

# USSVCF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES 01/08/26

## Quick recap

The meeting covered several operational updates including website improvements, donor-advised funds, and will/estate planning services, with discussions about expanding membership benefits and exploring different service providers. The group addressed the transition of the KAP(SS) for Kid(SS) program and reviewed a library donation offer, while also discussing ongoing library relocation plans. Finally, they covered plans for a Library move and construction project timeline, database development for tracking foundation history, and various administrative matters including newsletter distribution and charitable foundation portfolio review.

## Next steps

- [Ken: Talk to Tim \(Legacy Fund contact\) about the donor advised fund proposal and gather his suggestions before reporting back to the group.](#)
- [Ken: Contact My Legacy Wills to discuss the possibility and requirements for expanding their service to include additional estate planning documents \(e.g., power of attorney, living will, etc.\) and report findings to the group.](#)
- [Ken: Share the complete list of the California library donation with Keith \(new library manager\) to assess practicality of shipping and integrating the collection, and await his feedback.](#)
- [Ken: Send the complete list of the California library donation to Robert for review.](#)
- [Ken: Conduct a beta test by sending fundraising letters to local service organizations \(e.g., Kiwanis, Rotary\) in his base area, evaluate results, and report back; if successful, coordinate with District 4 Commander to expand the test to additional bases.](#)
- [Ken: Organize and compile historical award data \(since 2009\) into a usable format for future reference and reporting, with a self-imposed one-year timeline.](#)
- [George: Send 25 of each type of custom poker chip to each team member and fund manager for use in recognition and fundraising.](#)
- [Bob: Organize and schedule a Zoom meeting with all fund managers and active members to gather feedback and ideas; coordinate timing with participants.](#)
- [George: Begin work on the next monthly newsletter and request input from team members by Saturday.](#)
- [Bob: Discuss with George \(Robert\) one-on-one the future handling of newsletter distribution to avoid duplication and spam issues.](#)
- [George: Follow up with John regarding the status of the car donation \(Hudson/Packard\).](#)
- [All: Attend the scheduled 2:30 PM \(EST\) review of the Charitable Foundation's investment portfolio.](#)

## Summary

### Website Oversight and Donor Fund

Bob thanked the team for their efforts in 2025 and discussed website oversight improvements, noting that Randy's workload was significant and they might need to find additional help. Robert suggested looking at the Navy and Marine website as a model and George mentioned that Scott

Gerber, the new Monuments and Memorials person, has IT experience. Bob agreed to consider this and mentioned that once a new treasurer is found, Randy's role would be less demanding. The group also discussed adopting a Donor Advised Fund, with Bob sharing his research comparing it to Fidelity's approach. He was open to the group's input on this proposal.

### **Donor-Advised Funds and Legal Benefits**

The group discussed adding donor-advised funds as a choice for members, with Ken suggesting they reformat the information on their website to make it more accessible. They agreed to have Ken talk to Tim about this proposal. Bob also brought up the Navy Marine site's free wills program, which offers other legal documents like durable power of attorney and medical power of attorney, and suggested adding these options to their own membership benefits.

### **Estate Planning Service Expansion**

The group discussed expanding their will and estate planning services, with Ken volunteering to contact My Legacy Wills to explore adding more document types to their existing \$3,900 service. Bob noted that Freewills.com offers similar services, and the group agreed to investigate both options while being careful not to confuse members with multiple competing services. Randy emphasized the need to carefully consider costs and member overwhelm, with Ken agreeing to have an informal conversation with My Legacy Wills rather than asking for a simple yes or no answer.

### **Kaps for Kids Program Transition**

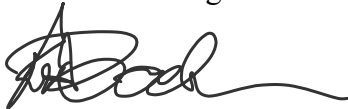
The meeting discussed the transition of the Kap(SS) for Kid (SS) program, with Sid taking over from John who has resigned. Ken presented an offer of 1,400 books and publications from a deceased member's library in California, but Robert and others expressed concerns about the high shipping costs and potential duplication with their existing collection. The group decided to consult with Keith, their new library manager, about the practicality of accepting the library donation, while also considering the naming rights requested by the widow. The conversation concluded with an update on the ongoing library relocation project from Arkansas to St. Mary's, which is expected to be completed by April or May.

### **Veteran Fundraising and Construction Plans**

The group discussed plans for a move and construction project, with George noting they are 2 months away from sheetrock and considering storing items at a base in Arkansas. Ken shared his idea of approaching service organizations like Kiwanis and Rotary for fundraising, proposing a \$2.50 per veteran contribution, and George shared a successful example from his Florida base that raised \$3,000 for veterans. Ken mentioned he has a mail merge letter ready to test with his base and plans to expand the initiative if successful.

### **Foundation Database and Records Update**

Ken is working on creating a database to track the foundation's history and awards since 2009, with a focus on awards rather than donations due to complexity. He aims to complete this within a year. The group discussed the need for better record-keeping and communication with fund managers, with Ken planning to organize a meeting to address this. They also talked about newsletter distribution methods and the potential for bases to create donor-advised funds. Additionally, they briefly mentioned a significant donation of \$35,000 from National for the Groton Building Fund and the upcoming review of the charitable foundation's portfolio.



Robert Bachman

President & CEO USSVCF