Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2019

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on December 18, 2019, at the American Legion, 1708 Commonwealth Ave., Richmond.

Members Present

- Tom Wozniak, Air Force Association
- Rick Oertel, American Legion
- John Cooper, AMVETS
- Michael Flanagan, Association of the United States Army
- Denice Williams, Disabled American Veterans
- William Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association
- John Manning, Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry
- Lauren Augustine, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
- Tim Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- Robert Herbert, Legion of Valor
- Jim Barrett, Marine Corps League
- Frank Wickersham, Military Officers Association of America
- Vernon Peters, Military Order of the World Wars
- 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
- Acting Commissioner Steven J. Combs, Department of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- Mike Boyle, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Jim Cuthbertson, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Craig Cressman, Navy Mutual Aid Association
- Jon Ostrowski, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Preston Curry, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Charles Montgomery, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Frank Finelli, Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Mark Atchison, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Jack Hilgers, 1st Vice Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- Rich Mansfield, AMVETS

- Hans Mumm, MOWW

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- 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
- Gen. Tim Williams, TAG DMA
- Cassy Russell, DMA
- Capt. Nicole Camacho, DMA
- Frank Badillo, Virginia Dept. of Taxation
- Karla Boughey, Veterans Services Foundation (VSF)

Others Present

- Maggie Wickersham, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Terry Moore, ROA
- Bryan Harrison, College of William & Mary MPP program
- Marjorie Thomas, ERPi
- Henry Thomas, veteran & husband of Marjorie

Items included in the Agenda Packet

Agenda
October 16, 2019 draft meeting minutes (Agenda Item IV)
Reports

- Board of Veterans Services (Agenda Item V.a)
- Veterans Services Foundation (Agenda Item V.b)

New Business (Agenda Item VII)

- 2020 JLC Work Plan (Agenda Item VII.a)
- 2020 Meeting Dates and Topics for all Boards (Agenda Item VII)
- Approval of Updated 2019-2020 JLC Officers (Agenda Item VII.b)
- 2 Draft letters to Governor Northam (Agenda Item VII.c)
- JLC Day at the General Assembly 2020 (Agenda Item X.d)
- Boots to Suits hand out (Agenda Item X.e)

Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation & Thoughts

Chairman Frank Wickersham called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., and asked Chaplain Denice Williams to deliver the opening thoughts and meditation. Chaplain Williams let everyone know of the passing of PVA Rep Preston Curry's father and reminded everyone to remain mindful during the holiday season of those around them.

Chairman Frank Wickersham led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination
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. Jack Hilgers, 1st Vice Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) representing Mr. Frank Finelli, Chairman; and DVS Acting Commissioner Steven J. Combs, were recorded as present. A quorum was determined.

Approval of the Agenda, Approve July 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes
Chairman Wickersham asked for approval of the Agenda as before the members. Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Steve Herbert to approve the meeting agenda. The motion carried **unanimously.**

Chairman Wickersham asked for approval of the October 16, 2019 meeting minutes and agenda. Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Bill Ashton to approve the minutes. The motions carried **unanimously.** (Agenda is *Attachment 1*)

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

REPORTS
Board of Veterans Services
BVS Chairman Michael Dick gave the BVS report stating that BVS met on November 14 at the American Legion and received a report from Charlie Palumbo, Director of Employment and Transition and Beverly VanTull, Women Veterans Program Manager on services for transitioning service members with employment and entrepreneurship as well as targeted programs for women veterans. (*Attachment 2)*

Veterans Services Foundation
In the absence of VSF Chairman Frank Finelli, 1st Vice Chairman Jack Hilgers gave the VSF report on their December 12 meeting. Mr. Hilgers reported that as of December 10 over $110,000 in donations had been received and mentioned that the George C. Marshall MOAA Chapter presented Frank Finelli with a $3,500 check from their local golf tournament. VSF remains committed to increasing donations to sustain DVS programs and services for Virginia veterans. (*Attachment 3)*

Update on Veterans Treatment Dockets
Mr. Rich Mansfield gave an update on the **Hampton Veterans Treatment Docket**, stating that it was making progress but it is still under the Drug Court and the last graduation had no veterans graduating. In Hampton, the participants must have a non-violent felony charge to qualify. The court is looking at lowering the threshold to misdemeanors to capture veterans in need of help sooner before things escalate to a felony charge. The court is also looking at how to service rural areas. Mr. Mansfield also mentioned AG Herrings' support of the veteran treatment docket legislation in Congress that will establish a program within the U.S. Dept. of Justice. The bills (HR886 and S2774) both passed out of their respective chambers and the funding is in the NDAA appropriations which is already headed to the president.

Ms. Lauren Augustine gave an update on the **Fairfax Veterans Treatment Docket,** stating that is moving along well. The Fairfax docket is the longest running and so far they have had 74 applicants and 21 graduates. 16 veterans are currently participating in the program. Only one graduate reentered the justice system and only 9 did not complete the program – which is very rigorous. Ms. Augustine stated that the program is expanded from 3 phases to 5 to give the veterans more time in the program and have a better chance of success. She submitted this report to the Chair:

All 3 Fairfax County dockets (Juvenile & Domestic Relations, General District, and Circuit Court) are operational. The Fairfax County Veterans docket started in February 2015.
Judges are:
Fairfax J&DR Court-Judge Petit
Fairfax General District Court- Judge Lindner
Fairfax Circuit Court-Judge Azcarate

Here are some **stats** regarding this docket:
~16 active participants
~21 participants have graduated (from Feb. 2015-December 2019)
~9 participants terminated from the program without graduating
~74 total applications
-48 accepted entry into program
-24 declined entry into program
-2 pending applicants

Of the 21 that have graduated, only 1 graduate has been charged with a new offense (charges pending). 0 graduates have been convicted of a new charge. Recidivism rate is noted as 0%.

Additional information-
Changes:
-Expanded eligibility to include veterans who are not eligible for VA benefits and can use Fairfax County's CSB for treatment needs
-Implemented a 5 phase program instead of a 3 phase program to allow participants time to achieve objectives and provide incentives to help them advance through the program
-Improved a best practice standard for random drug testing by implementing an evening and weekend/holiday testing schedule

Barriers/challenges:
-Issues with increasing active participant numbers higher than 19. There is a low legal incentive to enter an intensive supervision and treatment program.
-Challenges with implementing the best practice for drug court drug testing due to limited slots to test participants on weekends and holidays.

Mr. Bill Ashton gave an update on the **Spotsylvania Veterans Treatment Docket**, stating that it was still a new program and has not had a graduation ceremony yet. There are currently 6 veterans involved and it is an 18 month long program.

