



## VETERANS' TRUST FUND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### Board Meeting Minutes

11 September 2019

- I. **Call to Order:** The Board Meeting of the SC Veterans' Trust Fund (VTF) was called to order at 1:00PM, by Mr. Jim Hawk, Chairman.
  
- II. **Attendance:**
  - A. Present: Dale Ellenburg, Gloria Evans, Jim Hawk, Robin Ghent, Howard Metcalf, Chris Maddox, Bevin Studstill, Ronnie Taylor, James White, John D. "JD" Wilcox, Jr.
  - B. Absent: James Brown, Valerie Brunson, Jim Lorraine
  - C. Guests: Upstate Warrior Solution, Inc.; Colleton County Veterans Council
  
- III. **Minutes:** Minutes from the 10 July 2019 Meeting were read and approved by those in attendance.
  
- IV. **Old Business:**

VTF Facebook (FB) Page: Ms. Ghent explained the cost of advertising on FB: \$1/day to reach 300 people, \$3/day to reach 600, \$15/day to reach 5,000. Explained that you can choose the days you want it to run; filters only allow certain people to post. This gets people to follow the VTF. Can choose age group you want to target but would need to figure out who the target is. Mr. Hawk stated it would be up to the VTF how to proceed. Ms. Ghent is to present a budget. Mr. Maddox suggested a trial run.
  
- V. **Guests:**
  - A. Colleton County Veterans Council: Board members presented representative with a check for \$5,000, which was awarded for a monument.
  - B. Upstate Warrior Solution: Charlie Hall and Theresa Thompson made a presentation on behalf of Upstate Warrior Solution.
    1. Mr. Hall stated Jim Lorraine helped get the seed money; trying to create a one-stop-shop; currently serving five counties; 75% of their time is with veterans and families; have MOUs with Commission on Higher Education;

- receive referral from CBOCs, VA Social Workers; currently have two veterans courts in the Upstate and hope to start another one soon in Anderson; assists 100-150 new veterans per month; have a Fellowship Program that is a 9-month transition program; spend 20 hours a week with them; have career development and internships
2. Ms. Thompson stated they work with law enforcement in the Upstate. Need to get in front of the ball to keep them from harm; currently have a 90% success rate; have great community members; have a one-day workshop per month; teach networking, public speaking; they are proactive with over 100 veterans per month; have a \$1,200 stipend paid to fellows; North American Rescue is involved with them; for veterans 30% or higher having problems transitioning; some people are really struggling regarding what to do, most are in the 20-30 age group
  3. Mr. Hall: If their request is funded, the monies would go directly to Greenville County. They have a strong relationship with Alan Dabney while he was with the SC National Guard. Will have a Fellow in Mr. Dabney's office part-time.
  4. Discussion with Mr. Hall: Mr. Ellenburg asked about suicide training sessions – 22 suicides a day is too high. Mr. Hall advised that Ken Koon in the Trainer. Coroners are opening their doors to help get a better idea of the actual number of suicides; could be in the 30s. There is a five-year study to get a better idea of the actual number of suicides. Upstate is a hotspot for suicides. Mr. Taylor said any number is too high.
  5. Discussion regarding their grant request: Ms. Ghent: partnering with them would be good. Mr. Studstill: \$3,000 was not going to make a dent. Mr. Wilcox: not going to make a decision at this time; will make recommendation in November. Motion: Mr. Wilcox moved to have the Ways & Means Committee bring their recommendation to the November meeting. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

## VI. New Business:

- A. Secretary's Report: No report at this time.
- B. Treasurer's Report was presented to the members.
- C. Committee Reports:
  1. Constitution By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee: Need to determine what grants will be considered in the future.
  2. Ways & Means Committee:
    - a. Funding:
      - i. A total of \$500,000 has been invested in CDs and appears to be producing.
    - b. Grant Management:
      - i. Colleton County Veterans Council: Their request for \$5,000 has been presented.
      - ii. Fisher House: The balance of \$5,342.08 will be awarded bringing the total donation from the VTF to the Fisher House to \$10,000. Check has not been presented at this time.
      - iii. Upstate Warrior Solutions, Inc.: Made presentation; pending recommendation from the Ways & Means Committee

- iv. ForcesUnited: This was tabled last time. Messrs. Maddox and Taylor did not support a donation to this group.
  - c. Fundraising: Mr. Wilcox mentioned requesting seed monies from the SC General Assembly and that he has reached out to Senator Shane Martin and Representative Bobby Cox. Mr. Wilcox has a small piece of land in Union County - 50ft x 50ft – that he is looking at putting a 10x20, 30ft high, billboard on and has offered the VTF access to one side
3. Public Relations/Marketing Committee:  
There are a lot of things coming up in the community where having a banner and/or literature would be nice to have. Need to discuss an advertising budget to meet these possible opportunities. Also, might need a body to sit in a chair and tell people about the VTF.  
Mr. Hawk asked about a booth at the SC State Fair to pass out information about the VTF. Ms. Ghent said that would fall under an advertising budget. Mr. Wilcox reminded everyone something like this would be an obligation as fairs operate all day long, all week long, and that several people would be needed.

**VII. Taskings and “Due Outs”**

- A. Facebook budget proposal
- B. Upstate Warrior Solution recommendation
- C. ForcesUnited recommendation
- D. Determine what grants should be considered in the future.

**VIII. Adjournment.**

The 11 September 2019 meeting of the Veterans’ Trust Fund of South Carolina adjourned with a reminder the next meeting would begin at 1:00 P.M. on 13 November 2019 in room 415 of the Edgar A. Brown Building.

pp Jhd:Quaia  
Bevin Studstill, Secretary

18 November 2019  
Date of Approval

[Signature]  
Jim Hawk, Chair

11/13/2019  
Date of Approval