

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: December 19, 2023

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Jim Duncan

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, Jack Curran, Bob Eney, Marc fisher, Commissioner Gordon, Commissioner Kiler, Bill Nash, Mick Schmidt, Elaine May Stem, Steve Whisler, Nigel Forney, Francine Hahn, Megan Klein, Bobbie Lawrence, Stacey Nash, Tony Roman, Chris Winebrenner, Katie Townsley, Heather Mullendore, Sarah Totoshek, Jessica Taylor, Tim Bauerlient, Larry Wood, Marilyn Manger, Lois Bittinger, Victoria Parks
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair’s Comments</u> – opened the meeting by welcoming those attending. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements-</u> Attendees all provided introductions. 3. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> was led by Bill Nash. 4. <u>Commissioner’s Report</u> – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Commissioner Gordon & Commissioner Kiler:</u> <u>Commissioner Gordon:</u> Attended the Wreaths Across America event at Meadow Branch, roughly four thousand wreaths passed out. In 2022 2.7 million wreaths were passed out across the 3,700 locations. <u>Commissioner Kiler:</u> Shared a copy of the Veterans Celebration flyer scheduled for May 05, 2024. Asked the group for their input of what bands to have, whether the focus is on a military band or one that pulls a larger following. Opened input for public comment. b. <u>Public Comment</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bobbie Lawrence: Would like to have a Veterans or Military branch band. The planning committee is looking to reorganize layout to help with noise. • Nigel Forney: Heard complaints from attendees and VSO members with hearing devices, music was too loud especially near the tents with vendors. • Elaine May Stem: Would be interested in a non-military band, looking for oldies but goodies

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Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Quorum met, Victoria Parks motion to approve/ Elain May Stem Second, vote approved December Minutes.2. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u><ol style="list-style-type: none">a. <u>Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Report for November 2023:</u> (Richard Pollard)<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. 13 Claims submitted.ii. 9 New Representationsiii. 36 office/6 home visitsiv. 14 phone appointmentsv. 1388 telephone/ email contacts<p>VA approved 13 submitted claims during November 2023. Two received 100%, one received 90%, three received 80%. Megan Klein received notification of 100% award to a Vietnam Veteran, who was her first client within Carroll County Veterans Services Program.</p>b. <u>Veteran’s Shuttle Report</u> – (Stacey Nash) November 2023:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. 24 Veterans were served with 26 total trips-<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Baltimore/ 12 Veterans/ 14 trips2. Loch Raven/1 Veteran/ 1 trips3. Fort Detrick/ 4 veteran/ 4 trips4. Glen Burnie / 1 Veteran/ 1 Trips5. Belvedere Ave/ 1 Veteran/ 1 Trip6. Rosedale / 1 Veteran/ 1 Trip7. Pikesville/ 2 Veteran/ 2 Trips8. Martinsburg/ 2 Veterans/ 2 Trip9. Total cost of \$3,353.22c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (DLLR Representative)- No new updates
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	<p>3. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Veteran Service Staff) – Program is staying steady, 2 clients currently in program. Open to accept referrals. Staff is up to date with certifications.</p> <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Veterans Service Staff) – Seventy-six-year-old Veteran living at the Boston Inn with his sister were selected for Baltimore County vash. Currently working with both Baltimore and Carroll County Housing representatives to ensure they can remain within Carroll County.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>a. <u>VICE Chair Nominations:</u> Current Vice-Chair Jim Duncan is leaving the county and will need to step down from his position of Vice-Chair. Mr. Bob Eney nominated and accepted nomination of Vice-Chair. Veterans Advisory Council Committee voted during meeting in favor of Mr. Eney to take the place of Vice-Chair. Mr. Eney will be acting Vice-Chair of the Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council starting Tuesday January 16th, 2024.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaine May Stem: Toys-for-Tots event currently taking place at the American Legion Post #31. About 120 kids in Carroll County that will benefit from the drive. Already helped the individuals recommended by Gina Valentine and Bobbie Lawrence. A wonderful event that gives back, especially during the Holidays.
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</p>