

## VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: October 16, 2018

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Road, Westminster

**Veteran's Advisory Council Mission Statement:** To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.

**Veteran's Advisory Council 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.

**Council Present:** Larry Burbank, Marc Fisher, Bill Nash, Jack Curran, Steve Bass (CTS – Ex-Officio), John Veney (DLLR), Elaine May-Stem, Bill Murphy, Commissioner Weaver (Ex-Officio), Mick Schmidt

**County Staff Present:** Rosemarie Glowack, Francine Hahn, Bill Hillman, Stacey Nash, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Shannan Zepp

**Other Present:** Mel Blizzard, Josh Bokee, Todd Mitchell, Ed Rothstein, Gary Saylor, Gary Scarbeau, Elaine Scott, Jason Sidock, Jennifer Turiano, Frank Valenti, Charles Wheatley, Thomas Williams

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair's Comments (Larry Burbank) – Larry opened the meeting with a welcome then everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elaine May-Stem.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – Commissioner Weaver introduced Josh Bokee from Comcast. For five years Comcast has been providing nationwide the community investment program "Internet Essentials" that brings high speed internet to low income families and Veterans. Veterans who receive public assistance can receive 15/2 Mbps speed internet for \$9.95 per month. Qualified customers may also purchase a computer for \$149.99 and receive free digital skills training. Some restrictions apply. You must be in a Comcast service area to receive.

### 2. Old Business

- a. A quorum was established with 8 voting and 2 ex-officio members present.
- b. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Minutes were amended under New Business for September's meeting, to change POA to POW for the vigil to be held at the Hampstead American Legion. Bill Nash made a motion to approve the amended September 2018 meeting minutes, second by Elaine May-Stem. All were in favor and the amended September 2018 meeting minutes were approved.
- c. Monthly Program Reports (Veteran Services Staff) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.

- i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Francine Hahn) – September 2018:
  - 1. 23 new representations
  - 2. 75 claims submitted
  - 3. 8 home visits
  - 4. 51 in-office contacts
  - 5. 647 telephone contacts
  - 6. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$522,012.61 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$11,711,811.36 since inception of the program (October 2013)
  - 7. Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$66,875.00
  - 8. All numbers are based on known awards, which is information given to program staff by veterans since the program is not notified by the VA.
  
- ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Steve Bass) – September 2018:
  - 1. 35 veterans were served, with 4 in wheelchair and 20 home pick-ups
    - a. Baltimore – 23 veterans – 66 trips
    - b. Loch Raven – 2 veteran – 2 trips
    - c. Fort Detrick – 6 veterans – 9 trips
    - d. Glen Burnie – 1 veteran – 1 trip
    - e. Johns Hopkins – 1 veteran – 1 trip
    - f. Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 7 veterans – 15 trips
  - 2. Total Cost = \$7,775.00
  - 3. According to Jim Hillman, no trends were noted as to the uptick in August's numbers.
  
- iii. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update – John Veney reported they had a successful job fair with 200 attending and that another is scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>. He is currently assisting 15 Veterans with three finding employment so far this month. Seasonal positions have become available. Commissioner Weaver reported that several new manufacturers/companies are interested in coming to Carroll County.
  
- d. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – Program has the capacity to provide services to a maximum of 5 Veterans. We currently have 4 Veterans in the program. We are waiting for a referral from Maryland Department of Aging for the 5<sup>th</sup> Veteran.
  
- e. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Shannan Zepp) – Seven Veterans are receiving assistance with emergency housing.
  
- f. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – Veteran of the Year Award and Veteran-friendly Employer of the Year Awards luncheon is on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Nominations are being accepted. A member company (of Veteran Friendly Businesses) is offering a disabled veteran the opportunity to go hunting in western Maryland. Please see Todd if you know of

someone interested. Carroll Cadets of the Civil Air Patrol will be having an Open House this evening from 6:30-9pm at Hilltop Assembly of God.

- g. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP (Frank Valenti)
  - i. Revised HHS Application Part 1 – Met the deadline of 10/11 to respond to HHS questions and HHS has acknowledged receipt.
  - ii. Great article on their Car Show fundraiser in Carroll Magazine.
  - iii. The Red, White and Blue Gala will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup>. It will be a dinner, dance and silent auction.

### 3. New Business

- a. Bill Murphy reported that the VA was able to assist a Veteran amputee (not service related) with installation of a porch lift. The VA is working to install a stair lift soon.
- b. Frank Valenti reported that now you can search “jobs for Veterans” on Google and enter your MOS code to find civilian jobs that match your skills.
- c. Wreaths Across America program will be at Deer Park Cemetery on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed beginning at 12pm. Sponsors for the wreaths at \$15 each are being sought. There will be a full military ceremony as each military branch, including POW and MIA will be honored. Deer Park Cemetery is the first in Carroll County to be honored in the program and this is their second year to lay wreaths at the 148 Veterans buried there. Maryland National Guard has applied to do the same at the Elmsworth Cemetery in Westminster.
- d. Bill Murphy reported that Friends of Disabled American Veterans of Carroll County began service on October 1<sup>st</sup>, giving free transportation from home to non-emergency medical or dental appointments within the county. Steve Bass (CTS), Stacey Nash and Celene Steckel will be meeting to discuss better supports between this non-profit program and Carroll County’s Veterans Shuttle. Bill also announced that they will be having their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pickleball tournament at the former North Carroll High School on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> with 80 participants currently registered from 4 states.
- e. Nominations for the VAC Chair and Vice Chair have been accepted and voting for the Chair and Vice Chair took place. Larry Burbank was voted to remain Chair as well as Elaine May-Stem as Vice Chair.
- f. Larry reported that 10 Veterans were interviewed by Carroll Media Center for their Veterans Living History project.
- g. Email Leslie with any upcoming Veterans Day events in the community or at local schools and she will forward to the group.

h. Charles Wheatley thanked everyone for their support of the World War II Flag Dedication at his property in July. He has DVDs of the dedication ceremony to give to each of the post Commanders for their members to view.

i. Each of the Senior Centers will hold Veterans Day Programs in November. The schedule is as follows:

Westminster Senior & Community Center – Friday 11/9 @ 9:30

South Carroll Senior & Community Center – Friday 11/9 @ 9:30

Mt. Airy Senior & Community Center – Friday 11/9 @ 11:00

Taneytown Senior & Community Center – Friday 11/9 @ 11:00

North Carroll Senior & Community Center – Tuesday 11/13 @ 10:00

4. Next Meeting: November 20, 2018 at 2pm at VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Rd, Westminster.