

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 20, 2023**

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on September 20, 2023 at 10 a.m. at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond.

**Members Present**

- Richard Shook, Air Force Association
- Rich Mansfield, Air Force Sergeants Association
- William Aramony, American Legion
- Richard Van Norton, AMVETS
- 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
- Monti Zimmerman, Military Officers Association of America
- Vernon Peters, Military Order of the World Wars
- Preston Curry, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Dan Karnes, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Katherine Martinez, Student Veterans of America
- 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
- Michael Coleman, representing the Veterans Services Foundation
- Daniel Gade, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services

**Members Absent**

- Jack Hilgers, Legion of Valor
- John Clickener, Marine Corps League
- Mark Atchison, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Michelle Ramos Domingue, Navy Mutual Aid Association
- Terrance Moore, Reserve Association of America
- Ann Crittenden, Women Marines Association
- Jose Ramos, Wounded Warrior Project
- Michael Dick, Board of Veterans Services

**Alternate Members attending, representing their VSO**

- Rich Rinaldo, Legion of Valor
- David Jennings, Marine Corps League
- Meredith Burns, Navy Mutual Aid Association (attending virtually)
- David Sitler, Reserve Organization of America

### **Alternates Present, not representing their VSO**

- John Cooper, Air Force Sergeants Association
- Bill Feasenmyer, American Legion
- Matthew Klym, AMVETS
- Lisa Gregory, Disabled American Veteran
- Joanne Smith, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Jay Marts, Virginia National Guard Association

### **Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present**

- Jordan Stewart, Assistant Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Glendalynn Glover, DVS
- Jayla Plymouth, DVS
- Griffin Ramsey, DVS
- Michele Crone, DVS
- James Toczko, DVS
- Montwrace Cunningham, DVS
- Tramaine Carroll-Payne, DVS
- Brandi Jancaitis, DVS
- Eric Johnson, DVS
- Walt Mercer, DMA

### **Guests**

- MacKenzie Heidelmark, Office of Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger
- Michael Sopko (attending virtually)
- Gordon Sumner, MOPH Chapter 353
- Shay Odom, DAV Chapter 13
- Elaine Reed, Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry
- Pat Rinaldo, guest of Rich Rinaldo, LOV
- Andrea Thomas, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Robert Poles, member of several VSOs

### **Items included in the Agenda Packet**

- Draft Agenda
- Draft Minutes July 13, 2023 meeting
- Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Report to JLC
- Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Report to JLC
- Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Operations Update
- Point Papers – Proposed JLC 2024 Initiatives
  - VFW – Relief from Charitable Gaming
  - MOPH – Standardization for Service Dog Training
  - VNGA – Virginia National Guard Tuition Assistance Waiver

- MOAA – Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses
- AUSA/AL – Income Tax Subtraction Removal of Age Requirement
- VNGA – Enhanced Emergency Response Medical Protection
- List of appointed JLC officers
- JLC 2024 House and Senate Contact Plan – Draft
- JLC 2024 Work Plan

#### **Item I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance**

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Chair Kevin Hoffman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Vice Chair Monti Zimmerman led the JLC in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Item II. Opening thoughts and meditation**

Chair Hoffman provided thoughts and meditation.

#### **Item III. Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, and Introduction of Guests**

The roll was called, and 20 of the 24 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being physically present, therefore a quorum was determined. One VSOs participated electronically as recorded. The Veterans Services Foundation and the Department of Veterans Services were recorded as present.

#### **Item IV. Approve Agenda**

Mr. Monti Zimmerman made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. David Sitler, to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The approved agenda is attached.

#### **Item V. Approve July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

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

#### **Item VI. Reports**

- a. **BVS Report**: The BVS report is attached to the minutes.
- b. **VSF Report**: Mr. Mike Coleman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) provided the VSF report and reported on VSF initiatives to support Virginia's veterans, including the Virginia Community Resource Center (VCRC) in Petersburg. The VSF report is attached to the minutes.
- c. **DVS Operational Update**: Commissioner Daniel Gade provided the DVS operational update, with a focus on the work of the strategic planning working group. He asked the JLC to support the recommendations of the work group, and said that he would incorporate JLC initiatives into the working group report. The DVS operational update is attached to the minutes.

### **Item VII. Proposed initiatives for adoption and prioritization**

Interim Legislative Officer Glenn Yarborough led the JLC in review of the six proposed JLC 2024 Initiatives included in the agenda packet. The voting was as follows:

ITEM	PRESENTER	MOTION	SECOND(s)	VOTE	NOTES
VFW – Relief from Charitable Gaming Regulations	Rick Raskin	Glenn Yarborough	Rick Raskin	Unanimous to work through Charitable Gaming Board rather than as initiative	Agreement that VFW would engage with Charitable Gaming Board on Behalf of JLC
MOPH – Service Dog Training and Certification	James Cuthbertson and Gordon Sumner	Glenn Yarborough	Richard Van Norton, Rich Mansfield, Sha’ron Martin, Bill Aramony, Kevin Hoffman	Table, 20-1 (Rick Raskin = No)	
VNGA – Tuition Assistance Waiver	Kevin Hoffman	Glenn Yarborough	Katherine Martinez	Unanimous to Adopt as Initiative	
MOAA – Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses	Monti Zimmerman	Glenn Yarborough	Monti Zimmerman	Unanimous to Adopt as Initiative	
VNGA – Enhanced Emergency Response Medical Protection	Kevin Hoffman	Glenn Yarborough	Bill Aramony	Unanimous to Adopt as Initiative	
AUSA/American Legion	Glenn Yarborough and Bill Aramony			N/A	Drop – the age restriction was removed in the budget passed/signed by GA and GOV last week

