

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: July 20, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster w/ Virtual Option Available

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt

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 , Nicholas Baginski, Jack Curran , Jim Duncan , Bob Eney, Francine Hahn, Kristen Harvey, Marc Fisher , Bobbie Lawrence, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, Tim Reger, Elaine May Stem , Kati Townsley, Gina Valentine
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair’s Comments</u>--Marc Fisher opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> – Visitors introduced themselves. 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher. 4. <u>Commissioner’s Report</u> – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Commissioner Ed Rothstein – Reminded everyone of the importance of being vaccinated and to encourage friends and family to do the same. Expressed that he is proud of the team & partnerships that offer Veteran services & encouraged anyone with ideas on how to help our Veterans to share those ideas. Reminded everyone that cooling centers are operating at our Senior Centers & Libraries, for those who may be in need. Engineering might be expected to begin on the new 28-bed Veterans Home in Sykesville in 2022 and will hopefully breaking ground in 2023. 5. <u>Public Comment</u> – No report.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was not established with five voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Draft minutes from the June 2021 meeting were not able to be approved since a quorum was not established. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Mike Messina) – Bobbie Lawrence gave the report. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Reports for June2021: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 13 New representations ii. 34 Claims submitted iii. 28 Office appointments

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: July 20, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster w/ Virtual Option Available

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt

- iv. 3 Home visits
 - v. 31 Phone appointments
 - vi. 1676 Telephone and email contacts
 - vii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,023,480 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate for the month of May 2021 was less than 1%.
 - viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$36,994,566 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2020 to 6/2021 is 15%.
- b. Veteran's Shuttle Report – June 2021:
- i. 19 veterans were served with 11 home pick-ups
 - 1. Baltimore – 13 veterans served with 25 trips
 - 2. Loch Raven—1 veteran served with 2 trips
 - 3. Fort Detrick – 1 veteran with 2 trips
 - 4. Martinsburg – 5 veterans served with 6 trips
 - 5. Total cost - \$3,542.00
- c. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – No report.
4. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – Nothing new to report. The program is holding steady.
5. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – Courtney & Francine have been collaborating to help Veterans as Courtney gets settled into her new position. There are currently 2 Veterans in hotels. Both Veterans have been awarded housing vouchers, one with a HUD VASH. Courtney recently helped a third Veteran, who was staying in the hotel get connected with services, so that he could relocate to South Carolina to live with family. There is only 1 HUD Voucher remaining out of the 15 awarded. Gina has a meeting on Friday 7/23 to see if any additional vouchers can be obtained. The program has also helped a Veteran, who is a single father pay a past due phone bill.
6. Veterans Representative on the Commission on Aging & Disabilities – No Report.
7. Veterans View Column – Thank you to Adrienne Gamboa for writing July's article. Unfortunately, the article was never printed. There is new editorial staff and it sounds like Community Viewpoint will no longer be offered for

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: July 20, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster w/ Virtual Option Available

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt

	<p>free. Options will be explored for getting these articles into the paper. Jack Curan will be writing for August. If you are interested in submitting an article let Gina or Bobbie know. Articles are due by the last Thursday of the month, before the month the article will be printed.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>4-H Fair Booth</u>. Volunteers are needed to man a Veterans booth to provide outreach at the upcoming 4-H Fair Sat, July 31- Fri, Aug 6. Marc will put together a schedule of the peak times and Gina will push out the email for all who are interested to sign up. BOAD will provide a table and canopy for the event. Commissioner Rothstein stresses the importance of this event as many Veterans are not in the system & an even greater number don't even realize there is a system. 2. <u>Veterans Claims & Benefits Clinic</u>. Event is Oct 13th from 10am-2pm @ South Carroll Senior & Community Center. Collaborative effort between MDVA, BOAD, & Chesapeake Veterans Alliance. Veterans will be able to file Pension/Compensation Claims on-site. There will also be information on other benefits.
<p>Announcements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Seniors on the Go Expo is Sept 15th from 9am-2pm @ The Shipley Arena. VAC will be needed to staff a table in the Veterans Area. 2. Bob Eney-The next Veterans pickle ball Tournament will be Nov 12th-14th 3. Kati Townsley presented on Lost Mountain Group. A Non-Profit group that pairs retired Military & Police dogs with Veterans who are either disabled or have a high PTSD rating. 4. Nicholas Baginski presented on WEMDVETS. A Group raising money to build a facility where Veterans can come together, build cars, & auction them to raise money for non-profits that prevent Veteran Suicide. Currently looking for volunteers & vendors to work the Vet Swap coming up on Oct 30th from 10am-4pm. 5. Tim Reger presented on Veteran Build Open House. DAVs build an airplane that is set up with hand controls. Once complete, the plane becomes part of a Veterans Flying Club and members can fly. Open House will be August 14th at the EAA Chapter 524 House located at the Frederick Airport. 6. BOAD Veteran Services Program is looking for resources for a recently widowed spouse of a Veteran. She needs assistance with roof repairs and volunteers who would be willing to help with yardwork on her 1 1/3-acre property. If you know of anyone or any resources, please contact Bobbie Lawrence or Francine Hahn.
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next meeting date is Tuesday, August 17th, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</p>

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: July 20, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster w/ Virtual Option Available

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt