

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2022

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on December 15, 2022 at 10 a.m. at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere St. Richmond VA 23220

Members Present

- Rich Mansfield, Air Force Sergeants Association
- William Aramony, American Legion
- Glenn Yarborough, Association of the United States Army
- Denice Williams, Disabled American Veterans
- Thad Jones, Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry
- Sha'ron Martin, Fleet Reserve Association
- John Clickener, Marine Corps League
- Mark Atchison, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Vernon Peters, Military Order of the World Wars
- Meredith Burns, Navy Mutual Aid Association
- Preston Curry, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Terence Moore, Reserve Organization of America
- Dan Karnes, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Rick Raskin, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Carl Holcomb, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Kevin Hoffman, Virginia National Guard Association
- Ann Crittenden, Women Marines Association
- Michael Dick, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Jack Lanier, representing the Veterans Services Foundation
- Daniel Gade, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services

Members attending virtually

- Richard Shook, Air Force Association
- Jack Hilgers, Legion of Valor
- Jose Ramos, Wounded Warrior Project

Members Absent

- None

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Jay Marts, AMVETS
- John Down, Military Officers Association of America - virtually

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- Bill Feasenmyer, American Legion

- John Cooper, Air Force Sergeants Association
- Lisa Gregory, Disabled American Veterans (attending virtually)

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Jordan Stewart, Assistant Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Major General Tim Williams, the Adjutant General
- Captain Joshua McNallay, Virginia Air National Guard
- Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Glendalynn Glover, DVS
- Brandi Jancaitis, DVS
- Angela Porter, DVS
- Kayla LaFond, DVS
- Mary Garcia, DVS (attending virtually)
- Erika Nasah, DVS
- Jayla Plymouth, DVS
- Rob Jukic

Guests

- MacKenzie Heidelmark, Office of Congresswoman Spanberger
- Michael Sopko (attending virtually)
- Karla Boughey, Veterans Services Foundation
- Joanne Smith, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9808
- Jackie Johnson
- Jessica Nichols, Virginia National Guard Association

Items included in the Agenda Packet

- Draft Agenda
- Draft Minutes September 9, 2022 meeting
- Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Report to JLC
- Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Report to JLC
- Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Operations Update
- VVFS SPOAS / VISR Overview
- Draft JLC Electronic Meeting Policy
- Draft JLC 2023 Meeting Schedule and Work Plan
- 2023 Legislative Initiatives
- Proposals/position papers

Call to Order

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Chair Denice Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the JLC in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thoughts and meditation

Kevin Hoffman provided thoughts and meditation.

Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, and Introduction of Guest

The roll was called, and 23 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented. A quorum was determined. The three *ex officio* members were recorded as present.

Approval of the Agenda (*Attachment 1*)

Mr. Glenn Yarborough made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Jack Lanier, to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve September 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. John Clickener made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Rick Raskin, to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

DVS Operational Update (*Attachment 2*)

Commissioner Dan Gade noted the DVS legislative initiative for the Women Veterans License Plate and the requirement to receive 450 pre-applications. The Commissioner also noted the Suicide Prevention Grant application with a goal to award grants in the May timeframe. Commissioner Gade also noted surviving spouses of those who died on active duty in the Pentagon are excluded from real property tax exemption due to the definition of the member's death. To date, the cause of death is not defined as killed in action.

Jay Marts asked the Commissioner to provide information on the Community Veteran Engagement Board (CVEB) Conference. Commissioner Gade provided further details.

Virginia Veterans and Family Support (VVFS) Services Director, Brandi Jancaitis commented on the 988 Military Veteran Crisis Line. Director Jancaitis further commented on increased capacity within DVS for suicide prevention and opioid addiction services.

Dr. Angela Porter introduced herself as the Suicide Prevention Director. Dr. Porter provided an overview of the staffing and program efforts.

DMA Update

Major General Williams provided an operational update on the Virginia National Guard.

JLC 2023 Legislative Initiatives

Assistant Secretary Jordan Stewart provided an update on legislative priorities. AS Jordan noted the Administration's support on three of the JLC legislative priorities for the 2023 Session.

Governor's Introduced Budget Briefing

CDC Steven Combs presented the military and veteran related items in the Governor's Introduced Budget.