Ms. Katherine Martinez of Student Veterans of America (SVA) proposed the creation of a JLC task force to study ways to improve state education benefits for veterans, giving several examples. Chair Hoffman proposed a dual approach – that the JLC form a task force to study this, and that the Strategic Planning Workgroup led by DVS Commissioner Daniel Gade also study this. Mr. Glenn Yarborough made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Sha’ron Martin, to adopt the Chair’s recommendation. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Glenn Yarborough stated that the Gold Star Families are seeking JLC support related to the Gold Star License Plate. Mr. Glenn Yarborough made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Monti Zimmerman, that the JLC support this effort. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

## **Item VII. New Business**

### **a. Appointment of Board Members (and c. Chaplain)**

Chair Kevin Hoffman pointed the members to the JLC 2024 Work Plan, which lists his proposed state of Appointed JLC Officers for 2023-2024. The Chair's appointments are:

- Glenn Yarborough – Legislative Officer & Chair of Objectives Committee
- Bill Aramony – Asst Legislative Officer & Chair of Procedures Committee
- Mark Atchison – Chaplain
- Dan Karnes – Chaplain (A)

Mr. James Cuthbertson made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Monti Zimmerman, to approve the Chair's appointments. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **b. Appointment of Committee Chairs**

Chair Kevin Hoffman sought volunteers for several positions.

Mr. Monti Zimmerman volunteered to serve as the Chair of the Constitution & By-Laws Committee.

Mr. David Sitler made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Rick Raskin, to approve Mr. Zimmerman as Chair of the Constitution & By-Laws Committee. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Richard Van Norton and Mr. Sha'ron Martin volunteered to serve as the Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee.

Ms. Katherine Martinez made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Bill Aramony, to approve Mr. Van Norton and Mr. Martin as Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The appointment of Mr. Jay Marts as Legislative Sponsor was accepted by unanimous consent.

### **c. Appointment of Committee Chairs (accomplished as part of Item VII.a.)**

### **d. Appointment of Veterans Docket Representatives**

Ms. Katherine Martin volunteered to be the JLC Representative to the NOVA Veterans Treatment Docket. This was accepted by unanimous consent.

Chair Hoffman asked Ms. Lisa Gregory if she would serve as the JLC Representative to the Spotsylvania Veterans Treatment Docket. Ms. Gregory said she would. This was accepted by unanimous consent.

Chair Hoffman asked Mr. John Cooper and Mr. Rich Mansfield if they would serve as the Primary and Alternate JLC Representatives to the Governor's Challenge Team to Prevent Suicide. Both agreed to do so. This was accepted by unanimous consent.

e. Work Plan Approval

The JLC 2024 Work Plan was accepted by unanimous consent.

f. Virginia War Memorial Carillon Study

DVS Chief Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs delivered a presentation on the Virginia War Memorial Carillon Phase 3 planning study.

- o [Virginia War Memorial Carillon Phase 3 planning study \(PDF\)](#)
- o [VWM Carillon Phase 3 planning study - exterior concept video \(note: video only, no audio\)](#)
- o [VWM Carillon Phase 3 planning study - interior concept video \(note: video only, no audio\)](#)

**Item IX. Public Comment Period**

No members of the public spoke during the comment period.

**Item X. Closing Remarks**

Several JLC members offered “good of the order” comments.

**Item XI. Adjourn**

Chairman Hoffman adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

## **APPROVED AGENDA**

### **Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**

**September 20, 2023**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Virginia War Memorial**

- I. Opening & Pledge of Allegiance – *Kevin Hoffman, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Opening Thoughts & Meditation – *Kevin Hoffman, JLC Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, and introduction of guests – *Kevin Hoffman, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Approve Agenda – *Kevin Hoffman, JLC Chairman* (10:15 – 10:17)
- V. Approve July 13, 2023 meeting minutes – *Kevin Hoffman, JLC Chairman* (10:17 – 10:20)
- VI. Reports (10:20 – 10:45)
  - a. Board of Veterans Services (BVS) – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman*
  - b. Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) – *Paul Haughton, VSF Chairman*
  - c. Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) – *Daniel Gade, VDVS Commissioner*
- VII. Proposed initiatives for adoption and prioritization, *Glenn Yarborough, JLC Interim Legislative Officer* (10:45 – 11:20)
- VIII. New Business, *Kevin Hoffman JLC Chairman* (11:20-11:45)
  - a. Appointment of Board Members
  - b. Appointment of Committee Chairs
  - c. Appointment of Chaplain
  - d. Appointment of Veteran Docket Representatives
  - e. Work Plan Approval
  - f. Virginia War Memorial Carillon Study – *CDC Steven Combs*
- IX. Public comment period – *Kevin Hoffman, JLC Chairman* (11:45-11:55)
- X. Closing Remarks – *Kevin Hoffman, JLC Chair* (11:55 – 12:00)
- XI. Adjourn (12:00)