



**VIRGINIA VETERANS
SERVICES FOUNDATION**
Report to the Board of Veterans Services
December 16, 2021

The Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (VVSF) Board of Trustees held the final meeting for 2021 on December 9, 2021 at the offices of the Richmond Times Dispatch.

Secretary Jabs swore in Michael Coleman, who was recently appointed by the Governor to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Coleman brings a wealth of experience to the Foundation and will be an asset to the organization. Mr. Coleman will serve on the Finance Committee.

Work on various VVSF projects continues through the winter. The Procedures and Policies Committee and Finance Committee met jointly on November 16, 2021.

The P&P Committee Chair, Jack Lanier has been working closely with the committee and VVSF staff to update VVSF working documents and to finalize the FY22/23 Strategic Plan and the FY22 VVSF-DVS MOU Annual Rider. Chair Lanier presented those documents to the full Board on December 9th and they were unanimously approved by the trustees.

The Finance Committee with the guidance of the Committee Chair, Walter Stosch worked with the committee to analyze various budget matters that the DVS CFO presented at the November Joint Meeting. Chair Stosch made a request to the full Board to consider and approve an additional \$75,000 for the FY22 budget to allow DVS programs the requested increased spending authority. The full Board unanimously approved the recommended FY22 \$75,000 budget adjustment.

The Development Committee Chair, Laura Schmiegel, has been working on a variety of corporate fundraising efforts and provided a detailed presentation to the Board. Capitol One, Sentara, and the Dominion Energy Charity Classic were highlighted along with a list of additional potential donors. With fundraising as a top priority, the Development Committee will have a busy year identifying the needed funding sources to support DVS programs.

A number of Community Fundraising events have taken place in FY22 and this is a very welcome return for VVSF. These events are essential for increasing funding and an excellent avenue for providing outreach opportunities throughout the Commonwealth. VVSF Chair, John Lesinski has been busy traveling to thank donors and receive event contributions, most recently to Fawn Lake Community in Spotsylvania and the George C. Marshall MOAA in Lexington.

In celebration of Veterans Day, there were a number of fundraising events in November. The Fawn Lake Community sponsored a golf tournament, D-BAT in Virginia Beach held a Memorial Wood Bat Championship tournament and Kendra Scott Jewelry in Charlottesville donated a percentage of their sales. The Foundation is very fortunate to have many dedicated and generous supporters. They invest a great deal of their time, and work hard to host fundraisers year after year.

VVSF Outreach opportunities in November included a live interview with the VVSF Chair, John Lesinski on the NBC12 midday news program. The VVSF Chair also served as the featured speaker for the Veterans Day Ceremony at John Tyler Community College. The filming of a videotape sponsored by Sentara Healthcare featuring John Lesinski and Jack Lanier detailing the work of VVSF took place. Members of the board also attended a Veteran Day Brunch hosted by Koontz Paint & Body Works in Richmond.

Commissioner Maxwell provided an update on the DVS programs and was available to answer questions. The Foundation greatly appreciates the willingness of the Commissioner and the DVS team to work together to provide support for Virginia veterans. Both organizations recognize that a strong collaboration will result in successfully identifying veterans along with providing the resources needed now and in the future.

On behalf of the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation Board of trustees, I would like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

The next VVSF Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2022 at a time and location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lesinski, Chairman
Virginia Veterans Services Foundation