

**Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia**

Present Mr. Joshua Kopsie, Chair
Mr. Tim Paslawski, Vice Chair
Mr. Shawn Hanley, Member
Mr. Pete Peterson, Member
Ms. Takosha Swan, Member
Ms. Patricia Ross, Commissioner

Visitors Mr. Kerry Dyer, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Operations Officer, GDVS
Present: Ms. Shelly-Ann Simpson, Executive Director, Field Operations & Appeals, GDVS
Mr. Russell Feagin, Executive Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS
Ms. Kathryn Wright, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
Mr. Tony Dobbins, Adjutant, Georgia VFW
Mr. Lou Zayas, Sr. Vice Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Mr. Joe Higgins, Veterans Service Foundation Board
Ms. Vivian Greentree, Veterans Service Foundation Board
Ms. Gail Ramey, Accounting Technician at Hall County
Mr. Carlton Deese, Executive Director GWVNH, Augusta, GA
Ms. Linda Lavender, Director, Milledgeville Cemetery, GDVS
Ms. Lily Snyder, Director, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Ms. Charlotte May, Director, Public Information and External Affairs, GDVS
Mr. Steven Fay, Director, Training Division, GDVS
Ms. Sherri Whitfield, Director, Veterans Benefits South Region, GDVS
Mr. Edwin Berry, Director, Appeals Division, GDVS
Mr. William Wilson, Network Administrator, GDVS
Ms. Raven Holstick, Transition and Employment Coordinator, GDVS
Ms. Jarelle Thompson, Homeless Coordinator, GDVS
Ms. Camala Ball, Budget Analyst, GDVS
Ms. Monica Dorsey, Communications & Outreach Specialist, GDVS
Ms. Kaitlin Little, Business Support Analyst, GDVS
Mr. Frank Kollig, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Mr. Neil Slay, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Mr. Bernard Toney, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Mr. Calvin Waters, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Ms. Julie Hammond, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, GDVS

On Wednesday, September 24, 2025, the Veterans Service Board meeting was held in person and by video/tele-conference.

Mr. Kopsie called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. Mr. Paslawski gave the invocation. Commissioner Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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Mr. Paslawski made a motion to approve the September Agenda. Mr. Hanley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Paslawski made a motion to approve the August minutes, which were previously distributed for members to review. Mr. Hanley seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed.

The following reports were submitted for the Board meeting:

Ms. Belinda Boldoe, VFW

- The Department Service Officer attended the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US (VFW) 126th National Convention that was held from August 09, 2025, to August 13, 2025, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio.
 - The Department Service Office was appointed for a second year as the Chair of the Health Sub-Committee and as a Delegate for the Veterans Service Committee. We reviewed and then discussed the resolutions to be presented to the VFW members for their acceptance regarding issues related to Veterans' Benefits. The adopted resolutions are presented to Congress regarding VA benefits.
 - The Department Service Officer was selected as the 2024-2025 recipient of the VFW John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Service Representative of the Year Award.
 - The VFW Nationals installed the new Commander-in-Chief, Carol Whitmore of Des Moines, Iowa, the first woman elected to lead the VFW, a 125-year-old organization, on August 13, 2025.
- The Department Service Officer attended the GA Veteran of Foreign Wars Department of GA Commander's Homecoming and reception that was held on August 22-24, 2025, in Helen, GA. There were a Council of Administration Meeting and a Commander's Banquet.
- The Department Service Officer attended a virtual Quarterly VSO/Director's meeting hosted by Angela Seelhammer, Acting Director, and Brian Morgan, Change Management Analyst (CMA) held on August 26, 2024, at 10 AM – 11 AM. The following issues were briefed:

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- **Director's Updates**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 13, 2025

VA processes more claims in a single year than ever before

Backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits down 37% since Jan. 20

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it has processed more disability benefits compensation & pension ratings claims in a single year than ever before.

In fiscal year 2024, VA processed a total of 2,517,519 ratings claims, and this year the department reached an all-time high of 2,524,115 ratings claims issued Aug. 8 — nearly two months before the end of FY25.

- **Backlog**

- Backlog Claims are those pending for greater than 125 days. The goal is to see a significant reduction in backlog by December 2025.
- As of August 22nd, the National Inventory stands at 664,170 claims.
 - ✓ Of those, 152,479 are pending as backlog at 23% of the total inventory.
 - ✓ National Average Days to Complete (ADC) – 90.5
 - ✓ National Average Days Pending (ADP) – 88.7
- **Atlanta's inventory stands at 6,026 claims.**
 - ✓ Of those, 1,207 are pending as backlog, which is 20% of Atlanta's total inventory.
 - ✓ Atlanta's Average Days to Complete (ADC) – 89.7
 - ✓ Atlanta's Average Days Pending (ADP) – 73.2

- **Reduction of backlogged claims (>125 days)**

As of 8/22/2025:

- 151,332 backlogged
- 662,355 total claims

- **PACT Act – GA Veterans**

Distinct Claimants	97,267
Completed Claims	120,016
Processing Time	161.0
Claim Grant Rate	71.0%
Granted Claims	85,271
Pending Claims	12,740
Sum of Net Awards	\$491,720,347.63

- **PACT Act Most Commonly Granted Disabilities**
 - Allergic Rhinitis
 - Hypertensive Vascular Disease
 - Maxillary Sinusitis
 - Bronchial Asthma
 - Malignant Growths of Genitourinary
- **Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Initiatives:**
 - Serving Veterans Faster: Our Strategic Endeavors
 - District Brokering Strategy - Implemented to optimize resource allocation.
 - Contracting - VR&E has received funds and is planning to begin utilizing these funds next month, estimated for September 13, 2025.
 - Prioritizing Oldest Claims - Consistent efforts to address and process the oldest applications first.
 - Hiring Additional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VRCs) - New national VRC positions posted.

Ms. Tonjala Moton-Williams, GDVS, American Legion Service Officer

- August 22-28, 2025, The American Legion National Convention was held at 725 S. Harbour Island Blvd, Tampa FL 33602.
- September 25, 2025, 0900 American Legion Department Commander and his delegation will visit Atlanta VA Medical Center 1670 Clairmont Road, Decatur Georgia 30033. They will be given a brief presentation concerning operations and plans and a tour of the facility.
- September 25, 2025, 1300 American Legion Department Commander and his delegation will visit Atlanta Regional Office, 1700 Clairmont Road, Decatur, Georgia 30033. They will be given a brief presentation concerning operations and plans and a tour of the facility.

