

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: March 18, 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>	Kathy Barna, <b>Jack Curran</b> , <b>Bob Eney</b> , <b>Marc Fisher</b> , Celene Steckel, <b>Nigel Forney</b> , Stacey Nash, Tony Roman, <b>Mick Schmidt</b> , Bobbie Lawrence, Rick Pollard, Jason Martin, Chris McLean, Francine Hahn, Megan Klein, John Nash, Elaine Scott, Jason Sidock, Kati Townsley, Gina Valentine, <b>Steve Whisler</b> , Patrick Stonko, Bob Hicks
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Vice Chair's Comments</u></b> (Marc Fisher) – opened the meeting by welcoming those attending.</li> <li>2. <b><u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u></b>- No comment</li> <li>3. <b><u>Pledge of Allegiance</u></b> led by Marc Fisher</li> <li>4. <b><u>Commissioner's Report</u></b> – no report</li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b> – Marc Fisher declares a Quorum of 6 met <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Eney motions to approve February minutes. Marc Fisher seconds. Minutes approved without objection.</li> <li>• Nigel Forney has been appointed new member of the VAC</li> </ul> </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 2025:</u></b> (Megan Klein) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 14 claims submitted</li> <li>ii. 30 new representations</li> <li>iii. 30 office/3 home visits</li> <li>iv. 7 telephone appointments</li> <li>v. 1552 telephone and email contacts</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. <b><u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u></b> – (Stacey Graham) February 2025: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 17 Veterans took 24 trips in January</li> <li>ii. 17 Veterans took 21 trips in February</li> <li>iii. \$3,000 in costs for each month</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <b><u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u></b> (Bobbie Lawrence) – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Veteran placed from a hotel into an apartment (CC Veteran)</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presentation by Joe Mornini – Team River Runner             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Non profit for over 20 years</li> <li>○ Lifestyle program with purpose – white water kayaking – any individual with a disability can get in an adaptive boat</li> <li>○ Montgomery County is the closest chapter; no local chapter in Carroll County</li> <li>○ Need to gather volunteers together in teams to set up a day, time, and place to paddle</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Bob Hicks – Rec and Parks Director             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Offered use of Piney Run Park if a local chapter is established</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b><u>Vietnam Memorial:</u></b> Elaine May Stem is working on it but is not present today; Traveling wall coming to Carroll County in October at the New Windsor carnival grounds</li> </ul>
<b>Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><u>Veterans Celebration of Carroll County:</u></b> Celebration is being held from 12pm to 4pm at the Carroll County Farm Museum on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 <a href="mailto:vparks@carrollcountymd.gov">vparks@carrollcountymd.gov</a>.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$4,000 sponsorship from the Kahlert Foundation</li> <li>○ Marc Fisher acquired the liquor license</li> <li>○ Planned obstacle course</li> <li>○ Rec and Parks providing a Gaga pit</li> <li>○ 2 bands, face painter, balloon artist</li> <li>○ Bikers without Borders to have a flag line</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Steve Whisler             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ +80k dismissals at the federal level</li> <li>○ Remind veterans to use the VA with small copays</li> <li>○ National Guard is also eligible for benefits</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Nigel Forney, Post Commander with the DAV had a few announcements:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8-10 claims this week</li> <li>● VA has no more outreach programs</li> <li>● Planning on doing claims in Carroll County in June or July</li> <li>● VA has foreign medical program for US travelers</li> <li>● JVC – testified on 47 bills</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Veterans bill 247 – Veterans DMV – only 1 vehicle registered</li><li>• Bill 699 – government has authority to change DD214 at the state level</li></ul> <p>Celene Steckel -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Housing choice vouchers and WASH vouchers are sustainable with the continuing resolution</li></ul> <p>Chris McLean – Carroll Community College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hit goal to have program fully funded</li><li>• Post 31 and VFW Westminster made donations</li><li>• May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am at CCC induct 30-40 student veterans into military honor society in the Great Hall</li></ul> <p>Jack Curran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At the April 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 meeting the first 15 mins will be a closed meeting</li></ul> <p>Marc Fisher adjourns the meeting of the VAC.</p>
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Tuesday April 15th, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b>