Chairman Wickersham asked Mr. Dick about William & Mary and asked if they are involved. Mr. Dick stated that he is involved with the Puller Legal Clinic and they work on benefits issues, and partnering

with Starbucks on "military Mondays" to assist veterans with benefits claims and associated issues. He said the Puller clinic is not currently involved in the Veterans Treatment Dockets but that is something they should discuss.

Update on the Virginia National Guard

General Williams started by saying that this year had been one of resetting the force. FY21-22 will be heavy with missions, with 2,500 – 4,000 soldiers and airmen deployed. The will continue to focus on the flying squadron at Langley.

Gen. Williams thanked the JLC for all they have done for the National Guard and for including Guard priorities on their list for several years now. He said legislation is moving in good order for the tuition assistance and emergency response pay. He stated that the ROI from JLC involvement is $4.5M secured to build a new facility, and antiterrorism efforts in Virginia Beach. The $4.5M from the GA was the seed money that showed support for building a new AASF. Thanks to that, DMA is on the FYDEP 2024 list to receive another $20M for that project.

Mr. Tom Wozniak asked about maintenance on the new planes at Langley. Gen. Williams stated that they are the lead active partner and do "nose to tail" maintenance on all the planes.

Chairman Wickersham asked about the cyber warriors. General Williams said the program was going very well and at 100% strength. They have the ability to rotate routinely and are highly utilized. It is the 2nd only brigade in the U.S. and covers 32 states for cybercom.

Update on the Dept. of Veterans Services

Acting Commissioner Steve Combs thanked the JLC for their support and said that there was a very positive budget announced yesterday and they would be receiving a full briefing shortly.

He gave a brief update of the agency in 2019. He stated that there are now 34 open offices and the Fort Belvoir office is now open and running. Benefits completed almost 80,000 submissions to the VA which resulted in almost $3.2B in compensation payments.

The homeless veterans program continues to grow and this year 950 veterans were helped, many with funding through the VSF.

35,000 veterans are using their GI Bill benefits in Virginia.

There were about 1,900 burials at the three cemeteries and the Suffolk expansion project is almost complete. The December 14th wreath laying ceremonies went well at all three ceremonies and he thanked those who had participated.

The Virginia War Memorial had about 40,000 visitors and the expansion project is almost complete. They are working to get the expansion open in January. On February 29 there will be an event to celebrate the new expansion and that is also the 64th anniversary of the Virginia War Memorial opening. They will all receive an invitation to attend.

The Veterans Care Centers are still waiting for the release of funds from the VA. The letters are on the VA Secretary's desk awaiting his signature and DVS is now anticipating a late 2021 opening.

Mr. Dan Boyer asked about the Wytheville office and if it will become a full-time office again, since currently the VSR from Tazewell comes down a few hours a week. AC Combs said right now there are no plans to return it to full time office hours. There are itinerant sites in the area and it is open part-time. Right now it is a staffing issue.

Mr. Mike Flanagan asked about the homelessness issue and how JLC can help the 950 veterans helped this year. AC Combs stated that the goal of DVS is that every homeless veteran who requests help is placed in secure housing within 30 days. The systems are in place and working well. The next point-in-time count is coming up in January and the trend in Virginia is that that number has been coming down each year, and last January it was around 450 homeless veterans.

Mr. Bill Ashton stated that the VA is now calling veterans as they leave service and become veterans to alert them to their benefits. He asked if the VA is also directing veterans to their state benefits? AC Combs said he did not know and will get back to him on that.
Mr. Ashton also asked about the state benefits staff having a place to work in the new Fredericksburg Health Care Center (HCC) that the VA is building. AC Combs says that is the plan but with the timeframe being pushed out to 2025 for the HCC, it will not help the current need in Fredericksburg for DVS staff so they are monitoring the situation but working on other solutions.

Chairman Wickersham thanked AC Combs for his presentation.

PRESENTATIONS

Overview of Governor Northam's 2020 introduced budget and legislation

Assistant Secretary Jon Ward, DVS Policy Director Carrie Ann Alford and DMA Policy Director Cassy Russell gave the JLC one coordinated presentation on the Governor's budget and preview of the Secretariat and agencies during session.

Ms. Alford started by stating that while the Governor only mentioned military and veterans once, the Governor's budget is good for Virginia's future and with the protections for the environment and big investments in education will be very good for all Virginia veterans with children who want to stay in Virginia and build a life here. There are also big investments in homelessness and while the veterans homelessness fund dollars are the same as the last biennium, Housing Director and VVFS Assistant Director Matt Leslie is very excited about the new money and says there are great conversations with developers and others around affordable housing solutions going on right now. He is very optimistic about the future with the new funding.
Also, there is a big increase in the funding for the Virginia Economic Development Fund which is good and while the word "veteran" is not in there, it is definitely something that veterans who are Virginia residents should look into and definitely take advantage of.

She handed the presentation over to Asst. Sec. Ward who reviewed the Secretary's priorities for 2020, highlighting the Enhancing Virginia's Expedited Occupational Licensure of Military Spouses (DPOR/DHP), that expands application of expedited process to spouses of service members residing in Va. but assigned to installations outside of the state. It allows licensing boards have broader discretion for waiving time/experience requirements for determination in substantial equivalency.

He stated that there will be legislation to formally transfer DMA from the Secretary of Public Safety & Homeland Security to the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs.

He also explained the "Tax Liability Exemption; Totally & Permanently Disabled Veterans" is a proposal to address state tax code conformity to a Presidential directive signed this summer automatically exempting Totally & Permanently Disabled (TPD) Veterans impacted by the automatic forgiveness and cancellation of Federal Student loan debt by the U.S. Department of Education from state income tax liability.

The Secretariat will also have a bill to make clarifications on VSF Board of Trustee membership and other technical corrections.

The Secretariat and DMA will have a bill to increase the maximum age – on a case by case basis – for Virginia Defense Force positions that are hard to fill. The age limit would be increased from 65 to 75 years old.

