



VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

Report to the Joint Leadership Council

July 14, 2021

Thank you to the Chairman Ashton for allowing VSF to present at the last meeting.

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees held a virtual meeting on June 10, 2021.

The VSF Chairman, John Lesinski welcomed Irene Roberts of Dominion Energy and Steve Schoenfeld of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic. Irene and Steve gave a brief presentation on the Dominion Energy Charity Classic and the way this event supports the VSF.

Secretary Jabs provided remarks to include the ongoing services for veterans in Virginia and to thank Dominion Energy for their continued support that allows DVS to continue providing necessary assistance to veterans. Secretary Jabs also noted the peer support specialists from DVS are working in communities throughout the Commonwealth on suicide prevention efforts. Secretary Jabs thanked the Trustees and the Foundation for their continued fundraising efforts in support of DVS programs and looks forward to being in person with the Trustees at their next meeting in September.

Commissioner Maxwell provided a brief report on behalf of VDVS. The agency continues to focus on their role as a port of entry for services needed by veterans. Their top priorities are housing and transition services. Their belief is that housing creates better outcomes and that transition services will assist in the suicide prevention and the success of mental health services. Commissioner Maxwell noted that VVFS is now seeing new client numbers increase and while expenses were down over FY21 he believes they will increase as the eviction moratorium is lifted and more homeless veterans reach out for assistance. The 2021 Women's Veterans Summit is quickly approaching, and the Commissioner encouraged everyone to attend. Commissioner Maxwell lastly noted that the laptop program between VETE and VCCS is progressing successfully with 80 laptops distributed to veteran community college students to date.

Chairman Lesinski provided an update on the Foundation's efforts in the final quarter of FY21. The Development Committee is working hard to establish relationships with new corporate donors in hopes of creating partnerships that aid in veteran assistance efforts. The Finance Committee has worked with the VSF Treasurer to recommend the DVS' FY22 budget request and the Procedures and Policies Committee will be meeting in the near future to work on the Foundation's operational documents.

Jim Flaherty of the Attorney General's office conducted comprehensive FOIA training for the Trustees.

The Trustees elected their new slate of leaders to include John Lesinski as Chairman, Nicole Carry as First Vice Chair, and Paul Haughton as Second Vice Chair.

Overall donations are down for the Foundation in FY21, much of what can be attributed to the overall impact of the pandemic. To counter this effect several fundraising campaigns, including the Circle of Heroes recurring donation campaign, were launched to inspire donations before the end of FY21. Also, the VSF brochure is being updated and should be available for dissemination in early FY 22.

The next Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2021, at a time and location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lesinski, Chairman
Veterans Services Foundation