



VETERANS TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Board Meeting Minutes

14 November 2018

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

- II. **Attendance:**
Roll was called by Ms. Di Chiara:
 1. Present: James Brown, Valerie Brunson, Dale Ellenburg, Gloria Evans, Jimmy Hawk, Howard Metcalf, Chris Maddox, Ronnie Taylor, John D. "JD" Wilcox, Jr.
 2. Absent (excused): Robin Ghent, James White
 3. Absent (unexcused): Jim Lorraine, Bevin Studstill
 4. Quorum was present.

- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from the 18 July 2018 meeting were read and approved by those in attendance.

- IV. **Guest Speaker:** Colonel C. Richard Denton, Chairman, Union/Laurens Commission for Higher Education, University of South Carolina Union
 - Each county has a commission appointed by the Governor. Chair of the Commission in Union provided the university with contract assistance: they do facilities and operation; the college is responsible for academics.
 - The University of South Carolina Union is a public university with its main campus in Union and a branch campus in Laurens. It is one of the four region USC campuses which make up Palmetto College. The others are USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, and USC Sumter.
 - Classes began at this campus in 1965 with an initial enrollment of 51 students. In the last three years they have gone from an enrollment of 505 students to over 1,200 students.

- USC Union has a flagship program starting in 2020: will be offering a BS in Nursing. First three semesters will be in Union, last 5 semester will be at USC Aiken.
- There is no campus housing. They have liaised with local realtors and have housing within five minutes of campus.
- Have athletic programs (USC Union Bantams), clubs and an arena.
- Financial aid: They have a variety of programs, but no scholarship program dedicated solely to veterans (no source of funding but would love to start a program if they could find funding). They do have an endowed fund which is based on need.
- What can the VTF do for them? According to Colonel Denton it would be to make higher education more valuable, utilize veteran scholarships, and invite USC Union to speak at events about their campus.

V. Old Business:

A. Board Members:

1. There are currently six vacancies. Once filled, all 19 positions on the Board would be filled.
2. Mr. Ellenburg suggested reducing the number of board members. It was explained the number of board members is established by law, not the by-laws.
3. Mr. Wilcox announced he had talked with Senator Martin regarding the submission of LTC Street's name for appointment to the Board. It is his understanding that Senator Martin will be submitting his recommendation to Governor McMaster. Mr. Metcalf explained that names have already been submitted as some of the vacancies are very specific about who can be appointed (e.g. CVAOs, VSOs).

B. Investment Plan:

1. Mr. Hawk announced there would be a decision made during this meeting regarding an investment plan.
2. Mr. Ellenburg proposed that the VTF move up to \$250,000 into CDs, which are government insured. He also explained that the maximum insured by the FDIC is \$250,000.
3. Time limits (e.g. 18 mo, 5 yr, etc) will be decided by the Finance Committee and will report back to the Board regarding decisions made.
4. Finance Committee will meet with Mr. Benoit at BB&T regarding CDs.

C. Future Speakers:

1. Those requesting grants must appear before the Board. Grants will no longer be approved until the requestor meets with the Board. If a company is requesting a second grant, they must come back before the Board to explain why they are requesting another grant.
2. Regarding potential guest speakers, name(s) with bio and purpose should be submitted to Ms. Di Chiara who will then share with the full Board. The purpose of their visit, which must pertain to veterans, will

be discussed at one meeting and an invitation to appear before the Board, if granted, will be for the following meeting.

VI. New Business:

- A. Secretary's Report: No report at this time.
- B. Treasurer's Report by Mr. Brown:
 1. Treasurer's Report was presented to and discussed with the members.
 2. 2018 has resulted in better revenues from the tax check-off.
 3. \$4,657.92 is available for contributions/donations this year.
 4. Mr. Brown reminded members that the VTF is currently paying \$10 per meter. This is for board members and presenters only. According to Mr. Metcalf, if a meter is reserved for a board member who states he/she will be attending and is then unable to, they should reimburse the VTF for that expense.
- C. Selection of Meeting Dates for 2019: A 2019 calendar was provided to each board member present and dates were selected for 2019; they are: 9 January, 13 March, 15 May, 10 July, 11 September, 13 November. Note: All meetings are subject to change (date and/or location).
- D. Committee Reports:
 1. Constitution By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee
Ms. Brunson, Chair, stated she had no report and she had not received any input from the Board members. Mr. Wilcox stated he had sent an email but would send it again.
 2. Ways & Means Committee
Mr. Wilcox, Chair, explained there are a number of actions on each subcommittee that address everything from grants to fundraising. The Ways & Means Committee will have two more conference calls before the next meeting.
 - a. Funding: See information reported in the Old Business section.
 - b. Grant Management: Currently have the following applications pending:
 - Colleton County Veterans Council has requested \$5,000 for labor and materials to erect two memorials honoring Veterans in Colleton County. A motion was introduced and passed unanimously to request a conceptual design and invite them to present in 2019. Mr. Brown will extend the invitation for them to attend the January meeting of the VTF to present their ideas.
 - It was decided to make a presentation to Dorn VA Fisher House Foundation in January 2019 of the full amount available from 2018. It was suggested and agreed to that the press would be invited.
 - Carolina Women for Change & Empowerment expressed an interest in applying for another grant, but nothing has been received as of the date of this meeting.

c. Fundraising:

- Mr. Wilcox proposed revising the letter previously sent out by Representative James Smith requesting seed money (\$1 per veteran in South Carolina). This would go out under Messrs. Hawk and Metcalf's signature and would be addressed to Representative Brian White, Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Senator Hugh Leatherman, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, and one to Governor McMaster.
- Information from Hashmark Strategies, LLC was shared with all present. Ms. Brunson explained that the SC Association of County Veterans Affairs Officers worked with Jeremy who helped them raise money. His company helped them raise \$28,000 for a fee of \$7,000. Hashmark takes care of everything. Ms. Brunson will extend an invitation for Jeremy to address the VTF in January

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

VII. Taskings and "Due Outs"

- A. Letter to Representative White, Senator Leatherman, and Governor McMaster
- B. Present check to Dorn VAMC Fisher House
- C. Invitation to present to Colleton County Veterans Council
- D. Invitation to present to Hashmark Strategies, LLC
- E. Finance Committee to meet with BB&T regarding CDs

VIII. **Identification of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board of the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina will be 9 January 2019 in Room 415, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC.

IX. **Adjournment** – the meeting adjourned.



Bevin Studstill, Secretary

01/09/2019

Date of Approval



Jim Hawk, Chair
Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina

01/09/2019

Date of Approval