



VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

Report to the Board of Veterans Services

August 20, 2020

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees held a virtual meeting on June 24th, 2020.

On June 24, 2020 the final VSF Board of Trustees Meeting for FY20 was held electronically. The VSF Chairman welcomed everyone and began the meeting with an overview of FY20. The Chairman reported if expected donations were received by June 30th, VSF would close out the fiscal year with over \$625,000 in donations. It took a great deal of hard work and a successful collaboration with Secretary Hopkins, Commissioner Maxwell and the DVS team to achieve this success. The Chairman stressed that these relationships were imperative to meet future goals.

Secretary Hopkins reported that since the Governor declared a state of emergency, Department of Military Affairs (DMA) has been engaged in COVID-19 responses. They've worked closely with the Department of Health and our long-term care facilities for N95 mask fittings and have helped local providers obtain Title 31 funding. Members have also provided support at recent protests, with 70 personnel assisting the State Police.

Commissioner Maxwell presented a synopsis of the DVS return to work plan. He noted that the Veteran Care Centers are operating as they have been since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. Commissioner Maxwell noted the eviction ban is about to be lifted and he is expecting the homeless veteran population to increase. Commissioner Maxwell is looking forward to working with the Foundation to meet the needs of Virginia veterans and their families as we face many uncertainties of the future.

Mr. John Lesinski, Development Committee Chair, reported that a robust fundraising/outreach plan was being drafted which will ask everyone to start developing email address lists for the Foundation for use in digital campaigns.

Senator Walter Stosch, Finance Committee Chair, reported that the newest budget is a placeholder and that he is anxious to employ funds towards the unmet needs of veterans. The committee will also be reviewing the transactional cost of receiving donations and will be working with DVS to come up with the final cost analysis.

Mr. Jack Hilgers, Procedures and Policies (P&P) Chair reported that the P&P Committee is working with DVS to update joint policies on fundraising, in-kind donations, fund management, and fund allocation and expenses. A draft of the policies were approved by the Board along with revisions to the VSF Bylaws and the DVS-VSF MOU.

Senator Walter Stosch provided the Nominating Committee Report offering the names of John Lesinski to serve as Chairman, Nicole Carry as First Vice Chair and Jack Lanier as Second Vice Chair. The Board unanimously approved the nominations. The new officers began their terms on July 1, 2020.

On June 30th, Brad Antle, Frank Driscoll, Frank Finelli and Al Pianalto retired from the VSF Board. Each trustee served two full terms and the success of the Foundation is a direct result of their leadership. Since the Board was unable to meet in person, we hope to plan a get together to recognize them prior to the September or December Board meeting.

With final numbers for FY20 now calculated, VSF received donations from 615 donors and ended the fiscal year with a total of over \$637,000 in revenue.

The next Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2020 at the Virginia War Memorial.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lesinski
Chairman
Veterans Services Foundation