

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: October 19, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual (GoToMeeting)

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)	Rob Burnett, Jack Curran , Jim Duncan , Courtney Edwards, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher , Kristen Maszarose, Mike Messina, Bill Murphy , Bill Nash , Stacey Nash, Rick Pollard, Commissioner Rothstein, Gina Valentine, John Veney , Leslie Wagner, Steve Whisler
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 – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Maryland National Guard's Freedom Readiness Center in Sykesville will be named the Major General Linda L. Singh Readiness Center. Governor Hogan made the announcement at a portrait unveiling honoring General Singh. ii. Vehicles for Change will be donating 10 cars to veterans on Veterans Day. Please see Gina if you know of a veteran in need of a vehicle. A veteran that Francine has been assisting was approved and will be awarded a vehicle. 5. <u>Public Comment</u> – Charles Wheatley and Tom Mudgett will be donating a vehicle to a Carroll County veteran as well.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with seven voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Draft minutes from the August and September 2021 meetings were approved with a motion made by Bill Murphy, second by Bill Nash and unanimous vote. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports for September 2021: (Mike Messina) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 9 New representations

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">ii. 42 Claims submittediii. 43 Office appointmentsiv. No Home visitsv. 24 Phone appointmentsvi. 1733 Telephone and email contactsvii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,079,810 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate for the month of September 2021 was 2%.viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$39,870,188 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2020 to 10/2021 is 24%. <p>b. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> – September 2021: (Stacey Nash)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 19 Veterans were served with 14 home pick-ups<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Baltimore – 12 Veterans served with 26 trips2. Loch Raven—1 Veteran served with 2 trips3. Fort Detrick – 2 Veterans with 2 trips4. Martinsburg – 4 Veterans served with 8 trips5. Total cost - \$4,636.80 <p>c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – Veteran population is doing better than non-veterans when it comes to employment. Currently working with 13 veterans for employment needs, with seven needing assistance just this month. Last quarter they worked with 10 new veterans and five found employment by the end of the quarter. There will be a virtual job fair on October 26th. Nationally, veteran unemployment is at 3.9%, a small increase from 3.8% in April. In May 2020 the unemployment rate was 11.8%. Pre-Covid the veteran unemployment rate was 3.1%. Veterans have been taking employment in many different positions including both professional and technical. BEREC is housing a welding apprenticeship program and there are many training opportunities at their location.</p> <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Gina Valentine) – Currently there is one veteran enrolled. No additional referrals have been received from the Maryland Department of Aging.</p> |
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New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff have been invited by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to provide training and presentations to other VSO's in the state. They will be rotating on a monthly basis.
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bill Murphy and Friends of Disabled American Veterans in Carroll County visited McVets in Baltimore. They host a two-year alcohol and drug addiction program and currently have vacancies with housing. They have also donated 4,000 flags over the last 4 months to Carroll County and Adams County, PA. 2. October 30th – Swap Meet in Taneytown by wemdvets.org to raise money and awareness on veteran suicide. 3. November 6th at 2pm the Flood Zone Brewery will be hosting a Marine Corps Birthday Celebration. 4. Rob Burnett – Maryland Chapter of the Farmers Veteran Coalition – for veterans interested in agriculture. 757-876-1041; rob@goodrunfarm.com.
Next Meeting Date	<p>The next meeting date is Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</p>