

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: August 19, 2025

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair:

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>	<b>Bill Nash, Jack Curran, Bob Eney</b> , Celene Steckel, Stacey Graham, <b>Mick Schmidt</b> , Bobbie Lawrence, Chris McLean, Megan Klein, Kati Townsley, Gina Valentine, Commissioner Kenneth Kiler, <b>Nigel Forney</b> , Kathy Barna, <b>Marc Fisher</b> , Francine Hahn, Reva Coussey, <b>Brian Kilheffer, Elaine May-Stem</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u><b>Chair's Comments</b></u> (Bob Eney) – opened the meeting by welcoming those attending and introducing new VAC member Brian Kilheffer</li> <li>2. <u><b>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</b></u></li> <li>3. <u><b>Pledge of Allegiance</b></u> led by Bob Eney</li> <li>4. <u><b>Commissioner's Report</b></u> – Commissioner Kenneth Kiler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission Rothstein has been appointed as the new Secretary of Veterans and Family Affairs</li> <li>• Met with him and some of his senior staff at MACO</li> <li>• This has created a vacancy in District 5 and the CCRCC recommended Susan Krebs to Governor Moore for approval</li> <li>• Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am Route 27 road dedication for Zunbrum; 3000 Manchester Rd</li> <li>• Commissioner Gordon not in attendance</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<p><u><b>Approval of Minutes</b></u> –Quorum established; June minutes approved.</p> <p><u><b>Monthly Program Reports:</b></u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u><b>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for July 2025:</b></u> (Megan Klein) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 claims submitted</li> <li>• 25 new representations</li> <li>• 52 office visits</li> <li>• 9 home visits</li> <li>• 16 telephone appointments</li> <li>• 1682 telephone and email contacts</li> <li>• Total cumulative payments since program start have exceeded \$92 million</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <u><b>Veteran's Shuttle Report</b></u> – (Stacey Graham) July 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Month of July, 37 Veterans served to the following:</li> <li>• Total cost: \$15,472.30</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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	<p><b><u>Update on Employment Initiatives for Veterans (Reva Coussey):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reva Coussey – regional employment coordinator</li> <li>• Carroll County has 650 veterans registered on the MD Workforce Exchange state website</li> <li>• Serving 8-10 veterans per month based on referrals</li> <li>• 30-35% success rate of veterans being hired</li> <li>• Baltimore County representative, Jennifer Gessner comes to Carroll County once a week on Wednesdays to assist; <a href="mailto:Jennifer.gesner@maryland.gov">Jennifer.gesner@maryland.gov</a></li> <li>• Looking to identify Veterans skills into customer service jobs</li> <li>• Barriers facing employment include 50% age discrimination and teaching transferable skills</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u></b> (Bobbie Lawrence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual report is ready to submit for the Kahlert grant funding</li> <li>• Tony Roman has been busy working with case management</li> <li>• 19 homeless veterans this year; 1 is in Timber Ridge, 3 in emergency hoteling, 1 in Baltimore County has a VASH voucher; had a veteran pass away on July 31<sup>st</sup></li> </ul> <p><b><u>VAC Officer Election Results</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Eney unanimously voted as Chair and Elaine May-Stem as been voted as Vice-Chair</li> </ul>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aging your Way, Health and Wellness Expo to be held 9-10-2025 from 9am-2pm</li> <li>• Set up date for the Expo is 9.9/25</li> <li>• 1500-2000 people expected to attend, and we have health screens and demonstrations, pickle ball courts, vendors, CCPL will be in attendance, Babylon Vault will have their travelling Vietnam Wall on display</li> <li>• Amanda Coshun has been hired as the new Project and Special Events Coordinator. She will start on August 28<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Elaine May-Stem Vietnam War Wall flyer is out; walk thru meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup>; the Wall will be escorted in by Jeeps and motorcycles</li> <li>• Gina Valentine – Ae Friendly Survey is out; please complete</li> <li>• Celene Steckel – Carroll County Hospital is stopping partial hospitalization for adults; adolescent partial hospitalization is still in effect; Westminster Rescue Mission is now open for mental health treatment</li> <li>• Bob Eney – would like to try to help promote the VAC and have meetings at the surrounding Senior Centers or at different legions or VFWs</li> <li>• Elaine May-Stem – participating in suicide prevention for Carroll County for all Legions and Posts</li> <li>• Chris Mclean – in October or November we will be having the Salute Honor Society at Carroll Community College</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Veterans room at Carroll Community College has been named after American Legion Post 31</li><li>• Post 200 Hampstead would be happy to host the monthly VAC meeting</li><li>• Nigel Forney – went to the National training in Las Vegas; made donation to the Mad dog Shuttle; 75<sup>th</sup> year as benefit in Carroll County is 12noon-3pm at Friendly Farms</li></ul>
<b>Announcements</b>	Bob Eney adjourns the meeting of the VAC.
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Tuesday September 16, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b>