

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 12:30 p.m.
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

Present Ms. Patricia Ross, Chairman
By Phone: Mr. Thom Mash, Vice Chair
Ms. Takosha Swan, Secretary
Mr. John Kubinec, Member
Mr. Dan Cravey, Member
Mr. Shawn Hanley, Member
Mr. Eddie Whitted, Member
Mr. Mike Roby, Commissioner

Visitors: Mr. George Canavaggio, Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations & Appeals, GDVS
Present by Mr. Mark Bannister, Assistant Commissioner, Administration, Health & Memorials
Phone: Mr. Kerry Dyer, Director, Operations Division, GDVS
Ms. Catherine Graeber, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Mr. Brian Kolb, Attorney General's Office
Mr. Vince Pritchett, Director, Veterans Benefits South Region, GDVS
Mr. Dale Bell, Director, Veterans Benefits North Region, GDVS
Ms. Ramona Roper, Director, Training and Professional Development, GDVS
Mr. Bob Norman, Training and Professional Development, GDVS
Ms. Shelly Ann Simpson, Director, Appeals Division, GDVS
Mr. Eddie Asberry, Commander, American Legion, Department of Georgia
Ms. Carolyn Small, State Commander, DAV, Department of Georgia
Ms. Belinda Beldoe, VFW Service Officer, Appeals Division, GDVS
Mr. Carlton Deese, Executive Director Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home
Ms. Tonya Jarrett, Clinical Director, GWVH, Milledgeville, GA
Mr. Russell Feagin, Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS
Mr. Phil Youngblood, American Legion
Mr. Dan Holtz, Secretary, GMOAA
Ms. Charlotte May, Director, Public Information Division, GDVS
Ms. Veda Brooks, Director of Women Veterans Office, GDVS
Mr. Bobby Davis, Director, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Mr. Drew Craig, Veterans Experience
Ms. Dee Dawcey, Grand Canyon University, Guest
Mr. Dennis Harris, Guest
Ms. Debbie Gregory, Administrative Specialist
Ms. Mary Aukerman, Confidential Secretary to Commissioner Mike Roby, GDVS

On Wednesday, March 24, 2021, the Veterans Service Board meeting was held by video/tele-conference.

Ms. Ross called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

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Mr. Whitted gave the invocation. Ms. Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Ms. Ross welcomed the guests and performed a "roll call" of people listed above.

Mr. Cravey made a motion to approve the March Agenda. Mr. Mash seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Mr. Hanley made a motion to approve the February minutes, which were previously distributed for members to review. Mr. Whitted seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

The following reports were submitted from the Veteran Service Organizations:

Ms. Amy Stevens, Georgia Military Women and VetLanta:

Georgia Military Women held numerous on-line and in person socially distanced events. At least 3500 women actively participated in some activity over the past month. Membership has grown to 4100 women from all over Georgia. A highlight of the month is the launch of the GMW Military Women's Choir. Two organizational meetings were held and about 100 women have indicated interest. Plans are being made for rehearsal locations. Featured singers and soloists are being auditioned. The group already has an invitation to sing in Washington DC at the Women's Memorial once the group is fully organized. The group will also be able to respond to requests for National Anthem Singers when needed.

Events in the past month for VETLANTA included collaboration with the Warrior Alliance for an on-line Social Justice Forum. There was also a 1st year anniversary on-line panel for VETS-TALK, a podcast featuring Georgia Veterans. The Q1 VETLANTA Summit was held on-line on February 24th featuring Medal of Honor recipient Army CPT Flo Groberg.

Personal note: I received the Yellow Rose Award recognizing servant leaders at the State Capital on March 16th from the State Legislators Women's Caucus. I was nominated by State Senator Kay Kirkpatrick.

State Commander Eddie Asberry, American Legion:

American Legion Post 516, McDonough recently organized bottled water drive for victims of Texas flooding. Two tractor trailers of water were collected and driven to Texas, District Commander.

There has been a slight decrease in COVID related cases, but Posts have been doing their best to either meeting virtually or, if in person using all safety protocols. There are Posts that are continuing with Bingo operations and are observing all COVID 19 safety guidelines from State of Georgia, GBI

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and Department. Throughout the state, a number of members have received the COVID 19 vaccine, so Posts are looking forward to reopening and holding events again.

Blood Drive: The 12th District – American Legion Post 335 reporting that 40 units was collected.

