



ILLINOIS JOINING FORCES
*Supporting Service Members, Veterans
and their Families*

IJF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 21st, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Union League Club Chicago – 65 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60603

Roll Call with Introductions

In Person: Kevin Smith, Dave Leckrone, CSM Carney Rep: Jennifer Rosa, Don Cooke, Steve Curda, Senator Hastings Rep: Howard Robinson, Nicole Mandeville, David Piatek, Jaime Martinez, Carlos Luna, Abbie Holland Schmit, Taylor Colliau, Casey Lane

On Phone: John DeBlasio, Modie Lavin, and Jim Dolan

Absent: Steve Goodwin, Senator Righter, Representative Chapa LaVia, and Ed Landreth

- Kevin Smith makes sure that quorum is available
- Eight voting members in attendance, if there are other administrative matters can work with quorum

Old Business and Updates

- Motion to approve BoD May 2018 Minutes
 - To approve: Dave Leckrone
 - Seconded: Don Cooke
 - Discussion: None
- Board Membership: Quorum available
 - Victor LaGroon: Resigned May 2018
 - Bill Browne: Resigned June 2018
 - Toyin: Resigned April 2018
 - Erica Jeffries: Resigned June 2018
 - Jason Vail: Did not meet attendance policy – removed
 - Tom Miller: past three-year limit – not indicated any extension on board membership
 - Motion: Dave Leckrone
 - Discussion: None
 - Second: Don Cooke
- By Name Board vote
 - Smith: yes
 - Curda: yes
 - Cooke: yes
 - Leckrone: yes
 - Rosa: yes
 - DeBlasio: yes
 - Lavin: yes

- Motion is carried: unanimous

Staff Review:

- Document review: week out get 90% of documents
- Jaime goes over the board documents

Introduction of IDVA Director: Dr. Steve Curda

- Looking forward to working with IJF and have heard of most of the people working with IJF
- Expand and community outreach with IDVA and IJF
- Engage the community, VSOs throughout the community, weekly engagement of 1,200 veterans
- Goal: engage the community, inform the veterans of all the great things that all these organizations are doing.
- Still getting settled, truly blessed to be working with great team and great veterans
 - Jaime: looking forward to continue with the evolving relationship with IDVA and IDMA

Jaime Martinez, Executive Director Update

- Operations calendar
 - June, July, August calendar
 - June on the road: West with Rock Island, Peoria, Quincy, Metro East, Southern IL, Mt. Vernon, Effingham, Champaign, Kankakee, Springfield (Finalize what VSCs should be doing, get Unite Us platform in the VSCs, further relationship with corporate sponsors)
- July: Focus on Chicagoland, 26th of July for next Board Meeting, 3rd week of July going back downstate
- August: better data after IMLS data, Egan Center data coming with environmental scans
 - With statewide model get calls from outside the Chicagoland areas

Taylor Colliau Marketing Data

- Data update with the calls and main three initiatives (VSCs, Women Veterans, Behavioral Health)
 - VFW, and American legion: that is how we reach pre & post 9/11
 - American Legion state convention: would be a great way to reach them
- Curda: what are the “outcomes” of this data
 - We don’t have enough data at this point to have outcomes
- DeBlasio: what happens after we refer clients?
 - Have a system that handles the situation, because our group can’t handle it
- Monthly or quarterly data on the closing the loop
- DeBlasio: had an issue initially with IJF, but good to begin to work with them

Budget and Financial Update

- Budget: Successfully submitted grant request to Boeing: \$115,000
 - Being Chicago focused to Statewide
 - Boeing has employees statewide
 - Direct guidance from Mike Cassel
- Met with McCormick Team
 - Cycle for funding has been completed
 - Provide for 2-year grant cycle instead of annual
 - End of July submitting grant
- IMLS Grant
 - \$60,000 additional infusion
 - Expires in Sept, allow us to request additional granting funds
 - Doesn't see it as continuing in library and museums
 - Jim can give picture of communities he is visiting
- Kevin Smith
 - End of the fiscal year financial recap
 - Projection of grants budget for the upcoming year
- Don Cooke
 - What is the potential role with working with libraries' in the communities
 - Reach out to IMLS for support through the state
- Jaime Martinez
 - Corporate levels bring better funding
 - Walgreens brings more health care access
 - Starbucks allows once a week for veterans to come in and be together
 - Not to say that we shouldn't continue that there are resources with libraries, but that the corporate involvement is better
 - Tried to host a few meetings in libraries, but the communities prefer to meet somewhere else
- Hastings Representative, Howard Robinson
 - All the libraries in the southland want that veteran resource
 - Great opportunity in that area to work with the libraries

