

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual (GoToMeeting)

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 (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)</b>	Courtney Edwards, <b>Marc Fisher</b> , Dr. David Grow, Kristen Harvey, Bobbie Lawrence, Kristen Maszarose, Mike Messina, <b>Bill Nash</b> , Rick Pollard, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, <b>Mick Schmidt</b> , Elaine Scott, Celene Steckel, <b>Elaine May Stem</b> , Gina Valentine, Commissioner Richard Weaver, <b>Steve Whisler</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Chair’s Comments</u>--Marc Fisher opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.</li> <li>2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> – Visitors introduced themselves.</li> <li>3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher.</li> <li>4. <u>Commissioner’s Report</u> –               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Commissioner Richard Weaver—Post 200 held a Candlelight Vigil for POW/MIA. Sr Expo was well done. Invited VSO’s Mike Messina &amp; Rick Pollard to be on the radio show to promote awareness of the Veteran Services Program. Learned of many untapped resources at MACO: Non-Profits offer computers, vehicles...etc. If you have veteran in need, please let the Commissioners know, they may have a resource.</li> <li>b. Commissioner Ed Rothstein – 9/11 Ceremonies throughout the county were beautiful, humbling, &amp; important to educate the younger generation who didn’t experience this tragedy. Expressed appreciation for the hard work that went into the Sr Expo, everything ran smoothly, and there were no complaints. Reiterated that the Commissioners are here to help get things done, please ask if there is any way they might be able to assist.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. <u>Public Comment</u> – No report.</li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was not established with five voting members present.</li> <li>2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Draft minutes from the August 2021 meeting were not able to be approved since a quorum was not established.</li> <li>3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u>:</li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <u>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports for August 2021:</u> (Mike Messina)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. 20 New representations</li><li>ii. 49 Claims submitted</li><li>iii. 57 Office appointments</li><li>iv. 1 Home visit</li><li>v. 31 Phone appointments</li><li>vi. 1634 Telephone and email contacts</li><li>vii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,060,370 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate for the month of August 2021 was 3%.</li><li>viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$38,795,937 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2020 to 9/2021 is 21%.</li><li>ix. It was a good month! Was able to expedite a claim with the VA and got it completed in just 7 weeks for a Vietnam Vet who ultimately died of Prostate Cancer. Since the claim was completed so quickly, the wife was able to claim the DIC, which allowed her to stay in the home after he passed.</li></ul></li><li>b. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> – August 2021: (Bobbie Lawrence)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. 19 Veterans were served with 13 home pick-ups<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Baltimore – 10 Veterans served with 22 trips</li><li>2. Loch Raven—3 Veterans served with 4 trips</li><li>3. Fort Detrick – 2 Veterans with 2 trips</li><li>4. Martinsburg – 5 Veterans served with 8 trips</li><li>5. Columbia—1 Veteran served with 1 trip</li><li>6. Total cost - \$3,864.00</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – No report.</li></ul> <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence) – Program had 2 participants, but 1 recently passed away. There is a training coming up in October so that the program will be able to accept more Veterans.</p>
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<b>New Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Elks Grant—Tablets for Veteran</u> (Bobbie Lawrence for Sam Cangelosi)—A handful of tablets have been distributed to Veterans in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Now working on expanding to those who are homebound. The tablets are for the Veterans to keep, this is not a loaner program. If you know of someone who may be in need you can reach out to Bobbie Lawrence (<a href="mailto:rlawrence@carrollcountymd.gov">rlawrence@carrollcountymd.gov</a>) or Sam Cangelosi (<a href="mailto:samcangelosi1@hotmail.com">samcangelosi1@hotmail.com</a>)</li> <li>2. <u>Vehicles for Change</u> (Gina Valentine/Celene Steckel)—There are 10 vehicles available for Maryland, 2 of which are set aside for Carroll County, thanks to Commissioner Rothstein’s efforts. Applications are due the end of September and vehicles will be presented on Veteran’s Day. To be eligible, applicants must be working or have a job offer, be insurable, drug-free, have a valid MD driver’s license, &amp; there must be no vehicles in their household. There is a bit of a cost upfront (tax, title, license, small fee for car) that the Veteran Services Program might be able to assist with. If you know of anyone who might be eligible, please refer to the BOAD for an application.</li> <li>3. <u>SOLES Program Coat Drive</u>—(Bobbie Lawrence for Ginger Turnball) This is a non-profit that is partnering with Boscov’s to offer coats to those in need. They plan to distribute in October. Referrals can be made to Bobbie Lawrence (<a href="mailto:rlawrence@carrollcountymd.gov">rlawrence@carrollcountymd.gov</a>) or Ginger Turnball (<a href="mailto:redbeauty@hotmail.com">redbeauty@hotmail.com</a>).</li> </ol>
<b>Announcements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Steve Whisler—VA is giving a 5.1% COLA to retirees. It is expected that there will also be a rise in medical expenses for Veterans. Can write up an article and give it to Gina to educate those it would affect locally.</li> <li>2. Richard Weaver—We should consider alternate means of getting information out to the public, since the Carroll County Times has change. Suggestions to consider: County Facebook page or setting up a VAC Facebook page, putting up signs in parking lots to advertise Vet Services, Carroll Magazine.</li> </ol>

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<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>The next meeting date is Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</b>