

**Board of Veterans Services  
Meeting Minutes  
September 22, 2022**

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) was held on September 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the College of William & Mary Board Room of Blow Hall.

**Members Present**

- Victor Angry
- Carl Bedell
- Joe Campa
- Michael Dick
- Buddy Fowler
- Joyce Henderson
- Jamie Inman
- Carlton Kent
- Thurraya Kent
- Kathleen Murphy (via zoom)
- Bryce Reeves (via zoom)
- Melissa Watts
- Denice Williams, Chair, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
- Brad Williamson, Veterans Services Foundation
- Daniel Gade, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Veterans Services
- Pam Seay, President, Virginia War Memorial Foundation

**Members Absent**

- David Ashe
- Jason Ballard
- John Bell
- Mike Cherry
- Mario Flores
- John Lesinski
- Mamie Locke
- Kathy Owens
- Susan Riveland

**Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present**

- Claudia Flores, VDVS
- Ravi Padma, VDVS
- Brandi Jancaitis, VDV's
- Kayla LaFond, VDVS
- Phil Trezza, VDVS
- William Hewitt, VDVS
- Annie Walker, VDVS

### **Members of the Public**

- Karla Boughey, Veteran Services Foundation
- Shirley Smith
- Jackolin Crawford
- Rich Rinaldo, Joint Leadership Council
- Pat Rinaldo

### **Materials Distributed as part of the Agenda Packet (sent via e-mail and posted on BVS webpage)**

- Draft Agenda
- Draft Minutes of the August 25, 2022 meeting
- Draft Electronic Meeting Policy
- VDVS Operational Update
- JLC Report
- VSF Report

### **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Michael Dick called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Chairman Dick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call, Introduction of Members, and Quorum Determination**

The roll call determined that there were 14 of 25 members present at the meeting site, and a quorum was established. Two members were present online via Zoom, bringing the total to 16 of 25 members present.

### **Approval of Electronic Meeting Policy Agenda and Approval of Minutes of the August 25, 2021 Meeting** *(See Attachment 1 & 2)*

Chairman Dick made a **motion, seconded by Joyce Henderson** to amend the draft agenda to adopt the Electronic Meeting Policy. The motion carried by unanimous consent and the Electronic Meeting Policy was adopted.

Chairman Dick noted that the BVS Bylaws will need to be amended. Chairman Dick proposed that Article 7 of the bylaws be amended to incorporate reference to the Electronic Meeting Policy with voting to take place in December. No opposition noted.

Chairman Dick asked for a motion to approve the draft meeting agenda. Delegate Buddy Fowler made a **motion, seconded** by Victor Angry, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Chairman Dick asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes from the August 25, 2022 meeting. Delegate Buddy Fowler made a **motion, seconded** by Victor Angry to approve the minutes. The motion carried (15-Y; 0-N; 1-A)

### **Introduction of VDVS staff and guests**

Members of the public introduced themselves as recorded above. Kayla LaFond introduced

herself as the Military Spouse Liaison.

**Update on current VDVS operational status** *(See Attachment 3)*

VDVS Commissioner Gade gave an update on VDVS Operations.

**Joint Leadership Council Report and 2023 Initiatives** *(See Attachment 4)*

Chairman Dick asked the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) brief the 2023 JLC initiatives.

JLC Chair Denice Williams presented six initiatives and informed the BVS that the initiatives are adopted, but not yet prioritized. JLC Chair Williams noted final ranking will be decided at the December JLC meeting.

Chairman Dick informed BVS members of statutory duty to perform a cost – benefit analysis of Board proposals and recommendations. Chairman Dick made a **motion, seconded** by Buddy Fowler to consider JLC initiatives at the December BVS meeting. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

**President of William & Mary**

Chairman Dick introduced the President of William and Mary, Ms. Katherine Rowe. Ms. Rowe welcomed the Board to William & Mary and thanked the members for their service to veterans. Ms. Rowe noted the commitment of William & Mary to veterans.