Upcoming Events:

- October 6-9, 2025, The National Fall Convention is being held at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, 31 West Ohio St, Indianapolis, IN.
- October 19-24, 2025, DSO Symposium is being held at 18665 Conference Ctr Dr, Leesburg, Virginia 20176.

Mr. Tony Dobbins, Adjutant, Georgia VFW

Mr. Dobbins announced that Oct. 25 will be their Benefit Advisor Training in Warner Robins. They have changed the name from Service Officers to Benefit Advisors. Ms. Boldoe will be the primary instructor.

Mr. Lou Zayas, Sr. Vice Commander, MOPH

Mr. Zayas announced that the city of Donaldsonville and Seminole County have both become purple heart entities.

Mr. Joe Higgins, Chairman, Veterans Service Foundation Board

The Foundation approved a directive to focus on raising \$200,000 for homelessness during this next year.

VyStar Credit Union is looking for opportunities to donate to veteran organizations and he is working on applying for a grant with them in the amount of \$5,000.

Mr. Hanley asked if the Foundation had thought about looking for someone to be the face of the Foundation and suggested they put this item on their agenda and talk about getting a donor that can fill this role.

Commissioner Ross showed the license plate that has been approved by the Foundation board. It says, "Selfless Service" and has military personnel saluting and also an EMT and firefighter/ It is now going through road testing. We need 1,000 orders for the license plate to be produced.

Commissioner Patricia Ross

On Wednesday, August 20, 2025, Commissioner Ross met with Christie George from the Georgia Tech Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation. They can provide recommendations and loaner devices for individuals with disabilities. She then attended the August Veterans Service Board Meeting. Later that afternoon, she attended the Executive Committee meeting for the National Association for State Directors of Veterans Affairs as she currently serves as the Vice President for the Southeast Region.

On Thursday, August 21, 2025, Commissioner Ross attended the August State Workforce Development Board meeting at Albany Tech. She then met with Jana Dykes regarding economic development and a possible location for a War Veterans Home. She later met with Chris Brand, FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adults and Children) President and CEO regarding their Wheelchairs for Warriors program. She additionally connected Mr. Brand with the Atlanta VAMC and is scheduling a meeting to their facility in Tucker, GA which serves disabled individuals world-wide.

On Friday, August 22, 2025, Commissioner Ross was a speaker at the Savannah Retiree Appreciation Day at Fort Stewart. She also visited the Cohen Veteran's Clinic in Hinesville and met with the Centerstone team.

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On Monday, August 25, 2025, Commissioner Ross attended the Bunker Labs/Institute for Veterans and Military Families event at the Georgia Aquarium. This event was for Veteran Owned Small Businesses. She also attended the Unite Us bi-weekly meeting.

On Tuesday, August 26, 2025, Commissioner Ross met with IDI to discuss how their program could assist GDVS in locating veterans in Georgia. She and her financial team met with Kitty Wright, our new OPB analyst, to brief her on GDVS. She also had her quarterly meeting with Kai Mentzer, the Executive Director for the Atlanta VA Healthcare System. In the evening, she attended the Tunnel to Towers Foundation's Grand Opening of the Atlanta Veterans Village.

On Wednesday, August 27, 2025, Commissioner Ross served on a panel for the FIN FIT "Fearless Fundraising your Small Business" hosted by Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger in Warner Robins.

On Thursday, August 28, 2025, Commissioner Ross met with Lily Snyder to discuss her PMF. She then met with the Miner Agency to discuss the next GDVS Resource Guide. She also met with Charlotte May to discuss her PMF. Afterward, she met with Southern Company about them joining the Unite Us platform. She also met with Ed Harries from Tennessee to discuss their funding model for their veteran's homes.

On Friday, August 29, 2025, Commissioner Ross was in Milledgeville to prepare for the ribbon cutting of the Transition Support Unit (TSU). She also met with Michael Parks to discuss the upcoming VETSfest 2025. She then met with the President of American Addiction Recovery Association (AARA) regarding the opioid crisis.

Monday, September 1 was a State Holiday.

On Tuesday, September 2, Commissioner Ross and other representatives from GDVS attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the TSU in Milledgeville. Gov. Kemp and other dignitaries were in attendance. The State has provided \$5.5 million in funds to open the unit and to increase the bed count in the Milledgeville Home. The Commissioner also met with STGi staff.

On Wednesday, September 3, 2025, Commissioner Ross held a Director's Meeting. She later met with the Veterans Experience Office for the after-action report for the Rome We Care Vet Fair event. She additionally attended the In-progress review for the Columbus We Care Vet Fair.

On Thursday, September 4, 2025, Commissioner Ross met with Russell Feagin to discuss his PMF. She also attended the September Veterans Service Foundation Board meeting. Afterwards, she went to the Capitol for an event with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves. She later met with Mark Demers to discuss his PMF. She and her team also met with Kitty Wright, the new OPB analyst.

On Friday, September 5, 2025, Commissioner Ross attended the Built to Honor Groundbreaking Ceremony, in which veteran Aisha Hardemon and her family received a new home in McDonough.

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On Saturday, September 6 through Thursday, September 11, Commissioner Ross attended the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

On Friday, September 12, 2025, Commissioner Ross worked at the We Care Veterans Fair in Columbus, along with many department personnel.

On Monday, September 15, 2025, Commissioner Ross held a Director's Meeting and caught up after the NASDVA conference and We Care Veterans Fair.

On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, Commissioner Ross attended the Council of Accountability Court Judges Annual Training Conference in Athens attending sessions on justice-involved veterans.

On Wednesday, September 17, 2025, Commissioner Ross was in Milledgeville for a ceremony honoring Linda Lavender and the Milledgeville Cemetery staff for a job well done. She also met with members from the STGi team at the War Veterans Home.

On Thursday, September 18, 2025, Commissioner Ross attended the Returning Veterans Task Force Meeting which focused on justice-involved veterans.

On Friday, September 19, 2025, Commissioner Ross attended VA Secretary Collins' visit to the Atlanta VA Medical Center. She also attended a meeting on the SSG Fox audit and met with the Georgia Data Analytics Center to discuss data sharing.

On Sunday, September 21 through Wednesday, September 24, Commissioner Ross took part in the Military Influencer Conference in Atlanta, where she was on several discussion panels.

On Monday, September 22, 2025, Commissioner Ross held a Director's Meeting. She also attended the biweekly Unite Us meeting.

On Wednesday, September 23, 2025, Commissioner Ross attended a meeting on proposed agency legislation.

