



Present Ms. Meredith Magnus, Chair
 Mr. Wyatt Batchelor, Vice Chair
 Mr. Chuck Roberts, Treasurer
 Ms. Samantha Brown-Parks, Secretary
 Mr. David Goode, Member
 Ms. Vivian Greentree, Member
 Mr. Joe Higgins, Member
 Mr. Kevin Loncher, Member
 Mr. Bob McMahon, Member
 Mr. Rick White, Member
 Ms. Patricia Ross, Commissioner
 Mr. Mark Demers, Foundation CEO, Grants Implementation Manager, GDVS
 Mr. Russell Feagin, Executive Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS
 Mr. Kerry Dyer, Foundation COO, Chief Operations Officer, GDVS
 Ms. Camala Ball, Budget Analyst, GDVS
 Ms. Charlotte May, Director, Public Information and External Affairs, GDVS
 Ms. Julie Hammond, Foundation CFO, Commissioner's Executive Assistant, GDVS

On Thursday, September 12, 2024, the Veterans Service Foundation Board meeting was held in person and by video/tele-conference.

Joe Higgins called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Everyone was introduced.

Mr. Batchelor made a motion to approve the August minutes. Ms. Magnus seconded the motion. The motion passed.

REPORT ON STATUS OF FUNDING:

The funds in the account are allocated as follows:

General Funds	\$36,839.80
Homelessness	\$ 9.41
Suicide Prevention Hardware	\$ 1,700.00
Suicide Prevention Summit	\$52,300.00
Women & Diversity	\$ 1,124.72
TOTAL	\$91,973.93

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Higgins announced the election of officers for the new year. Mr. Batchelor nominated Ms. Magnus to serve as Chair. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. Ms. Magnus accepted the nomination. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Higgins turned the remainder of the meeting over to Ms. Magnus to lead.

Ms. Magnus nominated Mr. Batchelor to serve as Vice Chair. Ms. Brown-Parks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and Mr. Batchelor accepted the position.

Ms. Magnus nominated Mr. Roberts to serve as Treasurer. Mr. Batchelor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Roberts accepted the position.

Ms. Magnus asked if anyone was interested in serving as Secretary. Ms. Brown-Parks agreed to continue in the position if no one else was interested. Mr. Roberts nominated Ms. Brown-Parks to serve as Secretary. Mr. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dyer gave an update on the D&O insurance policy as follows: We are waiting for the policy and invoice to be sent to us, which should happen by the end of next week.

Commissioner Ross gave an update on the policies to be signed by each Board member as follows: We have the policies that were used by another organization for their Foundation, and we are tailoring them for our purposes. The plan is to have them ready next week for review by the Foundation Board members with any edits. We will then finalize them and send them out for signatures.

Ms. Magnus asked if thank you notes had gone out to the attendees of the Governor's event in Atlanta. Mr. Batchelor stated that he would provide the list to Ms. Brown-Parks and generate the contents of the notes. Ms. Brown-Parks will be sending out thank you notes to donors as part of the responsibility as Foundation Secretary.

Ms. Magnus asked for an update on the strategic planning session with Dr. Moore. Commissioner Ross announced that the meeting will be on September 27 from 1:00-3:00 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Magnus asked for an update on the nursing homes and cemeteries. Commissioner Ross stated that we have received a VA grant for both cemeteries. The Milledgeville Cemetery has received its fourth expansion grant, which will allow for enough space for the next 10 years. The Glennville Cemetery received its first expansion grant, which will also cover us for the next 10 years.

Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Minutes - Veterans Service Foundation Board Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

Veterans Service Board Chair Josh Kopsie sent out talking points for the War Veterans Home and these have been provided to all Board members (see attached).

Commissioner Ross explained that she will be meeting with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget on Friday, September 13 as part of our annual budget submission. The key talking point will be the fact that the home hasn't received an increase in the last 11 years, even though health care costs have risen. We will also discuss the opening of the sub-acute therapy unit. The third item will be raises for our agency, since our department is still well below the average paid for positions.

Ms. Magnus discussed Cruising for a Cause, a small organization out of Adel, GA that is wanting to support us in fundraising. Mr. Demers reviewed the business and found out that they do not have a license to operate in Georgia. Based on that information, Ms. Brown-Parks as Foundation Secretary was asked to respond to them in writing that we will table this issue until we receive more information specific to their licensing.