Prioritizing of JLC 2023 Initiatives

Mr. John Clickener provided a status of the 2023 Legislative Initiatives and led discussion on the prioritizing of the JLC Legislative Initiatives. Mr. Clickener also provided information on training opportunities for Lobbyist in a Box. Mr. Jack Hilgers noted plans for the 2023 JLC Day on the Hill.

JLC 2023 Prioritized List:

2023-01 – Tax Relief Surviving Spouses

2023-02 – Effective Date Real Property Tax Exemption

2023-03 – Removal of Age Requirement Income Tax Subtraction

2023-04 – Elimination of Burial Fee for Surviving Spouses and Guard / Reserve

2023-05 – State Park Admission National Guard

2023 -06 – Income Tax Deduction National Guard

BVS Report (*Attachment 3*)

Chairman Michael Dick of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) provided the BVS report. He noted the September 22, 2022 meeting at the College of William & Mary. Chairman Dick also noted the BVS adoption of the Electronic Meeting Policy.

VSF Report (*Attachment 4*)

Mr. Jack Lanier of the Veterans Services (VSF) presented the VSF report. He noted VSF fund raising activities and the Governor’s salary contribution.

New Business, Open Discussion, and “Good of the Order” reports

Chair Williams opened the floor to accept nominations for the Chair of the nominating committee. Bill Aramony made a **motion, seconded** by Kevin Hoffman for Glenn Yarborough to serve as nominating Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Williams asked for a Primary and Alternate for Governor’s Challenge Team to Prevent Suicide. Chair Williams appointed John Cooper as primary and Rich Mansfield is appointed as alternate.

John Clickener made a **motion, seconded** by Rick Raskin to appoint Monti Zimmerman for the NOVA Veteran Treatment Docket. The motion carried.

Chair Williams requested a volunteer a representative to the Hampton Roads Treatment Docket. Rich Mansfield made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Clickener to nominate himself. Motion carried.

Chair Williams asked for volunteers for the Spotsylvania Treatment Docket. Hearing nothing, Chair Williams left the position open.

Chair Williams asked for discussion on the Electronic Meeting Policy. Chair Williams asked for a motion to adopt the Electronic Meeting Policy. Mr. Clickener made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Marts. The motion carried.

Mr. Clickener made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Martin to adopt the 2023 Work Plan. The motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Sopko thanked the JLC for the initiative on the real estate tax exemption. Mr. Sopko asked about HB1168 from the 2022 GA Session and asked if would need to be reintroduced. CDC Combs noted

that HB1168 was carried forward to the 2023 GA Session and left in committee, and therefore, a new bill would need to be introduced.

Mr. Sopko asked about the proposal for the effective date of real property tax exemption. Chair Williams asked Mr. Sopko to work with the VSO sponsoring the initiative.

Chair Williams nominated Lisa Gregory for the Central Virginia Treatment Docket. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

The next regular business meeting is December 15, 2022 at 10 a.m. at the Virginia War Memorial.

ATTACHMENT 1

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

December 15, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Virginia War Memorial

DRAFT AGENDA

- I. Opening, Meeting Notes, and Pledge of Allegiance – *Denice Williams, JLC Chair* (10:00 – 10:05)
 - II. Opening Thoughts & Meditation, *Kevin Hoffman, JLC Chaplain* (10:05 – 10:08)
 - III. Roll call and introduction of member, quorum determination, and introduction of guests – *Denice Williams, JLC Chair* (10:08 – 10:15)
 - IV. Approve Agenda – *Denice Williams, JLC Chair* (10:15 – 10:16)
 - V. Approve September 15, 2022 meeting minutes – *Denice Williams, JLC Chair* (10:16 – 10:17)
 - VI. Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) Operational Update – *Daniel Gade, VDVS Commissioner* (10:17 – 10:30)
 - VII. VDVS Suicide Prevention Program – *Brandi Jancaitis, VVFS Director* and *Angela Porter, Suicide Prevention Director* (10:30 – 10:55)
 - VIII. Legislative Initiatives (10:55 – 11:20)
 - a. Status of JLC 2022 recommendations (patrons, bills, meetings, etc.) – *JLC Points of Contact*
 - b. Prioritizing of JLC 2022 Initiatives – *Denice Williams, JLC Chair*
 - c. JLC Day on the Hill – *John Clickener, JLC Legislative Officer*
 - IX. Reports (11:20 – 11:25)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services (BVS) – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman*
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) – *Jack Lanier, VSF 2nd Vice Chairman*
 - X. New Business (11:25 – 11:45)
 - a. Appointment of Officers, *Denice Williams, JLC Chair*
 - b. Review and adoption of the JLC Electronic Meeting Policy – *Denice Williams, JLC Chair*
 - c. Approve 2023 Meeting Schedule/Work Plan – *JLC Chair*
 - d. Other New Business, Open Discussion, and “Good of the Order” reports – *JLC Chair*
 - XI. Briefing on veteran and military related items in GOV introduced budget – *VDVS* (11:40 – 11:55)
 - XII. Public comment period – *JLC Chair* (11:55 – 11:58)
 - XIII. Closing remarks – *JLC Chair* (11:58 – 12:00)
 - XIV. Adjourn (12:00)
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ATTACHMENT 2 **VDVS Operations 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 Joint Leadership Council

The Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony was held on November 11, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the Virginia War Memorial. Nielsen rating for the Commonwealth's Veterans Day ceremony included 71,000 viewers this year on TV alone. The ceremony out ranked all shows in its time slot among the major networks and pulled in an additional 11,000 plus viewers this year as compared to last year. The livestream of the ceremony on social media venues included another 13,000 viewers, bringing total reach to over 84,000.

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 held the first two military spouse roundtables in Northern Virginia on November 2. The morning roundtable was held both in-person and virtually in Prince William County, while the afternoon session was held only in-person on Fort Belvoir. The Liaison and the two Regional Military Spouse Liaisons (Northern and Central-Peninsula) provided insight to state legislation and VDVS resources available while listening to the concerns of the spouses regarding licensure reciprocity, equity for surviving spouses (Gold Star Families), community support, and childcare.

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 1, 2022, 50 students have earned certifications/ credentials, all paid for through grant funding. On November 30, MEWI in partnership with the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP) began accepting applications from dependent students for 100 laptops which will be disbursed at upcoming VMSDEP open house events. These laptops will be issued to recipients of the VMSDEP program who are currently enrolled in Virginia's public universities and community colleges to assist them in their academic and employment endeavors.

In addition to the existing Altria grant funding, the Altria Group awarded \$25,000 to continue the credentialing initiative through partnership with CCWA. In October 2022 a grant request in the amount of \$25,000 was approved by Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) to replicate the MEWI workforce training and credentialing program in the Tidewater area. We are currently working with Karla Boughey, Executive Director, VFS to determine contacts with local community colleges and universities.

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.

The state veterans cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin, and Suffolk will hold wreath-laying ceremonies on Saturday, 17 December. Lt. Governor Sears and Former Navy Lt. Jason Redman will be guest speakers in Suffolk; MG Tim Williams will be the guest speaker in Amelia, and; Commissioner Gade will be the guest speaker in Dublin. Information is 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.

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.

Director of Research Development and Partnerships is working with the Office of Data Governance and Analytics (ODGA) to maintain a veterans contact list for the Commonwealth to integrate with services and develop a tracking method to identify veteran's needs.

Sincerely,



Daniel Gade, PhD.

ATTACHMENT 3
Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Report



101 N. 14TH STREET, 17TH FL.
RICHMOND, VA. 23219

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES

Michael Dick
Chairman
Thuraya Kent
Vice Chair
Victor Angry
David Ashe
Delegate Jason Ballard
Carl Bedell
Senator John Bell
Joe R. Campa
Delegate Mike Cherry
Mario Flores
Delegate Buddy Fowler
Joyce Henderson
James P. Inman
Carlton Kent
John Lesinski
Senator Mamie Locke
Delegate Kathleen
Murphy
Kathy Owens
Senator Bryce Reeves
Susan Vervaet Riveland
Melissa Watts
Denice Williams
Chair, Joint
Leadership Council of
Veterans Service
Organizations
Paul Haughton
Chair, Veterans
Services Foundation
Rick St. John
Vice Chair, Virginia
War Memorial
Foundation
Daniel M. Gade, PhD,
Commissioner, Virginia
Department of
Veterans Services

REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
DECEMBER 8, 2022

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on September 22, 2022, at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, concurrent with the Virginia Military & Student Veteran Education Summit (discussed below).

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, BVS adopted a policy for meetings held through electronic communication means in situations other than declared states of emergency. We will review the By-Laws in the coming months for any required revisions.


