

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: March 19, 2024

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Bob Eney

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>Bill Nash, Larry Burbank, Steve Whisler, Nigel Forney, Jack Curran, Francine Hahn, Megan Klein, Tony Roman, Rick Pollard, Gina Valentine, Commissioner Kiler, Stacey Graham, Jim O'Connor, Victoria Parks</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Chair's Comments</u></b> – 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 Bill Nash</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 Kiler:</u></b> Appreciates being able to be apart of the Veterans Advisory Council, Commissioners are beginning the budgeting review process,</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b> – Quorum not met; December 2023, February 2024 minutes not approved.</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 February 2024:</u></b> (Richard Pollard)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 22 Claims submitted.</li> <li>ii. 28 New Representations</li> <li>iii. 53 office/8 home visits</li> <li>iv. 13 phone appointments</li> <li>v. 1525 telephone/ email contacts</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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- Rick Pollard additional updates: VA approved four previously submitted claims, 1 Vietnam era Veterans prior claim was denied due to administrative error with outside organization -claim was resubmitted and approved with back owed rewarded.
- b. **Veteran's Shuttle Report** – (Stacey Nash) February 2024:
  - i. 29 Veterans were served with 39 total trips-
    1. Baltimore/ 17 Veterans/ 26 trips
    2. Loch Raven/1 Veteran/ 1 trips
    3. Fort Detrick/ 3 veteran/ 3 trips
    4. Glen Burnie / 0 Veteran/ 0 Trips
    5. Martinsburg / 5 Veteran/ 6 Trip
    6. D.C. / 1 Veteran/ 1 Trips
    7. Rockville /1 Veterans/ 1 Trips
    8. Gaithersburg 1 Veteran/ 1 Trip
    9. Total cost of \$4,728.90
- c. **Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update** (DLLR Representative)- No new updates
- 3. **Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant** (Veteran Service Staff) – Beginning in June a partnered agency will take over the Veterans Services Program position as liaison to small group of individuals and transitioning into new program, currently have 2 clients
- 4. **Update on Veteran Services Program Grant** (Veterans Service Staff) – 6 month report for the Kahlert grant submission date 4-1-2024, within reporting period we provide case management to 51 Veterans, 13 experiencing homelessness. The program continues to meet with Veterans experiencing a variety of hardships and to provide necessary services and referrals to resources.

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<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p>a. <b><u>3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Celebration of Carroll County:</u></b> Scheduled for Sunday May 5, 2024 from 12pm to 4pm at the Carroll County Farm Museum. Free event open to the public. Featuring US Navy Band Country Current and Midnite Run, children/ family activities and onsite resource fair with Veteran focused organizations/ programs.</p> <p>b. <b><u>Discussion- Dedication Ceremony of the memorial Garden at Westminster Veterans Memorial Park:</u></b> Dedication ceremony of the memorial garden at the Westminster Veterans Memorial Park scheduled for the Saturday before memorial Day (May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024). Flyers will be distributed to the group when finalized.</p> <p>c. <b><u>Recap of Veterans Benefits &amp; Claims Clinic:</u></b> PACT ACT: Veterans Claims Clinic &amp; VA Health Care Enrollment Fair was held on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 9am to 2pm at the South Carroll Senior &amp; Community Center. Members of the Veteran Services Program onsite to begin claims process as well as beginning healthcare enrollment. 75 registered, 68 were in attendance. Additional vendors on site for attendees. Looking forward to the next clinic.</p>
<p><b>Announcements</b></p>	<p><b>Tony Roman:</b> Has a veteran contact who is interested in renewing wedding vows in military blues. Looking for assistance with tailoring or altering of uniform. Veteran is also looking for assistance in obtaining a phone. -Nash: Stella’s may be able to assist with alterations if they have not been contacted.</p> <p><b>Nigel Forney:</b> Looking for assistance regarding a widowed spouse and her family, husband passed recently while processing and was considered active duty. Looking for programs that may be able to assist widow and family with financial/additional needs.</p> <p><b>Steve Whisler:</b> State Legislature has several interesting bills on docket that may be an additional assistance to Veterans and opening resource avenues.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting Date</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b></p>