Ms. Magnus announced that Linda Sackett has volunteered to help the Board with fundraising proposals specific to major donors.

Mr. McMahon questioned whether or not a target list has been created. Ms. Magnus answered that she has a list and is waiting for other Board members to add to it. A discussion ensued regarding the creation of a target list. Mentioned were large corporations (i.e. Coca-Cola, Georgia Power, Home Depot), churches, defense contractors, banks, car dealerships, veteran service organizations, Springer Farms (contact of Steve Mendez), and musicians/celebrities (i.e. Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean, Zach Brown, Shaquille O'Neal and Charles Barkley). Mr. Goode looked up Fortune 500 and Fortune 1000 companies and will share a Google doc with everyone so that the list can be expanded. Mr. Loncher added that all names of potential donors can be added to this document by each Foundation Board member.

Mr. Loncher asked about organizations that have previously donated large amounts to the Foundation. There have been Amazon (designated to the Women's Gala), Papa Johns (a start-up donation of \$10,000) and a grant from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (designated to the Suicide Prevention Summit).

Mr. Loncher asked if there is marketing material that lists benefits of donating (i.e. diamond level, honor sponsor). Mr. Batchelor mentioned something he and Commissioner Ross put together about a year ago. Commissioner Ross offered to send that document out to the Board members. She also introduced Ms. May as our graphic designer and said that we can develop a document once the strategic plan has been created.

Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Minutes - Veterans Service Foundation Board Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. McMahon asked about mixing private and public funds and if there is a legal issue. Commissioner Ross stated that there is no issue to do this. We can mix the funds we raise with state funds allocated to us for construction of a new home.

Ms. Magnus asked about the possibility of accepting in-kind donations. Commissioner Ross answered that we can accept in-kind donations and provide a letter to the donor. It's trickier in accepting construction materials as donations because the contractor will be in charge of materials they purchase and use.

Ms. Magnus brought up the possibility of creating chapters (i.e. Friends of the Georgia Veterans Nursing Homes). These chapters could work locally to disperse information about the homes and cemeteries to try to gain donations. These chapters could hold annual fundraisers. Mr. Batchelor agreed this is a great idea because local expertise aids in knowing who the large donors can be. He agreed to head this up as one of his responsibilities as Vice Chair.

Mr. Roberts asked how many American Legion Posts there are in Georgia and if we could ask them for donations. Mr. Demers answered that there are over 200. Some Posts are wealthy and others are not. Mr. Loncher stated that there are 288 American Legion Posts. Ms. Brown-Parks mentioned that they are broken down into 12 districts and that the chapters created by the Foundation could align the same way.

Mr. White brought up the VFW Posts and that an idea is to request a pledge per year per chapter. This could be asked of other Veteran Service Organizations also. These pledges would add up over time, even for the smaller groups. Mr. Roberts agreed that having the grassroots donors is a good idea. Mr. White agreed to work with Mr. Batchelor to coordinate and assist him with the project of the chapters. He plans to enlist the assistance of Tommy Clack to get a list of organizations and also to put together a sample letter saying what we're trying to do and asking for a pledge.

Mr. Higgins stated that the American Legion and VFW groups have quarterly meetings. He mentioned the possibility of getting before these groups during their meetings to request donations. Mr. Roberts stated that he would be glad to speak at the group meetings.

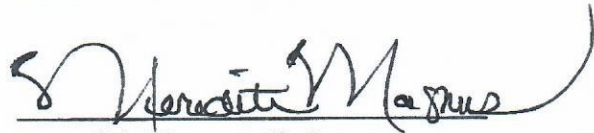
Ms. Magnus asked Mr. Higgins if he had a conversation with Mr. Mendez from the Veterans Service Board regarding Springer Farms, a company that has expressed interest in donating. It was agreed that the company would be added to the list and Mr. Mendez would be asked to assist in contacting them.

Ms. Magnus suggested monthly meetings instead of quarterly meetings. Everyone agreed. The meetings will be scheduled on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Minutes - Veterans Service Foundation Board Meeting
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Ms. Magnus made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Goode seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:58 a.m.

SIGNED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meredith Magnus", written over a horizontal line.

Meredith Magnus, Chair