As the 2022 Virginia Military & Student Veteran Education Summit (hosted by William & Mary and sponsored by DVS, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, and the Virginia Association of School Certifying Officials) was being conducted concurrently with our meeting in September, the Board was able to receive presentations on veterans' education issues from William & Mary, Northern Virginia Community College, ECPI, and Virginia Commonwealth University. The BVS also received welcoming remarks from William & Mary President Katherine Rowe.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2022, at the Virginia War Memorial. The Board looks forward to hearing the JLC report on prioritized legislative initiatives for the 2023 General Assembly Session. We also look forward to hearing more information on the 2023 JLC Day on the Hill.

Finally, for our December meeting, we anticipate details from the Governor's introduced budget and discussions from legislators as we gear up for the 2023 General Assembly Session.

We look forward to continuing work with the JLC to support Virginia's Veterans and their families.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael Dick
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 4 Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Report



VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICE FOUNDATION Report to the Joint Leadership Council December 15, 2022

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

VSF welcomed recent Board appointee, Tim Pillion, to the meeting to share his background, most recently as the Garrison Commander for the Maneuver Training Center, Fort Pickett. The Board was delighted to also welcome Assistant Secretary Stewart, Commissioner Daniel Gade, and VSF Advisor Dr. Leroy Gross to the meeting.

Kim Barton, the new DVS Deputy CFO, will serve as the VSF Treasurer. Ms. Barton provided the FY 2023 First Quarter Financial Report to the Board. The Foundation closed the first quarter of FY 2023 with a total income of \$100,521.84. Total expenditures supporting various DVS programs in the first quarter of FY 2023 were \$279,198.24.

Mr. James Flaherty of the Office of the Attorney General provided an overview of FOIA. Special emphasis was placed on electronic meeting requirements in light of the Foundation's newly established policy allowing for electronic meeting participation (VSF Policy 5). Mr. Flaherty will continue to be a resource for the Board in its service to Virginia veterans. Serving as Secretary Crenshaw's designee, Assistant Secretary Stewart shared the Secretary's well wishes and gratitude to the Board for its work.

Commissioner Gade expressed his excitement for the continued relationship between VSF and DVS. He highlighted the Board's recent visits to various DVS Service Lines across the Commonwealth and noted the importance of learning the work that both DVS and VSF continue to do. The Commissioner also shared DVS' work to combat veteran suicide prevention. He noted that out of the \$5 million allocation by the Virginia General Assembly, \$4 million is going to suicide prevention grants, with applications to launch spring of 2023.

Susan Riveland reported on behalf of Board of Veteran Services (BVS) Chairman Michael Dick and shared that BVS met on September 22, 2022 at the College of William and Mary. She relayed Chairman Dick's appreciation for VSF's continued initiative for a closer relationship with BVS. The next BVS meeting will be Friday, December 16, 2022 where the Board will hear details of Governor Youngkin's introduced budget.

VSF Chairman Haughton had Board Members share their recent experiences visiting DVS Service Lines across Virginia. Appreciation and admiration for DVS work done across the state was expressed by all Members.

The Finance Committee recommendations of increasing funds allocated to the Virginia Veteran and Family Support Program (VVFS) from \$340,000 to \$500,000 to serve direct veteran services, homeless veteran support, and Mission Healthy Relationships retreat with up to \$5,000 of those funds earmarked to support a pilot program issuing gas cards to veterans in the southwest region was approved. The latter recommendation came from SBVCC as the Care Center does not have an indigent needs population.

Jack Lanier, Procedures and Policies Chair, presented recommended changes to VSF Bylaws, VSF Policy 2- Administration and Operations, and VSF-DVS Policy J14- Allocation and Expenditure. It is a requirement that all VSF governing documents be reviewed biennially. Edits made to VSF Bylaws reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General aligned this document with VSF Policy 5- Electronic Meetings. In VSF-DVS Policy J-14 the requirement of 100% of funds to be used for veteran's services was deleted, allowing for up to 10% of these funds to be used for administrative purposes. All VSF policies, including those with changes, were approved.

The Board approved the appointment of trustee Brad Williamson to serve as the Assistant Chair of the Development Committee.

The next VSF Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2023 at a location and time to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Haughton
Chairman
Virginia Veterans Services Foundation