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, 6 November: 1000 – Veterans Day Ceremony; 1300 – USMC 250th Birthday Celebration. Both events will be held at the Capitol.

Ms. Shelly-Ann Simpson, Executive Director, Field Operations and Appeals

GENERAL

- On Saturday, September 6, the metro area offices participated in the We Care Veterans Resource Fair sponsored by United Military Care and held at the Dobbins AFB. We provided guidance to

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Veterans on the best strategy for filing new or amended Claims and recommendations for local resources that can assist them in developing and filing those Claims.

- On Friday, September 12, the South Area with a few offices from the north participated in the Columbus We Care Veterans Resource Fair sponsored by United Military Care and held at the Columbus Civic Center. (See Ms. Whitfield's report)
- On Wednesday, September 17, I joined Ms. Ferguson, her Suicide prevention coordinators and other GDVS employees at the VAMC Annual Walk and Roll for Suicide Prevention Awareness held at the Arcadia CBOC.
- **DD 214's and Welcome Home Letters: 133** Welcome Home Letters were mailed out in August 2025.

Projected Positions:

- 2 Openings in Appeals

Mr. Steven Fay, Director of Training Division

- Charles Isaac conducted retraining at the Kings Bay service office and new hire training at the Brunswick service office.
- Glenn Massey conducted new hire training and also delivered a motorized wheelchair to the Milledgeville War Veterans Home; New hire training introduces new VSOs to the accredited training processes and procedures to assist veterans and claimants. Refresher training is required to train and evaluate the proficiency of VA systems after issuance of their PIV card. The Absorb Learning Portal is also introduced. The portal has classes and quizzes to help navigate the vast subjects of filing VA claims.
- Sandra Bennett conducted the following:
 - Aug 15th Covenant Woods Assistant Care Home – Discussed having regular visits to assist veterans in their community. Aug 25-26, and 29th Fly distribution for We Care Event/ August 26 Phone Meeting with Ms. Tillman EEO Partnership Ft Benning/ Aug 21st Home Visit DIC/
 - Sept 12th, We Care Event
 - Sept 19th VSO Coffee Talk Meeting – Very Successful Meeting

Upcoming Events:

- We Care Fair – Cobb County
- Continued ongoing support to the Regional Directors and Veteran Field Service Offices
- Continuation of performing duties as VSO's
- Provide new hire training in North and South Georgia

- Annual Training Planning 2026

Mr. Edwin Berry, Director of Appeals Division

- The total number of hearings conducted by the Appeals Division for **August 2025** was **62**.
- As of **August 31, 2025**, the Isakson VA Regional Office processed benefits as follows for GDVS and the Service Organizations represented by GDVS during the month of August 2025:

Types of Claims	Number of Awards	Benefits paid
Compensation	111,694	\$272,044,718
DIC	4,620	\$8,136,038
Survivor Pension	632	\$631,501
<u>Veteran Pension</u>	<u>1,229</u>	<u>\$1,441,573</u>
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>118,175</u>	<u>\$282,253,830</u>

YTD through 08/31/2025 Total Compensation, Pension and other benefits paid: **\$2,202,228,869** for the veterans that we represent who receive VA Compensation or Pension benefits.

Mr. Kenneth Childre, Director Veterans Benefits North Region

Retros Awards: \$1,675,089.25

Director Site Visits/Inspections: 7

Community Involvement:

8/15/2025-Tanya Rogers (Gainesville)-Visited Hall County Senior Center to connect attendees with essential GDVS Services

8/22/2025-Tanya Rogers (Gainesville)-Met with VP of Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce to discuss how Gainesville GDVS can better a better partner when serving the Veterans of the area.

8/2025-Danny Moreno (Zebulon)-Gave a presentation to the Fayette County American Legion Post-Set up appointments for 8 attendees and submitted 1 DIC claim for a surviving spouse.

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8/19/2025-We Care Rome See Photo/Names Below. 264 Veterans signed in for assistance w/ 181 being registered. GDVS had 147 contacts and filed 111 claims.

8/21/2025-Ken Childre (North Area Director) Participated in Senior Resource Fair at Church of Apostles in Atlanta. 430 attendees made 28 contacts. Conducted 2 breakout sessions with 8 audience members. Discussed GDVS mission and the services that are offered.



Back (L/R)-Bill Smith (Lafayette), Steven Hungarter (Cartersville), Kelly Johnson (Dalton), Glenn Massey (Asst Training Director), Todd Logan (Canton), Tomeika Johnson (Cedartown), April Davenport (Rome), Joe Baker (Atlanta VAMC)
Front (L/R)-Sean Seader (Carrollton), ShellyAnn Simpson (Executive Director Field Ops & Appeals), Kristi Jones (Cartersville), Nick Gavalas (Canton), Beth Humble (Dalton), Patricia Ross (Commissioner), Ken Childre (North Area Director)
Not Pictured: Barry Hunter (Rome)

North Area Gains/Losses:

Canton-Todd Logan-New Hire-8/16/2025

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Average Visits Per VFSO Average Claims Submitted to VA Per VFSO							
Region:		North					
Month:		August-25					
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 Offices:	Number of VFSOs:	51	5,879	22	267.23	2,407	109.41
		31	Average Visits/Office:		189.65	Average Claims/Office: 77.6451613	

*Total monthly office visits include: 2,234 In-person and 3,645 phone calls/emails.

Ms. Sherri Whitfield, Director Veterans Benefits South Region

- On September 3rd, the Salvation Army in Savannah, GA hosted its annual Stand Down for Homeless, Resource and Job Fair. Mr. Miguel Rivera in our Savannah office supported this event by manning a resource table and connecting with veterans. This event aims to connect the homeless population with essential services and resources. It provides a one-stop shop for various services, including haircuts, housing programs, health screenings and job opportunities.
- On September 12th, United Military Care hosted the first WE CARE Veterans Fair in Columbus, GA. GDVS provided twenty personnel for claims support. Several other agencies, along with the Department of Veterans Affairs, provided services and resources, such as veterans benefits, legal services, healthcare, and mental health and wellness. Over 1,800 Veterans, service members, and families received the help, guidance, and support they needed. Turn-out was phenomenal!
- On September 15th, the Thomasville office officially relocated to Southern Regional Technical College.
- On September 19th, Mrs. Tammy Bacon in the Statesboro office supported the Stand Down for Veterans event in Statesboro. It was hosted by the American Legion Dexter Allen Post 90. Services offered included VA benefits assistance, toxic exposure screenings, and support for veterans involved in the criminal justice system.
- On September 23rd, Mr. Lee in the King's Bay office participated in a Suicide Prevention 5K and Wellness Fair. The fair was hosted and held by the Marine Corps Security Force Battalion (MCSFBn)

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Quad at King's Bay. Vendors provided resource tables to engage sailors and Marines in activities and provided information and resources to maintain their psychological health.

