

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: November 19, 2019

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Road, Westminster

Veteran's Advisory Council Mission Statement: To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.

Veteran's Advisory Council 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.

Council Present: Larry Burbank, Jack Curran, Marc Fisher, Bill Murphy, Bill Nash, Mick Schmidt, Elaine May Stem, Commissioner Richard Weaver, Steve Whisler

County Staff Present: Rosemarie Glowack, Francine Hahn, Jim Hillman, Mike Messina, Stacey Nash, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Shannan Zepp

Other Present: Kim Benson, Adam DeLauter, James Duncan, Bob Eney, Greg Kahlert, Gary Saylor, Gary Scarbeau, Chris Schuler, Charles Wheatley, Jerome Williams Sr., Tom Williams

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair's Comments (Marc Fisher) – Marc opened the meeting.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elaine May Stem.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Rothstein/Weaver) – Commissioner Rothstein attended the groundbreaking of a Veterans Facility in Frederick County. Carroll County Government has been named Veteran Friendly Employer of the Year by Business Advocates for Veterans. Commissioner Weaver announced that Carroll County will donate \$4,100, in honor of Carroll County Korean War Veterans, for the Korean War Memorial being built in Washington, DC. Wreaths Across America is December 14th with donated wreaths being placed at 2,000 veteran graves in Carroll County. Carroll County Veterans Independence Project's Red, White and Blue Gala was a great event and successful in raising funds for a future Veterans Center in Carroll County. With Veterans Day on November 11th there have been many events to attend these last two weeks.
- d. Public Comment – None.

2. Old Business

- a. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with eight voting and one ex-officio member present.
- b. Approval of Minutes (Marc Fisher) – Draft minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. Charles Wheatley noted that he was present at the meeting. Leslie Wagner will revise the minutes to reflect his attendance. Bill Nash made a motion and Mick Schmidt made the second motion. All were in favor and October's minutes were accepted with the addition of Charles Wheatley's attendance.
- c. Monthly Program Reports (Veteran Services Staff) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served was distributed. The numbers are as follows:
 - i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Jim Hillman) – October 2019:
 1. 20 new representations
 2. 81 claims submitted

3. 15 home visits
 4. 103 in-office contacts
 5. 1448 telephone contacts
 6. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$673,856.00 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$20,426,292.00 since inception of the program (October 2013).
 7. Jim noted that due to the many Veterans Day events and the program's information being distributed and discussed, they have been receiving more phone contacts and inquiries.
- ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Stacey Nash) – October 2019:
 1. 39 veterans were served and 24 home pick-ups
 - a. Baltimore – 24 veterans – 59 trips
 - b. Loch Raven – 1 veteran – 2 trips
 - c. Martinsburg – 10 veterans – 18 trips
 - d. Ft. Detrick – 4 veterans – 4 trips
 - e. Walter Reed – 1 veteran – 2 trips
 - f. Walter Reed – 1 veteran – 2 trips
 2. Total Cost = \$10,007.00
 3. Only one no-show this month.
 - iii. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – No report.
- d. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – Monthly rates have increased, and a new budget began in October. Rates are based on need. Currently four out of the five spots are filled.
 - i. There was an outreach event at the Taneytown Library. This will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of December and January from 10am to 2pm. They may move to Eldersburg branch
 - e. Updates on Veteran Services Program Grant (Shannan Zepp) – Currently five veterans are in a hotel, one in permanent housing, one employed in PA and one completing the paperwork for HUD-VASH. Throughout the month the program has coordinated a donation towards insulin for a National Guard veteran; assisted wife of a deceased veteran experiencing housing issues; transported and provided case management; arranged for car repair for a veteran attending dialysis three times a week; connected veterans and their families to food, gifts and home repairs during the holidays; partnered with Lions Clubs Hope for Heroes program; provided gloves, hat and space heater for veteran in need; provided outreach throughout the county during Veterans Day events; and conducted a presentation during Crisis Intervention training. Carroll County has been approved for five more HUD-VASH vouchers.
 - f. Executive Committee (Gina Valentine) – The Executive Committee did not meet in November. Will next meet on December 10th.
 - g. VAC By-Laws – Bill Murphy made a motion to revise list (Article V – Paragraph VI) and include 29th Division Association and Catholic War Veterans and Bill Nash seconded. After discussion Bill Murphy withdrew the motion and made another motion to change the wording of Article V – Paragraph VI to “29th Division Association, Catholic War Veterans and any other chartered Veteran Services Organization in Carroll County.” Bill Nash seconded. With a positive vote, the motion passed. Gina Valentine will schedule time to go before the Board of County Commissioners to present the revision in the By-Laws language for Article V – Paragraph VI.

- h. Resource Guide – A special section regarding Veteran resources will be added to the Bureau of Aging & Disabilities Resource Guide. The State Guide will be the draft and amended for Carroll County. The Executive Committee will work on revisions at their December 10th meeting.
 - i. Monthly Column in the Carroll County Times – Marc will write on Veteran Services Organizations and include their contact information. If you are interested in writing, please contact Gina or Celene. The County’s Communications Director reviews and approves the articles. Commissioner Rothstein remarked that the column is once a month, but you can write a Letter to the Editor as many times as you want. Bill Nash is awaiting approval from American Legion officials before he can submit his article on who they are and what they do.
3. New Business
- a. Veterans Day Recap – A lot of events around the county. Many opportunities to inform the public about the Veteran Service Program of Carroll County.
 - b. HUD-VASH Update – Discussed during Veteran Services Program Grant update.
4. Announcements:
- a. Thanks to Bob Eney and Rec & Parks for the Pickleball Tournament and donation of \$4,500 to the Friends of Disabled American Veterans in Carroll County.
 - b. Tom Williams will speak with CCVIP regarding VFW hosting next year’s Gala.
5. Next Meeting: December 17, 2019 at 2pm – VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Road, Westminster.