentorship and businesses that are established and can provide proof of revenue. SBA loans can be almost impossible for veteran start-ups to access.
- The Virginia Small Business Financing Authority (VSBFA) is Virginia's business and economic development financing arm, providing financing for small businesses and economic growth in Virginia. The VSBFA already has the authority to administer microloan programs and are willing to administer a microloan for veteran entrepreneurs.

DISCUSSION:

- MVP would place veteran entrepreneurs on a more equal footing with civilian entrepreneurs and encourage the growth of small businesses in Virginia.
- MVP sets up a public-private partnership between VSBFA, DVS, Virginia Community College System and private banks to assist veterans and incentivize veterans to complete financial education and business planning classes with lower interest rates (1-2% below market rate) and extended payback periods.
- The program would have two tiers –
  a) Tier 1: Loan amounts up to $10,000 through VSBFA; Requirements: Honorably discharged, minimum credit credentials, repayment and interest rate terms set by VSBFA, and a willingness to sign on to education and mentorship requirements, unless comparable credentials can be produced.
  b) Tier 2: Loan amounts up to $50,000 through Virginia banking institutions (such as V3 partners); Requirements: Successfully completed all education and mentorship requirements of Tier 1 and paid back the loan early or on time.
- The two tiered system minimizes risk, keeps state funds circulating more quickly and promotes successful small businesses in Virginia by providing a wide range of educational and support tools to the veterans.

RECOMMENDATION:
That the Governor and General Assembly provide an appropriation in the amount of $1,000,000 in FY20 and $1,000,000 in FY21 for the Microloan for Veterans Program fund.

THE 25 ORGANIZATIONS OF THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HAVE MORE THAN 250,000 MEMBERS

ATTACHMENT 6

JLC CONFERENCE AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY 15, 2020

The JLC Conference Day at the General Assembly is an annual tradition and in 2020, we will have our 12th JLC Day! PLEASE DO NOT WEAR YOUR INDIVIDUAL VSO HATS – YOU ARE REPRESENTING THE JLC.

JLC members will gather on Wednesday, January 15 at **0700** at Meriweather's café on the 3rd floor of the **SunTrust building** on Main St., across from the **Pocahontas building**. Members will sign in and confirm their legislative appointments.

At **0740** we will walk as a group across the street, go through security and up to the General Assembly Military & Veterans Caucus meeting, which begins at **0800**. It can take awhile to get through security.

After the caucus meeting, roughly **0850**, JLC members will fan out to pre-scheduled appointments.

At **1130**, members who wish to visit the Capitol galleries will gather at the Bank St. entrance and LAs will walk you to the Capitol and up to the House and Senate Chamber Galleries – as in previous years, we'll divide up into two groups. Session begins at noon and visitors need to be in their seats beforehand. The GAMVC Co-Chairs, will introduce the groups from the floor.

Lunch will be on your own.

Schedule afternoon appointments! There will be new Delegates and Senators – this is a great opportunity to educate them and their LA on who the JLC is and what you do!

We will once again work with House and Senate Leadership to have an afternoon session with VIPs coming to talk to you – this will not be able to be set up until after Nov. 5th

Last year, thanks to the kindness of the Virginia National Guard, the JLC was invited to attend the National Guard reception at the end of the day – an inquiry has been made for 2020.

Attendance: All JLC representatives, alternates and other interested members of your VSO are welcome to attend. The Sign Up Sheet Form MUST be filled out and returned to Carrie Ann Alford (mail or email) by Friday, January 3th COB. **Parking:** Parking is horrible around Capitol Square. Please carpool if possible! Use SpotHero to reserve parking spots at discounted rates ahead of the day.
https://spothero.com type into search box: "Virginia State Capitol, Bank Street, Richmond, VA"

Legislator Meetings: PLEASE make appointments and do not just "drop in" on the offices. If a legislator asks you to meet with their Legislative Assistant (LA) this is not a bad thing – accept the meeting. The LA has the ear and trust of the delegate/senator. Please email your Delegate and Senator requesting a meeting on January 16th and copy Carrie Ann on the email, she will assist **as needed**.

ATTACHMENT 7

Proposed Meeting Dates
2020

*Wednesday, January 15 – JLC/Veteran Day
At the General Assembly

Wednesday, April 29
Place: TBD

Wednesday, July 22
Place: TBD

Wednesday, October 21
Place: TBD

Wednesday, December 16
Place: TBD