- Since the last board meeting, South region offices reported total lump sum payments of \$992,373.06.
- South Georgia Region Veterans Population: 239,553.

Average Visits Per VFSO
Average Claims Submitted to VA Per VFSO

Region: SOUTH
Month: AUGUST-2025

# of Offices	# of VFSOs	Total Monthly Office Visits	Workdays in Month	Average Office Visits Per Day	Total Claims Submitted to VA Monthly	Average Claims Submitted by VFSO to VA Daily
26	42	870	21	41.43	1,193	57.10

Average Visits/Office	33.46
Average Claims/Office	46.12

Ms. Veda Brooks, Women Veterans Coordinator (WVC)

- August 16, 2025, Ms. Brooks participated in and hosted Free Women Clothing in Riverdale, GA from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- August 18, 2025, Ms. Brooks traveled to Warner Robins to advise and file claims for MST (men and Women). Ms. Brooks participated in the NASWVC Executive Meeting.
- August 19, 2025, Ms. Brooks participated in the Georgia Governor's Challenge meeting.
- August 21-22, 2025, Ms. Brooks participated in Empowering Women's event.
- August 26, 2025, Ms. Brooks held the monthly Georgia Women Virtual Coffee Break. Ms. Brooks participated in the Women's Equality Day at the Arcadia Clinic.

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- September 2-5, 2025, Ms. Brooks participated in events at Milledgeville, conducted case management training and check-in in Augusta and Statesboro.
- September 2, 2025, Ms. Brooks participated in the VSMR Standing meeting and spoke with a group of women veterans in the faith-based community.
- September 3, 2025, Ms. Brooks participated in the Director's Meeting and the WVC Conference Meeting. Ms. Brooks participated in the Veterans Affairs, Center for Women Veterans National Partners and Stakeholders Meeting.
- September 4, 2025, Ms. Brooks participated in the Fox grant Biweekly Meeting.
- September 5, 2025, Ms. Brooks participated in the WCEG Media Veterans Today Host Anthony Aiken & Herman Anderson

Current committees:

- Violence Prevention Task Force
- VA/SAMHSA Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Georgia Team
- The Birdwell Foundation Board Member
- Coweta County Race, Equity, and Justice Committee Unite Georgia Community Advisory Committee
- Operation Ogletree Committee

Ms. Calandra Ferguson, Suicide Prevention and Outreach Coordinator

- August 12, 2025, Ms. Ferguson distributed Suicide Prevention materials at Hearts of Nourish during their Food basket giveaway.
- August 12, 2015, Ms. Ferguson met with Governor's Challenge TF Priority Group 1 Lead to develop a Plan of Action for next year.
- August 18, 2025, Ms. Ferguson attend the Fox Grant Update meeting with AMES/KSU.
- August 19, 2025, Ms. Ferguson conducted her monthly Governor's Challenge TF Meeting.
- August 19, 2025, Ms. Ferguson attended the "We Care "event in Rome, Georgia.
- August 20, 2025, Ms. Ferguson attended the August Veterans Service Board meeting.

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- August 21-22, 2025, Ms. Fergerson attended a Veteran Women Empowerment workgroup and presented Suicide Prevention Signs to the group.
- August 27, 2025, Ms. Fergerson met with her SAMHSA Lead to discuss updates of the Governor's Challenge Task Force.
- August 28, 2025, Ms. Fergerson met with VA representatives to review our progress on the SSG Fox Grant.
- September 2, 2025, Ms. Fergerson provided updates to the Suicide Mortality Review Board.
- September 6, 2025, Ms. Fergerson participated in the Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk in LaGrange, GA.
- September 10, 2025, Ms. Fergerson and the Suicide Prevention Team distributed Suicide Prevention material to employees of the West & East Towers of the Floyd Building.
- September 13, 2025, Ms. Fergerson and the Suicide Prevention Team participated in the Gainesville, GA Suicide Prevention awareness walk/run.
- September 15, 2025, Ms. Fergerson presented Mental Health Training to the Veterans of Norfolk Southern Railways.
- September 17, 2025, Ms. Fergerson participated in the VA Walk-N-Roll Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk.

Ms. Raven Holstick, Transition and Employment Coordinator

- August 18, 2025 - Transition and Employment Coordinator spoke with the current cohort at Camp Southern Ground, providing guidance on transition and employment resources, sharing best practices, and motivating participants to take advantage of opportunities available through GDVS and partner organizations.
- August 25, 2025 - Transition and Employment Coordinator represented GDVS at VETFEST, hosted by the International Military and Veterans Foundation (IMVF) in Atlanta, to connect with veterans, share available transition and employment resources, and strengthen community partnerships.
- August 26, 2025 - Transition and Employment Coordinator attended the grand opening of Atlanta Villages with Tunnel to Towers, engaging with community leaders and partner organizations to highlight GDVS transition and employment resources, strengthen partnerships, and support innovative housing solutions for veterans and their families.

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- August 28, 2025 – Transition and Employment Coordinator enrolled in an Esports in Higher Education course to strategically expand GDVS outreach to younger veterans, enhance program innovation, and position the department in connecting veterans to emerging career pathways in the esports industry.
- September 3, 2025 – Transition and Employment Coordinator attended the Veteran Advisory Committee meeting at Atlanta Metropolitan State College, collaborating with higher education and community partners to strengthen veteran support services, share GDVS resources, and advance initiatives that improve student veteran success.
- September 4, 2025 - Transition and Employment Coordinator visited Trinity House to engage with previously incarcerated veterans, providing information on GDVS transition and employment resources, fostering trust, and supporting successful reentry into the community.

Upcoming events:

- Warrior Summit September 15-18 Washington, DC
- Women Veteran Leadership Cohort September 18-21 Washington, DC
- “Staying Motivated during the job search” event Atlanta VA October 15

Ms. Jarelle Thompson, Homelessness Coordinator

- August 27, 2025 - I met with a prospective landlord Ms. Giles that would like to rent out rooms to veterans.
- September 8, 2025 - I completed a monthly OAC outreach and gave out 10 hygiene packets and matched a veteran to the process of DDS to obtain his license.
- September 9, 2025 - I completed a virtual meeting with a prospective landlord Ms. Leslie that would like to rent out rooms to veterans.
- September 10, 2025 - I participated in VA’s metro Atlanta standdown. I was able to connect 8 veterans to filing their benefits and claims, 2 were referred to transitional and employment services, 6 for housing needs. 25 hygiene packets were given out.
- September 11, 2025 - I completed a meeting with a prospective landlord Ms. Jerry who has a home for rent and would like to rent out rooms.
- Working with 5 veterans on current housing needs and I have met 6 landlords that are willing to rent rooms, 3 property managers that are willing to rent apartments to veterans.

