

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: February 20, 2024

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Bob Eney

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>	Alex Brown, <b>Larry Burbank</b> , <b>Marc Fisher</b> , Nigel Forney, <b>Commissioner Gordon</b> , Francine Hahn, Megan Klein, Nann Mann, Tony Roman, Rick Pollard, <b>Mick Schmidt</b> , Jason Sidock, Gina Valentine, Elaine Scott, Shanice Harrick, Kadena Williams, Kati Townsley, Bob Borie, Chris Abell, <b>Commissioner Rothstein</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Chair's Comments</u></b> – opened the meeting by welcoming those attending.</li> <li>2. <b><u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u></b>- Attendees all provided introductions.</li> <li>3. <b><u>Pledge of Allegiance</u></b> was led by Marc Fisher.</li> <li>4. <b><u>Commissioner's Report</u></b> –               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b><u>Commissioner Gordon &amp; Commissioner Kiler:</u></b>  <b><u>Commissioner Gordon:</u></b> Laptop distribution coming up on march 13<sup>th</sup>, being distributed by multiple groups.  <b><u>Commissioner Kiler:</u></b> A lot going on in the county, very busy time of the year, gearing up for everything to come in the upcoming months.  <b><u>Commissioner Rothstein:</u></b> Excited for the Veterans Celebration, has come across a large amount discussion across the County.</li> <li>b. <b><u>Public Comment</u></b> –                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigel Forney: Heard complaints from attendees and VSO members with hearing devices, music was too loud especially near the tents with vendors.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b> – Quorum not met; December 2023 minutes not approved.</li> <li>2. <b><u>Monthly Program Reports:</u></b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b><u>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for January 2024:</u></b> (Richard Pollard)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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- i. 8 Claims submitted.
- ii. 7 New Representations
- iii. 38 office/10 home visits
- iv. 12 phone appointments
- v. 1417 telephone/ email contacts

- Bobbie Lawrence and Rick Pollard attended a Signature Breakfast Series in the BWI business area where Secretary Woods, Secretary of the MD Dept. of VA, addressed initiatives regarding Military Families, in the effort to improve hiring practices for Veterans & Military Spouses.
- New guidance was received from the MD VA on our reporting of extended demographic information regarding veterans to improve VA outreach efforts.

b. **Veteran's Shuttle Report** – (Stacey Nash) January 2024:

- i. 22 Veterans were served with 27 total trips-
  1. Baltimore/ 15 Veterans/ 19 trips
  2. Loch Raven/1 Veteran/ 1 trips
  3. Fort Detrick/ 3 veteran/ 4 trips
  4. Bowie / 1 Veteran/ 1 Trips
  5. Rosedale / 1 Veteran/ 1 Trip
  6. Gwen Oak/ 1 Veteran/ 2 Trips
  7. Martinsburg/0 Veterans/ 0 Trips
  8. Total cost of \$3,496.52

c. **Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update** (DLLR Representative)- No new updates

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	<p>3. <b><u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u></b> (Veteran Service Staff) – Maryland Department of Aging works with the VA in assisting Veterans to receive at home care. Beginning in June a partnered agency will take over the Veterans Services Program position as liaison to small group of individuals.</p> <p>4. <b><u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u></b> (Veterans Service Staff) – Gina Valentine with the CC Bureau of Aging and Jason Sidock with VIP for Tony Roman with the Veterans Services Program to partner with VIP to assist with Veteran needs.  <b>Jason Sidock:</b> Excited for the developed partnership and to bridge the gap in services offered.</p>
<b>New Business</b>	<p>a. <b><u>3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Celebration of Carroll County:</u></b> scheduled for Sunday May 5, 2024 from 12pm to 4pm at the Carroll County Farm Museum. Featuring US Navy Band Country Current and Midnite Run, childrens activities and onsite resource fair.</p> <p>b. <b><u>Chrome Distribution for eligible Carroll County Residents:</u></b> March 18, 2024 9am-4:30pm, Department of Citizen Services (10 Distiller Dr Suite 101), one per household.</p> <p>c. <b><u>Veterans Claims Clinic and Resource Fair- March 13, 2024:</u></b> waiting on flyer for push out, VSO including Veterans Services Program and VA will be present.</p>
<b>Announcements</b>	<p><b>Nigel Forney:</b> Has worked with LaScoula, a business in Sykesville has helped refurbish vehicles for Veterans, will help additional groups as well.  Kahlert Foundation has also helped vehicles for Change and LaScoula, Jason Sidock with VIP has worked with organizations as well.</p> <p><b>Jessica Cook/ Nan Mann:</b> Congressional earmarks and grant applications with a March 8<sup>th</sup> deadline. Able to work with others/ assist with grant applications.</p>
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b>