



VETERANS TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Board Meeting Minutes

15 January 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, Gloria Evans, Robin Ghent, Jim Hawk, Chris Maddox, Ronnie Taylor, James A. White, John D. "JD" Wilcox, Jr.
 - B. Absent: Stanley A. Foreman, Jim Lorraine, Bevin Studstill

- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from the 13 November 2019 Meeting were read and approved by those in attendance.

- IV. **Guest Speaker:** Mr. Hawk thought Representative G. Murrell Smith, Jr. (R-Sumter) has been invited by Ms. Brunson to the VTF but may have had a conflict as yesterday was the first day of the 2020 legislative session.

- V. **Old Business:**
 - A. VTF Webpage: It was stated the current webpage is outdated and changes need to be made: 1) make sure all members listed are in good standing, 2) add in donation "button" similar to the one used by DNR.
 - B. VTF FB Budget: Ms. Ghent sent in a proposal, broken down by how much money it takes to reach a specific number of people. (e.g. \$1 a day could reach 56-163 people a day). There is no true measurement tool in place, but you can tell by how many clicks you get on your page – some people look, but don't follow. VTF FB page had 11 followers, now there are 25. Discussion: Ms. Ghent suggested spending more during tax season (January through April). Mr. Ellenburg suggested letting the advertising committee make a recommendation. A motion was introduced and passed: VTF will invest \$1,000 over a three month period. FB requires a debit or credit card to set this up. A motion was introduced and

passed that the VTF would apply for a debit card and that all purchases made with said debit card would require preapproval.

- C. Mr. Wilcox had a billboard erected on a piece of land he owns in Union County. He rents out one side and donated the other side to the VTF. There were two images sent to the board members and after an email poll was taken, it was decided the VTF would use the image with the eagle. Mr. Wilcox may be looking at erecting another billboard in Newberry County. Discussion regarding other billboards: cost, location, how the National Guard and DAV utilize billboards

VI. New Business:

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

B. 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 2019.
- 2. Update from BB&T Scott & Stringfellow regarding CD investments was also provided to board members.

C. Committee Reports:

1. Constitution By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee: No report at this time.

2. Ways & Means Committee:

a. Funding: \$17,122.45 is available for grants for fiscal year 2020. VTF has earned over \$8,000 for far in CD investments.

b. Grant Management:

- i. Monies remaining from 2019 (\$2,639.64) were returned to the VTF's general fund. There was a discussion and it was decided that in future years unspent funds designated for grants would be divided up equally between the state veterans nursing homes for transportation and/or recreation rooms
- ii. Three grant requests are currently pending: SC Special Forces has requested \$25,000, Goodwill has requested \$25,000, and Bullets and Band-aids has requested \$250,000. All three charities will be invited to present at the next meeting.
- iii. Upstate Warrior Solution (UWS): Messrs. Ellenburg and Wilcox presented a \$3,000 check to a group of approximately 10-15. Some of the veterans there are part of the fellowship program, which was the purpose of the grant. Pictures will be provided at a later date and it was requested that they be added to the VTF webpage. Discussion: UWS is participating in a homeless census in Greenville County – homelessness is a problem in our country. They are also involved in suicide prevention. Ms. Ghent informed the group that UWS paid for the administrative assistant in Union County to go to the National Association of County Veterans Affairs Officers for accreditation.
- iv. Discussion regarding the grant program: spread the grants out over the year; grant requests should be decided immediately following a presentation; if awarded, presentations could be made at the next meeting or presented on site, if requested

- v. Fundraising: Letters have been sent to the Governor, Senate, and House requesting "seed money" in the amount of \$750,000. The state has approximately \$2 billion in surplus.

3. Public Relations/Marketing Committee: No report at this time.

D. Other New Business:

- 1. Mr. Hawk discussed how the VTF is just now in an "embryo stage" of getting the word out and in getting where the VTF can get things done. Need to get the word out about the VTF, must be good stewards, and people need to know the VTF is here for the veterans of South Carolina
- 2. There will be a photo opportunity with the Fisher House regarding the monies donated - \$10,000 total. This will be at the Chamber on 28 January 2020 at 0900.
- 3. 2020 meetings: 18 March, 20 May, 15 July, 16 September, and 18 November. Several board members indicated there may be a meeting or two they will miss due to previous engagements.

VII. Taskings and "Due Outs":

- A. Webpage needs to be updated, including a "donation button"
- B. Grant presentations at next meeting.
- C. Mr. Brown and TerryLynn to check into debit card for the VTF.

VIII. Identification of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina will be 18 March 2020.


IX. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned.




Bevin Studstill, Secretary



Date of Approval



Jim Hawk, Chair
Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina



Date of Approval