Honor Guard Activities: The 12th District reported their honor guard performed 14 military honor funerals. They also retired 200 plus American flags. Padgett-Weber Post 27 in Dublin held their annual flag retirement ceremony, with the Girls Scouts performing the honors.

Buddy Checks to members are conducted to check on their health and welfare.

The Legion Riders also have limited activities.

Mr. Mark Demers, Department Service Officer, American Legion:

- The Department Service Officer attended American Legion “Training Tuesday” event on February 23, 2021 at 1900.
- The Department Service Officer attended the Atlanta VA VSO/Director Quarterly meeting on February 25, 2021 at 1300.
- The Department Service Officer attended the American Legion DSO School on March 8-26, 2021.
- The Assistant Department Service Officer (Ed Kent) assisted 10 veterans with VA benefits related inquires this month.
- The Assistant Department Service Officer (Ed Kent) attended the American Legion National VA&R Committee meeting on March 2, 2021 where he assisted in passing 2 resolutions.

Ms. Belinda Beldoe, VFW:

- The Department Service Officer hosted a VFW GA Post Service Officer – Make-up training course via Zoom training held on February 17, 2021 from 6PM-7PM.
- The Department Service Officer hosted a VFW GA Post Service Officer – Make-up training course via Zoom training held on February 18, 2021 from 6PM-7PM.
- The Department Service Officer attended the GA Veteran of Foreign Wars Department via Zoom meeting held on February 23, 2021 at 7PM.

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- The Department Service Officer attended the GA Coalition of One Zoom meeting held on February 24, 2021 at 10AM.
- The Department Service Officer attended an Atlanta VBA Regional Office Directors/VSO Quarterly with Acting Directors Angela Seelhammer, Patrick Zondervan and Staff on VA benefit programs to include compensation, veteran readiness and employment, loan guaranty and education held on February 25, 2021 at 1PM.
- The Department Service Officer attended the Women Veteran Summit hosted by AARP and Dr. Tincie Lynch held on March 03, 2021 from 10AM – 12PM.
- The Department Service Officer attended the GA Veteran of Foreign Wars Department via Zoom meeting held on March 09, 2021 at 7PM.

Chairman Ross asked for the Commissioners report.

Commissioner Roby stated that we were very busy with town hall meetings and other things. He said the Employee of the Quarter was Ms. Kimberly Williams who passed away from Covid in January and worked in our Appeals Office. Commissioner said there is one more town hall meeting this Friday. He informed Sine and Die was March 31st for the legislature.

Mr. Shawn Hanley said he had a vaccine question. Why are 10% of the veterans in the homes not vaccinated and why are all health care workers not vaccinated? They need it but not wanting to take it. Mr. Hanley said it is risky for a health care worker who hasn't been vaccinated with a veteran who hasn't been vaccinated.

Commissioner met with Senator Kay Kirkpatrick and stated House Bills #338 and #68 both passed concerning Veterans Drivers' license and extended the time to apply for the license up to two years.

Commissioner Roby stated Ron Cason from GDVS Veterans Training Division is going to the Athens Office on April 1st as the Manager.

Commissioner Mike Roby, Georgia Department of Veterans Service:

On Wednesday, February 24, 2021, Commissioner Roby held a town hall meeting with the field offices.

On Thursday, February 25, 2021, Commissioner Roby attended a virtual NASDVA meeting.

On Friday, February 26, 2021, Commissioner Roby held another town hall meeting with the field offices.

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On Monday, March 1, 2021, Commissioner Roby held another town hall meeting with the field offices.

On Monday, March 1, 2021, Colonel Baker from the Georgia National Guard met with Commissioner Roby at 1:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 2, 2021, Commissioner Roby, Assistant Commissioners George Canavaggio, Mark Bannister, Director of Operations, Kerry Dyer, South Georgia Regional Director, Vince Pritchett and Office Manager, Sandra Bennett looked at office space in Columbus, Georgia.

On Wednesday, March 3, 2021, Commissioner Roby met with Senator Kay Kirkpatrick regarding two house bills.

On Friday, March 5, 2021, Commissioner Roby held a Directors meeting at 9:00 a.m.

On Tuesday, March 9, 2021, Commissioner Roby held a town hall meeting with Central Office.

On Tuesday, March 9, 2021, Commissioner Roby briefed Senator Watson, Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Human Development Commission, regarding 2022 budget.

On Tuesday, March 9, 2021, the Korean Consul General donated 10,000 Covid-19 masks in a small ceremony in the Pete Wheeler Plaza.

