

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: September 19, 2023

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Jim Duncan

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>	<b>Larry Burbank, Jack Curran, Jim Duncan, Marc Fisher, Commissioner Gordon, Commissioner Kiler, Bill Nash, Steve Whisler, Bob Eney</b> , Francine Hahn, Megan Klein, Nan Mann, Rich Pollard, Tony Roman, Gina Valentine, Nigel Forney, Victoria Parks, Chris Abell, Kati Townsley, Bobbie Lawrence, Kristen Maszarose, Elaine Scott, <b>Elaine May Stem</b> ,
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Chair's Comments</u></b> – Bill Nash opened the meeting by Welcoming Bob Eney into his new position as a Veterans Advisory Council Member.</li> <li>2. <b><u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u></b>- Attendees all provided introductions.</li> <li>3. <b><u>Pledge of Allegiance</u></b> was led by Bill Nash.</li> <li>4. <b><u>Commissioner's Report</u></b> –               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b><u>Commissioner Gordon &amp; Commissioner Kiler:</u></b>  <b><u>Commissioner Gordon:</u></b> no new comment  <b><u>Commissioner Kiler:</u></b> Would like to have younger members brought into the Legion and other VSO's, and higher levels of youth involvement. Starting to put the word out in Baltimore and Carroll County, would like assistance from the group in ways to pull in younger Veterans and Military members. Working on a range (possibly 5%/10%) for tax breaks for Veterans, though no final decisions have been made.</li> <li>b. <b><u>Public Comment</u></b> – no public comment</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b> – A motion was made by Bill Nash, Jack Curran second.</li> <li>2. <b><u>Monthly Program Reports:</u></b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b><u>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for August 2023:</u></b> (Richard Pollard)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 11 Claims submitted.</li> <li>ii. 10 New Representations</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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iii. 32 office/1 home visits

iv. 15 phone appointments

24 new claims, 3 applications for enrollment, 17 new clients, VA approved 23 previously submitted claims. 4 received 100% disability/ 19 received 20-80% disability.

b. **Veteran's Shuttle Report** – (Stacey Nash) August 2023:

i. 32 Veterans were served with 57 total trips-

1. Baltimore/ 17 Veterans/ 31 trips
2. Fort Detrick/ 4 Veterans/ 4 trips
3. Glen Burnie/ 2 veteran/ 2 trips
4. Park Heights/ 1 veteran/ 1 trip
5. Martinsburg / 7 Veterans/ 13 Trips
6. Loch Raven/ 3 Veteran/ 4 Trips
7. Rockville/ 1 Veteran/ 1 Trip
8. Catonsville/ 1 Veteran/ 1 Trips
9. Total cost of \$5,846.64

c. **Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update** (DLLR Representative )- John Veney's position filled by Alex Brown will be in-place in Westminster starting the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.

3. **Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant** (Veteran Service Staff) – no updates, 3 clients currently enrolled.

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	<p>4. <b><u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u></b> (Veterans Service Staff) – annual report in early September- 83 Veterans with case management needs identified. Hoping to continue funding for next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-One gentleman with disability rating, worked with Housing &amp; Stability to get moved into permanent housing.</li> <li>-Couple undergoing cancer treatment, assisted in applying for housing voucher and received Housing.</li> <li>-Currently have a Veteran with 90% disability rating/ 70% PTSD, running into financial issues. Looking for Legal and Financial Assistance. If anyone has guidance or resources, would happily accept.</li> </ul> <p>Bill Nash: Todd Mitchell may know an attorney who is able to help and has done pro-bono work in the past.</p> <p><b>Francine Hanhn:</b> “it’s not all about the money, but recognition by the VA of what he has put his body through while serving his Country.”</p> <p>Francine was able to work with a client and help him receive \$986,000.00 in back payment due to claims regarding Agent Orange. Vietnam Veteran living with bladder cancer, having filed claims in the 80’s. Francine resubmitted claims and received retroactive pay of \$986,000.00. Veteran was homeless at time of filing, now is a homeowner with personal vehicle.</p>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p>1. <b><u>Veterans Discussion: Nigel Forney</u></b>-Would like to have a claims/ benefits meeting to share resources and who is in need within the community. Veterans Advisory Council has several resources that are available with little communication taking place between meetings.</p> <p><u>Gina Valentine:</u> VA claims clinic in March 2024, part of that day does involve other VSO’s.</p> <p><u>Nigel Forney:</u> “You are not alone”- Quartey/ bi-monthly meeting to have open discussion with groups.</p>
<p><b>Announcements</b></p>	<p><b>Chris Abell:</b> Carroll Tech Council Veterans Laptop Program- Over 30k refunded through 2024 to supply laptops to those who financially qualify. Assistance in learning basic digital skills, navigate digital appointments (Tele Health),</p>

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	<p>help with certifications to assist with workforce search. As many as 35 at last event, all receiving laptops through partnership with AARP.</p> <p><b>Nan Mann:</b> Day of Ease coming up on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 (rain date September 30<sup>th</sup> 2023) The foxie G Foundation Union Bridge, MD.</p> <p><b>Steve Whisler:</b> Received reference request for Service Academy. Offering assistance in navigating process to other students interested in attending Service Academy. -Frederick County offers property tax break for Veterans who are over a certain disability percentage. Would like to see something similar in Carroll County.</p> <p><b>Bill Nash:</b> Asking for idea to bring in interest from the local youth and the younger Veterans in the area.</p> <p><b>Bob Eney:</b> pickleball tournament. November 11<sup>th</sup>– November 12<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day Weekend. Recipient of tournament, Lost Mountain Group.</p>
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b>