

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: June 16, 2020

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual on Go To Meeting Platform

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Elaine May Stem

Topic	Discussion
<b>Mission Statement</b>	To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.
<b>Vision Statement</b>	That Carroll County offers our Veterans quality services and programs to ensure the enrichment and enhancements of life for our men and women and their families.
<b>Attendance</b>	Linda Bergofsky, Larry Burbank, Christa Burton, Marc Fisher, Lori Fitzell, Francine Hahn, Mike Messina, Todd Mitchell, Bill Murphy, Bill Nash, Stacey Nash, Travis Rahill, John Veney, Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Richard Weaver, Steve Whisler, Tom Williams, Chris Winebrenner
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> (Marc Fisher) – Marc opened the meeting. Regardless of the pandemic, there were very nice Memorial Day celebrations around the county including at St. John's Cemetery and an impromptu parade down Main Street.</li> <li>2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher.</li> <li>3. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – Commissioner Weaver commended the various Memorial Day celebrations around the county as well as the virtual ceremony coordinated by the Community Media Center. There will be no large fireworks event at the Ag Center, so he is looking for other ideas. Marc mentioned having a flash parade down the Main Street of various municipalities to include communities and organizations of color.</li> <li>4. <u>Public Comment</u> – None.</li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with six voting members present.</li> <li>2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> (Marc Fisher) – Draft minutes from February 2020 and May 2020 meetings were presented with a motion made by Steve Whisler and seconded by Bill Nash. Minutes were approved.</li> <li>3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Veteran Services Staff) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served for May 2020 will be forwarded by email.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> (Stacey Nash) – May 2020:                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 5 veterans were served and 4 home pick-ups                       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baltimore – 2 veterans – 2 trips</li> <li>2. Ft. Detrick – 2 veterans – 3 trips</li> <li>3. GBMC – 1 veteran – 1 trip</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">4. Martinsburg – 1 veteran – 1 trip</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ii. The VA was closed so there were not many places to go therefore there was a decline in services.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – John reported that he is working with 17 veterans. Veterans are being called back to work and employers are still hiring.</p> <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently all five slots are filled. Staff is staying in touch with the families even though there are no face to face assessments. The newest referral is still being processed.</p> <p>5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently two are in a hotel with one HUD-VASH referral and one who’s family is assisting with a search for housing. In May they were able to assist with back rent, clothing for a veteran that is not eligible for VA, and a veteran who is waiting for an opening at Martinsburg Domiciliary.</p> <p>6. <u>Executive Committee</u> (Marc Fisher) – The Executive Committee has not been as active due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>7. <u>Census 2020 Update</u> (Leslie Wagner/Chris Winebrenner) – The census deadline has been moved to October 31<sup>st</sup> due to the pandemic. Materials are available for posting or distribution for any American Legion or VFW who’s dining room is open for meals. Farmer’s Markets are another venue for marketing. Currently Carroll County is one percent less in response rate from 2010 and rank 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation out of 3215 counties.</p> <p>8. <u>Monthly Column in the Carroll County Times</u> – Submissions on any veteran-related topic are welcome. They are due the Thursday prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month and assistance is available for editing. Send all material to Gina. John Veney submitted an article regarding Veteran employment. The next column will run on Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. If anyone would like to write an article personal to Independence Day, years of service, etc. it could run prior to John’s veteran employment piece.</p>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p>1. <u>Meals Available for Disabled Veterans</u> (Lori Fitzell – Freedom Center) – The Freedom Center has received CARES Act funding to provide COVID related items (food, masks, gloves, antiseptics, computer for telehealth, etc.) for anyone disabled. Please contact Lori at 301-846-7811 ext. 309 or at <a href="mailto:Lori-Fitzell@thefreedomcenter-md.org">Lori-Fitzell@thefreedomcenter-md.org</a>.</p>

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<b>Announcements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Leslie Wagner announced that Carroll County Department of Citizen Services, including Bureau of Aging &amp; Disabilities, Bureau of Housing and the Veterans Services Program, will begin opening for critical face to face appointments on June 22, 2020. Virtual and phone appointments are still highly recommended.</li><li>2. Tom Williams announced that during the VFW's renovation that many pieces of veteran memorabilia was discovered. He is interested in possibly opening a Carroll County Veterans Museum and asked for opinions. Commissioner Weaver said he would discuss with Commissioner Rothstein. A traveling display show was discussed including at the various library branches.</li><li>3. Local posts are open for dining: Westminster Legion, Fridays at noon; Westminster VFW, outside dining and car show; Hampstead Legion, lunch and dinner inside at 50% capacity.</li><li>4. Huge shout out to Babylon Vault for their veteran food pantry. There was a great turnout.</li><li>5. Steve Whisler announced that TriCare is extending ID card renewals and telehealth coverage to September 30, 2020.</li><li>6. VA out clinics are opening at ½ capacity of doctors. Military posts are required to wait an additional 2 weeks beyond local jurisdiction's decisions in regards to COVID orders.</li></ol>
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>The next meeting date is Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</b>