On Thursday, March 11, 2021, Commissioner Roby attended a VA VSO virtual meeting at 1:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 16, 2021, Commissioner Roby, Kerry Dyer and Mark Bannister travelled to Milledgeville for a site visit and to deliver the masks donated by the Korean Counsel.

On Wednesday, March 17, 2021, Commissioner Roby attended the Returning Veterans Task Force virtual meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Assistant Commissioner George Canavaggio, Field Operations and Appeals:

GENERAL

- On March 9, 2021 Assistant Commissioner George Canavaggio, Commissioner Mike Roby, Assistant Commissioner Mark Bannister, and Director of Operations Kerry Dyer attended a small ceremony at the Pete Wheeler Georgia War Veterans Memorial Plaza, with the Korean Consul General, who donated 10,000 masks to the Georgia Department of Veterans Service.

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- On March 17, 2021, Assistant Commissioner George Canavaggio conducted a WebEx meeting of the Returning Veterans Task Force.
- Welcome Home Letters:
 - 22 Welcome Home Letters were mailed out in February 2021.
- Department Electronic Claim's Assistance Processing System (Vetra Spec) currently 303,817 entries, this is an increase of 1,376 from February 23, 2021.

PROJECTED POSITIONS

- Current openings: Appeals, Waycross, Decatur CBOC, Athens, Columbus.

Veda Brooks, Women Veterans Coordinator (WVC)

- February 24, 2021 Ms. Brooks participated in the Crisis Intercept Mapping, VETLANTA Q1 Summit, and spoke with 10 veterans.
- February 25, 2021 Ms. Brooks participated in the Mental Health Crisis: Outreach Wellness Learning Webinar and spoke with 10 veterans.
- February 26, 2021 Ms. Brooks spoke with 16 veterans and had a planning meeting with the Update-Coweta Giving to Heroes.
- March 1, 2021 Ms. Brooks spoke with 9 veterans, participated in the RAND Web-Based Session, and had a BVA Hearing with a veteran.
- March 2, 2021 Ms. Brooks spoke with 20 veterans.
- March 3, 2021 Ms. Brooks spoke with 8 veterans, participated in the AARP Online Virtual Women Veteran Summit "It's a New Day, It's a New Dawn...with Clarity, Communication and Connection".
- March 4, 2021 Ms. Brooks spoke with 12 veterans.
- March 5, 2021 Ms. Brooks spoke with 7 veterans.
- March 8, 2021 Ms. Brooks participated in an online Summit Family YMCA/Cookerly, and SSVF Shared Geography and spoke with 5 veterans.
- March 9, 2021 Ms. Brooks spoke with 12 veterans and participated in planning meeting with the Update-Coweta Giving to Heroes.
- March 10, 2021 Ms. Brooks participated in online Women Veterans Health Committee Monthly Meeting and spoke with 9 veterans.
- March 11, 2021 Ms. Brooks participated in online Veterans' Resource Collaborative Coweta Veteran and Veteran Service Organization Meeting and spoke with 7 veterans.
- March 12, 2021 Ms. Brooks participated in Connecting Women Veterans to Resources and spoke with 6 veterans.
- March 15, 2021 Ms. Brooks participated in *The Governor's Challenge and Mayor's Challenge Team Lead Cal*, and Minister & Leaders Lunch for Coweta County and spoke with 7 Veterans.

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- March 16, 2021 Ms. Brooks participated in a virtual coffee with mentors and Coweta County Family Collaborative.
- March 17, 2021 Ms. Brooks had a BVA Hearing with a veteran, held a meeting with Feeding GA Families.

Current committees

- Women's Veterans Health Committee (monthly meetings and joint outreach events)
- Georgia State VFW Homeless Committee
- VA/SAMHSA Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Georgia Team

Ramona Roper, Training and Professional Development Division:

- February 15, 2021, the Mentoring Program was started this day with 14 participants.
- February 15, 2021-present, Ron Cason and Steven Fay have assisted, on their telework days, at the Athens Veterans Field Service Office.
- March 1, 2021, Ron Cason gave notice that he will be returning to the Athens Field Service Office as the Office Manager effective April 1, 2021. The Training and Professional Development Division will conduct interviews to fill his vacancy.

Upcoming Events:

- Continued ongoing support and monthly trainings to the Regional Directors and Veteran Field Service Offices.
- March 27, 2021, Ramona Roper to participate in the Blind Veterans Association's Annual Convention via Zoom
- April 6, 2021, Ramona Roper to participate in the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association's meeting on April 6, 2021.

