

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: April 21, 2026

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bob Eney

Vice-Chair: Elaine May-Stem

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>Bob Eney, Elaine May-Stem, Marc Fisher, Nigel Forney, Mick Schmidt, Bill Nash,</b> Commissioner Kenneth Kiler, Commissioner Thomas Gordon III, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Amanda Coshun, Megan Klein, Francine Hahn, Bobbie Lawrence, Rick Pollard, Stacey Nash, Jevina Lindsey, Erin Barna, Chris McLean, Mike Pennington, Jason Sidock
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Pledge of Allegiance</u></b> led by Bob Eney</li> <li>2. <b><u>Chair's Comments with Chair/Vice</u></b>            Bob Eney           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomed those attending. Reminder that the Freedom District Lions Club annual dinner honoring Veterans is on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Flyer has been distributed.</li> </ul>           Elaine May-Stem           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frederick has another benefits office</li> <li>• Veterans Benefit Fair at the Edgewood recreation and Community Center on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.</li> <li>• Urban Air Park – one in Frederick and one in Glen Bernie</li> <li>• Spoke with Secretary Rothstein - open to having Women's Memorial go forward again</li> <li>• MCVET meeting on High Street</li> <li>• MCVETs, housed 386 personnel. Have an emergency shelter so Veterans can go there and has an area just for women</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b><u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements led by Chair/Vice-Chair</u></b></li> <li>4. <b><u>Commissioner's Report</u></b>            Commissioner Kenneth Kiler           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Junior Fisher's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 2 at the American Legion</li> </ul>           Commissioner Thomas Gordon III           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Released proposed budget today</li> <li>• Memorial Day Parade on May 25<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> </li> <li>5. <b><u>Public Comment</u></b>            Jevina Lindsey           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crisis Intervention Refresh upcoming</li> <li>• Noted biggest need among the Veteran community is housing</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Old Business</b>	<b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b> – Quorum established; March minutes approved. <b><u>Monthly Program Reports:</u></b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for March 2026:</u></b> (Megan Klein)</li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submitted 30 claims</li> <li>• 21 new representations</li> <li>• 61 office visits, 8 home visits</li> <li>• 12 phone appointments</li> <li>• 1605 telephone &amp; email contacts</li> <li>• 1 survivor's pension</li> <li>• Total recurring: \$4,515,855</li> <li>• Total Cumulative: \$101,261,443</li> </ul> <p>2. <b><u>Veteran's Shuttle Report for March 2026:</u></b> – (Stacey Nash)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 Veterans</li> <li>• 36 trips</li> <li>• Total cost: \$6,311.61</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Update on Employment Initiatives for Veterans</u></b> (Reva Coussey)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not present, no update</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u></b> (Bobbie Lawrence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted 4 Veterans with Emergency Needs</li> <li>• Continuing to provide case management for emergent needs</li> <li>• Received a generous donation from a Veterans family to go back into the Veterans Services Program, the Veteran had passed away</li> </ul>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p>Bylaws Review and Vote – Gina Valentine</p> <p>Under membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion with VAC members under membership section. They would like to keep Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Marine Corp League (MCL), and Catholic War Veterans (CWV). Remove others (AMVETS, Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), and The Women's Army Corps (WAC)</li> <li>• All in favor to have the council to consist of at least 11 members</li> <li>• Each representative appointed to the Council shall be a resident of the County and a Veteran whose final separation from active service with a uniformed service of the United States was under honorable conditions</li> <li>• Recommended change to add 29<sup>th</sup> division</li> <li>• Marc Fisher made a motion to approve the bylaws. Nigel Forney seconded. All approved to accept the bylaws as amended</li> </ul>
<p><b>Announcements</b></p>	<p>Chris McLean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 1<sup>st</sup> Carroll Community College SALUTE induction. Texas Roadhouse to serve lunch. Flyer has been distributed</li> </ul>

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	<p>Celene Steckel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5<sup>th</sup> Annual <i>Veterans Celebration of Carroll County</i> Sunday, May 3, 2026, 12-4 at the Carroll County Farm Museum. Helicopter all set. Midnite Run will be there, parade done by Westminster Municipal Band, 1:00 Commissioner Ceremony alongside Secretary Rothstein. Celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of America. Recognizing ALL Veterans this year</li><li>• <i>Homelessness Services Summit</i> at Carroll Community College, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9-4. Registration required. Breakfast and lunch provided. Flyer has been distributed</li></ul> <p>Marc Fisher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Junior Fisher's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration 2-5 p.m. at the American Legion</li><li>• The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tunnel to Towers Charity Golf Tournament is Friday, April 24, in Hampstead</li></ul> <p>Bob Eney adjourns the meeting of the VAC.</p>
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 2 pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.</b>