Ms. Alford stated that DVS will not have any agency bills during session so she will be supporting the Secretary's and DMA's bills as needed and focusing on the budget. She reviewed the DVS budget increases in the Governor's introduced budget, which includes:

			FY21	FY22
Benefits	Claims	3 VSR positions; 2 new floater positions; Raises for NOVA staff and attorneys	$528,000	$732,000
VVFS	Resource Specialists	3 new positions	$341,000	$341,000
VETE	VMSDEP	1 new position	$83,140	$110,853
VETE	SAA	NGF funds authorization for 1 new staff person	$106,139	$111,139
Care Centers	New Care Centers	NGF funds authorization for new staff at two new veterans care centers. Start-up funds for the new VCCs are in the form of a Working Capital Advance (WCA) [Item 3-2.01].	$0	$12,000,000
Care Centers	Staffing	NGF funds authorization for 21 new staff	$5,100,000	$5,100,000
Cemeteries	Staffing	NGF authorization for 3 new grounds staff	$0	$0

Mrs. Russell reviewed the DMA budget items in the Governor's introduced budget, which includes:

Department of Military Affairs		$6,350,000	$0
C-62	Improvements: Replace/Install Fire Safety Systems in Readiness Centers	$3,000,000	$0
C-63	New Construction: Construct Blackstone Army Air Field (BAAF) Fire Station	$3,350,000	$0

Department of Military Affairs		$77,161,494	$77,161,494
469	Higher Education Student Financial Assistance	$3,528,382	$3,528,382
470	At Risk Youth Residential Program	$5,661,187	$5,661,187
471	Defense Preparedness	$59,473,057	$59,473,057
472	Disaster Planning and Operations	$0	$0
473	Administrative and Support Services	$8,498,868	$8,498,868

Additionally, there will be budget language for the Emergency Response Pay issue, which the JLC worked on in 2018 and 2019. (*In the New Business Section of the meeting the JLC members will vote on supporting a letter to the Governor from the Chairman requesting the Governor's full support of this issue*.)

Ms. Alford finished the presentation by reviewing the 6 JLC priorities for 2020. The only priority that has a bill number as of December 18 is 2020-03 "Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans" which is HB125. The other priorities have legislators working on draft legislation but there are not bill numbers yet. Ms. Alford also stated that there is a bill by Del. Mark Cole which is similar to 2020-03 but more generous as there is no requirement about being within 150% of the federal poverty line. She said she would try to speak to Del. Cole and get more information on the genesis of the bill.

She also reminded them that 2020-06 will be a budget amendment and there will be no legislation. Del. Mark Keam has offered to put in a budget amendment and Ms. Alford will work with his new LA to turn the paper into budget amendment language.

There were no questions and the presentation was distributed to the members after the meeting via electronic mail.

The Governor's introduced budget can be found online at: https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/bill/2020/1/
The Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, including DVS and DMA can be found at: https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/secretariat/2020/1/SB30/Introduced/1/office-of-veterans-affairs-and-defense-affairs/

Report on HJ674

Ms. Alford called up Bryan Harrison, her summer policy analyst, to assist with the next presentation which was on the HJ674 study requesting DVS and the Department of Taxation study the feasibility of exempting military retiree income from state taxation.

Ms. Alford thanked Mr. Harrison for all his hard work and explained that he did the lion share of work on this project as she was out on short-term disability after the car accident.

Ms. Alford began with a review of the history for the new JLC members and that in 2017, a study by The Matrix Group and The Roosevelt Group, concluded that: "By exempting all military retiree pensions from state income tax, the Commonwealth would incur nearly $145 million in foregone tax

revenue during the first year…almost twice as much as the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs FY 2017 budget."

This report was also presented to the JLC and members were skeptical of the results. In 2019 the JLC had a policy paper on their priorities list and Mr. Ashton had reached out to Del. Torian about being the patron. Del. Torian instead introduced HJ674, which requested a joint DVS-TAX study in response to a request by the JLC to reexamine and build upon the 2017 work.

In this study:
- DVS has compared costs and benefits across states affecting veterans and retirees.
- TAX has estimated the fiscal impact on Virginia's tax revenue of a range of options for an income tax exemption.

Ms. Alford explained that agencies do not make recommendations to the General Assembly on matters of appropriations or taxation. The General Assembly disposes to the agencies and the agencies follow the will of the legislature. Therefore, DVS and TAX made no formal recommendation but simply submitted five policy options for an exemption that were researched for the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees to consider. Our research does not include a cost-benefit analysis of each of these options to consider. This study found that although Virginia offers no income tax exemption specific to military retirees, the state is "tax friendly" to retirees in part because it offers an exemption to those age 65 and older that may be means-tested for certain taxpayers.

The study also found that Virginia is attractive to military retirees because it has built many unique assets through the strong support from the General Assembly and several Governors, including the V3 program, world-class educational institutions, wrap-around supportive services led by the DVS Virginia Veteran and Family Support service line and a commonwealth-wide appreciation for our military and the valuable leadership skills and abilities they bring to our communities.

Mr. Harrison reviewed slides covering Kiplinger's rankings of all 50 states on tax-friendliness for retirees and for all residents. For retirees, Virginia earns a tax-friendly rating due to several tax breaks for residents age 65 and older, including income tax deductions, property tax breaks for seniors, and a low sales tax. For all residents, Virginia's overall tax rating is mixed, with generally low property taxes and a low sales tax but a levy on grocery purchases.

Mr. Harrison also reviewed the slides on overall income and tax rates in Virginia as compared to the other top 10 states for veterans. And showed overall, Virginia is competitive with other states.

The five policy options researched and presented to the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance Committee are:
- A full military retirement income tax exemption in Virginia = -$295 million revenue loss by 2027
- Refundable tax credit of $5,000 = -$783 million loss by 2027
- Fixed subtraction of $40,000 = -$247 million
- Full exemption for retirees age 65 and older only = -$112 million
- Phased-in fixed subtraction rising from $10,000 to $40,000 over four years for retirees age 65 and older only = -$97 million (JLC position paper 2019-07)

Additional slides broke out the fiscal impact to Virginia year by year from 2020 through 2027, and with

a side-by-side comparison of all five options.

Mr. Flanagan asked if there is any data on retirees leaving Virginia because of the lack of income tax relief? Ms. Alford stated that no, no state keeps track of their residents on such a granular level. It is all antidotal – but when the antidotal stories are compared to the DOD and VA data on veterans and military retirees it does not match up. It is not possible for veterans to have "all their friends moving to Florida and Texas" when the data bear out veterans and retirees are moving from those states to Virginia because of our employment and education opportunities and overall competitive tax structure.

The presentation was distributed to the members after the meeting via electronic mail. It is available to the public at: https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2019/HD14

Report on Military Service as Credit for Teachers

Mr. Bryan Harrison then gave a presentation to the JLC as the representative for his group of graduate students from the College of William & Mary. Ms. Alford explained that each fall for three years DVS has received a team of three students to research a JLC policy issue that has not moved forward. She reminded them that this came about through a constituent letter to Governor Northam that was routed to DVS from an army veteran and teacher who moved to Virginia from Ohio for personal reasons and ended up with a big paycut – not just from her teacher salary in Ohio, but even less than what she had made in the Army as an E-5 (enlisted rank).