Shelly-Ann Simpson, Director Appeals Division:

- The total number of actual hearings conducted by the Appeals Division for February 2021 was 75.
- The total number of pre-hearing actions for February 2021 was 265, while post-hearing actions was 96.
- The total number of correspondence conducted by the Appeals Division was 2029 (with veterans, BVA/VA employees, and VSO field offices) during the month of February.

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- As of February 1, 2021, the Atlanta VA Regional Office completed the following claims for the Service Organizations represented by GDVS:

Types of Claims	Number of Awards	Benefits paid out
Compensation	98,931	\$165,302,426
DIC	2,688	\$3,857,140
Survivor Pension	926	\$677,417
Veteran Pension	1,944	\$2,037,998
Grand Total	104,489	\$171,874.982

NORTH GA, Dale Bell, North Area Director

- On March 5th & 6th, Emily Waters of Cartersville provided Transition Briefings to separating service members at Clay Army National Guard Center in Marietta. On the 5th she met with 20 members in person and on the 6th she met with 15 members via Zoom.
- February 2021 total retro awards reported by North Georgia Offices: \$1,754,850.00. Included in that total are single awards of \$146,071.00 and \$212,103.00 reported by Randy Brown of Griffin.
- Director Site Visits / Inspections: Blairsville, Oakwood
- North Region Gains/Losses:
 - Kirsten Dennis hired for the Athens Office starting March 16, 2021.
- North Georgia Region Veteran Population: 443,313
- Office Visits

*Total Monthly Office Visits includes Remote Work: phone calls and emails.

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Average Visits Per VFSO							
Average Claims Submitted to VA Per VFSO							
Region:		North					
Month:		February-21					
A	B	C	D	E	D / E	G	G / E
Office Name		Veterans' Field Service Officer (VFSO) Last Name	Total Monthly Office Visits	Work Days In Month	Average Office Visits Per Day	Total Claims Submitted To VA Monthly	Average Claims Submitted By VFSOS To VA Daily
Number of VFSOs:		58	13,292	863	15.40	2,089	2.42
Number of Offices:		34	Average Visits/Office:		390.94	Average Claims/Office: 61.4411765	

SOUTH GA, Vincent M. Pritchett, South Area Director

- On March 2, 2021, Sandra Bennett (Columbus Field Office) and Vincent Pritchett met with Commissioner Roby and his command staff to tour a potential new space for the Columbus Field Office.
- On March 11, 2021, Vincent Pritchett attended the Veterans and Veterans Service Officers meeting hosted by Mike Stoddard from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA is currently working on an E-benefits migration to va.gov which will give veterans more autonomy in managing their VA benefits. This migration also includes a dependent verification tool which will give veterans the ability to self-certify their dependents.
- On March 12, Ms. Valerie Hase conducted Direct Upload training via MS Teams for any Field Service Officers wishing to attend. Vincent Pritchett and several South Region Service Officers attended the training. The remaining Service Officers will complete the training in subsequent months.
- On South Region Gains/Losses: None
- South Georgia Region Veterans Population: 244,963
- Office Visits for February: South Georgia offices handled 5,659 phone calls and emails.

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Average Visits Per VFSO							
Average Claims Submitted to VA Per VFSO							
Region:		South Region					
Month:		February-21					
A	B	C	D	E	D / E F	G	G / E H
Office Name	Veterans' Field Service Officer (VFSO) Last Name	#	Total Monthly Office Visits	Work Days In Month	Average Office Visits Per Day	Total Claims Submitted To VA Monthly	Average Claims Submitted By VFSOS To VA Daily
	Number of VFSOs:	40	1,883	725	2.60	1,421	1.96
Number of Offices:		29	Average Visits/Office:		64.93	Average Claims/Office: 49.00	

Public Information Division, Charlotte May Director

Public Information Division Contacts (Since January 1, 2020)

- Replies to VA eBenefits Messages = 1,980
- Replies to General Questions = approximately 890
- Individual Request for the State Certificate of Honor = approximately 155

GOVERNOR'S (VIETNAM VETERAN) CERTIFICATE of HONOR PROGRAM-

The latest and most accurate End of Year (2019) totals (since March 2015) –

State Certificates of Honor issued via GDVS – An estimated 28,665
 (Honors Ceremonies and Central Office Mail Outs)

DoD Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins presented via GDVS – An estimated 22,950

