

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2016

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on July 13, 2016, at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere St., Richmond.

Members Present

- Rick Oertel, American Legion
- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Robert Sempek, Association of the United States Army
- Curtis Jennings, Disabled American Veterans
- Ken Shelton, Fifth Baptist Church Veterans' Ministry
- William Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association
- Lauren Augustine, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
- John Clickener, Marine Corps League
- Stuart Williams, Military Officers Association of America
- William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Raymond Kenney, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- David Sitler, Reserve Officers Association
- Perry Taylor, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Dan Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Robert Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association
- Don Kaiserman, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Richard Schollmann, Vice Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation, representing Pat Webb, Chairman
- Commissioner John L. Newby II, Department of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Tim Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- Robert Herbert, Legion of Valor
- Jim Cuthbertson, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Jon Ostrowski, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Charles Montgomery, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Adam Provost, Virginia National Guard Association

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Jeff Platte, Air Force Association
- Rich Rinaldo, Legion of Valor
- Mark Atchison, Military Order of the Purple Heart

- Chip Moran, National Association for Uniformed Services
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- John Cooper, AMVETS
- Jim Barrett, Marine Corps League
- Vic Pena, Military Officers Association of America
- Robert Barnette, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Delegate Kirk Cox
- Leslie Frazier, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Lauren Stroupe, Governor’s Fellow, Office of the Sec. of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Carrie Ann Alford, DVS
- Glendalynn Glover, DVS
- Jack Hilgers, DVS
- Karla Boughey, DVS
- Annie Walker, DVS
- AnnMarie Lawrence, DVS
- Mark Whiting, DVS
- Brian Pickral, DVS
- Clay Mountcastle, DVS-VWM
- Jesse Smith, DVS-VWM
- Christina Barrille, Virginia National Guard
- Cheryl Jackson, WWI WWII Commemorative Commission
- Matt Leary, DMV

Others Present

- Bill Whitt, Fleet Reserve Association
- Bartholomew Edwards, AMVETS
- Mark Casper, TechForTroops
- Thad Jones, Fifth Baptist Veterans Ministry

Items included in the Agenda Packet

Agenda

Revised 2016 Roster of Membership

April 22, 2016 meeting minutes (Agenda Item IV)

Reports (Agenda Item VI)

- Board of Veterans Services
- Veterans Services Foundation

Summary of voting rules and proposed changes to JLC Constitution; JLC Bylaws (Agenda Item VIIIa)

JLC Constitution and JLC Bylaws (Agenda Item VIIIa)

Summary Matrix of Proposed 2017 JLC Initiatives (Agenda Item VIIIc)

The meeting agenda is included as *Attachment 1*.

Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation & Thoughts

In the absence of Chairman Harold “Bart” Barton, Vice Chair Marie Juliano chaired the meeting. Vice Chair Juliano called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In the absence of Chaplain L. T. “Tim” Whitmore, Mr. John Clickener delivered an opening prayer.

Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, Approval of the Agenda, and Introduction of Guests

The roll was called, and 22 of the 25 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. Mr. Don Kaiserman, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS); Mr. Richard Schollmann, representing the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF); and DVS Commissioner John L. Newby II were recorded as present.

Vice Chair Juliano asked Ms. Alford to introduce the guests and two new VSOs. The names and organizations of the guests are recorded above. Vice Chair Juliano welcomed them to the meeting.

Ms. Alford then introduced the two new VSOs and their representatives to the JLC.

Fifth Baptist Veterans Ministry is based in Richmond, VA and represented by Mr. Ken Shelton, Sr., a Marine Corps veteran who served in the Vietnam War. He lives in Richmond and is the current President of the Fifth Baptist Veterans Ministry. A brochure on the VSO was placed alongside the packet of each member.

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is a national organization of veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and is represented by Ms. Lauren Augustine, an Army veteran who served in Iraq. She is the Legislative Associate for IAVA in their Washington, D.C. office and lives in Woodbridge, VA.

The JLC members applauded and welcomed the two new member VSOs to the Council.

Approve April 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Chip Moran, to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2016 meeting. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Don Kaiserman gave the BVS report. (*Attachment 2*)

Veterans Services Foundation

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Chairman Pat Webb was unable to attend, Richard Schollmann, Vice Chair, gave the VSF report. (*Attachment 3*)

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Mr. Bill Barrett stated that the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) had met once since the last JLC meeting, he attended and there was nothing new to report other than they remain on their current trajectory.