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Mr. Mark Demers, Chief Development Officer/Chief Financial Officer

Accounting/Procurement/Compliance:

- Routine operations are continuing. We are continuously working to improve all accounts payable processing/procurement processing, to apply proper coding, accountability, organization of purchase orders, on-time payments and reconciliations.
- We are continuing to work with the SAO Shared Services to prepare the procurement and accounting data in Team Works for migration to GA@Work.
- Kirsten Dennis processed 7 purchase orders totaling \$15,468.79 and 8 invoices totaling \$3,137.68.
- Kirsten Dennis is in the process of creating a more detailed ordering process for our field offices and appeals to avoid any miscommunication.
- Kirsten Dennis has been active in the meetings regarding the GVWH-Milledgeville Request for Proposal (RFP) for the coming year.
- Mark Demers attended the APO/CUPO meeting on 9/17/2025 and the SPD GPM Refresh meeting on September 24, 2025.
- 32 of 38 end of year reports have been submitted to SAO thus far. The remainder will be completed once the forms open for submission. This number was changed during the Board meeting to read 36 of 38 end of year reports have been submitted to SAO thus far.

GA@Work/NextGen Updates

- Camala Ball participated in the NextGen Adaptive Planning Session on August 18, 2025.
- Camala Ball and Mark Demers attended the GA@Work Grant Module Workshop on August 25, 2025.
- Camala Ball attended the Agency Budget Workbook session on August 26, 2025.
- Mark Demers attended the GA@Work Procurement Huddle on August 27, 2025.
- Camala Ball and Mark Demers attended the CTAS in GA@Work (Group B) session on September 11, 2025.
- Mark Demers attended the NextGen NCN half time report on September 12, 2025.
- Camala Ball and Mark Demers attended the NCN change network meeting on September 23, 2025.

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- The entire team completed the GA@Work training videos regarding PMF 2026 expectations training, Time and Attendance and Recruiting and Onboarding.
- The GO-Live date for GA@Work was pushed back to April 1, 2025.

Budget/Travel:

- Camala Ball continued daily monitoring of general ledgers, purchase orders, and budget projection updates. She prepared amendments to record revenue collections in PBCS.
- We have begun meeting monthly with program managers to discuss subprograms current budgets which include what is spent to date, and any upcoming spending and needs. This covers all funding sources.
- Kaitlin Little, Camala Ball and Mark Demers attended in-person meetings with OPB on September 4, 2025.
- Camala Ball submitted the FY 2027 budget request in PBCS on September 5, 2025, and all offline worksheets were submitted to OPB as well. Since this is a flat budget year the offline requests were as follows:
 - Request funds to increase VSO and Appeals Officer salaries- \$645,589.54.
 - Request CPI for the GA War Homes in Augusta/Milledgeville- \$774,804.00.
 - Request funds for a new War Veterans Nursing Home- \$35,000,000.00.
 - Request funds to create an Office Manager and VSO position in the VECTR Center in Savannah, GA- \$147,360.22.

Camala Ball stated that as of September 15, 2025, we have expended 17.75% of the total FY 2026 budget allocated to GDVS. The breakdown is as follows:

Fund	Total Allotment	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	% Spent
State	\$ 33,144,535.00	\$ 4,229,490.95	\$ 28,915,044.05	12.76%
Federal	\$ 24,210,246.00	\$ 5,594,398.18	\$ 18,615,847.82	23.11%
Other	\$ 3,465,491.00	\$ 973,343.83	\$ 2,492,147.17	28.09%
Total Funds	\$ 60,820,272.00	\$ 10,797,232.96	\$ 50,023,039.04	17.75%

Strategic Plan/Legislation:

- Kaitlin Little completed the legislative proposals that were submitted on September 12, 2025. This coming year's proposals are as follows:

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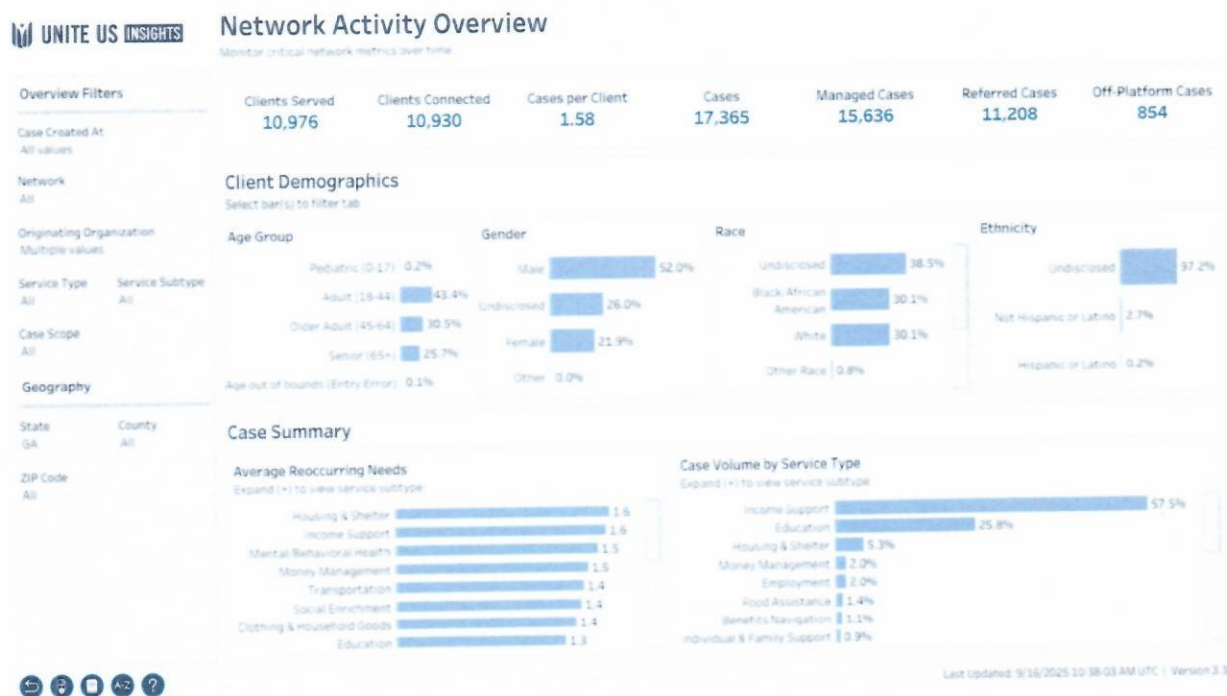
- To allow for eligible individuals other than wartime veterans (spouses) to be admitted to the Georgia Veterans War Homes.
- To protect veterans and their families, caretakers, and survivors for paying services provided at no cost through GDVS or from VA Accredited VSOs.
- To match the federal Burial Equity Act to allow interment of National Guard and Reservists in a state veterans cemetery. The purpose of this legislation is also to allow qualifying Hmong Laotian Special Guerilla Unit veterans, who were residents of the State of Georgia at the time of their death, with the option to have their cremated remains interred in a State Veterans Cemetery.
- To allow the state to legally assert jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency matters at military installations. Military installations are subject to exclusive federal jurisdiction often handle juvenile offenses through the federal court system. Adopting policies that allow for concurrent jurisdiction can open the door to state resources and juvenile courts to offer better solutions, including more rehabilitative approaches, tailored to address crimes and misdemeanors of juvenile offenders.