Ms. Alford had contacted Ms. Augustine, IAVA rep and SVA VP of Government Affairs and they could not find all the information. Then the JLC reviewed the potential policy paper and decided there were to many questions to move forward and the W&M students picked it up as their project.

Mr. Harrison began by stating that over 800 teaching positions went unfilled in Virginia at the beginning of this school year, and new methods of recruiting teachers aren't working. There is also no data to examine as programs, localities and the Virginia Dept. of Education do not collect data on veterans who become teachers and retention levels.

He reviewed the current programs to help veterans become teachers:

- State Troops to Teachers office
- Experiential provisional license
- Reciprocity
- Career Switcher programs
- Salary credit in some school divisions

The group researched what teachers make in neighboring and competitor states and what other benefits are offered by those states. They tried to answer the following policy questions:

1. How many veterans became teachers in Virginia in recent years?
2. How much will this program cost? What are some funding options?
3. How would this policy impact the Virginia Retirement System?
4. Could this policy include the Virginia National Guard and/or reservists?

But, with the lack of data they could not accurately answer the questions.

The group focused on two case studies – the first looked at Virginia Beach compared to Harford Co., MD, St. Johns Co., FL, and Wake Co., NC. The research showed that Virginia did well compared to these competitor states in the first year, but the salary still fell behind after 5 years and behind what an E-5 makes in the military with a housing allowance included.

In Maryland and Florida, the school districts give up to 3 years credit for military service. The group also found a few districts in Virginia, such as Virginia Beach and Chesterfield, that gives up to 2 years credit, but it is not state-wide.

The second study looked at nine localities in Virginia and current issues and trends – focusing on urban, suburban and rural districts. The districts are: Counties of Bland, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Greensville, Middlesex, and Rockingham; and Cities of Danville, Newport New, Virginia Beach
They looked at the question "What would be the maximum cost of hiring a new veteran teacher with five years creditable military service?"

According to the Virginia Education Association, the average salary gap between Grade 0 and Grade 5 for a Virginia teacher with a Bachelor's degree is $1,930.

The group came up with the following recommendations:

- Any program must include the Virginia National Guardsmen who have been activated on federal orders.
- Request a pilot program in a Virginia school division
- Create a survey for veterans to gauge interest
- Request collection of veteran data by the Virginia Department of Education
- The JLC recommendation of a $10,000 Master's degree bonus is not necessary – and in smaller and rural districts equates to about 15-20 years teaching experience and would set up a bad system for teachers.

Ms. Alford stated that Deputy Secretary for K-12 Education, Holly Coy was at the initial presentation and they are working on various pilot program options and policy solutions and she will keep the JLC updated on any news from the Secretary of Education.

The presentation was distributed to the members after the meeting via electronic mail.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve 2020 JLC Work Plan

Chairman Wickersham asked the members to review the Draft 2020 Work Plan. Ms. Alford added that the dates have been amended with the 2020 meeting dates.

There was no discussion. Chairman Wickersham asked for a motion. Mr. Robert Barnette made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. John Cooper to approve the 2020 JLC Work Plan. The motions carried **unanimously.** (*Attachment 4*)

2020 JLC Dates and Topics

Chairman Wickersham asked the members to review the 2020 meeting dates and topics. Ms. Alford added that at the November 14 BVS meeting, Chairman Wickersham had extended an invitation for BVS to have a joint winter meeting with the JLC next December. She also stated that in doing a

comprehensive review of the JLC meetings she discovered that in the early years the JLC received more thematic issue reports instead of solely DVS Service Lines and that 2020 being a nice round number, would be a good time to see what all their hard work has led to with programs and services. At the summer meeting they will hear from a wide range of groups on the legal services and programs available to veterans. At the fall meeting they will hear from a wide range of groups on the financial and other resources for veteran small business owners.

Chairman Wickersham asked if there need be a motion. Ms. Alford stated only if there was discussion and a dissenting view. There was no discussion or dissent. (*Attachment 5*)

Approve Updated 2019-2020 Officers

Chairman Wickersham asked the members to review the updated list of officers that reflects some JLC members leaving the council in 2019. Chairman Wickersham asked for a motion. Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Tim Whitmore to approve the updated list of officers. The motions carried **unanimously.** (*Attachment 6*)

Approve 2 Letters to Governor Northam

Chairman Wickersham asked the members to review the Draft letters to Governor Northam based on the policy papers the group had voted on in October to turn in to letters of support. Ms. Alford added that the DMA had signed off on the letter about the scholarship program. Both letters were the policy papers reformatted as letters. (*Attachment 7*)

There was no discussion. Chairman Wickersham asked for a motion. Mr. John Cooper made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Kevin Hoffman to approve the 2 JLC Letters to Governor Northam. The motions carried **unanimously.**

JLC at the General Assembly 2020

Chairman Wickersham asked Ms. Alford to review the handout for JLC Day in 2020. Ms. Alford stated that since there were 25 new legislators she had included their names in the packets and requested everyone list a couple they will be willing to go visit and brief on the JLC. She was still working through the details for the afternoon and would let them know as soon as possible. She reminded them that on JLC day they are not to wear their VSO hats or pins, even if it is also that VSO's "storming the hill" day. They were there to advocate for the JLC position papers.

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.

She finished by saying that since Gen. Williams has been called away on business on the 15th and the Guard reception has been rescheduled if they would like an evening reception or event to end the day one or more VSOs will need to step up to organize and pay for it.

JLC Day packet is Attachment 8

Other New Business and Open Discussion

Ms. Alford pointed out the Boots To Suits flyer in the agenda packet. She had a request from the VTAP staff that BTS is in need of women's suits and work clothes. Monetary donations are also welcome and all the details for donating is on the flyer. She encouraged the VSOs to take this up as a service project. (*Attachment 9*)

Mr. Hoffman passed out the invitation for the new National Guard Reception, which will be on Jan. 30.

