

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: November 21, 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, Jim Duncan, Bob Eney, Bill Nash, Tom Fort, Nigel Forney, Commissioner Gordon, Francine Hahn, Commissioner Kiler, Megan Klein, Rick Pollard, Bobbie Lawrence, Nan Mann, Kristen Maszarose, Tony Roman, Mick Schmidt, Jason Sidock, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Doc Dockery, Diana Flores, Daly Rowan, 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 Bridging Life Veterans Breakfast, there was a wonderful turnout. Jason Siddock with CCVIP was a speaker during the event. Looking forward to what we can do in the future to continue to support our Veterans. <u>Commissioner Kiler:</u> Multiple fantastic Veterans Day events through out the County. Attended the Manchester Valley High Veterans event, color guard marching band apart of the event. There has been some mention of the North Carroll Senior Center Pool Hall, there has been a large amount of disrespect and disruption. There is more behind the scenes. b. <u>Public Comment</u> – no public comment
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Quorum not met, unable to approve October Minutes. 2. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for October 2023:</u> (Richard Pollard) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 11 Claims submitted. ii. 19 New Representations

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- iii. 39 office/9 home visits
- iv. 16 phone appointments
- v. 1326 telephone/ email contacts

VA approved 12 submitted claims, 2 survival spouses, 2 100% received, 1 90% received. 177 separated claims submitted, \$1.2 million payouts received, roughly 87% of submitted claims have been approved by the VA over the last twelve months.

b. **Veteran's Shuttle Report** – (Stacey Nash) October 2023:

- i. 28 Veterans were served with 48 total trips-
 - 1. Baltimore/ 12 Veterans/ 19 trips
 - 2. Loch Raven/1 Veteran/ 1 trips
 - 3. Fort Detrick/ 5 veteran/ 8 trips
 - 4. Catonsville / 1 veteran/ 1 trip
 - 5. Lutheran / 1 Veteran/ 1 Trips
 - 6. Belvedere Ave/ 1 Veteran/ 1 Trip
 - 7. Sinai / 1 Veteran/ 1 Trip
 - 8. Walter Reed/ 1 Veteran/ 1 Trips
 - 9. Martinsburg/ 9 Veterans/ 13 Trip
 - 10. Total cost of \$6,448.50

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

3. **Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant** (Veteran Service Staff) – Program is staying steady, 2 clients currently in program. Open to accept referrals. Staff is up to date with certifications. Veteran recently passed away but was able to have hospice available in home because of the program.

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Francine Hahn: Everything is through the VA, but only the Baltimore VA. We are not able to control who is accepted but will process applications as they come in.</p> <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Veterans Service Staff) – Kahlert Grant application approved and will be available for next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 HUD Vouchers approved/ 1 housed through Rapid Rehousing/ 1 received Housing Choice Voucher/ 1 Veteran being moved from Taneytown to Westminster • 76-year-old Vietnam Veterans with PTSD and sister are staying at the Boston Inn, working to get the veteran VA Health Benefits and the sister getting assistance through Aging for health support. • Megan Klein has received her certification, so she is beginning to take on more clients/ caseloads.
New Business	1. <u>No New Business</u>
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Eney: Veterans 2023 Pickleball Tournament, took place on November 11th – 12th, 2023 at Dill Dinkers Pickleball, proceeds benefited Lost Mountain Group. 318 participants total. Commissioner Gordon and wife won Gold and Silver. The dogs were a very popular during the event. • Francine Hahn: Vietnam Veteran in his end-of-life stages with radiation poisoning, depends heavily on Rick and Francine. 100% VA certified, difficult to find meal service due to nutritional limitations. He is a lifelong member of the VFW, looking for resources that could help create a food chain. Doc Dockery: would be happy to help with meals. • Bobbie Lawrence: 10 Year Veteran Services Program Celebration held on 10.25.23 Great turn out to the event, appreciate everyone who came out to support the work of the Veterans Services Program. • Celene Steckel: Shepherd Staff on Thanksgiving Day 12pm-2pm, congregate meal and pick up. Over 300 turkeys passed out at different events in the area.
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, January 16th, 2023, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.