**Reports:** *(See Attachments 5 & 6)*

Mr. Brad Williamson provided the Veteran Services Foundation report and Ms. Pam Seay provided the War Memorial Foundation report.

**William & Mary Presentations**

Mr. J.D. Due, Executive Director of the Center for Military Transition and Charlie Faulkner from the William & Mary Office of Student Veteran Engagement presented information on student veterans efforts, engagements, and activities. Mr. Bill Brown from ECPI presented information on services at ECPI. Dr. Takesha McMiller, Director of Military Services at Northern Virginia Community College provided information on services to military students. Mr. Stephen Ross, Director of Military Student Services from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) also presented information on services for military students at VCU.

**Good of the Order Reports**

Delegate Murphy noted two scheduled Women Veteran Round Tables. Senator Reeves expressed gratitude on the military tax subtraction passed in 2022.

**Public Comment**

Rich Rinaldo provided comments on higher education for veterans.

**Wrap Up & Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn the meeting carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned.

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

## **BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES**

### **AGENDA**

**September 22, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. – 13:30 p.m.**

**College of William & Mary  
Board Room of Blow Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
262 Richmond Rd  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23186**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (10:00 – 10:02)
- II. Roll Call and Quorum Determination – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (10:02 – 10:05)
- III. Electronic Meeting Policy – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
- IV. Approval of Meeting Agenda and Minutes from the August 25 meeting – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (10:10 – 10:12)
- V. Introduction of VDVS staff and guests by exception – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (10:12 – 10:14)
- VI. VDVS Operational Update – *Daniel Gade, VDVS Commissioner* (10:14 – 10:20)
- VII. JLC Report and 2023 Legislative Initiatives – *JLC Chair, Denice Williams* (10:20 – 10:35)
- VIII. Reports (10:35 – 10:40)
  - a. Veterans Services Foundation – *Brad Williamson, VSF Board Member*
  - b. Virginia War Memorial Foundation – *Pam Seay, VWMF President*
- IX. New Business: (10:40– 10:50)
  - a. “Good of the Order” Reports – *all members*
  - b. Other new business – *as requested by members*
- X. Public comment (10:50 – 11:00)
- XI. Educational Summit Presentations - *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (11:00 – 12:00)
- XII. Wrap Up & Adjourn – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (12:00)
- XIII. BVS Members invited to Educational Summit Luncheon for Student Veteran Engagement (12:00 – 13:30)

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **ELECTRONIC MEETING POLICY**

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 2.2-3708.3, the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) has adopted the following policy concerning meetings held through electronic communication means; situations other than declared states of emergency.

#### **MEMBER REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

As defined in the Code of Virginia, § 2.2-3701, "remote participation" means "participation by an individual member of a public body by electronic communication means in a public meeting where a quorum of the public body is otherwise physically assembled. [Emphasis added.]

#### **Electronic Member Participation Permission #1: Disability or Medical Condition**

If notified on or before the day of the meeting, it shall be the policy of BVS to allow a member to participate electronically under § 2.2-3708.3.B.1 when:

- a. The member has a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents physical attendance.
- b. At the beginning to the meeting, the Chair shall state the member's electronic participation and the general reason (specifics are not required).
- c. A quorum of BVS must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location,
- d. There must be arrangements for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.
- e. BVS shall record in its minutes the remote location from which the member participated and the fact that the member participated through electronic means due to a disability or medical condition.

#### **Electronic Member Participation Permission #2: Caregiving**

If notified on or before the day of the meeting, it shall be the policy of BVS to allow a member to participate electronically under § 2.2-3708.3.B.2 when:

- a. A medical condition of a member's family requires the member to provide care that prevents physical attendance.
- b. At the beginning to the meeting, the Chair shall state the member's electronic participation and the general reason (specifics are not required).
- c. A quorum of BVS must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location
- d. There must be arrangements for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.
- e. BVS shall record in its minutes the remote location from which the member participated and the fact that the member participated through electronic means due to caregiving.

