



Present: Mr. Joe Higgins, Chair
Ms. Samantha Brown-Parks, Secretary
Mr. Alan Danzig, Member
Mr. Andy Hilmes, Member
Mr. Kevin Loncher, Member
Mr. Bob McMahon, Member
Mr. John Phillips, Member
Mr. Destry Rogers, Member
Ms. Patricia Ross, Commissioner
Ms. Shelley Seinberg, Attorney General's Office
Ms. Amy Sillmon, Attorney General's Office
Ms. Jarelle Thompson, Foundation CEO, Homeless Coordinator, GDVS
Ms. Raven Holstick, Foundation COO, Transition and Employment Coordinator, GDVS
Ms. Julie Hammond, Foundation CFO, Commissioner's Executive Assistant, GDVS
Ms. Camala Ball, Budget Analyst, GDVS

On Thursday, November 13, 2025, the Veterans Service Foundation Board meeting was held by video/tele-conference. The members and visitors listed above were present.

Mr. Higgins called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Mr. McMahon made a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting, which were previously distributed to members to review. Mr. Loncher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OFFICER REPORTS

Ms. Thompson reported that she was able to assist an 80-year-old veteran in need of housing and asked if anyone knew of someone in the community who would be interested in donating toward the expense of a small storage unit to move her belongings to.

Ms. Holstick reported that she was able to assist a veteran by using designated funds to purchase a tablet.

Ms. Hammond stated that she had sent out the report below for members to review before the meeting. There were no questions.

The funds in the accounts are allocated as follows:

General Funds	\$38,800.49
Annual Training	\$ 171.42
Homelessness	\$ 106.21
New Homes	\$ 1,025.00
State Benefit Book Ads	\$ 59.23
Suicide Prevention Hardware	\$ 1,383.06
Suicide Prevention Summit	\$ 3,299.47
<u>Women & Diversity</u>	<u>\$ 314.53</u>
TOTAL	\$45,159.41

DIRECTOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

Mr. Loncher reported that he was contacted by a local church about a veteran with three children whose house burned down. They need a place to stay. The family shelter there is full at the moment. He can't put a man and three children in a typical shelter. He asked if anyone had any ideas on helping this veteran. Mr. Rogers asked if he would be willing to relocate. Commissioner Ross stated that she would speak with Ms. Thompson, GDVS' Homeless Coordinator.

Mr. McMahon reported on the Veterans Day activities he was a part of in Middle Georgia, including a 5K run, parade and golf tournament. The Cherry Blossom Festival will once again be sending a \$5,000 donation to the Foundation. He also announced that he and Commissioner Ross had just finished Eggs and Issues in Warner Robins.

Mr. Rogers reported that he served on a selection panel for Congressman Collins for the service academies. He also expressed a desire to discuss how we can link all the resources we have statewide and how to let people know the best way to donate to the Foundation. Commissioner Ross stated that the state benefits book lists lots of resources. She also explained that Ms. May is working on a trifold to identify the ways to give and can create a QR code that everyone can use to link people to the donation page.

Mr. Higgins reported that the focus for their Veterans Day activities was women who served. Commissioner Ross was the guest speaker at the Gala in Savannah.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Danzig reported that he plans to meet with his local sheriff to see if the fee for a raffle could be waived, with the hope that his sheriff will contact the Fulton County sheriff and ask. He will pursue it if everyone agrees, which they did.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Brown-Parks announced that she will be stepping down as secretary and as a Board member due to another opportunity.

Mr. Danzig announced that Nov. 23, his American Legion Post will be partnering with Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association to feed homeless veterans.

Mr. Hilmes announced that Fort Benning's Commander General now has a new hat that gives him acquisition authority because of the recent reorganization. He has also been helping with the installation of a new AI data center. Fort Benning is on the short list to host a center. Mr. McMahon expressed interest in speaking with Mr. Hilmes about this.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Higgins announced that next month the Board will hold elections for officers for 2026, including Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Ms. Brown-Parks made a motion to reimburse Commissioner Ross \$239.76 for a payment she made for the Foundation's website fees. Mr. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Higgins made a motion for the Foundation to put a page in the next publication of the benefits booklet. Mr. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was then a discussion on how to decide what goes on the page. Commissioner Ross, the CEO, and COO will mockup a proof and send it to Mr. Higgins to get the Board's input, edits and approval.

Commissioner Ross shared a screenshot of the HereNOW Help app information (see attached). This is a mental wellness app to help veterans experiencing anxiety, stress, or needing encouragement. They can connect to others for group chat. It is monitored 24/7 with access to a licensed counselor if needed. The limit of veterans who can sign up in Georgia is 50,000 due to a limitation in staff. They want to make sure enough staff are available to service the veterans who sign up.

Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Minutes - Veterans Service Foundation Board Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia


Mr. Higgins announced that the next meeting will be on December 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Higgins adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

SIGNED:


Joe Higgins, Chair

ATTEST:


Samantha Brown-Parks, Secretary

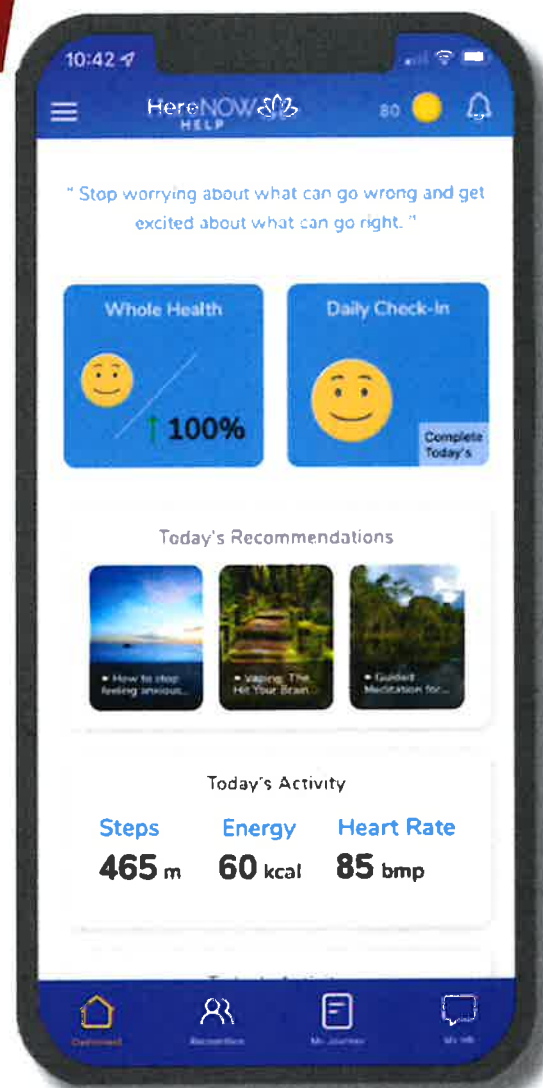


Mental wellness, in the palm of your hand.

The GDVS is partnering with **Here Now Help** to engage and empower veterans to better understand and improve their mental well-being through a free, accessible app.

Check in with mental health professionals 24/7, set personal goals, chat with your fellow veterans, and more!

This free tool is available now to Georgia's veterans using access code 241442.



Learn more at
<https://herenowhelp.com/veterans/>