State Board of Elections

Mr. Stu Williams updated the JLC that there was no new report from the State Board of Elections but mentioned he, along with Mr. Vic Pena, would have a report on the proposed policy initiative on electronic return of overseas military ballots later in the meeting.

Virginia War Memorial Board

Marie Juliano informed the JLC members that the Virginia War Memorial Board had met, she attended their meeting, nothing new to report but she stated that she enjoyed the latest *Virginians at War* film on women nurses during WWII.

Report from DVS Commissioner John Newby

Commissioner Newby informed the JLC that Ms. Alford, who had been working for DVS in an interim capacity was hired as the full-time Director of Policy and Planning for DVS and would continue her work with the JLC.

Commissioner Newby briefed the JLC on the June 1 ceremonial bill signing for the new Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center, which will be named for the Puller family and build in Vint Hill, Fauquier County. He stated that they are still working on the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center site and hope to have an announcement soon.

The Commissioner thanked the JLC for their efforts with the legislature over the years in advocating for DVS and helping to secure the resources needed. DVS is now at the point of maintenance and focusing securing funds “around the edges” with current projects. His main focus is on completing “DVS 2.0” for the remainder of the Governor’s term, which means focusing on the veterans transitioning out – the IAVA veterans – and what needs to be done for them in terms of mental health needs, family needs, employment needs.

Presentation from the Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission

Ms. Cheryl Jackson, Executive Director of the Commission gave a presentation on the Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission, their plans for upcoming educational events and a mobile tour bus. She explained they had a marketing grant available and encouraged the VSOs to apply for the grant. She asked for the JLC’s and individual VSOs involvement in events, ideas for events and locations, and to help in getting the word out about the Commission.

Delegate Kirk Cox, Chairman of the Commission said a few words at the end of the presentation

about the good work Ms. Jackson and the Commission are doing in planning for these events and thanking the JLC for its involvement in veterans issues.

The powerpoint presentation is included as *Attachment 4*.

New Business

Vote on the April Motions for Amending the Constitution and the Bylaws

Mr. Dan Boyer reminded the Council that they had been presented with the proposed amendments at the April 22 meeting, and had received written notice 30 days in advance of the meeting.

Ms. Alford pointed their attention to the piece of paper in their agenda packet with the explanation of the voting rules and amendment language. She reminded the Council that, per their Constitution, each of the two amendments would be reviewed and then a roll call would be needed for each VSO to vote in favor or opposition of each amendment.

The first vote was on the one amendment to the JLC Constitution – page 3, Article IV, 1. Meetings. The motion is to amend the language for: iv. Fourth Quarter from “one meeting” to “two meetings” to reflect that the JLC has been meeting twice in the fourth quarter – both in October and December.

Mr. Dan Boyer made a motion to pass the amendment, Mr. Rick Oertel seconded. The roll was called and the amendment passed 22-0.

Mr. Boyer then read the amendment to the JLC Bylaws – page 2, Article I, 5. Legislative Sponsor. The motion is to amend the language for: f. “Serve as a member of the Legislative Committee” to “Serve as a member of the Legislative Objectives Committee” to make the bylaws consistent throughout. [p. 3 “Article III – Committees” uses “Legislative Objectives Committee”.]

Mr. Dan Boyer made a motion to pass the amendment, Mr. Mark Atchison seconded. The roll was called and the amendment passed 22-0.

Report of the Nomination Committee and Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Mr. Ashton reported that there was only one name submitted for Chairman, Mr. Bart Barton, and one name submitted for Vice Chairman, Ms. Marie Juliano. Mr. Ashton made a request for a motion.

Rick Oertel made the motion to accept the nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mr. John Clickener seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and discussion of potential 2017 JLC Initiatives

Mr. Rick Oertel, Legislative Officer, led the discussion on the initiatives proposed at the April 22 meeting. A summary matrix of the seven proposed initiatives was included in the agenda packet for review and reference (*Attachment 5*).

Proposed initiative – “Virginia Veterans and Family Support Services” – Mr. Oertel stated that they would keep it on the list and monitor the working group and would most likely recommend that the JLC support the working group’s recommendations and budgetary request when it comes out in November.

Proposed initiative – “Virginia War Memorial” – Deputy Commissioner Steve Combs gave additional information on the proposed initiative to request additional GF dollars in 2018 for the Virginia War Memorial. Ms. Alford stated that Clay Mountcastle, the executive director of the War Memorial was working on getting the JLC an accurate number for operating expenses and would have it for the Council by their October meeting.

