

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: May 20, 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
<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, Jack Curran, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher</b> , Celene Steckel, Stacey Nash, Tony Roman, <b>Mick Schmidt</b> , Bobbie Lawrence, Rick Pollard, Jason Martin, Chris McLean, Francine Hahn, Megan Klein, Kati Townsley, Gina Valentine, <b>Commissioner Kenneth Kiler, Commissioner Tom Gordon</b> , Patrick Stonko
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u><b>Chair's Comments</b></u> (Bill Nash) – opened the meeting by welcoming those attending.</li> <li>2. <u><b>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</b></u>- President Trump is diverting federal funding to support illegal immigrants to support veterans in homelessness</li> <li>3. <u><b>Pledge of Allegiance</b></u> led by Bill Nash</li> <li>4. <u><b>Commissioner's Report</b></u> – Commissioner Tom Gordon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget will be approved on Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup></li> <li>• Memorial Day parade coming up next week.</li> <li>• Bill Nash asked for public comment on Commissioner's report</li> <li>• Commissioner Kenneth Kiler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Filed yesterday for re-election; his personal contact information has been made public</li> <li>○ The NPRP decision is in the hands of judges now</li> <li>○ Ceremony for a new Eagle Scout – Evan French at Post 200 on Sunday</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u><b>Approval of Minutes</b></u> –Quorum not established, and April minutes cannot be approved.</li> <li>2. <u><b>Monthly Program Reports:</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u><b>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for March 2025:</b></u> (Megan Klein) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 19 claims submitted</li> <li>ii. 13 new representations</li> <li>iii. 28 office visits</li> <li>iv. 4 home visits</li> <li>v. 7 telephone appointments</li> <li>vi. 1543 telephone and email contacts</li> <li>vii. 4 claims were funded at 70%</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>viii. 1 claim was funded at 60%</li> <li>ix. 1 claim was CRPD</li> <li>x. Brought in \$75k for compensation and almost \$4 million YTD</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u></b> – (Stacey Graham) April 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 28 Veterans took 37 trips in April</li> <li>ii. \$4,500 in costs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>3. <b><u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u></b> (Bobbie Lawrence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tony Roman continues to work with Veterans</li> <li>• A couple of veterans in emergency housing</li> <li>• 1 family has a VASH voucher in Baltimore County</li> <li>• 1 veteran lost their VASH voucher and left the area</li> <li>• Program has provided assistance with auto repair and utility bills</li> <li>• Veterans Celebration – 600 in attendance in the rain, ceremony was great, next year will be our 5<sup>th</sup> Celebration and also the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country</li> </ul>
<b>New Business</b>	<p>Author Joe Balkoski</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book signing at no cost at the Westminster Senior Center on Nov. 8, 2025</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Steve Whisler and Larry Burbank have resigned their positions on the VAC</li> <li>5. Aging Your Way Expo will be September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025</li> <li>6. We are looking for VAC appointed members to apply. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May meeting - nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair at the June meeting; voting at the June meeting</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. This Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Taneytown is the Resource and Networking Event from 9am-12noon.</li> <li>8. ERAP funding is ending on June 30<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>9. Housing Work Group is meeting every other Monday.</li> </ul>
<b>Announcements</b>	Bill Nash adjourns the meeting of the VAC.
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Tuesday June 17th, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b>