

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: July 19, 2022

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Steve Whisler

Topic	Discussion
<b>Mission Statement</b>	To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.
<b>Vision Statement</b>	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.
<b>Attendance (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)</b>	Kathy Barna, <b>Larry Burbank</b> , <b>Jim Duncan</b> , Bob Eney, <b>Marc Fisher</b> , Bobbie Lawrence, Mike Messina, <b>Bill Murphy</b> , <b>Bill Nash</b> , Stacey Nash, Elaine Scott, <b>Elaine May Stem</b> , <b>John Veney</b> , Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Weaver, Charles Wheatley, <b>Steve Whisler</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> – Bill Nash opened the meeting, thanked the members for their unanimous support and welcomed everyone.</li> <li>2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> – Kathy Barna introduced herself as the new Volunteer Coordinator with BridgingLife.</li> <li>3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Nash.</li> <li>4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> –               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>Commissioner Weaver:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Attended the ribbon cutting for the new Westminster Veterans Memorial Park.</li> <li>ii. Announced that Jessica Cook of Senator Cardin's office will be attending the September meeting to provide information on grants and extra funding.</li> <li>iii. The Sykesville Veterans Facility is still in the planning stage. Will create approximately 185 jobs when opened. Using State and Federal funds to build.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>5. <u>Public Comment</u> –               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Charles Wheatley announced that he is receiving State and National endorsements for his Veterans Big Stem Park.</li> <li>b. Bill Murphy announced that the Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council has asked him to speak at their next meeting regarding his non-profit Friends of Disabled Veterans of Carroll County.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with eight voting members present.</li> </ol>

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2. Approval of June 2022 Meeting Minutes – A motion was made by Bill Murphy and second by Marc Fisher. After a vote the minutes were approved as presented.
3. Monthly Program Reports:
  - a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Report for June 2022: (Mike Messina)
    - i. 53 Claims submitted
    - ii. 33 New representations
    - iii. 67 Office visits
    - iv. 2 Home visits
    - v. 25 Phone appointments
    - vi. 1648 Telephone and Email contacts
    - vii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,578,857 for compensation and pension with an increase of 3% in June.
    - viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$49,003,166 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2021 to 7/2022 is 17%.
    - ix. The success of the Veterans Claims Clinic held in June at the South Carroll Senior & Community Center can be attributed to the increase in the performance statistics.
  - b. Veteran’s Shuttle Report – June 2022:
    - i. 20 Veterans were served with 16 home pick-ups
      1. Baltimore – 11 Veterans served with 15 trips
      2. Loch Raven – 1 Veteran served with 1 trip
      3. Fort Detrick – 3 Veterans served with 3 trips
      4. Martinsburg – 4 Veterans served with 6 trips
      5. Total cost - \$2,946.30
    - ii. The main travel location was Baltimore and there were two no-shows in the month of June.
  - c. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – Currently assisting four Veterans. They are holding a virtual monthly Job Fair. The online platform will be available monthly with one day hosting live

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	<p>interviews. The live date will change, however, this month it will be July 21<sup>st</sup>. An electronic flyer will be distributed to the listserv.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence) – Three clients are being served.</li> <li>5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence) – Courtney Edwards has moved to a new department. Her position is posted, and, in the meantime, Bobbie is handling her cases. They are currently assisting Veterans with back rent, gas, and food cards. One Veteran is housed in a hotel and applied for HUD VASH as well as been connected to other agencies. They will be meeting with the Kahlert Foundation to give an update. They have also applied for new funds with the Foundation. It's not too early to think about Christmas. If you know of any Veterans or their families that would benefit from gifts or meals, please let Bobbie know.</li> </ol>
<b>New Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>August Meeting Cancellation</u> – The August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting has been cancelled.</li> <li>2. <u>VAC Table at 4-H Fair</u> – Looking for volunteers to help cover the Veterans table at the 4-H Fair. A sign-up sheet was distributed. A call for volunteers will be sent to the listserv.</li> </ol>
<b>Announcements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The VA on Green Street's parking garage will be closed. Expect longer wait times.</li> <li>2. Mike Messina will be moving to another position in the Department.</li> <li>3. Leslie Wagner will be leaving Carroll County government August 24<sup>th</sup>. Contact Gina or Bobbie with any Veteran or VAC related inquiries.</li> <li>4. Information was provided regarding #988, the new national crisis number. Press #1 to be connected to the Veterans Crisis hotline.</li> <li>5. Elaine May Stem is a member of the Maryland Veterans Commission and received a lot of positive feedback on Carroll County's Veterans Celebration held in May.</li> <li>6. Marc Fisher is looking for a Veterans Day speaker.</li> <li>7. John Veney reminded everyone that they have free laptops to give away to Veterans. Contact him if you have any referrals.</li> </ol>
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b>