



VETERANS TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Board Meeting Minutes

19 July 2017

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

- II. **Attendance:**
 - A. Present: James White, James Brown, Gloria Evans, Jimmy Hawk, Robin Ghent, Chris Maddox, Ronnie Taylor, John D. "JD" Wilcox, Jr., Stanley A. Foreman for Howard Metcalf, Valerie Brunson
 - B. Excused: Dale Ellenburg, Bevin Studstill
 - C. Absent: Calvin Lewis, Jim Lorraine

- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from the 17 May 2017 Meeting were approved with corrections by a unanimous vote of the Board.

- IV. **Old Business:**
 - A. Booth at the South Carolina State Fair: This was part of a discussion for several meetings as a venue of introducing the VTF to people. As the fair will be in October, need to have someone from the Funding/Resourcing Committee check into this and report back as soon as possible via email to the Board.
 - B. Seed monies for the VTF from South Carolina: Mr. Brown spoke with Rep. James Smith (D-Richland County) who has expressed an interest in meeting with the Board. Rep Smith asked about the mission and goals of the VTF. Mr. White suggested a one-time donation of \$1 million or \$500,000 or \$1.00 or \$0.50 per veteran in South Carolina to be done every couple of years. Another suggestion was to receive a portion of the veteran's license plate fee. Mr. Brown will contact Rep Smith to see if he would be available for the next VTF meeting.
 - C. Mrs. Ghent brought a copy of the SC VETS magazine and shared with those present. Mrs. Ghent will find out and send a listing of advertising costs. Mr. Brown suggested using the brochure/flyer Mr. Maddox created as an advertising tool.

V. New Business:

- A. Secretary's Report: Ms. Di Chiara passed out a copy of the proposed dry-erase presentation check. Everyone present approved of the design and asked that it be ordered.
- B. Treasurer's Report by Mr. Brown: A Treasurer's Report was presented to the members. He also explained that tax check-off donations had decreased the past two years.
- C. Committee Reports:
1. Public Relations: Ms. Brunson has put together a PSA presentation (see attached) – VTF needs a spokesperson to speak for the group. Ms. Brunson also proposed using posters to inform the public of the VTF. COL Taylor encouraged the Committee to come up with a list of viable announcements. Mr. White asked the Committee to bring a list of viable announcements to the next meeting for a vote.
 2. Grant Management Committee: There were several grant requests received:
 - i. Lexington County Blowfish: Purpose: To provide meals for Vietnam Veterans and their families at a game recognizing Vietnam Veterans. Awarded: \$1,250. There was a discussion on the speed and process to which this request was granted. It should have gone through the process established by the Committee and should not be last minute. The Committee receives grant requests and makes their recommendation to the Board. The Committee will review the guidelines and will bring recommendations to the next meeting.
 - ii. Midlands Technical College Foundation: Purpose: Creation of an Emergency Fund for MTC Student Veterans. Requested: \$10,000 Discussion: Have approx.. \$8 million in their endowment; went from \$7 million to \$8 million in about 12 months. Decision: No bonafide financial need exhibited at this time. Request denied.
 - iii. MCL Det 1169/Lancaster Coalition of VSOs: Purpose: To provide emergency funds to provide relief for specific situations involving veterans in Lancaster County. Requested: \$8,000. Discussion: It was noted veteran service organizations had donated \$500. If granted, must be for veterans only, must not be used for operating or other expenses. Decision: \$500, but it must be used for veterans only.
Need to follow-up with Friends of the Anderson Museum and Freedom and Hope Foundation per grant award instructions.
 3. Funding/Resourcing Committee: No report at this time.
- D. Other New Business:
1. Brochure/Flyer: Need to make sure this is on the website. There seems to be an issue with the lines being off when the brochure is folded – this needs to be checked out.
 2. Mr. Wilcox spoke with Cindy Fore, Union County Veterans Affairs Officer, regarding publications. There is a publication coming out for Kuwait or Kosovo. He will check with Ms. Fore to see if she can accept these and distribute to all the counties.

Taskings and "Due Outs":


- A. Funding Resourcing Committee needs to check into the VTF having a booth at the South Carolina State Fair. Mr. White asked that they report back on this as soon as possible via email to board members.
- B. Mr. Brown will contact Rep Smith to see if he would be available for the next VTF meeting.
- C. Mrs. Ghent has been asked to provide the board members with a listing of advertising costs for the SC VETS magazine.
- D. Public Relations Committee will bring designs and ideas to the next meeting.
- E. The Grant Distribution and Management Committee is to review the grant guidelines and bring recommendations to the next meeting.
- F. Ms. Di Chiara to order large dry-erase check.
 - i. Ms. Di Chiara is to prepare a draft response letter to those who have received grants (Friends of the Anderson Museum, Freedom and Hope Foundation) requesting a six month interim report.

VI. Identification of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina will be 20 September 2017

VII. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned.




Bevin Studstill, Secretary



Date of Approval



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



Date of Approval