



## VETERANS TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### Board Meeting Minutes

27 April 2016

**I. Call to Order:** The Board Meeting of the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina (VTF) was called to order at 1:00 PM by Mr. James A. White, Chairman.

#### **II. Attendance**

- A. Members present: James A. White, James C. Brown, Bevin Studstill, Howard Metcalf, Dale Ellenburg, Gloria Evans, Robin Ghent, Jim Lorraine, Chris Maddox, Ronnie Taylor
- B. Members absent: Calvin Lewis, Valerie Brunson, Jimmy Hawk
- C. Guest(s): Marty Wells, MG Abe Turner, MG George Goldsmith  
Gateway to the Army Association

**III. Approval of or Changes to Previous Minutes:** Minutes from the 27 January 2016 meeting were approved as written by a unanimous vote of the Board.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### A. VTF Goals:

1. Mr. White would like to see the VTF make a donation this year; VTF could be questioned why no donations have been made.
2. Discussed meeting with other organizations, e.g. Home Depot. Mr. Taylor reminded board members that the VTF cannot make donations to individuals. Mr. Studstill commented the VTF seemed to be restrictive. Discussion followed regarding direction regarding grants, how involved the VTF should get in assisting grant seekers assistance with the application process.

3. Mr. Lorraine suggested contacting Kevin Shwedo to see if he could recommend five non-profits the VTF may be able to make donations to.
4. Mr. White advised those present of the Red Basket, supported by Woodsmen of the World. They have 128 chapters across the U.S. and are interested in working with the VTF. They would like to come to the next meeting and give a briefing. Mr. White will contact him and arrange for him to address the VTF.

B. Business cards:

Ms. Di Chiara to contact printer and place order for all except Mr. Metcalf, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Brown. VTF will pay for all business cards, but a copy of the invoice will be sent all in case anyone wants to reimburse the VTF.

C. Status of fiscal year 2015 audit:

Mr. Brown provided each board member with a copy of the CPA cash report and 990 and went over the cash report. Question was asked why cash basis vs. accrual basis. Also asked why loans to veterans were still there as this program was years ago. Ms. Di Chiara to check with CPA and report back.

D. Information for media/PSA announcements:

1. Mr. Maddox explained a new PSA was needed as the tax year had ended. Was suggested that PSAs get out to local media groups (radio, television, etc.). He will revamp the existing PSA and provide the new one to members.
2. Mr. Ellenburg informed all that all cable companies have to provide a PSA channel for the community.
3. Mr. Maddox asked if Mr. Metcalf could mention the VTF when he speaks at conferences – he agreed to.

E. Update regarding SCDVA:

Mr. Metcalf had nothing to report at this time. Mr. Taylor commented that the Study Committee would look at all recommendations.

## V. New Business

### A. Secretary's Report:

Website update: minutes have been posted and corrections regarding members and officers have been made; will be posting SOPs and dates of future meetings; will also be looking at creating "DONATE" link/information.

### B. Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Brown went over Treasurer's Report, which showed YTD 2016 earnings.

### C. Committee Reports:

Committee reports were discussed earlier when members discussed VTF Goals.

### D. Other New Business:

#### 1. Legislation:

- i. Mr. Brown stated 29 pieces of legislation had been introduced.
- ii. Study Committee is the only one that had been passed so far.
- iii. Income tax exemption: Came out of Finance Committee; hope to see it go to the Senate floor this week. Senate Pro Tempore will have to call it up. Has until 1 May; may not make it out; both houses will have to vote to bring it out. Senator Hutto had some questions, which were answered by Mr. Metcalf. Senator Malloy asked that it be carried over.

#### 2. Gateway to the Army Association (see copy of brochure attached)

- i. The Army Ball, 16 June 2016, will be the kick-off of the Centennial Celebration.
- ii. Centennial Park will be at the location of the old post HQ (1941), which is being torn down. There will be a monument with a Drill Sergeant icon surround by an amphitheater. Anticipated date of the unveiling of the monument is 3 June 2017. This will provide a place for visitors to go when then come to visit or for graduations.
- iii. There will also be a wartime theater memorial: WWI to now; memorials at Gate 1 will be moved to that location; Purple Heart emblem will be used there; Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and POWs will be honored.

- iv. Amphitheater will be named Wildcat Amphitheater in honor of the 81<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, the first unit to train at Fort Jackson. They were named after Wildcat Creek. A patch was created and later approved by General Pershing after an officer challenged the patch.
  - v. This will solidify community's "skin" in events at Fort Jackson. There are three Army posts that train (Fort Benning, Fort Leonard Wood, and Fort Jackson), but none can train the number Fort Jackson does. The Association wants people to know that Fort Jackson, Columbia, and the Midlands are working together, and asks that the VTF help get the word by sharing information about this project with others.
3. Mr. White announced that Mr. Wallace has resigned due to health issues. Mr. Ellenburg agreed to be the Vice-Chair "until the term expires."
  4. Mr. White explained that other veteran service organizations start their meetings with a prayer and would like to start this at the VTF. Asked who would like to be the Chaplain – Mr. Metcalf. Vice-Chair will lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.
  5. Mr. Metcalf explained Senator Young contacted him to let him know Senator Verdin had introduced a new bill for veterans in agriculture; the bill suggested they take monies from the VTF. Mr. Metcalf explained there were no "surplus funds" which resulted in the VTF being removed from the bill. Mr. Metcalf suggested the verbiage pertaining to how much the VTF can spend be added to the website.
  6. Mr. Ellenburg provided an update on the Carillon being erected at the M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery in Anderson. As VTF helped with the financing of this project, would like to see it recognized on the program.
  7. Mr. White asked if it would be possible to have refreshments at meetings. Also stated he would like to keep the meetings to 1.5 hours if possible

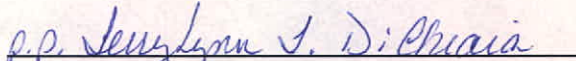
## VI. Taskings and Summary


- A. Mr. Lorraine suggested contacting Kevin Shwedo to see if he could recommend five non-profits the VTF may be able to make donations to
- B. Mr. White will contact representative from Red Basket and arrange for him to address the VTF.
- C. Ms. Di Chiara to contact printer and place order for all except Mr. Metcalf, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Brown. VTF will pay for all business cards, but a copy of the invoice will be sent all in case anyone wants to reimburse the VTF.
- D. Question was asked why cash basis vs. accrual basis. Also asked why loans to veterans were still there as this program was years ago. Ms. Di Chiara to check with CPA and report back.
- E. Mr. Maddox will revamp the existing PSA and provide the new one to members
- F. Mr. Metcalf suggested the verbiage pertaining to how much the VTF can spend be added to the website.
- G. Mr. Ellenburg provided an update on the Carillon being erected at the M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery in Anderson. As VTF helped with the financing of this project, would like to see it recognized on the program.

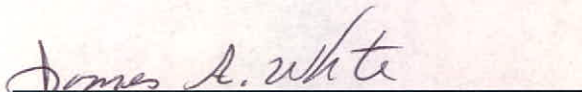
## VII. Next Meeting

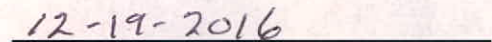
The next meeting of the Board of the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina will be 27 July 2016.

## VIII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

  
Bevin Studstill, Secretary

  
Date of Approval

  
James A. White, Chair  
Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina

  
Date of Approval