



## VETERANS' TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### Board Meeting Minutes

20 March 2019

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

Roll was called by Ms. DelVecchio:

  1. Present: James Brown, Valerie Brunson, Dale Ellenburg, Jim Hawk, Howard Metcalf, John D. "JD" Wilcox, Jr., Robin Ghent; James White, Ronald Taylor; Bevin Studstill
  2. Excused: Gloria Evans; Unexcused: Chris Maddox
  3. Bob Tieg and Bill Proctor, Colleton County.
- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from 9 January 2019 meeting were read and approved by those in attendance.
- IV. **Guest Speakers:** Bob Tieg and Bill Proctor, Colleton County.

Conceptual design of the proposed monument was submitted and reviewed by the Board – (copy attached). Initial request for this monument was for \$5,000; new request is for \$10,000. This amount is for the engraving of Veterans' name and the name of the monument only. A total of \$1,700 has been raised through various forms of fundraising such as fish fries and spaghetti dinners. "In memory of..." bricks will also be sold as another way to raise money. This monument will recognize and honor all Colleton Veterans who have served in the military for their sacrifice. The Regional Airport Council has approved having the picnic table moved and the Monument erected in its place. Conceptual design: Monument will have two (2) granite pillars, measuring 3'x5'H on each side listing all the branches of the armed services. In the middle of the two slabs will be the center part which will be 5'x8'H. The pillars and slab have been donated. The name the Monument will read as: 'DEDICATED TO ALL COLLETONIANS WHO ANSWERED THE CALL OF DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES TO PRESERVE OUR FREEDOMS'

The projected time of completion will be by Veterans Day 2019

- Mr. White mentioned that Colleton County has a rich history of military activity. Walterboro Army Airfield was the training facility for fighter and

bomber pilots during WWII as well as the site of the German POW Camp. It was also the training camp for Tuskegee Airmen.

- Mr. Ellenburg suggested making a \$3,000 donation which along with the \$1,700 Colleton County already has from fundraising would total \$4,700 and if they need anything any more money, they can come back.
- Ms. Ghent suggested donating "up to 5,000 pending completion documentation".
- Mr. Wilcox made a motion to approve the project "up to \$5,000 contingent on seeing invoices. James Brown second, Motion approved.

**V. Old Business:**

A. Hashmark Strategies, LLC – Revised proposal received and reviewed by the Board. Also received was an invoice in the amount of \$1,065.18 for air travel and hotel accommodations for the 9 January 2019 presentation. Invoice was paid without presenting it to the Board. There was no contract/agreement in place for this fee. Who's on the line for this? Val did what the Board asked her to do which was to call Jeremy. She spoke with him and said that she was just looking for a telephone call; he insisted on coming in. Val told him we weren't going to pay him; Val thought it would be free. This is a slippery slope as anyone can come and speak and send an invoice. This invoice should not have been paid without a contract/agreement presented to the board. Mr. Wilcox made a suggestion that going forward all invoices be presented to the board before paying. Lesson learned. Mr. Hawk said that we have authority to solicit proposals—didn't comprehend that he was going to bill us. Ms. Ghent said that SCACVAO will severed ties with Hashmark Strategies, LLC. Revised proposal was received and reviewed.

Motion made, second and approved to not go forward with Hashmark Strategies revised proposal.

**VI. New Business:**

A. Secretary's Report: Bevin Studstill - No report at this time.

B. Treasurer's Report by Mr. Brown:

1. Treasurer's Report – No written report was presented at this time, still working on it; will have a better report at the next meeting – verbal report as follows:

As of 12/31/18	\$602,057.07
Donations trickling in	\$ 31,332.52
Donation:	\$ 250.00
Interest:	\$ 190.00
Total:	\$ 31,772.98
Available for distribution:	\$ 15,886.49

2. Investment in CDs

\$250,000 @ 2.65% compounded interest every month for a 24-month period with a maturity date of 2/16/2021.

Mr. Ellenburg mentioned that Col. Taylor did a quick calculation before leaving the meeting--CD will earn close to \$16,000 over the next two years in interest plus \$4,000 compounded for a total of \$20,000.

Mr. Brown reported that BBT will be merging with SunTrust but this merger will not affect anything. A BB&T Representative is scheduled to come in at 2:30 to explain this merger; representative showed up after some of the Board members had left but did get to speak with remaining Board members.

A transfer of money was necessary to cover the \$1,065.18 unexpected invoice from Hashmark Strategies.

C. Committee Reports:

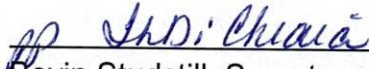
1. Constitution By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee – No report at this time.
2. Ways & Means Committee: - No report at this time.
  - a. Fundraising – Mr. Ellenburg talked about Midlands Gives: Midlands Gives is an 18-hour online giving event that brings the region together as one community, raising money and awareness for local nonprofits in 11 Midlands counties. During Midlands Gives, contributions of just \$20 or more are amplified through sponsored prize incentives. Since its inception in 2014 the event has raised \$7,280,500 for local nonprofits. *The sixth annual Midlands Gives event will take place on May 7, 2019, on the [midlandsgives.org](http://midlandsgives.org) website.*
  - b. Veteran Plates - \$3 donation for each tag; \$1 donation should be going to VTF. These Veteran tags have made a total of 3.6 million dollars. Veteran tags need to be approved by the General Assembly. It's too late to introduce a Bill this year but we can pre-file for next year.
3. Public Relations/marketing Committee:
  - a. Ms. Ghent asked about the Pop up for the Resource Fair which Mr. Maddox was working on. Mr. Studstill and Ms. Ghent will coordinate and come up with a design. Ms. Ghent will email as information becomes available regarding the costs (including express shipping) for the pop up, brochures and pens. Snacks (chips), candy, and water will be provided by Ms. Ghent and Mr. Brown; Ms. Brunson will provide the table cloth.
  - b. Advertising is paramount and doesn't have to cost any money. Mr. Maddox was working on VFT's Facebook Page; Mr. Studstill "unofficially" volunteered to do it. Ms. Ghent runs Palmetto Vets and will post to the VTF page.

**VII. Taskings and "Due Outs"**

- A. VTF Pop up, brochures and pens for the Resource Fair being held on March 29, 2019
- B. Take another look at donating more money to the Fisher House
- C. Research other local companies that do what Hashmark does.
- D. VTF Facebook Page

**VIII. Identification of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board of the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina will be 15 May 2019 in Room 415, 1205 Pendleton St, Columbia, SC.

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

  
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Bevin Studstill, Secretary

05.15.2019  
Date of Approval

  
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Jim Hawk, Chair

05.15.2019  
Date of Approval