#### **Electronic Member Participation Permission #3: Principal Residence is More Than 60 Miles Distance from the Meeting Location**



If notified on or before the day of the meeting, it shall be the policy of BVS to allow a member to participate electronically under § 2.2-3708.3.B.3 when:

- a. The member's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location identified in the meeting notice for such meeting.
- b. At the beginning of the meeting, the Chair shall state the member's electronic participation and the reason.
- c. A quorum of BVS must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location.
- d. There must be arrangements for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location,
- e. BVS shall record in its minutes the remote location from which the member participated and the fact that the member participated through electronic means due to the distance between the member's principal residence and the meeting location.

#### **Electronic Member Participation Permission #4: Personal Matters**

If notified on or before the day of the meeting, it shall be the policy of BVS to allow a member to participate electronically under § 2.2-3708.3.B.4 when:

- a. The member is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter.
- b. At the beginning of the meeting, the Chair shall state the member's electronic participation and the specific nature of the personal matter.
- c. Each BVS member may not use this permission more than two meetings per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.
- d. A quorum of BVS must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location,
- e. There must be arrangements for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.
- f. BVS shall record in its minutes the remote location from which the member participated and the specific nature of the personal matter cited by the member.

#### **APPROVAL AND OBJECTIONS TO REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

It shall be assumed that a member can participate under Permissions #1-4 unless another member objects once it is stated by the Chair at the beginning of the meeting.

At such time, if any other member objects, the Chair shall call for a vote on the matter.

- a. If a member's disapproval for electronic participation for Permissions #1-4 is due to a violation of BVS's electronic participation and meeting policy then it will be recorded with specificity.
- b. If the vote is such that the member will not be permitted to participate electronically, the member should be advised that they may only monitor/witness the meeting and the member not permitted to participate (e.g., vote, discuss).
- c. The outcome of any vote on the member's electronic participation under

Permissions #1-4 shall be documented in the minutes accordingly.

#### **ELECTRONIC MEETINGS DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

As permitted by § 2.2-3708.2, it shall be the policy of BVS to allow a meeting without a quorum of the public body physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with § 44-146.17 provided that (i) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to provide for the continuity of operations of the public body or the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. This allowance is applicable only for the duration of the emergency declared pursuant to § 44-146.17 or 44-146.2 I.

When convening a meeting in accordance with this permission, BVS shall:

1. Give public notice using the best available method given the nature of the emergency, which notice shall be given contemporaneously with the notice provided to members of BVS conducting the meeting;
2. Make arrangements for public access to such meeting through electronic communication means, including videoconferencing if already used by BVS;
3. Provide the public with the opportunity to comment at those meetings of the BVS when public comment is customarily received ; and Otherwise comply with the provisions of FOIA.

In addition, the minutes shall state the:

1. Nature of the emergency,
2. Fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means, and
3. Type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held shall be stated in the minutes.

#### **ALL-VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

As defined in the Code of Virginia, § 2.2-3701, an "all-virtual meeting" means "a public meeting (i) conducted by a public body, other than those excepted pursuant to subsection C of § 2.2-3708.3, using electronic communication means, (ii) during which all members of the public body who participate do so remotely rather than being assembled in one physical location, and (iii) to which public access is provided through electronic communication means."

It shall be the policy of BVS to allow for all-virtual meetings under § 2.2-3708.3.C provided that BVS does not convene an all-virtual public meeting (i) more than two times per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater, or (ii) consecutively with another all-virtual meeting. For an all-virtual meeting, BVS shall:

1. Indicate that the meeting will be an all-virtual meeting in the required meeting notice along with a statement notifying the public that the method by which BVS



chooses to meet shall not be changed unless BVS provides a new meeting notice in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-3707;