Public Comment

Chairman Wickersham asked if there was anyone who would like to speak during public comment. There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Chairman Wickersham stated that he would see everyone on JLC Day on January 15. There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1
Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
American Legion
1708 Commonwealth Ave., Richmond

December 18, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

Revised DRAFT AGENDA

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

II. Opening Thoughts & Meditation, *Denice Williams, JLC Chaplain* (10:05 – 10:10)

III. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, and introduction of guests – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)

IV. Approval of Agenda, and Approve October 16 meeting minutes – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (10:15 – 10:20)

V. Reports (10:20 – 10:55)
   a. Board of Veterans Services (BVS) – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman*
   b. Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) – *Jack Hilgers, VSF Representative*
   c. Veterans Treatment Dockets, *John Cooper, Lauren Augustine, Bill Ashton*
   d. National Guard Update, *Gen. Timothy Williams, TAG*
   e. DVS Update, *Steven Combs, DVS Acting Commissioner*

VI. Presentations
   a. Overview of Governor Northam's 2020 introduced budget amendments, DVS budget and legislation – *Jon Ward, Assistant Secretary, Carrie Ann Alford, DVS Policy Director, Cassy Russell, DMA Policy Director* (10:55 – 11:15)
   b. Report on HJ674, *Carrie Ann Alford, Policy Director and Frank Badillo, Economist, TAX* (11:15 – 11:35)
   c. Report on Military Service as Credit for Teachers, *William & Mary MPP students* (11:35 – 11:55)

VII. New Business (11:50 – 12:30)
   a. Approve 2020 Work Plan – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman*
   b. Approve Appointed Officers for 2020 – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman*
   c. Approve 2 Letters to Governor Northam, *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman*
   d. JLC at the General Assembly 2020 – *Carrie Ann Alford, Policy Director* (10 minutes)
   e. Other New Business and Open Discussion – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (10 minutes)

VIII. Public comment period – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (12:30 – 12:35)

IX. Closing remarks – *Frank Wickersham, JLC Chairman* (12:35 – 12:40)

X. Adjourn (12:40)
Holiday Lunch to follow

ATTACHMENT 2
REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (JLC)
December 18, 2019

Since the last JLC meeting, the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on November 14, 2019, at the American Legion in Richmond.

At our November meeting we had a very informative presentation from Charlie Palumbo, Director of Employment and Transition, and Beverly VanTull, Women Veterans Program Manager, on the DVS programs and services to aid transitioning service members with employment and entrepreneurship, as well as targeted programs for women veterans.

We updated 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 an *ex officio* member. We anticipate that responsibility for supporting and advising the Virginia War Memorial will transition smoothly from the War Memorial Board to BVS.

We also received progress reports from our three working groups: Benefits, Carl Bedell, Chair; Education, Mike Dick, Chair; and Veterans and the Arts, Julie Waters, Chair. All working group reports are available upon request for anyone interested in learning more.

We anticipate a busy General Assembly Session advocating for DVS and Virginia's veterans and several members will be participating in JLC's advocacy day on Wednesday, January 15.

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 10:00 a.m. on May 14th, 2020, place TBD.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Dick
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 3

VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

Report to the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

December 18, 2019

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on December 12, 2019 at the American Legion Department Headquarters in Richmond, Virginia. The Finance and Procedures and Policies Committees held a joint meeting and the Development Committee also met on the same date and at the same location. The Procedures and Policies held another meeting on September 19, 2019 in Richmond.

The Development Committee discussed the results of the recent Veterans Day direct mail letter. Over 2,000 pieces were mailed resulting in donations totaling over $12,000 in revenue. This was the first direct mail project for the Foundation. The Development Chair, John Lesinski, discussed the importance of pursuing corporate donations to increase revenue and to support the Governor's Suicide Prevention initiative. All were reminded that Employee giving programs and third party donations are increasing and encouraged everyone to look for additional opportunities. These types of giving programs not only provide funding, but an avenue for outreach.

The Finance and Procedures and Policies Committee held a joint meeting. The Foundation Funding Guidelines were revised and approved by the committees. A revised Planned Giving Policy and a new Policy addressing the maintenance of Plans, Procedures and Policies were introduced and approved. DVS requested an adjustment to the FY20 Budget for the Homeless Fund. All matters were recommended and approved by the full board

At their September 19th meeting, the Procedures and Policies Committee continued their work on revising and updating all policies.

The Foundation remains committed to increasing donations to sustain the rate of expense generated by DVS programs supporting our Virginia Veterans. The Board Chair, Frank Finelli, made a presentation regarding a new fundraising support software tool, which will assist members as they reach out to donors. This tool will efficiently enable the VSF Trustee to tap their networks and reach out to other likely donors to raise money in support of DVS programs. The pilot program has already generated donations and all board members will have access to the system and can begin utilizing its tools before Christmas.

The Foundation approved the 1st quarter financial report for FY20. The report showed donations were behind pace at $33,000 and expenses for DVS programs totaled over $100,000. However as of December 10th, over $110,000 had been recorded with many additional donations being received daily. It was announced that a $100,000 check from Altria for a V3 grant request had been awarded. Frank Finelli delivered a $3,500 check from the George C. Marshall Chapter of MOAA in Lexington. This Chapter sponsored two fundraising events to support VVFS and has been a consistent donor since the creation of the VSF.

Alex Lambert from ADP attended the Board meeting and announced that the Foundation would be receiving $4,000 from their ADP Pillar Community employee group. ADP also supports the Foundation through their employee giving program, which has selected the VSF as one of their 2020 charities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we would like to thank the members of the JLC for their support and wish them and their families a very happy and blessed holiday season.

The next Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2020. Location TBD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Finelli
Chairman
Veterans Services Foundation

ATTACHMENT 4

JLC 2020 Work Plan

2020 General Assembly (January 8 – March 7):

 Attend JLC Day on January 15, 2019 and join the Virginia National Guard at their Reception that evening.

 Advocate for 2019 JLC Initiatives & Promote role of JLC - Goal: Every JLC Members meets with ***at least*** 2 Senators ***and*** 2 Delegates

 Legislative Committee and Policy Paper Sponsors work with DVS Policy Director and legislative patrons; speak to bills at committee hearing, answer legislator questions

Spring Meeting (April 29):

 Review 2020 General Assembly actions, including: legislation, budget and Veto Session

 Conduct an initial review of the current status of 2020 JLC initiatives not enacted

 Call for potential 2021 JLC Initiatives

 Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee (annual review)

 Nominating Committee requests candidates for Chair & Vice Chair declare intention to run

April – June

 NLT Monday, June 15 - JLC members submit potential initiatives, with draft papers preferably in JLC format.

 JLC Chairman & Legislative Committee review proposals submitted and pass to DVS Policy Director for review.

 Legislative Committee and DVS provides feedback/guidance to drafters.

30 DAYS OUT FROM SUMMER MTG (June 22):

 JLC Chairman distributes potential 2021 JLC Initiatives to members for review, and

 JLC members share potential 2021 JLC Initiatives with their VSO leadership and membership to solicit feedback, comments, additional ideas, etc.

Summer Meeting (July 22):

 Sponsors of each potential 2021 JLC Initiative present to JLC. Each initiative is voted on to either continue forward or be rejected for 2021.

