



VETERANS TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Board Meeting Minutes

14 December 2022

- I. **Call to Order:** The Board Meeting of the SC Veterans' Trust Fund (VTF) was called to order at 1300, by Mr. Jim Hawk, Chairman.
- II. **Attendance:**
 - A. Present: Nancy B. Dunn, Dale Ellenburg, David E. Finley, Stephen L. Jones, Secretary Will Grimsley, Jim Hawk, Dr. Ada D. Stewart, Brenda L. Stewart, Dr. Nikki Wooten
 - B. Excused: Robin Ghent, Nick A. Mesenburg, Shawn T. Pinkston, Melvin Poole
- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from the 21 September 2022 meeting were read and approved by those in attendance.
- IV. **Remarks from Secretary Grimsley:**
 - Introduced Edward Bell, Command Sergeant Major (Retired), who replaced Candace Terry as the Director of Government Affairs. Candace has taken a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.
 - South Carolina General Assembly returns 10 January 2023.
 - SCDVA prospects in the future are good.
 - Senator Shealy prefiled legislation to slightly change the structure of the Veteran's Trust Fund. (see S.317 Veterans Trust Fund Reorganization attached) At this time, there is no House companion bill.
 - Talked with the South Carolina State Treasurer and now need to get the South Carolina Comptroller General involved. Will ask them to send a representative to the March meeting to answer questions the Board may have. There will then be a vote to decide if it will be in the best interest of the Veterans' Trust Fund to pursue this course of action.
 - Discussion regarding terms, structure, possibility of passage, and number of board members, did not specify congressionally chartered VSOs
 - Keller Kissam, with Dominion, suggested that the Veterans' Trust fund apply for a grant from Dominion.

V. Grant Requests:

A. New Grant Requests Received:

- Tranquility Point Veterans Retreat– requested \$5,000 to \$250,000
Barry and Kim Gambrell attended
Located at Lake Greenwood in Cross Hill, it's a place for reflectiveness, solitude, and self-healing for Veterans and others with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or other mental health issues.
- Celebrate Freedom Foundation – requested \$10,000
- Veterans Last Patrol – Requested \$5,000
Claude Schmid, the Founder, was unable to attend due to Covid
Started in late 2019, their mission is serving Veterans by bringing new friends to Veterans in hospice.

B. Grant Requests Carried Over:

- Upstate Carolina Adaptive Golf – requested \$5,000
- Bullets and Band-aids – requested \$10,000
- Senior Resources, Inc – requested \$10,000
- Palmetto Warrior Connection, Palmetto Goodwill – requested \$25,000
Joe Queen, Lead Career Navigator attended
Started in 2014, the Palmetto Warrior Connection offers several programs of nationally recognized certifications. This is completely online and is offered to active duty and spouses.

C. Discussion Regarding Grant Awards:

- Ms. Stewart moved that the Board omit from consideration the applications of those who had already received an award or who were of a caliber the Veterans' Trust Fund could not support. Mr. Ellenburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Stewart moved that the Board eliminate Tranquility Point Veterans Retreat as their concept was not well developed and had too many unknowns. The motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 against.
- Dr. Stewart moved that the Board grant Veterans Last Patrol request for \$5,000. Dr. Wooten seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Jones moved that the Board deny the request from Bullets and Band-aids. Mr. Finley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Jones moved that the Board deny the request from Senior Resources, Inc. Ms. Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Finley moved that the Board grant Palmetto Warrior Connection \$5,000. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Hawk moved that the Board revert the remaining \$6,311 to the general fund. Dr. Wooten seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business:

Committee Assignments: The Ad Hoc Committee met and established the following committee assignments:

Investment/Financial Strategy Committee

David Finley
Stephen Jones
Melvin Poole

Public Relations/Marketing Committee

Brenda Stewart
Shawn Pinkston
Nancy Dunn

Long-Range Planning Committee

Dr. Nikki Wooten
Dr. Ada Stewart
Nick Mesenburg

- Mr. Hawk asked if there were any questions or concerns with the above committee assignments that were emailed to all Board members on 13 November 2022 for review and comment. Dr. Wooten moved that the Veterans' Trust Fund accept the committee assignments as written above. Mr. Finley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Hawk asked that each committee elect a Chair, who will become a member of the Executive Committee. Committees should meet and be prepared to present a report at the end of the first quarter.

VII. New Business:

- A. There was no Secretary's report at this time.
- B. Treasurer's Report was reviewed with the Board. Mr. Ellenburg moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Election of Officers:
 - Mr. Hawk made the following recommendations: Dale Ellenburg as the Chairman, Melvin Poole as Vice-Chairman, and Shawn Pinkston as Parliamentarian. He then asked if there were any other nominations from the Board. Upon hearing none, Ms. Stewart moved that the nominations for officers of the Veterans' Trust Fund be

closed. All positions were voted on and positions were voted on and elected by a unanimous vote. (Note: Mr. Ellenburg abstained from voting for the Chairman's position.)

- Mr. Hawk reminded the Board that the term of service for these positions is two years.

D. The following dates were proposed for Fiscal Year 2023:

15 March 2023

14 June 2023

20 September 2023

6 December 2023

- At this time, all meetings will be held in the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs Training Room at 1800 Saint Julian Place, Suite 305, Columbia 29204, at 1300, unless otherwise announced. Mr. Finley moved that the Board accept the location, dates, and times. Mr. Ellenburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Grant Guidelines:

- Mr. Hawk proposed the following change in grant guidelines:
 - January through June – all grants received
 - July – legal reviews of grant requests
 - September – grant seekers will be invited to appear before the Board to explain their request and to answer questions the Board may have
 - December – grants awarded
- Types of grants were discussed: infrastructure (e.g. memorials, etc.) and services to Veterans (assistance).
- Dr. Wooten explained that the VTF needed to be specific about what will be funded, need to set eligibility guidelines.

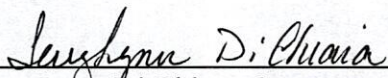
F. Bylaws:

Mr. Hawk sent out the following proposed amendments to the by-laws via email:

- **ARTICLE VII:** Remove Secretary and Treasurer from 7.01 and add a new paragraph stating that the SC Department of Veterans' Affairs will provide staff for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer.
Dr. Wooten moved that the Board accept the proposed amendments. Mr. Finley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **ARTICLE XIII, 13.04:** Delete the phrase "ad hoc."
Mr. Finley moved that the Board accept the proposed amendments. Ms. Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **ARTICLE XIII, 13.05:** Delete the phrase "ad hoc committee."
Ms. Stewart moved that the Board accept the proposed amendments. Mr. Finley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

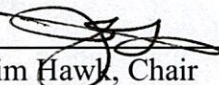
VIII. Identification of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina will be at 1300 on 15 March 2023 at SCDVA at 1800 Saint Julian Place, Suite 305, Columbia, SC 29204

IX. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned.



TerryLynn Di Chiara, Secretary

15 MAR 2023
Date of Approval



Jim Hawk, Chair
Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina

15 MAR 2023
Date of Approval