



Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs (HCCOVA) Meeting Minutes March 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Brown at 6:30PM in the Conference Room, 220 S. Main Street, Bel Air, Maryland.

Attending: Bob Brown, Hayden Anthony, Robert Appleby, Lisa Brown, Jennifer Button, Art Kaff, Bill Montgomery, Denise Perry, Deacon Vic Petrosino

Excused: Councilman Andre Johnson (liaison), Janice Cassady, Scott Kearby, Dennis Miller, Mike Ray, Pam Silcox

Guests: Simon Ballard, Harford County Office of Drug Policy
Dwight Perry

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Brown. Prayer was led by Deacon Vic.

Welcome & Opening Comments:

Chairman Brown – presented the HCCOVA Mission and Vision statements and welcomed guests to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the February HCCOVA meeting were sent to commission members for review prior to the March meeting. As no corrections were noted, Art Kaff motioned for approval of the minutes and Hayden Anthony seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by commission members.

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Resource Fair

- Saturday, October 31st at Bel Air Armory (10 am – 1 pm)
- Theme: Year of the Woman Veteran
- No other dates in October or November are available at the Bel Air Armory
- Alternate locations considered (factors: date, size of venue, accessibility, location within county, cost, catering/food restrictions)
- Harford Community College (HCC) is a great location, but organization cannot bring in food or select own caterer.

NEW BUSINESS

Veterans Information

Benefits Fair at Havre de Grace American Legion

- Scheduled for Thursday, April 30th
- Discussion on HCCOVA support/presence at fair. Hayden Anthony motioned for HCCOVA to set-up table; Bob Appleby seconded the motion; commission approved motion
- Save the Date flyer, updated HCCOVA business cards & handouts – Hayden Anthony
- Information will be added to HCCOVA website & Facebook page

Veterans Claims Clinic & Resource Fair at Carroll Community College

- Scheduled for Thursday, March 19th
- No HCCOVA commitment required; just FYI

Veterans Claims Clinic & Resource Fair at Harford Community College

- Scheduled for Tuesday, August 18th
- 300-500 people expected to attend
- Donations of water bottles & chips/snacks requested

Legislative Issues

Taxing Military Retirement (Bill Montgomery)

- Current exemption = \$15,000
- Maryland House Bill #371 – would phase out limitations on the exempted amount; currently at Ways & Means Committee
- Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti (District 34A) is co-sponsor of bill
- Discussion on HCCOVA members officially supporting bill to county council/county executive and through website/Facebook

Women Veterans Memorial (Denise Perry)

- 2nd meeting held to establish commission to work towards building a memorial
- Beginning stages – establish commission, look for sponsors (may not have funds appropriated)

Changes to Military Treatment Facility (Bill Montgomery)

- Effective February 2020, Kirk US Army Health Clinic available to active duty personnel only (retirees can no longer make appointments at this clinic)
- Cannot change decision, but need to make retirees aware & prepare for other options

Programs & Outreach Events

Assistance Requests received during the past month (Bob Brown)

- Simon Ballard & Bob Brown discussed the number & type of assistance requests received by the HCCOVA through e-mail requests or in person at Harford County OCED.

Military Appreciation Luncheon (Mike Ray)

- Scheduled for May 21st starting at 11 am at Richlin Ballroom, Edgewood
- Request HCCOVA members to attend & possibly set-up information table

Information for the County Executive and County Council (Bob Brown)

Annual Report

- HCCOVA Annual Report will be presented to HC Council in June
- HCCOVA members should send event & project information, pictures to Bob

Public Events & Recognition

DAR Outstanding Veteran Volunteer

- Capt'n Jim McMahon is the state winner
- Award ceremony scheduled for May 2nd in Washington, DC

Comments from Appointed Members:

Art Kaff – recently posted on the Facebook page: various resources available to veterans; job fair in Baltimore; claims clinic; and information about the completing the census.

Bob Appleby – stated that he currently VA-provided dental benefits are only available to veterans with a dental disability; may change to free/reduced cost care for all veterans through VA or private dentist (more information to follow in subsequent meetings).

Denise Perry –attended an informational and planning meeting with Maryland National Guard & chaplains to establish Partnerships in Care – looking to partner with churches to identify veterans who need assistance. More information & update to follow in subsequent meetings.
Also attended VFW National Legislative Session.

Pam Silcox – Save the Date for HC Veterans Resource Fair (October 31st) email message sent to vendors/participants; 10 have already confirmed attendance at fair.

Lisa Brown – New Hope Church & Edgewood Epi-Center are donating books to the Loch Raven & Perry Point nursing homes.

Vic Petrosino – presided over funeral for USMC veteran Joseph Maranto on March 5, 2020.

Final Announcements

The next HCCOVA meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Prepared by Lisa Brown