 JLC members submit any additional potential 2021 JLC Initiatives – or concepts for initiatives based on state/national conferences, with a projected date of completion.

 Position papers offered by DVS or DMA or otherwise without a sponsor will be presented by the Legislative Committee chair and sponsors for each propose legislative initiative will be requested at the meeting

 Elect JLC Chair and Vice Chair

August – October:

 Position papers distributed to JLC members for distribution to their VSO leadership and others in their VSO to solicit feedback, comment, additional ideas, etc. Feedback should be sent to the Legislative Chair and administrative support **NLT September 15**

 DVS Policy Director works with sponsors on technical review.

 JLC Legislative Officer reviews and approves position papers.

 JLC Chairman reviews and approves positions papers.

30 DAYS OUT FROM FALL MTG (September 21):

 All approved draft positions papers forwarded to JLC Members for final review.

Fall Meeting (October 21):

 Final Review of all proposed 2021 JLC Initiatives

 Adopt and prioritize 2021 JLC Initiatives

 Call for JLC members to serve as an Appointed Officer (approved by the Council at the December meeting)

Day after Fall Meeting:

 Adopted Position papers distributed to JLC members for distribution to their VSO leadership.

 Adopted Position papers sent to Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and General Assembly.

 Post position papers on JLC website

November & December:

 November 1 – JLC Chairman submits Annual Report to DVS Commissioner and BVS Chairman

 Hold VSO legislative forums; Participate in legislators' forums/town halls

 Sponsors find and confirm patrons/co-patrons for initiatives, and meet with Executive and Legislative branch members

December Meeting (December 16):
Scheduled depending on the release date of the Governor's introduced budget

 Review Governor's Proposed Budget

 Receive DVS Agency proposed budget & legislation

 Review and approve any additional 2021 Initiatives that were not voted on in October

 Review list of approved General Assembly Patrons

 Adopt 2021 Meeting Schedule

 Adopt 2021 Work Plan

 Approve JLC Appointed Officers for 2021-2022

ATTACHMENT 5

2020 BOARD MEETING DATES

Month	JLC	BVS	VSF
January	15		
February			
March			26
April	29		
May		14	
June			11
July	22		
August		20	
September			17
October	21		
November			
December	16*	16*	10

JLC = Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
BVS = Board of Veterans Services
VSF = Veterans Services Foundation
*JLC & BVS will hold a joint meeting in Dec. 2020

ALB = American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Ave, Richmond

Amelia = DVS State Veterans Cemetery at Amelia, 10300 Pridesville Rd, Amelia Court House, VA 23002

HDO = Henrico DVS Office, 121 Cedar Fork Rd, Henrico

SBVCC = Sitter & Barfoot VCC, 1601 Broad Rock Rd., Richmond

VWM = Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere St., Richmond

TBD = To Be Determined

*= tentative location

BVS MEETINGS

Thursday, May 14
Place: Sitter & Barfoot VCC

DVS presentation: Legislative Wrap-Up; Intro to new Commissioner and Strategic Planning for new biennium

Thursday, August 20
Place:

DVS presentations: Benefits Update; Communications – Overview & update on how Comms teams works with media & promotes DVS programs and service lines

Wednesday, 16 – JOINT MEETING W/JLC
Place: Virginia War Memorial

DVS presentations: Introduced Budget/Agency Package for 2021; two

Discuss support during Session other than BVS recommendations: mobilization during session on specific agency bills/budgetary items, meetings before and during session with legislators/staff, attendance at GAMVC meetings

JLC MEETINGS

Wednesday, April 29
Place: ALB

DVS presentation: Legislative Wrap-Up; Intro to new Commissioner and Strategic Planning for new biennium

Wednesday, July 22
Place: ALB

Presentation: Legal Aid Programs in Virginia for Veterans

Wednesday, October 21
Place: ALB

Presentation: Entrepreneurship & financing programs/resources in Virginia for Veterans

Wednesday, December 16 – JOINT MEETING W/BVS
Place: Virginia War Memorial

DVS presentation: Introduced Budget/Agency Package for 2021

Discuss support other than JLC list of priorities: letters of support for filed legislation, mobilization during session on specific bills/budgetary items, meetings before and during session with legislators/staff, attendance at GAMVC meetings

ATTACHMENT 6

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

101 N. 14TH STREET, 17TH FL.
RICHMOND VA 23219

Air Force Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United States Army
Disabled American Veterans
Fifth Baptist Veterans Ministry
Fleet Reserve Association
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
Korean War Veterans Association
Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the World Wars
Navy Mutual Aid Association
Navy Seabee Veterans of America
Non-Commissioned Officers Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Reserve Officers Association
Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
Virginia National Guard Association
Women Marines Association

JLC ELECTED OFFICERS: 2019-2020

- Chairman: Frank G. Wickersham, III
- Vice Chairman: Bill Ashton

JLC APPOINTED OFFICERS: 2019-2020

- Legislative Officer: Dave Sitler
  - Assistant Legislative Officers: Lauren Augustine
- Chaplain: Denice Williams
- Constitution & By-Laws Committee
  - Chairman: Tom Wozniak
  - Members: Ace Taylor, Fallon Martin (A)
- Nominating Committee
  - Chairman: Dan Boyer,
  - Members: Judy Reid, Bob Sempek (A)
- JLC Rep to the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC)
  - Primary: Chair
  - Alternate: Craig Cressman
- JLC Rep to the State Board of Elections (SBE)
  - Primary: MOAA
- JLC Rep to Board of Veteran Services (BVS)
  - Primary: Chair
  - Alternate: Rick Oertel
- JLC Rep to Veterans Services Foundation (VSF)
  - Primary: Chair
  - Alternate: Vice Chair
- JLC Reps to Veterans Treatment Dockets
  - Hampton Roads: John Cooper, Rich Mansfield (A)
  - NOVA: Lauren Augustine,
  - Spotsylvania/Central VA: Bill Ashton
- Select Committee to Assist the DVS Women Veterans Program Manager:
  - Marie Juliano (JLC), Lyla Kohistany (BVS)

Motion to approve updated 2019 – 2020 Officers list _____ _____

ATTACHMENT 7

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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

Air Force Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United States Army
Disabled American Veterans
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Fleet Reserve Association
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
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Marine Corps League
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the World Wars
Navy Mutual Aid Association
Navy Seabee Veterans of America
Non-Commissioned Officers Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Reserve Officers Association
Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
Virginia National Guard Association
Women Marines Association

Governor Ralph S. Northam
Patrick Henry Building
1111 E. Broad St., 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

On behalf of the Joint Leadership Council, I write to share that we have been briefed on the Virginia National Guard (VNG) actively losing recruits and current Virginia Guardsmen to surrounding states who offer free college tuition for members, and assistance to family members as well. The two National Guard VSOs – Virginia National Guard Association and the Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association have come together in past sessions to advocate for increasing VNG State Tuition Assistance budget allotment, improving the Commonwealth's commitment to the men and women of their National Guard.

