

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: September 18, 2018

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, Ed Rothstein, Marc Fisher, Bill Nash, Tom Woerner, Jack Curran, Steve Bass (CTS – Ex-Officio), John Veney (DLLR), Elaine May-Stem, Bill Murphy, Commissioner Weaver (Ex-Officio)

County Staff Present: Commissioner Weaver, Francine Hahn, Sara Handwerger, Christine Kay, Stacey Nash, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Shannan Zepp

Other Present: Kim Benson, Jeff Collins, Ramenta Cottrell, Delegate Susan Krebs, John Long, Alison Malachowski, Keith Midberry, Todd Mitchell, Gil Muse, Frank Rauschenberg, Gary Saylor, Gary Scarbeau, Jason Sidock, Frank Valenti, Alex Whitney Sr., Thomas Williams

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair's Comments (Larry Burbank) – Larry opened the meeting with a welcome then everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elaine May-Stem.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – Commissioner Weaver announced that polo shirts will be provided to appointed Council members and t-shirts will be available for everyone else. He also announced there will be a gun raffle at the American Legion Post in Hampstead.

2. Old Business

- a. A quorum was established with 9 members present.
- b. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Ed Rothstein made a motion to approve the August 2018 meeting minutes, second by Marc Fisher. All were in favor and the August 2018 meeting minutes were approved.
- c. Monthly Program Reports (Veteran Services Staff) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
 - i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Sara Handwerger and Francine Hahn) – August 2018:
 1. 15 new representations
 2. 76 claims submitted
 3. 15 home visits

4. 77 in-office contacts
 5. 733 telephone contacts
 6. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$510,154.92 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$11,322,481.59 since inception of the program (October 2013)
 7. Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$65,789.00
 8. All numbers are based on known awards, which is information given to program staff by veterans since the program is not notified by the VA.
- ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Crystal Winebrenner) – August 2018:
 1. 33 veterans were served, with 4 in wheelchair and 18 home pick-ups
 - a. Baltimore – 20 veterans – 95 trips
 - b. Loch Raven – 3 veteran – 5 trips
 - c. Fort Detrick – 7 veterans – 10 trips
 - d. Glen Burnie – 1 veteran – 2 trip
 - e. Johns Hopkins – 1 veteran – 2 trip
 - f. Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 4 veterans – 10 trips
 2. Total Cost = \$10,650.00
 - iii. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update – John Veney reported that five Veterans came to BERC and two of them found employment. He also reported that there will be a job fair at BERC on October 4th.
- d. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – Program has the capacity to provide services to a maximum of 5 Veterans. We currently have 4 Veterans in the program, with one of the Veterans going through the enrollment process.
 - e. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Shanna Zepp) – Six Veterans are receiving assistance with emergency housing.
 - f. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – Veteran of the Year Award and Veteran-friendly Employer of the Year Awards luncheon is on November 7th. Nominations are being accepted.
 - g. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP (Ed Cramer and Frank Valenti)
 - i. Revised HHS Application Part 1 – HHS reviewed the revised application submission and there is a deadline of 10/11 to respond to questions from HHS. October's response will include information about community partnerships. It is expected that part II of the application will be started at the end of the year.

- ii. The Red, White and Blue Gala will be held on November 10th. It will be a dinner, dance and silent auction. The committee is working on sponsorships and inviting special guests. They would like suggestions from the group regarding who should be invited.

3. New Business

- a. Nominations for the VAC Chair and Vice Chair were accepted at the meeting and will be accepted through Friday, October 12, 2018. Voting for the Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the October meeting. The nominations received at the meeting are:
 - i. Chair: Larry Burbank and Marc Fisher
 - ii. Vice Chair: Elaine May-Stem and Bill Nash
- b. A POW/MIA vigil will be held on September 21st at 7pm at the American Legion in Hampstead.
- c. The Veterans Book Club has had about 20 attendees ranging from WWII to OIF/OIA era. The group decided not to stop meeting during the summer and it is better to work by consensus and not have one appointed leader. Allison is the point of contact for the Finksburg Library. The Club meets the 3rd Monday of every month at the Finksburg Library.
- d. Deer Park Cemetery will have 4 Marines come to honor 1st or last casualty of the Spanish-American War who is interned at the cemetery on November 10th.
- e. Delegate Krebs was present and stated that the Delegation is in support of the VIP Project.
- f. Each of the Senior Centers will hold Veterans Day Programs in November. The schedule is as follows:

Westminster Senior & Community Center – Friday 11/9 @ 9:30

South Carroll Senior & Community Center – Friday 11/9 @ 9:30

Mt. Airy Senior & Community Center – Friday 11/9 @ 11:00

Taneytown Senior & Community Center – Friday 11/9 @ 11:00

North Carroll Senior & Community Center – Tuesday 11/13 @ 10:00

- 4. Next Meeting: October 16, 2018 at 2pm at VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Rd, Westminster.