Grant Program:

- SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program- (\$722,747 year 3)
 - We submitted draw#8 for year 3 for \$3,942.82 on August 28, 2025.
 - SSG Fox Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY 2026 was posted on May 8, 2025, with the application due to the VA on July 18, 2025. We are awaiting the VA notification of awardees which we anticipate will be in late September 2025.
 - Mark Demers and Irene Mackson attended the VA SSG Fox Grants Operations Call on September 9, 2025.
 - Mark Demers and Irene Mackson attended the VA SSG Fox National Webinar on September 18, 2025.
 - Mark Demers conducted a subcontractor audit with KSU on September 15, 2025, in preparation for upcoming VA audit.
 - Mark Demers attended the SSG Fox Audit Kickoff with VA on September 16, 2025, with Auditor Meggen Kimball.
 - SSG Fox Grant Audit Preliminary Documentation is due to the VA on September 30, 2025.
 - Year 3 End of Year Grantee Performance Report will be due on October 22, 2025, with the Federal Financial Report and Financial Expenditures Report following shortly after.
 - VA SSG Fox in-person audit will occur on December 10, 2025.
- Unite-Us Grant- (American Rescue Plan-Negative Impact Grant)- (\$20,047,782.70 total)
 - Grant extended for a partial year 4. Carrying over \$1,729,196.19 to partial year 4 until expended. We are now just waiting for the grant advance payment.
 - Data ingestion and secure data transfer for the platform and social connector are moving forward. As of September 5, 2025, we have **281,792** veterans in the system.
 - Since the Public Resource Directory has gone live on March 22, 2024, there have been 4,927 site visits, 3,469 visitors with 637 distinct programs viewed. In 2025 there have been 467 AR submissions thus far with a 98% case resolution rate.

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- Campaign 10 campaign began on September 12, 2025, which will focus on food insecurity and school focused themes- the campaign will end in early November 2025.
- Campaign 11 will begin on November 7 and will be focused on loneliness (which is especially pertinent during the holidays).
- The Quarterly Report for the 4th quarter was submitted via Survey Monkey on July 1, 2025. Next report will be due in October 2025.
- We submitted all preliminary audit information to the portal, the audit kickoff started on September 8, 2025, and all Smartsheet documents are due on September 22, 2025.
- Irene Mackson completed onboarding with the following vendors for partnership with Unite Us: Celines Family Services, Inc, Family Resource Center of Rome, Valiant Veterans, and Caring Hearts Home Healthcare.
- **Below is an activity snapshot from Unite Us Insights:**



- **Veterans Mental Health Services Program Grant (HB 414)-**
 - FY2025- \$1,000,000 (competitive grant)
 - The grant was awarded to 3 vendors:
 - Cohen Veterans Network- \$776,132
 - KSU-AMES-\$173,868
 - About Face USA- \$40,000

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- All funds for this grant year have been distributed.
- The first quarterly report will be due on October 31, 2025.
- FY2026- \$1,000,000 (competitive grant)
 - The grant opened for applicants on July 1, 2025, and it closed on July 31, 2025. Only 1 applicant qualified. We will be re-advertising it.
- PTSD study- Emory (HB 68, line 94.12). \$1,000,000-
 - To increase funds for research on treatment of PTSD and wraparound services for veterans and their families.
 - Contract is in the process of being signed by both parties, once contract is completed, funds will be distributed. This statement was updated in the Board meeting to read that the contract has been signed and the request for the funds to be distributed has been sent to SAO for processing.
- VA Suicide Mortality Review Cooperative Agreement - (\$502,124.68) – ends September 30, 2025.
 - We submitted draw #11 on September 4, 2025, for \$12,489.91.
 - The Suicide Mortality Grant subcontractors are KSU, DPHDD and Dr. Lynn Tison.
 - Preliminary audit documentation was submitted to the VA as per the instructions on July 25, 2025. VA Audit Payroll and Expense samples were completed and sent on September 5, 2025.
 - Mark Demers attended the SMRC Audit Kick Off call with the Veterans Administration Auditors on August 5, 2025, with a subsequent meeting on August 22, 2025.
 - Mark Demers conducted a subcontractor audit with KSU on September 15, 2025, in conjunction with VA audit.
 - The final report will be due in October 2025, exact date TBD.

Events/Other:

- Leadership Institute in person session was conducted via Teams on September 19, 2025, subject: Strategic Planning. Next session will be conducted in person on October 17, 2025, at the Georgia War Veterans Home and Cemetery in Milledgeville, GA.
- Kaitlin Little and Irene Mackson attended a Grant Writing Workshop in Decatur GA on September 19, 2025.

Mr. Russell Feagin, Executive Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS

State Veterans Homes

State Veterans Homes Census (Through September 12, 2025) +

Current Month	Augusta	Milledgeville	Total
Regular Patients	90	112	202
Service Connected *	36	51	87
Total Patients	126	163	289
Last Month	Augusta	Milledgeville	Total
Regular Patients	94	117	211
Service Connected *	35	47	82
Total Patients	129	164	293

+ The numbers reported to the VSB are the total numbers from August 9, 2025, through September 12, 2025.

