

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: March 21, 2023

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Steve Whisler

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, Jack Curran , Bob Eney, Bobbie Lawrence, Bill Nash , Victoria Parks, Commissioner Gordon, Commissioner Kiler, Stacey Nash, John Veney, Mick Schmidt, Bill Murphy , Tony Roman, Gina Valentine, Rick Pollard, Francine Hahn, Jim Duncan , Nan Mann, Elaine Scott, Chris Miller, Chris Abell, Doc Dockerty, Kati Townsley, Troy Baacke, Kathy Barma
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> – Bill Nash welcomed everyone and announced that Island Green in Taneytown is having a Flag Day event 6-17-2023. Lee Greenwood will be performing. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u>- Attendees all provided introductions 3. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> was led by Bill Nash. 4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Commissioner Gordon & Commissioner Kiler</u>: No reports provided b. <u>Public Comment</u> – No public comments
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – A motion was made by Bill Murphy and seconded by Larry Burbank. 2. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for January 2023: (Richard Pollard) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 19 Claims submitted ii. 15 New Representations iii. 50 office/2 home visits iv. 14 phone appointments <p>During the past month the VA approved 9 previously submitted disability claims for our Veterans, 3 at 100% disability awards. Total return on program investment and all combined payments to Veterans was \$57 million as of 3-21-2023.</p>

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b. Veteran's Shuttle Report – (Stacie Nash) January 2023:

i. 21 Veterans were served with 43 total trips-

1. Baltimore/ 13 Veterans/ 18 trips -
2. Ellicot City / 1 Veteran/ 1 Trip
3. Fort Detrick/ 2 Veterans/ 2 trips
4. Walter Reed/ 1 veteran/ 7 trips
5. Martinsburg / 8 Veterans/ 13 Trips
6. Loch Raven/ 3 Veteran/ 3 Trips
7. Park Heights 1 Veteran/1 trip
8. Lutherville 1 Veteran/1 trip
9. Total cost of \$4,894.48

c. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – Reported being involved with several job fairs. On 3-15-2023 a job fair was held in Baltimore with 85 employers and 700 job seekers. Today, 3-21-2023 a job fair was held at the Workforce Development center in Westminster. 8 employers were present; no count yet of number of job seekers. Tomorrow, 3-22-2023, a job fair will be held in Howard county. 12 new Veterans referred for case management and 5 have become employed.

3. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – Stable, 4 current participants, 5 positions available.
4. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Bobbie Lawrence/Tony Roman) – One Veteran will receive his HUD VASH subsidy on 3-22-2023 and should move on 4-1-2023 and will start a job tomorrow as well. He had been experiencing homelessness. Another Veteran was assisted with partial back rent payment and with transportation assistance.

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New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marketing/outreach: The Veteran Services staff discussed the possible development for a sub-committee. This was being developed before COVID. Francine completed a presentation for the local DAR chapter which led to her and Tony Roman being present during the hours of the soup kitchen as there were some Veterans and family members present. Francine discussed the utilization of local libraries. Chris Abell from CTIC expressed interest and his previous endeavors with getting computers donated for Veterans.
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Veteran's Celebration planning is in full swing. Anyone who is aware of potential sponsors should encourage them to reach out directly to Dana Wachter with the Farm Museum. A specific marketing campaign has been developed and is running through the Carroll County government Facebook page and to specifically target the ceremony recognizing those Veterans who have served in Afghanistan. 2. Bill Murphy announced that the Friends of Disabled Veterans assisted in delivering food to 40 Veteran families through the outreach efforts with Babylon Vault Company. Francine Hahn mentioned that several Veterans she had referred were extremely appreciative. Bill also announced a drug that is used to combat dementia has been approved through VA Healthcare insurance. The Commissioners have also approved a proclamation to be completed for National Vietnam Veteran's Day. 3. Bill Nash asked for any updates on the Veteran's home. Doc Dockery reported that during the event with Senator Cardin it was discussed that a possible 2026 or 2027 opening. 4. Bob Eney announced that his Pickleball tournaments have raised \$17,000 for Veterans. He presented the Veteran Services Program with a \$3,280 donation. 5. John Veney provided a reminder on the Diversity Fair being held on 4-19-2023 at the Bureau of Aging & Disabilities. 6. Kathy Bama with Bridging Life discussed the "We Honor Veterans" program and discussed the need for volunteers. 7. Doc Dockery discussed the importance of communication between organization members and groups and that his VFW post can offer financial assistance to Veterans in need. 8. Bobbie Lawrence discussed an open position for a part-time Veteran Service Officer.

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	9. Nan Mann suggested collaborating with various VACs and to include a possible presentation from Project Healing Waters.
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.