

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: February 21, 2023

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Steve Whisler

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 , Kristin Maszarose, Scott Myers, Bobbie Lawrence, Bill Nash, Celene Steckel, Elaine May-Stem, Victoria Parks, Commissioner Gordon, Commissioner Kiler, Steve Whisler, Stacey Nash, Marc Fisher, John Veney, Mick Schmidt, Bill Murphy, Celene Steckel, Tony Roman, Gina Valentine, Rick Pollard, Francine Hahn.
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair’s Comments</u> – Bill Nash opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Visited the liberty Bell in Philadelphia and was approached by two homeless veterans asking for donations. Thanked the group for not allowing the same to happen to Carroll County Veterans. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements-</u> Nigel Forney with the Chapter #22 Disabled Veterans introduced. 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Nash. 4. <u>Commissioner’s Report</u> – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Commissioner Gordon & Commissioner Kiler:</u> Commissioner Gordon met with the Westminster City Council. The Elsworth Cemetery has had an issue with vandalism on Veterans headstones, many dating back to the 1880’s. Asked the Council for additional funds to be granted for headstones to be replaced and repaired. Commissioner Kiler (partnered with Commissioner Rothstein) went to Annapolis to follow up with Veterans Assistant Bills. Governors are backing initiative. 5. <u>Public Comment</u> – N/A
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – A motion was made by Bill Nash and seconded by Marc Fisher and Mick Schmidt. A vote was taken and the minutes for the January 2023 meeting was approved. 2. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Report for January 2023: (Richard Pollard) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 17 Claims submitted ii. 16 New Clients

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- iii. 62 Office visits
- iv. 4 Home visits
- v. 16 previous claims approved/ 4 received 100%
- vi. 2 pension surviving spouses

b. Veteran's Shuttle Report – (Stacie Nash) January 2023:

- i. 21 Veterans were served with 43 total trips
 - 1. Baltimore/ 12 Veterans/ 21 trips
 - 2. Ellicot City / 1 Veteran/ 1 Trip
 - 3. Fort Detrick/ 5 Veterans/ 5 trips
 - 4. Walter Reed/ 1 veteran/ 7 trips
 - 5. University of Maryland/ 1 veteran/ 1 trip
 - 6. Martinsburg / 4 Veterans/ 1 Trip
 - 7. Loch Raven/ 1 Veteran/ 1 Trip
 - 8. Total cost of \$5,100.00 in expense

c. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – Staying Stable- job club Howard County this Thursday/ 25 computers to pass out. Carroll County workforce development job fair- live Thursday February 23rd. 24/7 open platform, live once a month for employers to speak to perspective employers. Job fair upcoming in Baltimore, Veterans unemployment rate- pre Covid numbers.

- 3. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – Stable, 4 current participants, 5 positions available.
- 4. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Bobbie Lawrence/Tony Roman) – 1 Homeless Vet to shelter to OA. 1 Accepted employment position at McDaniel, pending housing. Assistance provided to pay back rent/ vehicle maintenance/disability assistance for marine.

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New Business	1. <u>Veterans Celebration of Carroll County</u> : May 7 th , 2023 Carroll County Farm Museum 12pm-4pm/ Welcome ceremony at 1pm followed by Afghanistan veteran recognition. Veterans will receive a certificate of recognition and gold coin. Six-String Soldiers and The Reagan Years to perform. Currently 25 organizations registered for the event, accepting Sponsorship (different tiers available for sponsorship) and donations for bag fillers.
Announcements	1. Bill Murphy- attended the Frederick County Advisory council meeting to represent Disabled Veterans. Guest speakers were present for meeting. Guest speakers included Canine Warrior Dogs with PTSD, Black Veterans of Maryland and Property Tax Credits. 2. Kristen Mazarose- Hereford Eyes of Freedom, memorial tribute to Veterans as well as Veterans Resource Fair May 25-29, 203 at Hereford High Auditorium.
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, March 21st, 2023, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.