

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: October 17, 2023

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Jim Duncan

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>	<b>Larry Burbank, Jim Duncan, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher,</b> Tom Fort, Nigel Forney, <b>Commissioner Gordon, Commissioner Kiler,</b> Francine Hahn, Roslyn Jones, Megan Klein, Rick Pollard, Tony Roman, Celene Steckel, <b>Elaine May Stem,</b> Gina Valentine, Victoria Parks, Alex Brown, Katie Townsley, <b>Steve Whisler</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Chair's Comments</u></b> – Jim Duncan opened the meeting by welcoming those attending.</li> <li>2. <b><u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u></b>- Attendees all provided introductions.</li> <li>3. <b><u>Pledge of Allegiance</u></b> was led by Jim Duncan.</li> <li>4. <b><u>Commissioner's Report</u></b> –               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b><u>Commissioner Gordon &amp; Commissioner Kiler:</u></b>  <b><u>Commissioner Gordon:</u></b> Sykesville has banners with local veterans across branches hung through town. Wondering who can have those made for Westminster.                    -Veterans Independence Program: \$150.00 per banner  <b><u>Commissioner Kiler:</u></b> Spoke last meeting about looking into the financials and budget effects of a 5-10% tax break for Veterans. The county would lose \$2.5-5 million of revenue if the tax breaks were given.</li> <li>b. <b><u>Public Comment</u></b> – no public comment</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b> – A Jack Curran, Marc Fisher second.</li> <li>2. <b><u>Monthly Program Reports:</u></b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b><u>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for September 2023:</u></b> (Richard Pollard)                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 12 Claims submitted.</li> <li>ii. 14 New Representations</li> <li>iii. 36 office/1 home visits</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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- iv. 17 phone appointments
- v. 1436 telephone/ email contacts

VA approved 9 submitted claims, 2 survival spouses, 2 100% received. Roughly 48,000 claims recovered in total.

b. **Veteran's Shuttle Report** – (Stacey Nash) September 2023:

- i. 23 Veterans were served with 38 total trips-
  - 1. Baltimore/ 12 Veterans/ 19 trips
  - 2. Loch Raven/1 Veteran/ 1 trips
  - 3. Fort Detrick/ 2 veteran/ 3 trips
  - 4. York Rd/ 1 veteran/ 1 trip
  - 5. Sinai / 1 Veteran/ 1 Trips
  - 6. Walter Reed/ 1 Veteran/ 2 Trips
  - 7. Martinsburg/ 8 Veterans/ 11 Trip
  - 8. Total cost of \$5,932.62

c. **Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update** (DLLR Representative)- Tom Fort introduced Alex Brown who has taken over John Veney's position and will be within Westminster.

3. **Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant** (Veteran Service Staff) – no updates, 3 clients currently enrolled, annual budgets being completed.

4. **Update on Veteran Services Program Grant** (Veterans Service Staff) – Remaining steady, met Greg Kahlert for annual report.
- Emergency housing & first month rent provided to Veteran. Working with another Veteran for permanent housing.
  - Application cost and moving cost provided to pair living together.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HUD Vash: 2 available subsidies open to 4 Veterans on the list within Carroll County. Social Worker from the VA advocating for Veterans to receive Voucher.</li> </ul>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Veterans Celebration Update:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruiters have reached out to those who are interested in being a part of the event.</li> <li>• Date of event: Sunday, May 5, 2024, 12:00-4:00pm</li> <li>• Focus of the Veterans Celebration: will remain on Veterans and their families, as well as resources in the community and show Veterans the County's support.</li> <li>• Individual conflict spotlighted per year: Celebration will be in honor of all Veterans and active Military and their families, individual conflict to be highlighted each year. 2024 will highlight 'Operation Iraqi Freedom' era.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b><u>Veteran Services Program 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Celebration- October 25<sup>th</sup>:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking place on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Westminster Senior Center and Bureau of Aging &amp; Disabilities 10:00am-1:00pm.</li> <li>• Opening Ceremony will begin at 10:00am- featured speakers include Board of Carroll County Commissioners, Secretary Anthony Woods, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs.</li> <li>• Veteran specific vendors will be on site as well, vendor space is still available. To register as a Vendor, contact Victoria Parks at 410-386-3818/ <a href="mailto:vparks@carrollcountymd.gov">vparks@carrollcountymd.gov</a></li> <li>• Free event for the community, no registration required- light lunch will be available following opening ceremony.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Announcements</b></p>	<p><b>November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023:</b> Marine Core Birthday Celebration, 12:00pm at Flood Zone. All branches of Military welcome to join.</p> <p><b>November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023:</b> We Honor Veterans Breakfast, 8:30am- 10:00am, East Pavilion at Carroll Hospital, RSVP Required by calling 410-871-7205.</p>

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	<p><b>November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023:</b> American Legion Post 31 ceremony at Longwell Armory at 4pm. Among attendance will be the Lieutenant Colonel from McDaniel College.</p> <p><b>November 11<sup>th</sup>- 12th, 2023:</b> Veterans 2023 Pickleball Tournament. Hosted at Dill Dinkers Pickleball. Games begin at 8:00am. Proceeds benefit: Lost Mountain Group.</p>
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b>