



VETERANS TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Board Meeting Minutes

18 July 2018

- I. **Call to Order:** The Board Meeting of the SC Veterans' Trust Fund (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 White, James Brown, Valerie Brunson, Dale Ellenburg, Gloria Evans, Jimmy Hawk, Howard Metcalf, Ronnie Taylor, John D. "JD" Wilcox, Jr.
 2. Absent: Robin Ghent, Calvin Lewis, Jim Lorraine, Chris Maddox, Bevin Studstill
 3. Quorum was present.

- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from the 16 May 2018 meeting were read and approved by those in attendance.

- IV. **Guest Speaker:** Paul Oliver with Operation Heal Our Patriots (<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/about-operation-heal-our-patriots/>)
Operation Heal Our Patriots gives wounded veterans and their spouses the opportunity for spiritual refreshment, physical renewal, and marriage enrichment. Couples participate in Biblically based seminars that help strengthen their relationships with God and others and enjoy the beauty of god's creation with outdoor activities at their Alaskan wilderness lodge. They continue to support these men and women after their initial stay, keeping their spiritual needs and marriages a priority.
 - A. The cost is approximately \$10,000 per couple and they work with ten couples at a time. All expenses are covered by Operation Heal Our Patriots. They also have reunions once a year for a weekend.
 - B. Each couple has their own cabin, there is a chef on site, and it is not a strictly regimented program.

- C. Activities include fly fishing, watching bears catch salmon, and hiking. They have all terrain wheelchairs for those who need them.
- D. Mr. Oliver asked that the Veterans' Trust Fund help get the word out to veterans who may be interested. Mr. Metcalf stated a link to this organization would be put on the SC Division of Veterans' Affairs website.
- E. Mr. Metcalf also informed Mr. Oliver that WIS TV has a Year of the Veteran series and suggested that he reach out to them so they could help get the word out about the program
- F. Mr. Oliver asked that veterans interested in participating in this program add his name to the application.

V. Old Business:

- A. Ways & Means Committee (WMC), Mr. Wilcox passed out a flow chart showing functions:
 - 1. There are three functions, which came out of the bylaws: funding, grant, and public relations
 - 2. There have been two conference calls and a meeting that was held before the board met today.
 - 3. 1st conference call: discussed the three functions
 - 4. 2nd conference call: Mr. Ellenburg brought up an interesting point regarding the name 'Ways & Means Committee' – in the financial arena this indicates budgets and financial income
 - 5. Meeting held at 12:30 p.m. today: discussed a draft to include these same function, but change the names a little; going to meet again to work on this; plan to have a final proposal to present to the board at the meeting in September
 - 6. Mr. Hawk reminded all present that the name 'Ways & Means Committee' was proposed at the May Board meeting and was approved by all in attendance. There was a lot of overlap between the committees at that time. Should review the bylaws periodically, at least every five years, to make sure committees are in compliance. The exception to five years would be if something was needed sooner. He stated that the functions of a committee don't change, just the characters.
 - 7. Mr. Wilcox suggested an alternative name to 'Ways & Means Committee'.
- B. Constitutional By-Laws:
 - 1. Mr. Metcalf asked that suggestions on changes to the bylaws be turned in to Ms. Brunson.
 - 2. The Committee overseeing any changes to the bylaws is an Ad Hoc committee.

VI. New Business:

- A. Secretary's Report: No report at this time.
1. A copy of the thank you and pictures from the Lexington County Blowfish event was shared with those present.
- B. Treasurer's Report by Mr. Brown: Treasurer's Report was presented to the members.
1. Last year was the lowest year of receipts from the tax check-off.
 2. \$4,657.92 is available for contributions/donations this year.
 3. The Finance Committee has been trying to find ways to increase revenue. It took twenty-one years to get to this point, but need to look at ways to invest money to make money. The Finance Committee has made several recommendations, but need approval to increase revenue. Increasing revenue will be a three-prong approach: investment, seed money from the General Assembly, asking that the Governor include \$1 per veteran in his budget, which would take it to \$1 million.
 4. It was noted that \$1,000 in unused funds were returned from the Freedom and Hope Foundation.
- C. 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.
 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: The VTF has received seven-eight investment proposals, each one was asked to answer seven questions. A spreadsheet/table will be prepared to rate the proposals and provided to each Board member. Mr. Brown informed the Board that the amount proposed to invest at this time is \$500,000. Mr. Metcalf asked that the information be prepared and provided to all Board members prior to the September meeting so they would be prepared to vote at that time.
 - b. Grant Management: Have received one application and expect to have another one soon.
 - 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 sketch of the proposed monuments.
 - A grant request should be coming soon from the Dorn VA Fisher House Foundation.

- c. Fundraising: There was discussion about ways to let everyone know about the VTF. The website, which is maintained by the state, needs to be updated. Need to recognize those who have received funds from the VTF. Ms. Brunson also suggested creating a Facebook page, which would be free and maintained by the VTF.

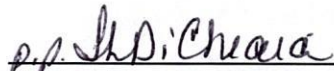
3. Public Relations/Marketing Committee: No report at this time.

VII. Taskings and "Due Outs"

- A. Finalize Ways & Means Committee
- B. Ad Hoc Committee to present update to by-laws at next meeting
- C. Investment policy finalized
- D. Additional public relations (FB or web)
- E. Grant requests finalized

VIII. Identification of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina will be 19 September 2018 in Room 415, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC.


IX. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned.



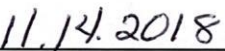
Bevin Studstill, Secretary



Date of Approval



Jim Hawk, Chair
Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina



Date of Approval