

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: May 17, 2022

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: American Legion Post 31 (2 Sycamore Street, Westminster, MD)

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt

Topic	Discussion
Mission Statement	To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.
Vision Statement	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.
Attendance (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)	Larry Burbank , Jessica Cook, Jack Curran , Bob Eney, Marc Fisher , Francine Hahn, Bobbie Lawrence, Nan Mann, Kristen Maszarose, Mike Messina, Bill Murphy , Bill Nash , Wm. Rosier, Elaine Scott, Celene Steckel, Elaine May Stem , Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Weaver, Steve Whisler
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair’s Comments</u> – Marc Fisher opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He reminded attendees that there is a 3-minute limit on public comment and announcements. He also remarked that the Veterans Celebration on Sunday was a great event and thanked those who attended and were part of the planning. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher. 4. <u>Commissioner’s Report</u> – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Commissioner Weaver</u>: Thanked the planning committee for their work on the Veterans Celebration. He also thanked the Sheriff’s Department for the Color Guard. Larry Burbank announced that he already requested the helicopter for next year. The Veterans Celebration has been scheduled for May 14, 2024, however that is Mother’s Day. The planning committee will discuss whether to move the date. They will be having a debrief in June. 5. <u>Public Comment</u> – No comment.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with seven voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – A motion was made by Bill Murphy and seconded by Bill Nash. A vote was taken and the minutes for the April 2022 meeting was approved. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Report for April 2022: (Mike Messina) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 34 Claims submitted ii. 11 New representations

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">iii. 58 Office visitsiv. 3 Home visitsv. 14 Phone appointmentsvi. 1597 Telephone and Email contactsvii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,535,296 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate for the month of April 2022 was 1%.viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$46,800,024 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2021 to 5/2022 is 12%.ix. Program staff attended a State VSO meeting on May 5th. A new online program was introduced that will house up to 100 documents and provide a snapshot of a Veteran. This will streamline how services are provided.x. They already have had three Veterans they met at Sunday's Veterans Celebration reach out.xi. Reported they had a successful appeal for a Veteran who was denied for hearing loss.xii. Discussion regarding length of time to receive VA Medical Card. Mike reported that it has not been taking long to receive. <p>b. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> – April 2022: (data was not shared at the meeting but forwarded via email afterwards, as follows)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 17 Veterans were served with 11 home pick-ups<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Baltimore – 10 Veterans served with 17 trips2. Fort Detrick – 4 Veterans served with 5 trips3. Martinsburg – 3 Veterans served with 3 trips4. Hanover Hospital – 1 Veteran served with 1 trip5. Total cost - \$2,463.30c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – No report. <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – New Veteran has been added to the program and Francine has been assigned as the Supports Planner. She will visit next week for enrollment.</p> |
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	<p>5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence) – Recently submitted their annual report to the Kahlert Foundation. In FY2021 they provided case management services to 78 Veterans and 65 in FY2020. Currently have no homeless Veterans housed in the hotel. Continuing to develop partnerships in the community. Recently provided funds for gas, back rent and car insurance. There has been an increase in homeless older adults with unique needs at the Bureau of Aging & Disabilities.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>1. <u>Nominations for FY2023 Chair and Vice-Chair</u> – Nomination for Bill Nash as Chair and Steve Whisler as Vice-Chair. There will be voting at the June meeting. Please make your nominations to Leslie. An email will be sent with those who are eligible to serve.</p> <p>2. <u>VA Claims & Benefits Clinic – June 7th at South Carroll Senior & Community Center</u> – This clinic is a partnership between MD VA, Chesapeake Veterans Alliance, and Carroll County Government. Federal and Maryland VSO’s will be onsite. Information sessions, claims processing and VA Medical will be available. Must register to attend.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>1. Veterans Celebration drawing for a \$100 Johannsson’s gift certificate was held. Gregory Adinolfi from Westminster was picked.</p> <p>2. 29th Infantry Division Association spoke regarding their blue and gray patch, which has been found offensive by the Naming Commission of the Defense Act of 2021.</p> <p>3. July meeting is the same day as primary. Meeting will still occur.</p> <p>4. Sykesville’s Memorial Day plans were announced.</p> <p>5. Friends of Disabled Veterans of Carroll County has a new website and Facebook page (https://friendsofdisabledveteranscarrollcountymd.org/).</p> <p>6. Any feedback regarding the Veterans Celebration send to Gina or Celene.</p> <p>7. Representatives from Senator Van Hollen and Senator Cardin reminded everyone that their offices are always available to assist.</p>
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</p>