The VNG is a tip of the spear force, offering cutting-edge weapons systems and mission, and currently postured to grow strength and fiscal returns for Virginia. Loss of structure means potentially losing millions of dollars in equipment, facilities, and personnel dollars for Virginia, plus any chance at future growth. Investing in guardsmen through tuition assistance comes back to Virginia through additional funds spent at Virginia's colleges, universities, and other continuing education courses, increased salaries, and most importantly, not only skilled soldiers but skilled workers participating in Virginia's economy.

Free tuition, the ultimate goal of increased funds for State Tuition Assistance, serves as a strong recruiting and retention incentive. Since Guardsmen are less transient than active duty, they are much more likely to go to school, work, live, shop, and enjoy leisure activities within the Commonwealth.

The Department of Military Affairs continues to research this topic extensively. In gathering data from other states, taking a detailed look at the current STA program from various perspectives within the organization, and by seeking counsel from other state agencies as well as colleges and universities, we believe that marginally increasing the budget allotment, which has not been raised in over a decade, is a strong first step toward improving the State Tuition Assistance Program.

The JLC requests that the Governor support the new VNG Tuition Assistance Working Group, that has been meeting throughout 2019 to study the program, and to support any recommended changes to internal policy and requested legislative or budgetary support, to best optimize the program that this working group presents.

Sincerely,
Frank G. Wickersham, III
Chairman
MOAA Representative

cc: Secretary Carlos Hopkins

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

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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Non-Commissioned Officers Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Reserve Officers Association
Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
Virginia National Guard Association
Women Marines Association

Governor Ralph S. Northam
Patrick Henry Building
1111 E. Broad St., 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

On behalf of the Joint Leadership Council, I write to share that we have been briefed on the funding necessary to assure veterans in rural Virginia have reliable access to telehealth services, as well as education and business opportunities through universal broadband. We greatly enjoyed the briefing we received last January at JLC Day and several VSO members of JLC have signed on to the Governor's Commonwealth Connect Coalition of broadband providers, localities, Fortune 500 companies, VSOs and other diverse organizations – with the goal of universal coverage and supporting the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI).

The JLC believes all 715,000 Virginia veterans deserve access to quality broadband and the opportunity to fully participate in modern American life, not just those in the "Eastern Crescent." As your Administration estimates there are 600,000 Virginians without access to the internet, we estimate that this number includes at least 150,000 veterans.

Rural veterans are substantially more likely to enroll in the VA health care system than urban veterans, but live further from medical facilities, thereby needing reliable internet service to access VA telehealth services. A report by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Amazon, ***Unlocking the Digital Potential of Rural America***, estimates that for Virginia, the increased access to digital tools would result in $452M in annual wages, and $1.29B added overall to the state GDP per year.

Universal broadband service will provide veterans in rural areas with more opportunities to take advantage of their GI Bill benefits through online education programs. Universal broadband service will provide veterans the opportunity to become entrepreneurs and start up small businesses in small towns and rural communities, adding to the New Virginia Economy.

The JLC stands at the ready to be of assistance to you and your Commonwealth Connect team in pushing for broadband funding in Virginia. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this critical funding.

Sincerely,
Frank G. Wickersham, III
Chairman
MOAA Representative

cc: Secretary Carlos Hopkins

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

ATTACHMENT 8

JLC DAY AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY 15, 2019

Sign Up Sheet

Return to Carrie Ann Alford No Later Than January 2th

- **I will attend JLC Day on January 15, 2020 ☐ Y ☐ N**

Name _____ VSO _____

- -

If Attending:

Is your Alternate attending with you? ☐ Y ☐ N If yes, Name: _____

Names & Affiliations of other members of your VSO attending with you:

1.

2.

Please remember that the offices in the new GAB are small – please have a group no larger than 3. You may or may not be assigned to your Delegate and Senator as there are multiple JLC members in certain districts.

My Delegate: _____ My Senator: _____

New Legislators I am willing to/would like to visit – Please see back for list

_____ _____

_____ _____

☐ I will make the appointments myself
☐ I would like Carrie Ann's assistance in making the appointment(s)

New Legislators – *bold names are veterans*

SENATE		
Name	SD	Replacing
Jen Kiggans	**7**	**Frank Wagner**
Ghazala Hashmi	10	Glen Sturtevant
John Bell	**13**	**Dick Black**
Joe Morrissey	16	Roslyn Dance
Todd Pillion	**40**	**Bill Carrico**

HOUSE OF DELEGATES		
Name	HD	Replacing
Will Wampler, III	4	**Todd Pillion**
John Avoli	20	Dickie Bell
Wendell Walker	23	Scott Garrett
Chris Runion	25	Steve Landes
Josh Cole	28	**Bob Thomas**
Dan Helmer	**40**	**Tim Hugo**
Sally Hudson	57	David Toscano
Carrie Coyner	62	**Riley Ingram**
Rodney Willet	73	Debra Rodman
Clint Jenkins	**76**	Chris Jones
Don Scott	**80**	Matthew James
Nancy Guy	83	**Chris Stolle**
Alex Askew	85	Kathy Turpin
Suhas Subramanyam	87	**John Bell**
Martha Mugler	91	**Gordon Helsel**
Shelly Simonds	94	David Yancey
Amanda Batten	96	Brenda Pogge
Scott Wyatt	97	Chris Peace

JLC DAY AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY 15, 2020

Guidelines for JLC Members & Other Participants

Goals:

- Increase visibility and credibility of JLC and its role as advocate for Virginia's veterans, military and Guard, and their families.
- Educate the new legislators on the mission of JLC
- Promote and build support for the 2020 JLC policy initiatives
- Promote DVS – its programs and services
- Show support for the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and his initiatives
- Show support for the Adjutant General of the National Guard and his initiatives
- Show appreciation for the Executive and Legislative branches
- Continue to build strong relationships with our local Delegates and Senators!

Protocol:

- This is not a meeting. Participation is part of JLC membership but not mandatory
- Do take meetings with the Legislative Aide (LA) if the legislator is not available.
- Do bring the Summary Matrix and direct attention to the URL at the top where the legislator or aide can look up all the papers electronically on their iPads! (Saving Trees!)
- Do not ask questions about other legislation – even if it relates to veterans
- Do not offer personal opinions when legislators ask you questions about JLC policy initiatives or other veteran, military or guard bills
- Respect the time allocated to you when meeting with legislators or their aides – they are on a tight schedule, as are we – you should have made multiple appointments!

