

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: December 21, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual (GoToMeeting)

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt

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 (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)</b>	Amy Baker, <b>Jim Duncan</b> , Courtney Edwards, Bob Eney, <b>Marc Fisher</b> , Francine Hahn, Bobbie Lawrence, Jason Marshall, Mike Messina, <b>Bill Nash</b> , Stacey Nash, Rick Pollard, Commissioner Rothstein, Celene Steckel, <b>Elaine May Stem</b> , Gina Valentine, <b>John Veney</b> , Commissioner Weaver, <b>Steve Whisler</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> – Marc Fisher opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.</li> <li>2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> – No guests were in attendance.</li> <li>3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher.</li> <li>4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> –               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>Commissioner Rothstein</u>: Wish everyone a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year. Continue to promote the right steps regarding COVID. Right now, it is a very serious health care crisis in Carroll County with the hospital overwhelmed with staff and beds. Most in the hospital are unvaccinated. It was humble to participate in the Wreaths Across America.</li> <li>b. <u>Commissioner Weaver</u>: There were 29 Wreaths Across America sites in Carroll County this year. He is amazed how this event grows each year. If you know of any small projects that may need funding, see Commissioner Weaver.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. <u>Public Comment</u> –               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Steve Whisler informed the group that Frederick County passed an ordinance that provides property tax discounts on the county portion for those Veterans with a VA disability. Commissioner Weaver noted that they would need to know how many in Carroll County would be served by this kind of program. Steve shared this article: <a href="https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/politics_and_government/county-council-approves-property-tax-credit-for-disabled-veterans/article_16162356-787f-5a3d-8b6c-">https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/politics_and_government/county-council-approves-property-tax-credit-for-disabled-veterans/article_16162356-787f-5a3d-8b6c-</a></li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/fe688effc55a.html#:~:text=The%20Frederick%20County%20Council%20unanimously,in%20federal%20adjusted%20gross%20income.">https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/fe688effc55a.html#:~:text=The%20Frederick%20County%20Council%20unanimously,in%20federal%20adjusted%20gross%20income.</a></p>
<p><b>Old Business</b></p>	<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> – A motion was made by Bill Nash and seconded by Elaine May Stem. A vote was taken and the minutes for October and November 2021 meetings were approved.</li> <li>3. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Reports for the End of Year Performance Statistics, to date: (Mike Messina)           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 405 Actions</li> <li>ii. VA Claims Submitted:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 62 Compensation claims</li> <li>2. 10 Veteran Pension claims</li> <li>3. 18 Survivors Pension claims</li> <li>4. 24 VA Medical Enrollments</li> <li>5. 46 Reopen/Decision Reviews</li> </ol> </li> <li>iii. 137 New representations</li> <li>iv. 332 Home and Office visits</li> <li>v. Monthly growth rate for 2020 was \$205,897, a 17% increase. Total awards were \$1,148,618.</li> <li>vi. Yearly growth rate for 2021 was \$10,793,864, a 26% increase. Total awards are \$41,955,864.</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. <u>Veteran’s Shuttle Report</u> – November 2021: (Stacey Nash)           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 19 Veterans were served with 14 home pick-ups               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baltimore – 10 Veterans served with 13 trips</li> <li>2. Loch Raven—2 Veterans served with 2 trips</li> <li>3. Fort Detrick – 1 Veteran with 2 trips</li> <li>4. Glen Burnie – 1 Veteran with 2 trips</li> <li>5. Union Memorial – 1 Veteran with 1 trip</li> <li>6. Martinsburg – 6 Veterans served with 7 trips</li> <li>7. Total cost - \$3,187.80</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>COAD is Seeking a Veteran Representative</u> (Gina Valentine) – Commission on Aging &amp; Disabilities is seeking a Veterans representative to serve on their board. Gina has not received any applications. The Commission is exploring some initiatives to age in place in the community. It is set up similarly to VAC. Meets every other month. See Gina with any questions.</li> </ul>
<b>Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Westminster American Legion will be hosting a holiday dinner for veterans in need on Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. If you know of a veteran that could benefit from this dinner, please contact Gina or Bobbie</li> <li>2. There is a Veteran's spouse in need of a ramp at their home after a recent hip surgery. If you know if anyone who can assist with building the ramp, please see Bobbie.</li> <li>3. Maryland Homeowner Assistance Program - accepting applications for those having difficulty paying for their mortgage.</li> <li>4. Marc Fisher has extra wreaths from Wreaths Across America. If you know of a veteran who would like one, let Marc know.</li> </ul>

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<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>The next meeting date is Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</b>