



VETERANS TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Board Meeting Minutes

15 November 2017

- I. **Call to Order:** The Board Meeting of the SC Veterans' Trust Fund (VTF) was called to order at 1:05PM, by Mr. James A. White, Chairman.

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

- III. **Veterans Day Ceremonies:**
 - Colleton County: Welcome Home Veterans on Thursday: stand-down type of event that lasted four hours; parade on Sunday, First Responders were the Grand Marshalls; care packages given out to homebound; Veterans Victory House was also involved in the ceremonies
 - Sumter County: Third Annual Parade; had a gathering of approximately 40 vendors afterwards
 - Richland County: 39th parade with 100 units, largest in the southeast; luncheon held afterwards for VIPs; Rep Smith spoke, recognized POW Jack Van Loan
 - Anderson: Westside High School held a 1 hour appreciation ceremony, 120 veterans attended; mobile Vietnam Wall was in the upstate
 - Marion: 30th Veterans Day Parade, held a luncheon afterwards, attended local schools, kids give donations and gifts
 - Union: churches and children expressed their appreciation to veterans

- IV. **Minutes:** Minutes from the 20 September 2017 Meeting were read and approved by those in attendance.

V. Old Business:

A. Investment Options:

1. Hand out, VTF could go to the South Carolina General Assembly for seed money; Finance Comm has been meeting with BB&T; Mr. Benoit suggested the VTF come up with an investment policy; can invest, need diversification
 2. Mr. Brown drew up an investment policy, which Mr. Benoit reviewed and made a couple of suggestions. Finance Comm also looked at Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and an investment banker; Mr. Benoit provided some historical data copy to file
 3. Mr. Wilcox suggested getting proposals from at least three groups. He liked the investment banker and BB&T. Would like to know: how much would they charge; would like a 5 yr history based on if \$50,000 had been invested; wanted to know if investments were proprietorial or could they come from anywhere
 4. Mr. Brown: went to p 10 of Mr. Benoit's report; this was broken out into conservative (least risk), moderate, and progressive. VTF can always change; have an escape clause Mr. Brown explained the funds in the VTF come from memorials, individual donations, and tax check-off donations. Ms. Brunson suggested checking with the Ethics commission to see if there would be an issue as the investments maybe with companies involved with tobacco and/or alcohol
 5. The following motion was introduced, seconded, and passed unanimously: Finance Committee to 1) get three proposals, 2) cite 5 areas the VTF would like to invest in and have them do a 5 year history based on an investment in the amount of \$500,000, and 3) get an estimate of the cost.
 6. Mr. Brown asked for a vote regarding the investment policy. It was suggested and accepted by those present to delete "include...All South."
 7. Rep Smith said he would go to the General Assembly to see if there was any way to provide funds to the VTF. One possibility would be fees (e.g. license plates). VTF has suggested \$1 per veteran in South Carolina, using an estimate of 500,000 veterans in South Carolina. Mr. Brown will follow up with Rep Smith to see if this would work.
 8. A question came up about using the lottery. This is done in several states, but South Carolina's lottery is an educational lottery. Could reach out to members of the legislature to see if this could be done.
- B. Mrs. Ghent, who was not present at this meeting, has been asked to bring a listing of the advertising costs for the SC Vets magazine.

VI. New Business:

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

B. Treasurer's Report by Mr. Brown: A Treasurer's Report was presented to the members.

C. Committee Reports:

1. Public Relations:

a. PSA announcement: This recording will be sent to radio stations. A copy was played again for the members present. Mr. Maddox will add background music and bring back to the group. Mr. Metcalf suggested adding a comment that the VTF donates 100% of available funds to veterans' programs.

b. Poster: A poster was created and an email copy was sent to all members.

c. Commercials: Ms. Brunson explained these are very expensive. Colonel Taylor suggested reaching out to USC Marketing as they have done great work.

d. Facebook: Ms. Brunson was asked if the PR Committee had explored creating a Facebook page. She will discuss this with Mr. Maddox and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

2. Grant Management Committee:

a. Currently have three grant requests pending:

i. Church Builders Veterans Outreach will be denied as they are not registered with the South Carolina Secretary of State's Charities Division.

ii. Carolina Women for Change & Empowerment requested a grant to serve Thanksgiving meals to women veterans. Mr. Studstill liked that this grant would go to women veterans as they are often overlooked. Colonel Taylor advised the Board that Harvest Hope has a program that is just for veterans.

iii. Hunters 4 Kids, Inc. dba Outdoors At Last Youth Adventures requested a grant to help purchase outdoor hunting and fishing equipment

b. The following motions was introduced, seconded, and passed unanimously regarding the grant requests: Carolina Women for Change & Empowerment granted \$5,623.34, and \$2,160.90 to Outdoors At Last Youth Adventures if they are registered with the South Carolina Secretary of State. If they are not, that money would go to the Carolina Women for Change & Empowerment.

3. Funding/Resourcing Committee: No report at this time; however, Mr. Wilcox knows an individual who does fundraising professionally and would like to invite him to the next meeting. He will provide the contact information to Ms. Di Chiara.

D. Other New Business:

1. 2018 meetings:

a. Dates and times: Meetings will continue to be held at 1300 on the third Wednesday of every other month

- b. Location: The Edgar A. Brown Building will continue to be the primary location. As parking is difficult around the Capitol Complex, however, some of the meetings may be moved off site. Alternate sites may be at the South Carolina National Guard on Bluff Road or The American Legion, Department of South Carolina, on Bush River Road. The location of the January 2018 meeting will be at the Edgar A. Brown Building, future dates will be determined at a later date.
 - c. Length: Mr. White announced he would like to keep the length of the meetings as close as possible to one hour. This will be possible if Board members come prepared to make decisions.
 - d. Attendance: Mr. White asked that Board members let Ms. Di Chiara know if they are unable to attend.
2. Seats on the Board: The VTF needs to look at adding more people – there are several seats vacant at this time. If someone no longer wishes to serve on the VTF Board, please let Mr. White and/or Mr. Metcalf know.
 3. Officers: Election of officers will be held at the January 2018 meeting.

VII. Taskings and “Due Outs”:

- A. Mr. Brown to present investment reports.
- B. Mrs. Ghent to provide estimates for advertising in the SCVet booklet
- C. Public Relations Committed to make revision to PSA and report back to the Board regarding commercials and Facebook.
- D. Status reports on grants awarded.
- E. Presentation by a professional fundraiser.

VIII. Identification of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina will be 17 January 2018.

IX. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned.

pp Stephen D. Chara
Bevin Studstill, Secretary

05.16.2018
Date of Approval

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

5-16-18
Date of Approval