

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: January 21, 2025

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Marc Fisher

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, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher, Tim Fort, Nigel Forney, Megan Klein, Bill Nash, Stacey Nash, Tony Roman, Elaine Scott, Elaine May Stem, Bobbie Lawrence, Rick Pollard, Francine Hahn, Victoria Parks, Molly Sherman
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> (Bill Nash) – opened the meeting by welcoming those attending. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements-</u> No comment 3. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> led by Bill Nash 4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – Commissioner Kiler: currently watching the progression of budget reviews, Governor currently working on structuring & may be affecting blueprint. Commissioner Gordon: started talks and meeting for Vietnam Wall, excited for the development of that planning.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Quorum not met, unable to approve November & December minutes. 2. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for December 2024:</u> (Richard Pollard) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 10 Claims submitted. ii. 16 New Representations iii. 25 office/5 home visits iv. 8 phone appointments v. 1475 telephone/ email contacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francine Hahn: VA is sending out letters regarding frauds and scams. No one should be charged to file claim with VA, no "fast-track" to having claim submitted or approved, VA not accepting Nexus letter. b. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> – (Stacey Graham) December 2024: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 23 Veterans were served with 33 total trips- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baltimore- 12 Veterans/ 20 trips

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Loch Raven- 1 Veteran/ 2 trips 3. Fort Detrick- 3 veteran/ 4 trips 4. Martinsburg – 4 Veteran/ 5 Trips 5. York Road-1 Veteran/ 1 trip 6. Glen Burnie 1 Veteran/1 trip 7. Total: 22 Veterans/33 trips <p>c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (Tom Fort)- Alex Brown no longer in position, currently looking to fill position. Will have updates as an individual is brought on board.</p> <p>3. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December the program provided emergency housing to 7 Veterans and currently as of this meeting are assisting 2 with emergency housing. • 2 Veterans have moved into apartments in January-one with a VASH subsidy and another with a Mainstream housing voucher for which we assisted the Veterans in securing. Both received assistance with some moving expenses, including a new bed for one Veteran. Another Veteran receiving emergency housing has VASH voucher and hopes to be leased up by February 1st. • Our staff is noticing an uptick in Veterans experiencing homelessness who are more vulnerable with some considerable health issues.
<p>New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Veterans Celebration of Carroll County:</u> Celebration is being held from 12pm to 4pm at the Carroll County Farm Museum on Sunday May 4th, 2025. This is a free event to celebrate Veterans, active military and their families within the community, while connecting them to Veteran focused resources. Vendor space is available, to register contact Victoria Parks at vparks@carrollcountymd.gov. • <u>Carroll Technology and Innovation Council:</u> Veterans Transition to Technology Programming: training on foundational hardware skills, universal design application, data protection practices, credentialing opportunities. Veterans and Service Providers can receive 1:1 instruction or through class/ group instruction. Chromebook program still available to those that qualify to receive free Chromebook. Goal of Carroll Technology and innovation Council is to instill confidence by teaching students how to notice risks, trouble shoot issues and navigate a variety of platforms.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Membership/ Quorum Discussion:</u> Board members are to attend so many meetings through the year. Attendance affects quorum and what the board is capable of voting on or approving during any given meeting. Four or more missed meetings within fiscal year, Board can request to have member removed. Board Member attendance pulled for FY 2024 to review .
Announcements	<p>Nigel Forney, Post Commander with the DAV had a few announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DAV counted 4,071 volunteer hours recorded for 2024 • Definition of who qualifies as a Veterans, possible growing to include first responders. <p>Bobbie Lawrence: Rick Pollard with the Carroll County Veterans Services Program, retiring on April 1st, 2025</p> <p>Elain May Stem: Vietnam Wall coming to New Windsor October 9th – 13th, 2025 at the New Windsor firehall. Planning Team has begun meetings, more information will follow as details are confirmed.</p>
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday February 18th, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.