



## VETERANS TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### Board Meeting Minutes

21 September 2022

- I. **Call to Order:** The Board Meeting of the SC Veterans' Trust Fund (VTF) was called to order at 1300, by Mr. Jim Hawk, Chairman.
- II. **Attendance:**
  - A. Present: Valerie Brunson, Nancy B. Dunn, Dale Ellenburg, David E. Finley, Robin Ghent, Stephen L. Jones, Secretary Will Grimsley, Jim Hawk, Nick Massenburg, Shawn T. Pinkston, Melvin Poole, Brenda L. Stewart, Dr. Nikki Wooten
  - B. Excused: Dr. Ada D. Stewart
- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from the 15 June 2022 meeting were read and approved by those in attendance.
- IV. **Remarks from Secretary Grimsley:**
  - SCDVA has a new executive action plan and new legislative priorities.
  - There have been several new hires (coordinators and a new Upstate Regional Integration Officer) and more are coming.
  - SCDVA is in the process of hiring a new replacement for Stan Foreman, Director of the Division of Veteran Services, who retired in August.
  - Had a meeting with the South Carolina State Treasurer to discuss using the existing state investment fund. Melissa Simmons will think through the process if the VTF approves. Their program offers checking capabilities, meaning the VTF could close their account with Truist. Their program would offer a broad diversity of assets. Mr. Finley introduced a motion to pursue opportunities with the State Treasurer's office, Mr. Pinkston seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.
  - VTF granted monies to the Vietnam POW Reunion, which was held in June. Eighty-eight former POWs and/or spouses. The event was so significant to the POWs, that family members of one POW who had passed away before the event attended. The Son Tay Raiders were also there.
  - Brenda Stewart presented a POW/MIA flag to Secretary Grimsley, who accepted it on behalf of the SCDVA, signed by thirty-four POWs. One name not on the flag is Everett Alvarez, Jr., a former US Navy officer who endured one of the longest periods as a POW in U.S. military history.



- Ms. Stewart announced that she would be closing out the foundation and would be disbursing half of the funds to California for the next POW Reunion and the balance to the VTF.
- Mr. Hawk asked about amending the laws pertaining to the VTF. Secretary Grimsley explained that the General Assembly returns in January 2023. VTF needs to amend how they do business. Proposed changes:
  - Shrink the board from 19 to 13 or 15. This would make the board more manageable, more prescriptive
  - Establish term limits of 3 or 4 years with one consecutive term allowed – still working this one out
  - Relook at the spending plan. Current spending guidelines are very restrictive; should be able to use investment returns.

**V. Grant Requests:**

Discussion regarding the current grant awarding process:

- Does the board have the right to not make grants for one or more years;
- Need to establish policy criteria for the applications – there has been some discussion about developing several categories and awarding by category (e.g. non-profit, memorials, etc). Could have a series of funds that are specified restricted or unrestricted and raise money for them.

**A. New Grant Requests Received:**

**Senior Resources, Inc**

**Requested \$10,000**

**Beth Struble, Director of Development**

Serves Richland County seniors with services:

- Free services to clients
- Most of their money comes from federal funding
- Provide transportation to medical appointments, pharmacies, and critical shopping
- Provide pet food for homebound
- 160 Veterans currently being served
- 69 assessed Veterans on the waiting list

This grant would get these 69 Veterans off the waiting list

**Palmetto Goodwill**

**Requested \$25,000**

The board discussed the application as no representatives appeared before the board. Dr. Wooten introduced a motion to carry this application over and invite them to the December meeting, seconded by Ms. Ghent, board passed it unanimously.

**B. Grant Requests Carried Over from June:**

Bullets and Band-aids	Requested: \$10,000
Upstate Carolina Adaptive Golf	Requested: \$5,000



**C. Discussion Regarding Grant Awards:**

Mr. Jones introduces a motion to carry all four applications over to the December

**VI. Old Business:**

**A. Committee Assignments**

- An Ad Hoc committee will meet to discuss committee recommendations as only four board members volunteered to serve on a committee. Each committee will have three members with the chair chosen by the committee members. The chair of each committee will become a member of the Executive Board. The recommendations of the ad hoc committee will be presented to the board at the December meeting. Mr. Ellenburg introduced a motion that this is accepted, Dr. Wooten seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.
- Election of officers will also be held in December. Mr. Hawk asked that nominations for new officers be brought to the December meeting.

**VII. New Business:**

- a. There was no Secretary's report at this time.
- b. TerryLynn presented the finance report. Secretary Grimsley said Boeing could donate to the VTF and have the VTF disburse funds across the state; would provide leverage opportunities across the state. Another source of revenue would be to go to the General Assembly and ask them to raise the cost of all license plates \$1 and donate that to the VTF. Mr. Mesenburg introduced a motion to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Mr. Pinkston, passed unanimously
- c. Nothing at this time.
- d. Election of Officers: Officer positions are Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian. SCDVA staff will be used for the secretary, treasurer, etc. positions. The concept was approved earlier in the year. Mr. Hawk will be working on revising the by-laws to reflect these changes.


**VIII. Identification of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board of Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina will be at 1300 on 14 December 2022 at SCDVA at 1800 Saint Julian Place, Suite 305, Columbia, SC 29204

**IX. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned.**



TL Di Chiara  
TerryLynn Di Chiara, Secretary

14 Dec 2022  
Date of Approval

  
Jim Hawk, Chair  
Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina

14 Dec 2022  
Date of Approval