2. Provide public access to the all-virtual meeting via electronic communication means, and the electronic communication means used allows the public to hear all members participating in the all-virtual meeting and, when audio-visual technology is available, to see the members as well;
3. Provide a phone number or other live contact information is provided to alert BVS if the audio or video transmission of the all-virtual meeting provided fails, BVS monitors such designated means of communication during the meeting, and BVS takes a recess until public access is restored if the transmission fails for the public;
4. Make available a copy of the proposed agenda and all agenda packets and, unless exempt, all materials furnished to the members of BVS for the all-virtual meeting to the public in electronic format at the same time that such materials are provided to members;
5. Afford the public the opportunity to comment through electronic means, including by way of written comments, at all-virtual meetings when public comment is customarily received;
6. Ensure that no more than two members of BVS are together in any one remote location unless that remote location is open to the public to physically access it; and
7. Ensure that minutes of all-virtual public meetings are taken as required by § 2.2-3707 and include the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held. If a member's participation from a remote location pursuant to this subsection is disapproved because such participation would violate the policy adopted pursuant to subsection D, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

#### **POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE**

The effective date of the policy, or policy revision, shall be the date the BVS Members ratify the policy.

Policy Adoption Date: September 22, 2022

Policy Effective Date: September 22, 2022



# **ATTACHMENT 3**

## **VDVS OPERATIONAL UPDATE**



### **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

#### ***Department of Veterans Services***

Daniel M. Gade, PhD  
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0220  
Fax: (804) 786-0302

#### **Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) Operations Update for the Board of Veterans Services**

Since July 1, 2022, Benefits has an increase in overall Compensation and Pension claims submitted to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). 2,244 claims were submitted during the month of August- this is the most C&P claims submitted since pre-pandemic. Submissions are up from 1,644 in August 2021. The Benefits team serviced 1,414 new veterans in August, which is an increase from July. Benefits continue to work with military installation transition offices to increase VDVS awareness for transitioning service members. The Veteran Service Representatives (VSR) developed and submitted 293 Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Claims in August, which is slightly below the 300 monthly target. Benefits continues to focus on outreach and training. Benefits is experiencing an increase in VSR vacancies in the North Region. We are beginning to fill newly funded VSR positions in high demand offices (McGuire, Fort Lee, Quantico, and Norfolk). Benefits is growing and serving more Virginia veterans by referring to sister service lines and community partners.

The 2022 Virginia Veterans and Military Affairs Conference & V3 Awards Summit was held on September 14, marking the first in person event since 2019. The conference and summit brought together nearly 600 military, community, and business leaders to connect and discuss developing the Commonwealth's workforce and how to welcome and integrate veterans, Transitioning Service Members and military families into the workforce and business community.

VDVS Military Spouse Liaison Ms. Kayla LaFond will support the Blue Star Families Welcome Week (BSWW) with a kickoff event at the Virginia War Memorial on September 21, 2022. This event marks the beginning of the statewide BSWW initiative. Virginia is the first state to do so outside of the Blue Star Families Chapters. VDVS Commissioner Gade, Secretary Crenshaw, and Blue Star Families CEO Kathy Roth-Douquet are scheduled to speak. Governor Youngkin is scheduled to provide video remarks.

The Military Education & Workforce Initiative (MEWI) continues to partner with the Veterans Services Foundation, the Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA), and the Altria Group to provide free certifications and credentialing opportunities to service members, veterans, and/or their spouses. Since January 1st, 2022, 32 certifications/ credentials have been earned and have been paid for through grant funds. On August 25, MEWI issued an additional 50 laptops to Virginia Commonwealth

101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219  
[www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)

University for a total of 100 computers this year. These laptops are for distribution to service members, veterans, and their spouses to assist them in their academic and employment endeavors.

The Virginia Veteran and Family Support team will gain new leadership capacity in suicide prevention and housing and criminal justice services. The new Suicide Prevention Director and Housing and Criminal Justice Services Coordinator positions will start this month. VVFS program staff continue to expand in-person outreach and community training opportunities to reach Service Members, Veterans, and families in need of behavioral health, rehabilitative and supportive services. In August 2022, staff assisted 108 new clients compared to 91 new clients in August 2021. This was an 18% decrease from August 2022. The total number of clients (including new and existing clients) served was slightly lower in August 2022 (385) compared to July 2022 (387) but significantly higher than August 2021 (293). VVFS has seen an increase in complex cases particularly impacted by rising rents and inflation.