Women Veteran Program Senior Director, Abbie Holland Schmit, Introduction

- Jaime Martinez: formally introducing Abbie as the Senior Director for Women Veteran Program
 - Abbie to take the next 2-3 weeks to see the environmental scans for the data
- Abbie Schmit: Thank IJF for making women issues an issue and bringing it to the table
 - 300% more suicides happen with women veteran than civilian women

- VA studies are done with Male bodies, and not with women
- We don't know what we don't know yet
- Don Cooke
 - McCormick has data with gender and racial disparities

Jim Dolan, VSC Development Update

- Jim: Walk us through this last week
 - 11th day on the road, tomorrow going to Carbondale, IL
 - Statewide partner has been IDVA (Heidi Morris), sharing resources and contacts
 - Relationship with IDVA has been working like it hasn't in the past
 - Environmental scans: to support the collaborations, phase 1
 - Phase 2: Meet with people on the ground in the communities, assist them in their efforts and to bring additional resources
 - Mike and Will close the loop and are trained to do that
 - Identify the networks and collaboratives and get them on our system and to collect the data
 - Economics in Southern IL are completely different, finances go much further, resources are good, and people are creative
 - Encourage funders both corporate and foundation to provide micro grants in the community where they can have a big impact
 - NVI will give \$2,000 micro grants into the communities
 - This was the right move and the right way to do it to meet the communities down south
- Quincy, IL:
 - Met with the VSO at the Quincy Veteran Home
 - Key partner the United Way of Adams County (Veteran Referral Initiative) partner in TriState Warrior Outreach
- Ask for money from grants to be matched to change the way they operate in a small community.
- How is the support for the veteran volleyball tournament?
 - Jim has not talked to her yet

USO of IL: Pathfinder Program Update

- Don Cooke: Help with transition
 - Work with active duty personnel and the 6 months before
 - A solution to TAP
 - Pathfinders who work with the transitioning personnel
 - Boeing has put in money for national project
 - McCormick is doing it for IL
 - Great source call in to a center, get them into the network before they even move back here
 - USO is committed to a year before and a year after transition

Board Updates

Recruitment strategy for Board

- David Piatek: gives bio and background
 - How to revamp the process of home buying for veterans and get them with corporations
 - Vet the companies to make sure that veterans aren't getting taken advantage of
 - Any input for taking on additional board members

- Jaime Martinez Update for Board
 - 7 statutory appointees, move them over to board of advisors
 - Take out the conflict of interest
 - Civic leaders, private partners, and take over the appointees role
 - Transportation, service, banking, and healthcare = help in the corporate civic sense to support the team
 - First time we are having this discussion
 - Used to have 9-11 working groups, now have 7 and only one is staffed
 - Only have Modie Lavin, Kevin Smith, and now David Piatek coming in
 - RWB wants to be in sports and rec
 - Team Rubicon wants to do volunteering
 - Mission Continues: veteran programs
 - Jaime Martinez: goes through our recs of leaders

- Don Cooke
 - The Working Group idea doesn't work, what does work are the VSCs
 - We want people who know all the players, don't need the problems that arrived
 - People to work with staff to get things handled

- Jaime Martinez
 - Moving to task forces
 - This is what we have staffed, as far as recruitment now come back with a roster so that the board can help identify and engage them

- Voice Vote to approve the strategy:
 - Motion: Curda
 - Second motion: Cooke
 - Any additional discussion: None

New Business: None

- Vote to adjourn the meeting:
 - Motion: Cooke
 - Second Motion: Piatek