Proposed initiative – “Guard Income Tax Subtraction” – Mr. Bill Barrett stated that he had been in contact with Delegate Buddy Fowler, the patron of the bill in 2016, and he was working on continuing the legislation for 2017 and coming up with an accurate fiscal impact statement.

Proposed initiative – “In-state tuition for all members of the Reserve Components” – Ms. Christina Barrille from the National Guard gave an update and reminded the JLC why the legislation was important to Guardsmen and Virginia and the National Guard considers it an issue of equality and fairness, in addition to being a helpful recruiting tool when trying to attract out of state individuals with specific skills the Virginia National Guard wants and needs. The sole opposition was from VMI. There are corps of cadets from VMI who get deployed and then come back as veterans and qualify for in-state tuition. The Guard is asking VMI to cover the tuition for all reserve components. No other university or school in Virginia has a problem with extending the in-state tuition.

Proposed initiative – “VMSDEP eligibility” – Mr. Bill Ashton stated that he would like the policy this time to remove the combat requirement and be open to all qualifying spouses and dependents of any veteran who is killed in service or 90% or greater disabled. The problem is getting accurate numbers of those who would qualify and take advantage of the program, making it hard to get an accurate funding number for the fiscal impact statement.

Proposed initiative – “Electronic Ballot Return” – Mr. Stu Williams and Mr. Vic Pena stated that they had been following the efforts of Arizona, Alaska and now Alabama who all have electronic return of ballots for uniformed military voters. Alabama’s is the newest, but they worked with the vendor who set it up and received an estimated cost for Virginia that is far less than what the SB11 Work Group ended up reporting it would cost. They also recommended opening it up to dependents and possibly all UOCAVA voters. Ms. Alford reminded the JLC that in 2013, Senator Puller’s bill SB830 included dependents and all UOCAVA voters and it was stripped down to active duty, in combat military members to help control costs and security concerns, as well as create a pilot program to see if the program would work.

Proposed initiative – “Virginia Veteran Information Officer” – Mr. Oertel, on behalf of Mr. Dan Dennison, the sponsor who was unable to attend, explained the brand new proposal. It would create a new position at DVS to build a database and capture veteran data on causes of and issues related to disabilities and health conditions as related to service, as well as capturing other

information. He expressed concern about the feasibility of the idea and the potential costs. Mr. Oertel made a recommendation to set that policy initiative aside for 2017 and not move forward on it due to the complexity of the issue and the difficulty in implementation.

Commissioner Newby and Deputy Commissioner Combs requested that the JLC hold off on the proposal until Mr. Tom Herthel could come and brief the JLC on current efforts. Ms. Alford stated that Mr. Herthel was tentatively scheduled to brief the JLC at the October meeting.

The JLC agreed to not move forward on the initiative.

Mr. Oertel made a motion for the JLC to pass and continue working on the remaining six initiatives. Mr. Rich Mansfield seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Mr. Rich Mansfield briefed the Council as to the veterans docket initiative from 2016 and that it was no longer on the list due to the Supreme Court of Virginia moving forward with guidelines.

Other New Business and open discussion

Ms. Leslie Frazier gave a short briefing to the JLC on Secretary's priority for the 2017 session, which will focus on veteran entrepreneurship and potentially create a pilot program to augment the work of the Veteran Business Outreach Office at ODU.

Mr. Jim Barrett reported that the mobile Vietnam Veterans Wall had been set up in Powhatan and encouraged everyone to come out and see it. There would be volunteers on hand to help find names and paper and pencils for etchings, just like at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Public Comment

Mr. Mark Casper, president of TechForTroops, made an introduction to the JLC for his non-profit organization and explained that they recycle and refurbish computers and other technology for veterans, at no charge to the veteran and keeping the technology out of landfills. He encouraged them to come visit them, they are based in Richmond, VA.

Closing Remarks

Vice Chairman Juliano reminded the members that the next meeting will be held October 12th at the American Legion building.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1
Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Virginia War Memorial
621 S. Belvidere St., Richmond
July 13, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Marie Juliano, JLC Vice Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Opening Thoughts & Prayer, *John Clickener* (10:05-10:10)
- III. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Marie Juliano*, (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Approve April 22 meeting minutes – *Marie Juliano* (10:15 – 10:20)
- V. Introduction of new JLC VSOs and representatives, *Carrie Ann Alford, Director of Policy & Planning* (10:20-10:30)
- VI. Reports (10:30 – 11:05)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Don Kaiserman, BVS Chairman* (5 min.)
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Brad Antle, VSF Chairman* (5 min.)
 - c. VMAC, *Bill Barrett* (5 min.)
 - d. State Board of Elections, *Stu Williams* (5 min.)
 - e. Virginia War Memorial Board, *Marie Juliano* (5 min.)
 - f. Report from DVS Commissioner, *John Newby* (10 min.)
- VII. Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission Presentation, *Cheryl Jackson, Executive Director & Del. Kirk Cox, Chairman* (11:05-11:30)