VVFS and Benefits staff screened 1,119 service members, veterans and family members (SMVF) for suicide risk. Among those screened, 110 individuals screened at low/medium risk and 4 at high risk for suicide and received critical behavioral health support. Since January 2022, a total of 8,348 SMVF have been screened for suicide risk.

The Commonwealth's Patriot Day Ceremony was held September 12, 2022 at the Virginia War Memorial to commemorate the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Northern Virginia and the downing of the jet aircraft in Shanksville, Pennsylvania that occurred on September 11, 2001. Patriot Day is the National Day of Mourning to honor and remember the 2,997 men and women and more than 6,000 who were injured on that day in 2001. The keynote speaker for the 2022 ceremony was former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore, who was the Commonwealth's Chief Executive on September 11, 2001.

The Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on November 11, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the Virginia War Memorial. All members are invited to attend in-person, to watch the live broadcast on CBS TV-6 Richmond, or to watch the livestream on the CBS TV-6 Facebook page, the DVS Facebook page, or the Virginia War Memorial Facebook page.

The Virginia War Memorial continues to host in-person and on-line education programs, including virtual programs in September for the birthday of the U.S. Air Force and in honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Visit <https://vawarmemorial.org/events/> to learn more.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), National Cemetery Administration, Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP) awards grants to state and tribal governments for the phased expansion of existing state/tribal veterans cemeteries and the establishment of new state/tribal veterans cemeteries. USDVA VCGP has pushed almost all planned Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 grants into FFY2023. This will delay the start of phased expansion projects at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia) and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Dublin) to add additional columbarium niches for the above-ground inurnment of cremated remains. Because of the delay, the Amelia cemetery may run out of above-ground niches before additional ones are constructed. If this happens, DVS will work with veterans, families, and funeral homes on other options, which could include the veteran/family electing an in-ground cremated burial, or delaying the memorial service until additional niches are available. DVS will notify veterans, families, and funeral homes if this happens, and will post updates on the DVS website.

DVS has submitted a grant application to VCGP to add additional columbarium niches at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Cemetery in Suffolk and make other improvement. We'll learn later this year or early next year if the project will be funded in FFY2023.

The state veterans cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin, and Suffolk will display the Avenue of Flags on Veterans Day 2022. Cemetery team members will be on hand to greet visitors and help guide them to gravesites, but the cemetery offices will not be open on November 11.

Wreath ceremonies will be held on December 17 at all three cemeteries in conjunction with local partners. Information will be posted on the DVS website and shared with DVS partners on the cemeteries webpage (<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/cemeteries>) and in the DVS eNews.

COVID-19 continues to impact operations at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC) in Richmond and the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Roanoke. Both care centers have seen spikes in resident and staff positives that track community outbreaks (ex. – for a new variant). Both centers are fully open for visitation, but visitors are highly encouraged to take a COVID test prior to visitation and to wear masks while in the facility.

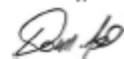
Mirroring the health care industry at large, staffing continues to be a challenge at both care centers, with several vacancies in the nursing department (registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants). Care centers positions are a mix of full-time and wage (hourly) state positions with competitive salaries/wages and excellent benefits. If you know of anyone looking for a nursing position caring for those who served us, please encourage them to visit the state jobs website at <http://jobs.virginia.gov/>. Other DVS positions are also advertised here.

As with many sectors of our economy, supply chain issues are impacting our veterans care centers, especially the completion of the new care centers in Virginia Beach and Fauquier County. Unfortunately, this means that "Month 1" (first residents admitted) is pushed back to January 2023 for the Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center (Virginia Beach) and to May 2023 for the Puller Veterans Care Center (Fauquier County). We regret these delays. We'll post updates on our care centers page at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/veterans-care-centers>.

In addition to the construction of the two new veterans care centers, we continue with phased renovation projects at the Richmond and Roanoke centers. The USDVA State Veterans Homes Grants Program (SVHGP) awards grants to states for the renovation of existing state veterans homes (aka veterans care centers) and the construction of new or replacement SVHs. USDVA SVHGP has awarded federal grants for two projects at each center, matched by state construction bond funds. All four projects are in the design stage.