Honors Ceremonies supported/coordinated by GDVS – 343

Defense Department's Vietnam Veteran Surviving Spouse CoH – 256

Mr. Bobby Davis, Director, Veterans Education and Training Division (State Approving Agency):

VETERANS STATE APPROVING AGENCY

- The approval and compliance surveys of educational institutions, training establishments and training programs approved for veterans training is continuing with no significant problems in any area being noted.
- Approval of new veteran's On-The-Job training sites (OJT) continues to increase. As of this date the State Approving Agency (SAA) has granted approval to 1,768 educational institutions and training establishments where Georgia veterans may attend school or job training and utilize their GI Bill educational benefits.
- Congress has extended the COVID-19 In-Residence Housing Allowance for veterans normally in a classroom that have been moved to on-line learning until December 21, 2021. Originally this was set to expire on December 23, 2020.

Item *	Number
Approved Educational Institutions	391
Approved Training Establishments	1,377
Veteran Students Enrolled in Educational Institutions	19,198

* Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, Education Division, February 2021.

Mr. Mark Bannister, Administration, Health, and Memorials:

FINANCE

Accounting

Routine operations are continuing.

Budget

AMENDED FY 2021

The Governor has signed the Amended FY 2021 appropriations and budget, where the GDVS had no requests for changes to the previously approved FY 2021 appropriations and budget. GDVS is in good shape for the remainder of FY 2021.

FY 2022

On Tuesday, March 9, 2021, Commissioner Roby and requested staff presented the Governor's Recommended Budget for FY 2022 to the Members of the Senate Appropriations Human Development Subcommittee.

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As of this writing the House has approved their version of the FY 2022 appropriations and budget and sent it to the Senate. The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved their version of the bill, HB 81, which for the GDVS mirrors the House approved version. Monday, March 8, 2021 marked the legislative day 28 (Crossover) and according to H.R. 264, Wednesday, March 31, 2021 the House of Representatives will convene for legislative day 40 (SINE DIE).

The table below provides a summary of HB 81, (FY 2022) appropriations and budget for the GDVS awaiting final approval by the General Assembly.

Fiscal Program	Approved House & Senate Versions
Administration	<p>No recommended changes.</p> <p>State funding = <u>\$1,849,228</u> Total funding = \$1,849,228</p>
Cemeteries	<p>Increase in funds in the amount of \$42,131 dollars for one grounds maintenance technician at the Georgia War Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Milledgeville.</p> <p>State funding = \$709,857 Federal funding = <u>\$327,896</u> Total funding = \$1,079,884</p>
Nursing Homes	<p>There is an adjustment of \$39,869 dollars to support the Teachers Retirement System for the employees at the Augusta war veterans' home.</p> <p>Eliminate one-time funds for renovations (\$1,142,178).</p> <p>State funding = \$12,032,400 Federal Funding = \$23,128,424 Daily Fees & Bonds = <u>\$ 3,215,491</u> Total funding = \$38,376,315</p>
Veterans Benefits	<p>No recommended changes.</p> <p>State funding = \$7,319,749 Federal funding (VET-D) = <u>\$ 753,926</u> Total funding = \$8,073,675</p>

HEALTH AND MEMORIALS

State Veterans Homes

State Veterans Homes Census (Through March 12, 2021)+

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Current Month	Augusta	Milledgeville	Total
Regular Patients	91	116	207
Service Connected *	18	41	59
Total Patients	109	157	266
Last Month			
Regular Patients	88	117	105
Service Connected *	17	39	56
Total Patients	105	156	261

* One-hundred percent of the cost of these services is paid by the VA. No state funds are involved.

+ The report to the VSB are the total numbers from February 12, 2021 through March 12, 2021.

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home – Augusta

Routine operations are continuing.

Georgia War Veterans Home – Milledgeville

Routine operations are continuing.

State Veterans Cemeteries,

Burial Statistics (Through March 12, 2021)+

State Veterans Cemetery	Cumulative Last Month	Cumulative Current Month	Increase
Glennville	1,801	1,823	22
Milledgeville	4,286	4,320	34
Total	6,087	6,143	56

+ The report to the VSB are the total numbers from February 12, 2021 through March 12, 2021.

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Glennville

Routine operations are continuing.

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Milledgeville

Routine operations are continuing.

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OPERATIONS

Human Resources

There is a total of 144 full-time GDVS employees who are eligible to receive the one-time \$1,000.00 dollar salary supplement for employees earning salaries less than \$80,000.00 dollars. Payroll entries will be completed this month so that employees will receive the supplement during the next pay period.

