

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: February 18, 2025

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Marc Fisher

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)	Kathy Barna, Jack Curran , Bob Eney , Marc Fisher , Commissioner Kenneth Kiler , Celene Steckel, Nigel Forney, Bill Nash , Stacey Nash, Tony Roman, Mick Schmidt , Bobbie Lawrence, Rick Pollard, Jason Martin, Chris McLean
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> (Bill Nash) – opened the meeting by welcoming those attending. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u>- No comment 3. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> led by Bill Nash 4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – Commissioner Kiler: meeting with the Board of Education today for the submission of the proposed budget; Superintendent McCabe cuts to the budget and larger class sizes; Carroll County night in Annapolis and there were discussions about Blueprint (Kirwan Commission); CCPS has the 2nd or 3rd highest test scores in the state; Blueprint requires beginning pay for teachers
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Bill Nash declares a Quorum of 5 met, due to the fact that there are only 8 current established members on the Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Eney motions to approve January minutes. Jack Curran seconds. Minutes approved without objection. 2. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for January 2025:</u> (Richard Pollard) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 36 claims submitted ii. Approved 5 Claims submitted – 2 claims funded at 100% iii. 24 new representations iv. 42 office/12 home visits v. 9 telephone appointments vi. 1570 telephone and email contacts b. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> – (Stacey Graham) January 2025: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. No report this month due to a software problem

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	<p>3. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Veterans secured housing; 1 with a VASH voucher and 1 with a Mainstream voucher. Both received assistance with some moving expenses, including resources for security deposits. • In January the program provided emergency housing to 2 Veterans. • Tony Roman assisted a Veteran who needs extensive automotive repairs apply to the VA Trust fund.
<p>New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Veterans Celebration of Carroll County:</u> Celebration is being held from 12pm to 4pm at the Carroll County Farm Museum on Sunday May 4th, 2025. This is a free event to celebrate Veterans, active military and their families within the community, while connecting them to Veteran focused resources. Vendor space is available, to register contact Victoria Parks at vparks@carrollcountymd.gov. • <u>Vietnam Memorial:</u> Elaine May Stem is working on it but is not present today; Traveling wall coming to Carroll County in October at the New Windsor carnival grounds
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>Nigel Forney, Post Commander with the DAV had a few announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Bill 267 – will testify in front of the Senate next week • Has a meeting with Heather Girard • Veterans Trust Fund – 2 in the Taneytown area • DD214 needed • Mid-winter conference starting on Saturday and running through Wednesday • Tuesday – march on the capital • Fireside chats starting next month • Resource Fair at Gilchrist • Maryland Service call – wellness check on veterans once a day <p>Celene Steckel - Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Went to meeting with BGE • Jason Martin will send out the BGE assistance flyer to the VAC • Visit HSP office to apply for OHEP assistance • Call BGE if your energy is off • March having a Caregivers conference for grandparents • Jason Martin will send out the Caregiver conference flyer to the VAC • Results of the PIT count were 18 unsheltered homeless <p>Chris McClean from Carroll Community College</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advises student veterans• Military academics honor society had 47 students apply• Cost to cover would be \$250 per semester or \$35 per student <p>Jack Curran brought up that he was in attendance at the January meeting, and it needed to be corrected in the meeting minutes. Correction vote on January meeting minutes. Bob motions to correct the meeting minutes for January and approve. Mick Schmidt seconded. January minutes approved with correction with no objections.</p> <p>Bill Nash adjourns the meeting of the VAC.</p>
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday March 18th, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.