

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: November 17, 2020

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual on GoToMeeting Platform

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt

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</b>	Linda Bergofsky, Larry Burbank, Christa Burton, Jack Curran, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher, Francine Hahn, Greg Kahlert, Bobbie Lawrence, Kristen Maszarose, Mike Messina, Keith Midberry, Bill Murphy, Bill Nash, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, Mick Schmidt, Elaine May Stem, Frank Valenti, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Weaver, Steve Whisler
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> (Marc Fisher) – Marc opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery has been cancelled.</li> <li>2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher.</li> <li>3. <u>Commissioner's Report</u>:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>Commissioner Weaver</u> – Concerned about Wreaths Across America in the coming weeks. The Governor is speaking today so changes to gathering limits may be announced. Asked how VFWs and American Legions are doing. They have been open for business but have needed to close on occasion due to coronavirus exposure. They have reserves, income has been down, and fundraisers have had to be cancelled. American Legion #200 will be \$29,000 in the red for 2020. Commissioner Weaver will look into alternate or reserve funding if available. He encouraged leadership to keep the Board of County Commissioners aware of their status.</li> <li>b. <u>Commissioner Rothstein</u> – Spoke at Lions Club for Veterans Day, don't stop remembering our veterans. He is concerned that many will fall through the cracks, especially now that the weather is getting colder. We need to identify not just veteran needs in our county but for everyone.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. <u>Public Comment</u> – None.</li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with eight voting members present.</li> <li>2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> (Marc Fisher) – Draft minutes from the September and October 2020 meetings were approved. Bill Nash made a motion and Steve Whisler seconded.</li> </ol>

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|  | <p>3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Mike Messina) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served for October 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Reports<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. 10 New representations</li><li>ii. 36 Claims submitted</li><li>iii. 16 Office appointments</li><li>iv. 1 Home visit</li><li>v. 14 Phone appointments</li><li>vi. 1127 Telephone and email contacts</li><li>vii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$937,034 for compensation and pension. Biannual Growth Rate from 1/1/2020 to 7/1/2020 was 13.2% and the Monthly Growth Rate from 10/1/2020 to 11/1/2020 was 0%.</li><li>viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$30,448,000 since inception of the program in October 2013. Yearly Growth Rate for 2020 is 38%.</li><li>ix. It has been taking longer to obtain the DD-214 needed for claims to be processed. This has extended the length of time to close-out cases. Francine noted that they are being creative in their approach to obtaining the form. Even though it is taking longer, their services have not decreased.</li><li>x. Rick Pollard will be starting on Thursday. He has military background and will be trained as a Veteran Services Officer.</li></ul></li><li>b. <u>Veteran’s Shuttle Report</u> (Gina Valentine) – October 2020:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. 12 veterans were served and 10 home pick-ups<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Baltimore – 8 veterans served with 15 trips</li><li>2. Ft. Detrick – 2 veterans served with 4 trips</li><li>3. Martinsburg – 2 veterans served with 3 trips</li><li>4. Nottingham – 1 veteran served with 1 trip</li><li>5. Baltimore Eye Specialist – 1 veteran served with 1 trip</li><li>6. Total cost - \$2,829.00</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul> |
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	<p style="text-align: center;">ii. Veterans are utilizing the shuttle more often and one day last week they had three shuttles on the road.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – No report.</p> <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence) – Currently four veterans are being served by the grant with one vacancy in the program. They do have the ability to add more but will wait until staff openings are filled.</p> <p>5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – There is a multi-generational veteran family in the hotel. They are almost complete with their housing paperwork.</p> <p>6. <u>Monthly Column in the Carroll County Times</u> – Next month’s article is due on Tuesday. They are still struggling with having article submitted. If you have any thoughts or ideas reach out to Gina or Bobbie.</p>
<b>New Business</b>	<p>1. <u>Status of vacant positions – Veterans Services Program</u> – They are still working to hire a Coordinator for the Case Management position of the Veteran Services Program Grant.</p>
<b>Announcements</b>	<p>1. Elaine May Stem is the Carroll County representative for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots. They will serve 123 families. Toy distribution will be December 19<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion. Make referrals to Elaine.</p> <p>2. Kristen Maszarose will be taking over for Josiah as the Carroll Community College Veterans representative.</p> <p>3. Frank Valenti announced that they have taken possession of the CCVIP space. They are actively seeking an Executive Director. County staff will be touring on December 8<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>4. Larry Burbank gave a presentation for Wreaths Across American in New Windsor. There was sixty Vietnam veterans present. He will also be participating at the St. Luke’s Church Cemetery on December 19<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<p><b>The next meeting date is Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</b></p>