Protocol When Meeting with Legislators:

- You are there representing the JLC – not yourself/VSO/political affiliation/etc.
- Advocate only for the 6 JLC policy initiatives for 2020
- Have copies of the initiatives and distribute for each office you visit
- Be specific in your answers, referring the person back to the policy paper
- If you do not know the answer to a question do not speculate! Write the question down and give it to Carrie Ann before the end of the day so she can respond to the legislator
- FEEL FREE TO TEXT CARRIE ANN TO COME JOIN THE MEETING – 804-316-4754
- If the legislator or LA asks you non-JLC questions, feel free to answer IF you know the answer – if not, see above.

- **Questions?** Call or email **Carrie Ann Alford**

email: carrieann.alford@dvs.virginia.gov
phone: 804-316-4754 (cell) or 804-225-4716 (desk)

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.

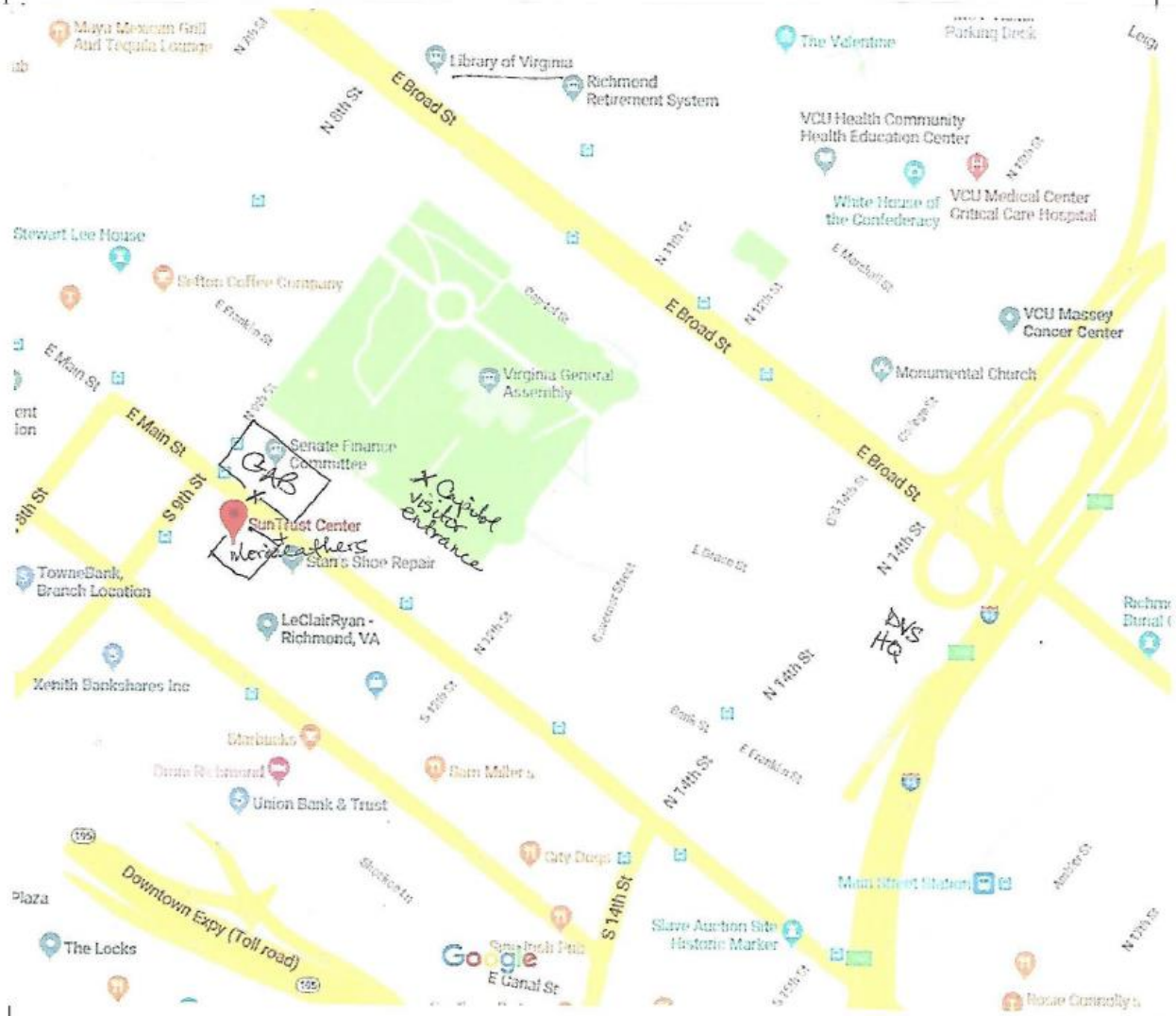
Attendance: All JLC representatives, alternates and other interested members of your VSO are welcome to attend. The Sign Up Sheet Form MUST be filled out and returned to Carrie Ann Alford (mail or email) by Friday, January 3th COB. **Parking:** Parking is horrible around Capitol Square. Please carpool 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**.

JLC DAY AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY 15, 2020

Parking: Parking is horrible around Capitol Square. Please carpool if possible! Check out **Spot Hero** for prepaid discounted parking https://spothero.com/richmond-parking



ATTACHMENT 9

BOOTS TO SUITS

THEY'VE SERVED US, NOW LET'S SERVE THEM.

Outfitting Virginia Veterans with Complimentary, Quality Work Apparel

Presently we are accepting cash donations: https://bootstosuits.org/donations

Apparel donations for men and women are on a temporary hold and will resume in January 2020. Prior to dropping off any apparel donations, please contact our Project Manager at (804) 401-5188.

What can I donate?

- Current Blazers, Sport Coats, & Suiting (less than 6 years old)
- Dress Pants & Khakis
- New Dress Shirts (White or Light Blue)
- Women's Interview Appropriate Dresses, Separates

Or cash donations for:

- Purchasing New Dress Shirts & Slacks
- Blazers & Sport Coats in XS-XXXL Sizes
- Fitting Veterans Using Trained Staff
- Supplementing Big and Tall Sizes
- Mailings, Printing, Postage, Marketing Expenses & operational expenses

*All items must be **DRY CLEANED**. Donations should be current styles, clean and in EXCELLENT condition. Some Vets leave their fitting appointments and go straight to their interview. We only want the best for our Vets so we dress them for SUCCESS!*