Personnel Actions (Gains / Losses)

(February 15, 2021 – March 16, 2021)

Location	Position	Status	Name	Date
Appeals Division	VACO-1	Deceased	<i>Kimberly Williams</i>	02/15/2021
Central Office	Budget Analyst 2	Resignation	<i>April Dodgen</i>	02/28/2021
Augusta (GWVNH)	VFSO-1	New Hire	<i>Trenise Jones</i>	03/01/2021
Milledgeville Cemetery	Grounds Maint Tech 1	Terminated	<i>Jared Shepherd</i>	03/02/2021
Milledgeville Cemetery	Grounds Maint Tech 1	Resignation	<i>Ralph Jackson</i>	03/12/2021
Athens	VFSO-1	New Hire	<i>Kirsten Dennis</i>	03/16/2021
Milledgeville Cemetery	Grounds Maint Tech 1	New Hire	<i>Charles Quinn</i>	03/16/2021

Properties

Routine operations are continuing.

Information Technology

Routine operations are continuing.

Records Management

Routine operations are continuing.

Vehicle Management

Routine service and maintenance are performed as required.

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Veterans Service Foundation Board

An administrative fee of \$250.00 dollars was paid to the Secretary of State – Corporations Division to renew the Georgia Veterans Service Foundation, Inc., and was paid on February 25, 2021. The Foundation Board Chairman, Mr. Doug Middleton, is working with a financial institution to establish a bank account in the Foundation's name.

Ms. Camala Ball will replace April Dodgen starting on April 5, 2021 as Budget Analyst II.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2023 budget priorities were discussed. Commissioner Roby stated pay increases were at the top of his list of priorities. He stated he would like the folks that earn \$40,000 and below receive a 10% raise; the people earning \$40,000 to \$70,000 would receive a 5% raise and any employee earning \$70,000 and above receive a 3% raise. Commissioner stated he would like to have an Outreach Coordinator on Homelessness and Suicide and Ms. Veda Brooks has taken on that responsibility as well as Women Veterans Coordinator. He would like funds to support the cost of adding an Office Manager VFOS-2 for CBOC in Jasper, Georgia (\$45,596.00). Funding to support travel to VA facilities for PIV cards (\$10,000). Provide funding to support increased cost of VECTROSPEC (\$60,000) and funding to support cost of Annual Training (\$100,000). Provide funds to increase printed media items VA/State Benefits books, Elevator cards, and CLEARs satisfaction cards (\$48,000). And lastly on Commissioner's list was \$25,000 for a Ford Transit 150 Cargo/Utility Van used in a stated-wide contract for Central Office.

A lively discussion on the budget items ensued; however, Ms. Ross asked that a more in-depth discussion occur during the scheduled budget board meeting in May.

There is an election of officers every year in the March meeting to serve a one year term. Ms. Ross said the voting would be for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary individually. The previous and formal practice of the Board was a "next in line" policy so all got a chance to be the Chair. Mr. Hanley stated the Board should cease this practice and elect the best person for the position of Chairman. Mr. Whitted made a motion to nominate Ms. Trish Ross for a third term as Chairperson. Ms. Ross said she would accept. Mr. Hanley seconded it. Mr. Cravey nominated Mr. Thom Mash who is currently the Vice Chair. Ms. Ross asked Mr. Mash if he would accept. Mr. Mash said yes, he would.

Ms. Ross called for an individual vote for Ms. Ross for a third term as Chair. Mr. Mash said no. Ms. Swan said yes, Mr. Kubinec said yes, Mr. Cravey said no, Mr. Hanley said yes and Mr. Whitted said yes. The vote carried, four in favor of Ms. Ross as Chairperson with two opposing.

Ms. Ross nominated Ms. Swann for Vice Chair of the Veterans Service Board. Mr. Hanley seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Ross nominated Mr. Hanley for Secretary. Mr. Whitted seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Hirefax

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There was discussion about the April board meeting. Mr. Cravey made a motion to have the next Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 12:30 p.m. by video conference call. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mash. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cravey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whitted. The motion passed by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:41 p.m.

SIGNED:

Patricia Ross
Patricia Ross, Chairman

ATTEST:

Takosha Swan
Takosha Swan, Secretary

The next Veterans Service Board meeting will be held via video/telephone conference call on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. The WEB X link and password is:

<https://cgtc.webex.com/join/patricia.ross>

Or by calling 1-408-418-9833 Access Code 120 651 8132.