



Board Meeting Minutes

11 March 2026

- I. **Call To Order:** Mr. Ellenburg called the meeting to order at 1300.
- II. **Present (in-person):** Dale Ellenburg, Shawn Pinkston, Secretary McCaffrey, David Finley, Stephen Jones, Dr. Nikki Wooten, Lowell Koppert
Attending virtually: Dr. Ada Stewart
Absent: Melvin Poole, Jim Hawk, Nick Mesenburg,

SCDVA Support Staff: Joseph McLamb, Chief of Staff; Bobby Patterson, CFO; Colleen Clark, General Counsel
- III. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from 3 December 2025 were passed unanimously as written.
- IV. **Executive Director Update**
 - A. **Opening Remarks:**
 - **Veterans' Trust Fund**
 - The grant cycle for fiscal year 2025 has been completed.
 - American Heroes Bingo (H.4137)
 - Testified in support of the bill in the Senate on 10 March 2026
 - Passed the South Carolina House unanimously
 - Amendments are being added to the bill; National Guard Foundation has now been added
 - One inconsistency in the bill is language. For example, the Secretary, as the Executive Director, is a non-voting member of the Board. The bill requires him as the Secretary to disburse the funds. "All revenues received and deposited in the Veterans' Trust Fund from American Heroes Bingo are subject to an annual budget process. A budget outlining all anticipated expenditures of such funds must be prepared and submitted to the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs for approval. Disbursement of funds derived from American Heroes Bingo may not

be made without the prior approval of the Secretary.” Essentially, this provides the Executive Director with veto authority.

- The bill will likely be amended and then go to the House for approval or die.
- Board of Trustees
 - SCDVA is working with the Governor’s Office in bringing the Trust Fund into compliance with the law
 - New requirement for board membership: two County Veterans Affairs Officers and two Veteran Service Officers
 - Governor’s Office wants to send all nominations to the Senate at one time; would like to get this completed this legislative cycle.
- Bylaws
 - According to the bylaws, the Chairman serves a two-year term.
 - Trust Fund needs to get back in compliance with the bylaws.

B. Bylaws Update Regarding Grant Process (Colleen Clark)

- Based on a previous discussion with the Board, an amended copy of the bylaws have been provided to the board for review and decision to change the grant cycle to quarterly or semi-annually.
- Mr. Jones stated that whether grants were awarded once or twice a year, the Trust Fund needed to be frugal with donations.
- Mr. Ellenburg reminded board members that they needed to be at the meeting to discuss grants. Zooming doesn’t work well, one cannot give valid input, or see the information being presented.
- Secretary explained that SCDVA can make recommendations regarding the grant requests received, but the decision to grant and how much or not to grant is up to the board.
- Ms. Clark suggested creating a numerical threshold or making a designation for the chair to call a meeting to vote.
- Mr. Pinkston said that two times a year might work and reminded everyone that most non-profits are planning for their next fiscal year. He recommended approving mid- and end-of year, an earlier award would help non-profits with their next year’s budget.
- Current time frame: grants must be received by the end of June; copies are provided to the board in September; discussion and decisions made in December.
- Chief McLamb suggested authorizing the Chair to cancel a meeting if one is not necessary but could not cancel two consecutive meetings.
- There was conversation regarding proxy and whether it was covered in the bylaws. Mr. Pinkston suggested submitting a notarized proxy in the event someone could not attend a voting meeting.
- There was discussion by the board regarding the frequency of reviewing and voting on grant requests. The current process will be retained as outlined in the bylaws.

V. Raymond James Update (Jeannie Gravelle)

- Ms. Gravelle provided a copy of the report to each attending board member.
- A copy of the signed Investment Policy was requested

VI. Executive Session

A. Unfinished Business:

- Treasurer's Report was presented and accepted.

B. New Business:

- Election of Officers:
 - Elections should have occurred in December 2025.
 - Positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Finance Committee Chair
 - A motion was introduced by Mr. Pinkston nominating Stephen Jones as the Chair; seconded by Mr. Finley; passed unanimously.
 - Dr. Wooten noted there should have been a ballot with a confidential vote.
 - The other positions will be voted on at a later date.

VII. Next meeting and Adjournment:

- The next meeting the Trust Fund will be 10 June 2026 at 1300 at the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs, 1800 Saint Julian Place, Suite 305, Columbia SC 29204.
- Meeting adjourned.


TerryLynn Di Chiara, Secretary

10 June 2026
Date of Approval


Todd B. McCaffrey, Executive Director
Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina

18 June 2026
Date of Approval