



VETERANS TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Board Meeting Minutes

17 May 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, Dale Ellenburg, James Brown, Gloria Evans, Jimmy Hawk, Robin Ghent, Jim Lorraine, Chris Maddox, Ronnie Taylor, John D. "JD" Wilcox, Jr.
 - B. Excused: Bevin Studstill, Calvin Lewis, Howard Metcalf, Valerie Brunson,

- III. **Welcome and Introduction of New Board Member:**
 - A. JD Wilcox was newly appointed as a Board Member of the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina by Governor McMaster in May 2017.
 - B. Born in Charleston, SC and currently residing in Jonesville, Mr. Wilcox, the son of a World War II veteran, is the father of five sons, one being an Afghanistan veteran.
 - C. He served with the South Carolina Army National Guard, retiring in December 1994 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel with over 24 years of service.
 - D. Mr. Wilcox graduated from The Citadel in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and did post graduate work at North Carolina State and Ohio State.
 - E. He brought with him a guest, Dr. Carol Stilwell, a retired dentist.
 - F. Mr. Wilcox is a member of the VFW Post in Sumter and a Life Members of a VFW Post in Linville, North Carolina.
 - G. He also serves on a number of boards and is involved in horse rescue.
 - H. When asked why he wanted to be a part of the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina, he said "every citizen needs to give back" and that he cares for veterans.

- IV. **Minutes:** Minutes from the 15 March 2017 Meeting were approved as written by a unanimous vote of the Board.

V. Old Business:

- A. Mr. Metcalf and/or Mr. Maddox will be attending the DAV Convention and will talk a little bit about the VTF.
- B. Everyone approved the design for the large dry-erase check. Ms. Di Chiara was asked to go ahead and place an order for the check.
- C. With a minor revision, the grant approval/denial letter was accepted.

VI. New Business:

- A. Secretary's Report: Ms. Di Chiara passed out a listing of the Board Members and asked that it be returned to her with any changes/corrections.
- B. Treasurer's Report by Mr. Brown: A Treasurer's Report was presented to the members.
- C. Committee Reports:
 - 1. Public Relations: Mr. Maddox explained that Ms. Brunson was working on an updated PSA.
 - 2. Grant Management Committee: COL Taylor explained only one grant had been received and it was from the Florence County Veterans Affairs Office regarding transportation. They requested \$15,000 for regional transportation which would provide a voucher for veterans to ride free. Issues: 1) Bus cannot go to the clinic; veterans would have to walk ½ mile or so from the road to the clinic; 2) veterans are entitle to travel pay; 3) there are vans there to take veterans to the clinic and/or VAMC. COL Taylor proposed denying the grant at this time. A motion was made and carried to deny this grant.
 - 3. Funding/Resourcing Committee: Mr. Ellenburg said they needed to come up with an idea for a fundraiser. Discussion regarding fundraisers:
 - i. Mail outs are expensive and return may not be good.
 - ii. Mr. Hawk suggested a booth at the South Carolina State Fair and several of the Board Members thought this was a good idea.
 - iii. COL Taylor suggested going to legislators to ask for a one-time donation from the state; an amount of \$500,000 was suggested.
 - iv. Mr. Lorraine said that Home Depot has approached them, but the problem is that the VTF cannot spend money until it gets to \$1 million. Need to change the rules that govern how much money the VTF can donate during the year.
- D. Other New Business:

Mr. Ellenburg said the Director of the Anderson Museum appreciated Mr. White coming to the event. Said they are looking at a 2,100 sq ft exhibit or World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, focusing on a November presentation for a POW. They have three POWs in Anderson – 1 from the Korean War and 2 from Vietnam. The museum will also have a Wall of Remembrance for thos killed in action. Mr. White recommends the Board Members go to the museum and expressed an interest in going to the dedications.

Taskings and "Due Outs":

- A. Finance Committee to present investment recommendations at the July meeting.
- B. Ms. Di Chiara to order large dry-erase check.
- C. Information regarding a booth at the State Fair is to be presented at the next meeting.
- D. Messrs. Metcalf and Brown are to contact Senators Peeler and Shealy and Representative James Smith about the state providing seed money to the VTF.
- E. Mrs. Ghent to bring a copy of the SC Veterans booklet to the next meeting

VII. Identification of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina will be 19 July 2017

VIII. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned.

Bevin Studstill
Bevin Studstill, Secretary

07-19-2017
Date of Approval

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

07-19-2017
Date of Approval