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home

Normal operations continue.

A Department of Veterans Affairs team started their annual audit on September 16, 2025. This audit normally takes four days and covers all aspects of Home operations. Mr. Deese announced the completion of this survey, and he expects five or less deficiencies, which is the goal. The team did very well during the survey, and he expressed his appreciation for each of them.

Georgia War Veterans Home

A dedication ceremony of the Transitional Support Unit was conducted on September 2, 2025, at 10:00am. Governor Kemp was the dedication speaker. A large crowd was in attendance with news coverage by local newspapers and television stations.

We are still waiting for our recognition survey for the Transitional Support Unit by the VA, which we hope will be in the middle of October. We cannot officially admit patients until this is completed.

Normal operations continue.

State Veterans Cemeteries

Burial Statistics (through September 12, 2025)+

State Veterans Cemetery	Cumulative Last Month	Cumulative Current Month	Increase
Glennville	2,803	2,827	24
Milledgeville	5,924	5,954	30
Total	8,727	8,781	54

+ The report to the VSB is the total numbers from August 9, 2025, through September 12, 2025.

Mr. Feagin announced that they have contacted a vendor who will be able to do the headstones for the veterans who are not eligible for the VA markers. They can be buried in the cemetery, but we have to provide headstones for them. It is the same vendor that does the national headstones, so they will be consistent with what we have now.

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Glennville

Cemetery expansion projects continue with an expected completion by the end of October.

Cemetery operations continue as normal.

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Milledgeville

State Representative Floyd Griffin is presenting a House Resolution recognizing the cemetery staff for their accomplishments in a recent National Cemetery Agency survey. This presentation took place on September 17, 2025.

The cemetery expansion project adding additional in-ground interment space continues with an expected completion by the end of October.

Cemetery operations continue as normal.

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Mr. Kerry Dyer, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Operations Officer

On Thursday, August 21, 2025, Kerry Dyer contacted Marlon Benjamin, GBA Project Manager to discuss the quote for the ceiling, lights and tile replacement. He also emailed Linda Lavendar 3 resumes for the Cemetery Tech 1 vacancies. Later that day he processed two Law Firm letters that were directed to the VA.

On Friday, August 22, 2025, Kerry Dyer spoke with Lauren Tyson, DOAS, Marketing Surplus Specialist, regarding the pickup of 4 surplus vehicles located at the Milledgeville Cemetery. He also met virtually with Mark Meeks, DOAS Procurement Manager, to discuss the Claims Management System RFP. Later that day he posted the State Approving Agency vacancy externally and internally.

On Monday, August 25, 2025, Kerry Dyer contacted Scott Carrolton, CEO for Carrolton furniture to confirm the delivery of the Trophy Case. He also submitted a formal request to DOAS policy division requesting a deviation from the sealed bid process for the hotel reservations for Annual Training. Later that day he spoke with Leslie Davis, State Properties Leasing Specialist, regarding the site visit to the DHS Department in Augusta, Ga.

On Tuesday, August 26, 2025, Kerry Dyer along with Mark Meeks, Russell Feagin, Tonya Jarret and Jenelle Coleman met virtually to discuss the War Home RFP. He also emailed Lily Synder 15 resumes for her Compliance 1 Auditor vacancy. Later that day he spoke to Rebecca Krystoa, State Purchasing Division Policy (SPD) Manager and Keasha Jordan (SPD) supervisor regarding request to deviate from the seal bid process for hotel reservations for Annual Training.

On Wednesday, August 27, 2025, Kerry Dyer Kerry Dyer spoke with Melissa Soto, Peachtree Hotel Manager, regarding the hotel reservations for Annual Training. He also spoke with Jim Harris, VetPro, supervisor, about the ongoing sandbox exercise and attending the NASDVA conference in Wyoming. Later that day he spoke with John Booker, GBA supervisor regarding a panic button for Vanessa Wilson, Balcony Office Manager.

On Thursday, August 28, 2025, Kerry Dyer closed the Compliance 1 Auditor and Athens VSO 1 announcement on Team GA Careers. He also contacted Precious Davis, Leasing Specialist, DHS Department in Bainbridge, GA to discuss the furniture replacement for the Bainbridge Field Office. Later that day he contacted Verizon to add 3 additional lines.

On Friday, August 29, 2025, Kerry Dyer along with Commissioner Ross traveled to Milledgeville to conduct a Key Leader Rehearsal with Russell Fegain, Tonya Jarrett and Linda Lavendar in preparation for the Transitional Support Unit Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

On Tuesday September 2, 2025, Kerry Dyer along with Julie Hammond and Shareka Monday-Robinson traveled to Milledgeville to attend the Transitional Support Unit Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

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On Wednesday, September 3, 2025, Kerry Dyer attended the weekly Director meeting. He also spoke to retired COL Rick White and Carlton Deese about patient admittance into the Augusta War Home. Later that day he contacted Leslie Davis, State Properties Leasing Specialist, to discuss the timeline for the Atlanta Tech or Metro Field Office Space.

On Thursday, September 4, 2025, Kerry Dyer along with Leslie Davis traveled to Augusta Ga to conduct a site visit at the DHS for potential Office Space.

On Friday, September 5, 2025, Kerry Dyer along with Commissioner Ross attended the Built to Honor Groundbreaking Ceremony in McDonough, GA.

On Monday, September 8, 2025, Kerry Dyer spoke with Jason Patterson regarding VSO 1 vacancy in Decatur field office. He also processed 1 Law Firm letter directed for the VA. Later that day he submitted the Non-Profit Organization Report to DOAS Department of Audits Division.

On Tuesday, September 9, 2025, Kerry Dyer processed 1 new hire packet for the Atlanta VAMC Field Office vacancy. He also spoke with Chelsa Benette, DOAS Senior Finance Reporting Manager, regarding the submission of the GASB 87 report for the leases. Later that day he contacted GBA to conduct a disinfected spray for the entire 9th floor suite.

On Wednesday, September 10, 2025, Kerry Dyer traveled to Milledgeville to meet with Linda Lavender to discuss the vehicle surplus process.

On Thursday, September 11, 2025, Kerry Dyer met with Len Pagano, founder of Save America at the State Capitol to discuss the Save America Foundation priorities. He also spoke with Ayoluwa Hill, GBA CAD designer, to discuss the ceiling, HVAC and tile replacement. Later that contacted Ansley Reeves, Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady to discuss reserving the Governor Mansion for event.

