

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: November 15, 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 , Jessica Cook, Jack Curran , Lindsay Davis, Jim Duncan , Bobbie Lawrence, Nan Mann, Bill Murphy , Bill Nash-Chair , Stacey Nash, Rick Pollard, Mick Schmidt , Elaine May Stem , Commissioner Richard Weaver , Vice Chair Steve Whisler
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> – Bill Nash opened the meeting, by welcoming everyone and apologized for the last meeting running over. 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. A lot of great Veteran's Day Celebration programs last week. The VFW was full! Commissioner Rothstein was on the front of the paper for the Veteran's Day Celebration ii. Planning is underway for next year's Veteran's Celebration on May 7th. The theme is Go Big! iii. This is Commissioner Weavers last meeting as a commissioner. iv. Look into getting some marketing funding through the state to advertise for the Veteran's Celebration. v. Possible funding through Sen. Van Hollands office. vi. VAC needs to do self-promotion such as mailers (post cards). vii. Possible mass marketing to everyone instead of just Veterans. viii. Elaine asked, who do when send the money to? ix. Possible subcommittee to get info out to people. x. Chris Winebrenner can design pamphlets. xi. Advertise at the Bureau of Aging and Disabilities Office.

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	<p>xii. Mad Dog Shuttle is looking to regionalize. <u>Public Comment</u> – Thank you to the Commissioner for his services to this group.</p>
<p>Old Business</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with eight voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of October 2022 Meeting Minutes</u> – A motion was made by Bill Nash. Bill Murphy asked that minutes be amended and resent for approval. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Report for October 2022: (Rick Pollard) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Down one VSO ii. 16 New Claims iii. 16 New Clients iv. 54 In Office Appointments v. 10 Home Visits vi. 1461 Telephone and Email contacts vii. 17 Phone Appointments viii. 2 Veterans received 100% of their awards on VA Claims ix. Slower month than usual x. Total Payments in Compensation & Pension \$52,853,452 b. <u>Veteran’s Shuttle Report</u> – October 2022 (Stacey Nash) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 25 Veterans were served with 18 home pick-ups <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baltimore – 13 Veterans served with 20 trips 2. Loch Raven – 3 Veteran served with 3 trips 3. Fort Detrick – 3 Veterans served with 3 trips 4. Martinsburg – 4 Veterans served with 5 trips 5. Germantown – 1 Veteran served with 1 trip 6. Walter Reed – 1 Veteran served with 1 trip 7. Hagerstown – 1 Veteran served with 1 trip 8. Total cost - \$4,564.80

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- ii. The main travel location was Baltimore.
 - iii. More regulations would be imposed if Carroll County seeks funding from the state and federal Government.
 - iv. Commissioner Weaver recommended starting with the commissioners for more assistance in expanding the shuttle.
 - v. Nan suggested that Frederick Co. is a county we could possibly team up with. She said she will provide Stacey Nash with the appropriate contact information.
3. VA Employment Initiatives – John Veney – Not Present
4. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Bobbie) –
- i. Case Manager position has been filled – Tony Roman will start 12/22/22
 - ii. VSO Position is still posted
 - iii. Assisted 3 Veterans with back rent.
 - iv. Paid childcare bill for 1 Veteran
 - v. Will be assisting a Veteran with moving expenses. He worked with us a few years ago when he was experiencing homelessness. Since then, he had been working and doing well and able to pay his bills and rent. However, he was recently diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and can no longer work. He is one of Veterans we helped with rent. He is moving in with family due to his failing health and is working with Francine for compensation.
 - vi. Referred 3 separate Veterans for assistance with the Veteran’s Trust-fund. One of whom was issued a check to pay his mortgage.
 - vii. A recently housed Veteran started the VRAP program for cyber security.
 - viii. Currently working with one homeless Veteran at the Adult only shelter, hoping to secure a VASH voucher from another county to be ported to Carroll.
 - ix. Still distributing a good amount of food and gas cards with the increasing price of gasoline and food.
 - x. Coordinating a holiday giving tree with Wendy Bearers with the Westminster Lions Club for needed items for Veterans and their families.
 - xi. Referring to Babylon Vault for Thanksgiving Giveaway for meals.

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New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holiday Luncheon <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. December 20th at the American Legion Post 31 beginning at 12:00 pm
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generous person paid for gas on Veteran's Day. 2. Open Season for Military Healthcare has begun and will run through December 13th. Veterans do not need Medicare Supplemental Plan. See benefits.com 3. Bill Murphy's email was hacked. 4. Bill is going to a Transit Summit in Annapolis. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Appears to be a great need for shuttling to Dialysis. ii. There is a need for shuttling to cancer treatments. iii. Actively picking up Veterans in Frederick and Adams Co. iv. Frederick Co. has partnered with United Way for a VA Treatment Court. 5. AARP Shred Event at the Westminster Senior Center Friday November 18th from 9-12. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Max of 5 boxes ii. Remove all staples and clips iii. No age or residency restrictions. Only need to provide a name, email address and zip code. 6. Elaine – Toys for Tots Distribution – Need names from Bobbie <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Wreaths Across America – Honor Guard needed (ROTC or Boy Scouts Possibly) 7. Pickleball Tournament was a success. Over 200 participants, and registration was closed early due to so many registering. Biggest turnout since 2016!
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.