U.S. Navy Veteran William (Bill) Hewitt joined the VDVS leadership team as Director of Research, Evaluation, and Partnerships. Expect to hear much from Bill in the months ahead as we work with you and your organizations on collaborative efforts to serve our veterans and their families.

Sincerely,



Daniel Gade, PhD.

# **ATTACHMENT 4**

## **JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT**



101 N. 14<sup>TH</sup> ST., 17<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
RICHMOND VA 23219

*Air Force Association  
Air Force Sergeants  
Association  
American Legion  
AMVETS  
Association of the United  
States Army  
Disabled American  
Veterans  
Fifth Baptist Church Veterans  
Ministry  
Fleet Reserve Association  
Legion of Valor of the  
U.S., Inc.  
Marine Corps League  
Military Officers Association  
of America  
Military Order of the  
Purple Heart  
Military Order of the  
World Wars  
Navy Mutual Aid Association  
Paralyzed Veterans of  
America  
Reserve Organization of  
America  
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  
Wounded Warrior Project*

### COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

#### **JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES September 22, 2022**

The Joint Leadership Council (JLC) met on September 15, 2022. Commissioner Gade provided an operational update and highlighted collaboration with Community Veteran Boards. The Commissioner also provided information on the agency's planned budget requests centered on veteran services.

JLC members presented six legislative proposals for the 2023 General Assembly Session. JLC members, alternates, and guests had the opportunity to ask questions of each sponsor and offer recommendations or changes. All six proposals were adopted for inclusion in the JLC 2023 Legislative Initiative Package. A preliminary ranking of the six proposals was discussed, however, final ranking is deferred to the December 15, 2022 meeting. The 2023 JLC legislative adopted priorities can be viewed on the JLC webpage: [Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations - Virginia Department of Veterans Services](#)

The JLC Legislative Officer is working details for the 2023 'JLC Day on the Hill' scheduled for January. The JLC is planning this event to be in-person. This event provides an opportunity for members of the General Assembly to meet with the JLC to brief veteran and military legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

The JLC is preparing an Electronic Meeting Policy for review and adoption by our members. We look forward to briefing the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) on our 2023 legislative priorities and welcome the Board's feedback. Our next meeting is planned for December 15 at the Virginia War Memorial.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Denice Williams  
Chair



# **ATTACHMENT 5**

## **VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT**



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

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

VVF 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.

VVF 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 VVF appreciated Secretary Lohr's time and interest.

Secretary Crenshaw expressed great appreciation for the work of VVF 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 Veterans Services Chairman Michael Dick and provided an update on the collaboration between VVF and DVS Service Line Directors. VVF Chairman, Paul Haughton, shared that VVF 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 VVF 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 VVF Electronic Meeting Policy for the Board to consider and approve. The Policy was passed unanimously by the Board and VVF 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 VVF ED to approve expenditures up to \$50,000 from the VVF 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 VVF 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

## **ATTACHMENT 5**

### **WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION REPORT**



**Calendar of upcoming events through December 2022**

#### **LEADERSHIP IN AMERICA: SPEAKER SERIES**

This lecture series features a wide array of speakers addressing topics of military readiness, economic strength, history, and cultural influence — those things that have positioned the United States as a world superpower.

#### **RUSH LOVING, JR.: FAT BOY AND THE CHAMPAGNE SALESMAN OCTOBER 19**

Rush Loving's new book offers a compelling behind-the-scenes exploration of the road to World War II and the invasion of Poland by Hitler's Third Reich. Focusing on the personal power plays within Hitler's inner circle, Loving details the struggle for Hitler's approval, long before the battle for Poland had begun. Loving, a former newspaper journalist and writer for Fortune magazine, is a leading American railroad historian.