On Friday, September 12, 2025, Kerry Dyer met virtually with Mark Meeks, and Barbara Burns, DOAS Procurement Managers, to discuss the Claims Management System RFP. He also emailed to resumes to Linda Lavender for her two Cemetery Tech 1 vacancies. Later that day he spoke to Leslie Davis, State Properties, Leasing Specialist, to discuss the pro-rated lease payment for the Augusta Field Office.

On Monday, September 15, 2025, Kerry Dyer attended the weekly Directors meeting. He also contacted Stephanie Muehler, Savannah Destination Service Manager, regarding the site visit to Savannah to discuss entertainment options for the FY26 NASDVA Conference. Later that day he traveled to Fulton County DMV to inquire about the process to receive an original title for an abandoned vehicle.

On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, Kerry Dyer processed two promotion packets. He also met virtually with Mark Meeks, DOAS Procurement Manager, Russell Feagin and Tonya Jarrett to discuss the War

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Home RFP. Later that day he traveled to the State Department of Revenue to request a replacement copy of the original title for the Cemetery Cargo Van.

Below are the Personnel Actions Kerry Dyer and Shareka Monday-Robinson processed from August 21, 2025 – September 17, 2025.

Location	Position	Status	Name	Date
Ft. McPherson	VFSO 1	New Hire	Antonio Morris	09/02/25
Athens	VFSO 1	New Hire	Carie Lince	09/16/25
Atlanta VAMC	VFSO 1	New Hire	Mikell Bankston	09/16/25

Mr. Dyer reported that all positions have been filled except 2 cemetery tech vacancies. He also announced a meeting on Oct. 1 with GTA regarding an electronic scheduling system for the field offices. We are also in the process of getting a bus and two vans at the Milledgeville Home ready for surplus. These vehicles are very old and no longer in working condition.

Ms. Lily Snyder, Director, Veterans Education and Training Division (State Approving Agency)

- The approval, risk-based surveys, and supervisory visits 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 2,230 educational institutions and training establishments where Georgia veterans may attend school or job training and utilize their GI Bill® educational benefits.

Item *	Number
Approved Educational Institutions	514
Approved Training Establishments	1,716
VA Education Beneficiaries for August 2025 *CH 33 ONLY*	10,110
VA Education Beneficiaries for July 2025	10,798
VA Education Beneficiaries for June 2025	11,419
VA Education Beneficiaries for May 2025	21,878
VA Education Beneficiaries for April 2025	20,972

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VA Education Beneficiaries for March 2025	21,867
VA Education Beneficiaries for February 2025	20,289
VA Education Beneficiaries for January 2025	17,775

* Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, Education Division, WEAMS, Salesforce, RCS 20-0259-260, Oracle BI CH33 Enrollment

Ms. Charlotte May, Director, External Affairs & Communications

INFORMATION OUTREACH

Division Updates

1. GDVS Newsletter – The department’s monthly e-newsletter features top stories from the month at <https://veterans.georgia.gov/newsletter>. The August edition of the department newsletter celebrated Belinda Boldoe’s selection as VFW Accredited Service Representative of the Year during the VFW’s annual national convention. Boldoe was presented with the award by VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt, who is also from Georgia. The newsletter also shared information on an upcoming change to the VA Home Loan program which aims to help veterans remain in their homes while catching up on mortgage payments, a recap of the department’s successful participation at the Rome We CARE Fair and a Savannah Veterans Benefits and Resource Expo, and shared information on upcoming events.
2. Georgia Department of Veterans Service Launches Mental Wellness App with HereNOW Help – coordinated with the HereNOW Help team to soft launch their app in Georgia. HereNOW Help is a mental health and wellness application open to veterans and military service members at no cost. Users can contact free licensed mental health professionals 24/7 using the app if needed. GDVS sent information to a group of ~4,000 identified veterans to invite them to the service, as well as sharing information at We CARE Veterans Fairs and outreach events.
3. Met with the Miner Agency on August 28 to discuss the next edition of the GDVS Veterans Resource Guide. EAC will coordinate content delivery with Miner Agency over the upcoming months.
4. Opening of the Transitional Support Unit at Georgia War Veterans Home – Milledgeville - On Tuesday, September 2, 2025, GDVS Commissioner Dr. Patricia Ross met with Governor Kemp, state legislators, local officials, and Georgia's veterans and families to celebrate the grand opening of the Transitional Support Unit (TSU) at the Georgia War Veterans Home - Milledgeville. The TSU is the first state-run veteran’s home facility offering skilled nursing care and comprehensive mental and behavioral health services. EAC provided event support, including media alerts leading to the ribbon cutting.

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5. USMC 250th birthday – coordinated with Commissioner Ross and Homeless Coordinator JT Thompson to develop additional materials for the upcoming celebration.
6. Benefits outreach – External Affairs and Communications continues to work with GDVS staff and partners to educate Georgia’s veterans and families on the availability of benefits and resources.
 - a. Careers and Employment – continued to share information from organizations and partners hosting career readiness events across the state for veterans and their families.
 - b. Stand Downs – shared information received from Homeless Coordinator JT Thompson on two upcoming stand downs for veterans in need of housing assistance. The Atlanta VAMC held their annual event on September 10. An additional stand down will be held in Statesboro on September 19.
 - c. We CARE Veterans Fair – shared periodic updates to promote Columbus’s first We CARE Veterans Fair on September 12.



OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Ross recognized Ms. Sherri Whitfield, Director of our South Region, for 20 years of service to the State of Georgia. She was given a certificate and pin.

Commissioner Ross announced that the Veterans Day Ceremony with Gov. Kemp will be on Nov. 6 at 10am at the Capitol.

Commissioner Ross announced that the ceremony celebrating the Marine Corp's birthday will be on Nov. 6 at 1pm at the Capitol.

It was announced that Annual Training will be July 20-23, 2026, at the Hilton in Peachtree City.

Commissioner Ross announced that Ms. Amy Stevens will be inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame this year.

Mr. Hanley announced that he has the financing to cater for the Thanksgiving dinners at the homes. He asked them to let him know who they would like to cater.

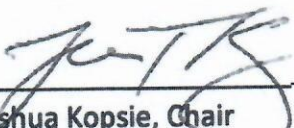
NEW BUSINESS:

The next Board meeting was scheduled for October 14 at 12:30pm. It will be a combination virtual and in-person meeting, set up at the GDVS.

Mr. Hanley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Paslawski seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:11 p.m.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:



Joshua Kopsie, Chair



Steve Mendez, Secretary