



VETERANS TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Board Meeting Minutes

9 December 2020

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

- II. **Attendance:**
 - A. Present: James Brown, Valerie Brunson, Dale Ellenburg, , Jim Hawk, John D. "JD" Wilcox, Jr., Secretary Will Grimsley
 - B. Absent: Gloria Evans, Robin Ghent, Jim Lorraine, Chris Maddox, Bevin Studstill, Ronnie Taylor, James A. White
 - C. Presenters:
 - Brandon Worley, Upstate-Carolina Adaptive Golf
 - Ron Wilson and Kay Batten, Veterans Welcome Home & Resource Center

- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from the 15 January 2020 Meeting were read and approved by those in attendance.

- IV. **Grant Presentations:**
 - A. Upstate-Carolina Adaptive Golf
 - Brandon Worley shared a hand-out regarding his program
 - A non-profit started 27 October 2019
 - Have monthly programs, plus programs for Veterans
 - Used as a form of therapy
 - Hopes to expand programs more next year
 - Ages served: 18 and under with 12 being the average year; average age of those over 18 is 42; 88 is the oldest Veteran
 - Doesn't turn anyone away
 - No MD on site, but does ask about limitations
 - Requesting \$5,000 for two pieces of equipment

B. Veterans Welcome Home & Resource Center

- 96.5% of donations go to helping Veterans
- Not affiliated with any state entity
- Last year 1,256 Veterans have walked in looking for help: financial, claims, homeless, employment, etc.
- Works closely with Myrtle Beach SC Works, and has worked with ECHO (Eastern Carolina Homeless Organization)
- Referrals come from North and South Carolina. 80-90% of those helped are from Brunswick and Horry Counties. Also serves Georgetown, but has helped Veterans from Florida and Oklahoma
- Received free fully furnished containers for housing – cost \$18,000 to get a container up and running
- Has a staff of 17, all are volunteers
- Residents are on their own after the volunteers leave. They have 10 rules – if any are violated they are asked to leave. Only organization of this type in the United States.
- Requesting \$5,000 which will help 10 Veterans

V. **Old Business:**

A. VTF Webpage / Facebook: An email was sent to all board members asking whether to transfer maintenance and updating of information/articles to SCDVA.

Voting results: Yes: 8 No Response: 3 Waiting for Response: 1

It was recommended that grants being awarded be publicized on the website along with enhancing education regarding the VTF

B. Mr. Wilcox updated the board regarding billboards erected on land he owns. He rents out one side and donated the other side to the VTF, which has the VTF logo.

VI. **New Business:**

A. Secretary Grimsley addressed the board

- Introduced Joseph McLamb, Chief of Staff/Deputy Secretary; brings a wealth of talent and leadership, and Matt St. Clair, who was former Chief of Staff at Parris Island, will be the Chief Integration Officer of the State Coalition Integration Division. He will be integrating and evaluating efforts and resources, determining needs, requirements, and lapses
- Regarding the VTF: How do we realign over time? Both presentations were interesting: Upstate-Carolina Adaptive Golf alone, although not well known, is trying to have a positive effect on veterans, but it's hard to measure metrics. Veterans

- Welcome Home & Resource Center has metrics, metrics across campaign objectives. VTF can help with these objectives.
- Possible changes that could enhance the VTF:
 - VTF has an opportunity to look at potential changes to legislation. Large number of board members is unwieldy. Currently have a lot of people appointed who are non-participants. Need to think about shrinking the size of the board and filling slots with people who are dedicated attendees, possible going after major corporations to bring some of their expertise and money. Several possibilities are FN America, Lockheed, SCMA, and Boeing. Boeing has donated to other Veteran organizations like Upstate Warrior Solution. They would rather fund through an organization like the VTF to further enable the cause of Veterans.
 - Change the spending plan; get the specifics out of legislation. The VTF needs a spending and investment plan.
 - How to allocate money: All monies go into the general fund of the VTF. There is nothing like the Army Emergency Relief Fund in the counties to help Veterans – this could be an interesting topic in the future: 1) sub fund for grants 2) general relief fund: county office or VSO could make the request Dr. Murphy in Georgetown suggested an emergency relief fund for utilities, possibly using the VTF to help. If this were done, authority could be given to the Secretary for make immediate awards for assistance up to a certain dollar amount
 - Discussion regarding fundraising possibilities: DMV for Vet tags (create new one or utilize one already in existence); SC Education Lottery Commission for scratch off lottery card and tie it into Veteran education; VTF scholarship program. Mr. Hawk advised Secretary Grimsley that the board had talked about these in the past. Secretary Grimsley, who has read all the minutes, stated, “dedication is passion sustained over time, and is recognized and appreciated by those attend regularly.”

B. Secretary’s Report: No report at this time.

C. Treasurer’s Report by Mr. Brown:

1. A Treasurer’s Report was presented to the members. This was a year-to-date report based on expenditures and earnings for fiscal year 2020.
2. Mr. Brown reminded those in attendance that CDs have been a good investment and are nearing maturity. A decision needs to be made whether or not to roll them over or to invest in something else. Secretary Grimsley suggested looking at investment advisors who are Veteran owned. It was decided to re-invest for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 24 months. It was also decided to invite the BB&T rep to meet with the Executive Committee in January to discuss rates, etc.
3. There was a discussion regarding the remainder of FY2020 funds available for disbursement (\$7,122.45). Mr. Ellenburg made a motion to split the remaining funds between the two Fisher Houses in South Carolina (WJB Dorn in Columbia

4. and Ralph H. Johnson in Charleston). This was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.
5. Determinations regarding presentations:
 - Upstate-Carolina Adaptive Golf decision: A motion, introduced by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Wilcox, carried unanimously to grant the request in the amount of \$5,000.
 - Veterans Welcome Home & Resource Center decision: A motion, introduced by Mr. Hawk and seconded by Mr. Brown, carried unanimously to grant the request in the amount of \$5,000.

VII. Taskings and “Due Outs”:

- A. Annual Membership Update Questionnaire to be mailed to each board member and should be returned no later than 31 December 2020. Summation of responses to be provided to the Executive Committee.

VIII. Identification of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of the Veterans’ Trust Fund of South Carolina will be 17 March 2021.

IX. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned.

pp J DiChiaia
Bevin Studstill, Secretary

17 March 2021
Date of Approval

[Signature]
Jim Hawk, Chair
Veterans’ Trust Fund of South Carolina

17 March 2021
Date of Approval