#### **ROSEMARY GIBSON: CHINA RX: EXPOSING THE RISKS OF AMERICA'S DEPENDENCE ON CHINA FOR MEDICINE NOVEMBER 9**

This probing book examines the implications of our reliance on China for the quality and availability of vital medicines. Several decades ago, penicillin, vitamin C, and many other prescription and over-the-counter products were manufactured in the United States. But today, our most essential drugs are made in China. Gibson's enlightening talk will shed light on the factors leading to our dependence on China for medicine and possible solutions.

#### **2022 SIPS ON THE SKYLINE SEPTEMBER 23**

The Virginia War Memorial Foundation is proud to host the 4th Annual Sips on the Skyline, a fun-filled evening celebration featuring delicious food, great music, creative craft cocktails designed by Virginia's best distillers, and of course, the skyline views of downtown Richmond and the James River that you can only get at the Virginia War Memorial. This social and educational event offers supporters and friends a special opportunity to gather with like-minded friends, educators, and veterans who all share a passion for the Memorial and its mission.

#### **COMMONWEALTH'S VETERANS DAY CEREMONY NOVEMBER 11**

We will honor veterans with remembrances of those who were lost; those who returned but have since died, those who served and are still with us, along with those who still serve and guard our freedoms.

#### **COMMONWEALTH'S PEARL HARBOR DAY DECEMBER 7**

This year marks the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the attack on the Naval base at Pearl Harbor, an event that propelled the United States into the Second World War. The ship's bell from the USS *Virginia* will be rung as the names of those Virginians who perished that day are read aloud.

### **Attendance and Participation Report January – June 2022**

The Virginia War Memorial is situated on five rolling acres affording a beautiful view of the James River and the dramatic skyline of downtown Richmond. The names of the nearly 12,000 Virginia men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars, and those killed in the Global War on Terror are engraved on the breathtaking Shrine of Memory. People, especially veterans, come here for events, programs, and lectures, but many also come for reflection and contemplation. The quiet space architecture of the Shrine is open every day until midnight. Our attendance report attempts to capture the number of people who visit the Shrine only, as well as those entering the building.

On-site attendance from January – June 2022 is roughly 54,000 with an increase during the warmer weather months and our patriotic commemorations.

- Public Livestreams: 29 programs, 609 participants
- Private Livestreams for Schools: 1 program, 104 participants
- Student Programs: 12 programs with 2,978 students, 68 teachers
- Programs with Life-Long Learners: 17 programs, 585 participants
- On-site Programs: 8 programs, 149 participants
- Total Programs: 67 programs, 4,480 participants**

#### **Special guest speakers and partnering organizations:**

- Professor Andy Waskie, President of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association (Educator)
- Dr. Clay Mountcastle, Director of the Virginia War Memorial (Historian & Educator)
- Author Andy Adkins III (Writer)
- Krystina Diman, Army's Mortuary Affairs
- MG Robert M. Dyess, Jr., USA (Ret.) (U.S. Army Veteran, Grenada)
- Howard and Richard Baugh (Howard Baugh Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.)
- LTG Joseph R. Inge, USA (Ret.) (U.S. Army Veteran, 30+ years of service)
- Military Women's Memorial (Amy Poe, Britta Granrud, Alexandra Silva)
- U.S. Army Women's Museum, Tracy Bradford (Curator), Micaela Procopio (Educator)
- National Museum of the United States Army, Jen Dubina (Educator)
- Monthaven Arts & Cultural Center (John Pitcher)
- Mighty Pen Project Professor David Robbins (Spring and Summer 2022)

Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, the Mighty Pen Project provides creative writing instruction so students may develop their recollections into a complete written narrative. Through this program, the Foundation works to generate, preserve and share stories written by military veterans and those touched by their service. The Virginia War Memorial Foundation is now expanding this program to include playwriting, photography, cartooning, videography, and painting.

This summer, the Virginia War Memorial with support from the Virginia War Memorial Foundation presented a variety of Professional Development opportunities for Virginia teachers. We hosted five teacher institutes with topics ranging from the Cold War to the POW experience to the U.S. media's role in going to war. All of the Virginia War Memorial's teacher programs are FREE, and open to all educators. Teachers are eligible to receive recertification points for each of these programs.