

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: October 18, 2022

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Steve Whisler

Topic	Discussion
Mission Statement	To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.
Vision Statement	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.
Attendance (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)	Larry Burbank , Lindsay Davis, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher , Bobbie, Lawrence, Alison Malachowski, Kristen Maszarose, Todd Mitchell, Bill Murphy , Bill Nash (Chair) , Stacey Nash, Rick Pollard, Gary Saylor, Mick Schmidt , Celene Steckel, Elaine May Stem , John Veney , Gina Valentine, Commissioner Richard Weaver
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair’s Comments</u> – Bill Nash opened the meeting, by welcoming everyone. Bill is looking for ideas on how to contact the 10k Veterans in Carroll County that do not attend events. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> – N/A 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Nash. 4. <u>Commissioner’s Report</u> – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Commissioner Weaver:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Veteran’s Day Celebration – Local schools are working on a program. The information will be published online. ii. Veteran’s Celebration at the Armory at 4pm on 11/11 Followed by a reception at the VFW. iii. VA Hospital is coming soon; they are working to widen the road nearby. <p><u>Public Comment</u> – N/A</p>
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with seven voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of September 2022 Meeting Minutes</u> – A motion was made by Bill Nash and second by Mark. After a vote the minutes were approved as presented. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Report for September 2022: (Rick Pollard) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 22 Claims submitted (5 – PACT Act) ii. 15 New Representations

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- iii. 56 Office and Home Visits
- iv. 15 Phone Appointments
- v. 1433 Telephone & Email Contacts
- vi. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,709,290 for compensation and pension with an increase of 2% in September.
- vii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$52,034,936 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2021 to 9/2022 is 24%
- viii. Spoke to VA – Should be 40-mile radius for appointments, but some are having to go as far as 100 miles.
- ix. Specialist – Challenge to make more local appointments.
- x. Appointments being cancelled seems to be an issue.
- xi. There is VA Audiology offered at Ft. Detrick.
- b. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Gina) – Sept. 2022:
 - i. 25 Veterans were served with 16 home pick-ups
 - 1. Baltimore – 19 Veterans served with 29 trips
 - 2. Loch Raven – 0 Veteran served with 0 trip
 - 3. Fort Detrick – 2 Veterans served with 2 trips
 - 4. Martinsburg – 3 Veterans served with 3 trips
 - 5. Burtonsville – 1 Veteran served with 1 trip
 - 6. Owings Mills – 1 Veteran served with 1 trip
 - 7. St. Joes – 1 Veteran served with 1 trip
 - 8. Walter Reed – 1 Veteran served with 1 trip
 - 9. Total cost - \$4,336.56
- c. Update on Employment initiatives for Veterans (John Veney) – Sept. 2022
 - i. The count for this quarter is down.
 - ii. 6 New Veterans have come in

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Down from the average of 10-15. iv. 8 New Employments v. 13 Case management vi. Ongoing Job Fair – Live once a month vii. Starting a job club viii. Flyer handed out for the Job Club - November 10th 10 am – 1:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gas Cards and Gift Cards given out at the meeting 2. Mission BBQ Served ix. Computer provided but not internet. (Gina to provide contact information for Comcast Essentials & VA Package for \$10 a month) x. National Guard Armory in Sykesville will be offering resources on November 5th. <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine – Provided by Bobbie)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 4 Clients (Cap is 5) ii. 1 was a Shuttle Rider <p>5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No veterans in a hotel right now. ii. One of the recently housed veterans has an interview tomorrow. iii. Assisted one Veteran who was recently out of work for several months; father of 4 children . iv. Provided 2 Vets with back rent. v. Gave out food and gas gift cards. vi. Met with a new couple today. vii. Staffing – Still looking for a VSO & Case Manager viii. Kahlert Grant was awarded for the next year
<p>New Business</p>	<p>1. Todd Mitchell discussed VA Trust fund having substantial amount of money to assist Veterans and will forward the application so that we can reach directly out to him in processing these.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Trust fund is utilized for a one time only request

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2. Planning has begun for the 2023 Veteran's Celebration (May 7, 2023)
 - i. New people are welcome to join the committee.
 - ii. Marc Fisher is still the chair
 - iii. So far, planning has been easier than last year, we are already focusing our energy in the right direction.
 - iv. Thinking Big – Need a band or Celebrity that would help bring younger Veterans.
 - v. Would like to have to helicopter again (everyone found it incredible)
 - vi. Trying to add more equipment to have on display
 - vii. Invites will be sent out in January
 - viii. Offering \$5 coupon for beer, soda or ice cream
 - ix. The event is no cost
 - x. Working to develop an award program
 - xi. Looking into Scholarships from sponsors.
 - xii. Possible State Money to advertise for the event (would like to start now so people know about it).
 - xiii. Advertise on Channel 24 or 19
 - xiv. Use Twitter to reach the 25-50 demographic
 - xv. Encourage ROTC Families to participate
3. A proposed series was mentioned to highlight success stories
4. VA Court Discussion – Bill Murphy
 - i. Opinion – Not in a position to make a resolution
 - ii. Program doesn't have high demand in Carroll County
 - iii. Judge Hecker – Should be on the same docket so VSO's are there to assist.
 - iv. Bill – Worried they are not dealing with veterans properly. Feels this would be a step in the right direction. 4 Counties in MD as well as United Way and the VA help pay for **Treatment Court**.
 - iv. Right now treatment court is voluntary.
 - v. Offers a higher success rate then rehab
 - vi. Heroin and Fentanyl use are a major issue nationally

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	5. VA Judge was motioned by Marc and Seconded by Stacey Nash
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wreaths Across America on December 17th for 153 Vets in Carroll County (Gary Saylor) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Need Volunteers ii. Honoring Family that donated land. 2. Hospice – We Honor Veterans (Allison) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Presentation to Thank them for their service ii. Have volunteers sit with Veterans in hospice to discuss what happened during their time of service (Must be a Veteran to volunteer). iii. Helps them to have a peaceful death. 3. VA Book Club has continued through out COVID (8 have stayed) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. They are called the Polar Bears and they are the largest book club in Carroll County ii. Meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 pm. 4. Winter Mills High School is hosting a VA Celebration 5. Francis Scott Key High School is Hosting a VA Celebration on November 10th. 6. Carroll Community College is doing something special on November 7th for Veterans 7. Mission BBQ will be offering a free sandwich to Veterans-on-Veterans Day. 8. Green Light Project begins November 7th 9. Pickleball Tournament is coming up 10. Gina mentioned the Honoring Those Who Serve Flyer as well as the Nomination Forms 11. Bill stated he has spent \$326k in the last 6 years, \$5k on beef jerky, has 7 drivers, recently added a Pacifica to his fleet and is able to offer trips to DC and PA for VA Appointments.
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.