BREAK (15Minutes)

- VIII. New business (11:45 – 12:30)
 - a. Vote on the April Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee, *Dan Boyer*
 - b. Report of Nomination Committee and Election for Chairman and Vice Chairman, *Bill Ashton*
 - c. Review and discussion of potential 2017 JLC Initiatives, *Rick Oertel, Legislative Officer*
 - d. Other new business and open discussion, *Marie Juliano*
- IX. Public comment period (12:30 – 12:35)
- X. Closing remarks and prepare for next meeting – *Marie Juliano, JLC Vice Chairman* (12:35 – 12:45)
- XI. Adjourn (12:45)

Lunch to follow the meeting

ATTACHMENT 2
REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
OF VETERANS SERVICES (JLC)
July 13, 2016

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on May 19, 2016. At the meeting, the Board, led by board member Jim Icenhour, continued our productive discussion concerning the structure of the Board of Veterans Services and how it can best organize itself to fulfill its Code-mandated mission.

The Board will be working with our legislative members to request that the Code be amended such to permit the Board to organize itself in such a manner as to fulfill its Code-mandated missions. We will continue to keep the JLC up-to-date as we move through the process.

The BVS is made up of fourteen citizen members, five legislators, and three *ex officio* members. Board members are in regular contact with the Department of Veterans Services to provide policy input on key operational issues.

The next BVS meeting will be Thursday, August 18th.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Kaiserman
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 3
VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION
REPORT TO
Joint Leadership Counsel of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC)
July 13, 2016

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held one meeting since last JLC meeting. It was on May 4, 2016 with a quorum present. The following events occurred and actions taken at the Board meeting, in addition to the usual reports and updates on VVFS, V3, and VTAP were taken:

- (1) Reviewed Foundation income, expenses, and fundraising events conducted during FY16;
- (2) Approved the 3rd Quarter FY16 VSF Financial Reports;
- (3) Approved FY17 Budget Allocations for DVS programs and the VSF Support Fund;
- (4) Approved FY17 Milestone Plan;
- (5) Approved Modified Strategic Goals; and
- (6) Elected officers for FY17.

As of 31 May, the Foundation has received donations during FY16 of about \$639,000, of which almost \$451,000 is for VVFS and \$100,000 for V3. While the number of donors has not increased, overall donations are up 15% over last year with VVFS being up 25% over last year at this time. As always, the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities to realize this significant fundraising level. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication of all DVS personnel.

The Board elected the following officers for FY17:

Chair Pat Webb
1st Vice Chair Rich Schollmann
2nd Vice Chair Al Pinalto

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2016 at the American Legion. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the Fourth Quarter FY16 Financial Statement; (2) approve the FY18 budget; (3) approve Strategic Plan FY17-21; (4) approve VSF-DVS Joint Policy updates ; (5) appoint committee chairs for FY17; (6) take additional actions as required to support the five year strategic plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Webb
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 5
Summary of Proposed 2017 Initiatives
July 13, 2016

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
JLC 2017 <i>Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate additional funds and new FTE positions for VVFS <i>as requested by the work group.</i>
JLC 2017 <i>Virginia War Memorial</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate additional funds in FY18 to ensure that the Virginia War Memorial has the resources necessary for operating expenses with the new expansion.
JLC 2017 <i>Guard Income Tax Subtraction</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.
JLC 2017 <i>In-state tuition for all members of the Reserve Components</i>	That the Governor and the General Assembly change the eligibility for in-state tuition to include all members of the Virginia National Guard and the Reserve components, thus recognizing their service to the Commonwealth and treating them equally to the active components and veterans
JLC 2017 <i>VMSDEP</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. When determining eligibility for higher education benefits under the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), remove the requirement that a veteran's disability rating be combat related. Instead, a permanent disability rating of at least 90%, plus satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran's spouse or child for education benefits. b. Evaluate whether funding from other programs could potentially offset the increased cost to the VMSDEP.
JLC 2017 <i>Electronic Ballot Return</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly promote the development, approval, and budgeting of secure procedures to permit the electronic return of absentee ballot by overseas uniformed military voters.