



**VIRGINIA VETERANS  
SERVICES FOUNDATION**  
**Report to the Board of Veterans Services**  
**September 22, 2022**

The Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees held their quarterly meeting on September 8, 2022 at the Virginia War Memorial.

VSF welcomed recent Board appointee and Virginia native, Brad Williamson, to the meeting to share his background as a retired Rear Admiral and career Navy Surface Warfare Officer. The Board was delighted to also have Secretary Lohr, Secretary Crenshaw, Assistant Secretary Stewart and Commissioner Gade in attendance for the meeting.

VSF Treasurer, Tammy Davidson, provided a report on the FY 2022 Fourth Quarter Financial Report. The Foundation closed FY 2022 with a total of \$1,963,423.26 in donations, which included the \$1.3 million donation received in June. Total expenditures supporting various DVS programs in FY 2022 were \$784,391.85.

Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Matthew Lohr, provided an overview to the Board of the Secretariat's purview, and his desire to connect Virginia veterans to agriculture. The Board showed great interest in the Commonwealth's policies surrounding hemp farming, as well as the creation of a state program to merge veterans and farming. It was an enlightening discussion and VSF appreciated Secretary Lohr's time and interest.

Secretary Crenshaw expressed great appreciation for the work of VSF to serve the Commonwealth's veterans and family members. He is standing by to be of steadfast support to the Board's initiatives so that the Board can continue to move the needle for growth and success. The Secretary stated that his office is evaluating if any legislation may be needed in the 2023 Legislative Session of the General Assembly.

Commissioner Gade announced a new partnership with Community Veteran Engagement Boards (CVEBs) and is currently working on confirming a meeting in Richmond to include Maryland and North Carolina.

John Lesinski, reported on behalf of Board of Veteran Services Chairman Michael Dick and provided an update on the collaboration between VSF and DVS Service Line Directors. VSF Chairman, Paul Haughton, shared that VSF Board Members should be matched with a BVS Board Member prior to the upcoming BVS Board Meeting on September 22, 2022 to discuss the 2022 BVS POC Service Line Reports.

The Chairman nominated and the Board approved new FY23 Committee and Assistant Committee Chairs. Mike Coleman will serve as Chair and Paula Buckley as Assistant Chair of the Finance Committee; John Esposito will serve as Chair and Valerie Zimmerman, Assistant Chair of the Development Committee; and Jack Lanier will serve as Chair and Bruce Waxman, Assistant Chair of the Procedures and Policies Committee.

The 2023 VSF Board meeting schedule was approved for the following dates: March 16, 2023, June 22, 2023, September 14, 2023, and December 7, 2023.

Jack Lanier, Procedures and Policies Chair, presented the VSF Electronic Meeting Policy for the Board to consider and approve. The Policy was passed unanimously by the Board and VSF can now begin to use electronic meetings following the regulations that were passed in the 2022 Session of the General Assembly.

The Finance Committee recommended and the Board approved expanding the authority of the VSF ED to approve expenditures up to \$50,000 from the VSF Unrestricted Fund. It should be noted that this would not include donor funds, and would allow for the Foundation to continue its pledge of 100% of donor funds to be used to serve veterans.

The next VSF Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2022 at a location and time to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paul Haughton  
Chairman  
Virginia Veterans Services Foundation