



## Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs (HCCOVA)

### Meeting Notes October 3, 2019

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, Janice Cassady, Art Kaff, Bill Montgomery, Denise Perry, Pam Silcox, Scott Kearby, Deacon Vic Petrosino

**Excused:** Councilman Andre Johnson (liaison) Dennis Miller, Mike Ray

**Guests:** LaVerne Cash & LTC Dave Roberts (retired), REBOOT Program  
Greg, Susquehanna Workforce

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. He also welcomed guests and stated there are numerous veteran-connected events taking place throughout the county in the upcoming month.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the September HCCOVA meeting were sent to commission members for review prior to the October meeting. Corrections were put forward by Deacon Vic. After corrections noted, Art Kaff motioned for approval of the minutes and Pam Silcox seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by commission members.

#### **Goest Speakers:**

Greg, Susquehanna Workforce – presented information about the Susquehanna Workforce – a state agency that provides job assistance to veterans free of charge. Representatives from the Workforce assist all veterans, including those that are disabled, incarcerated or facing homelessness. There are three locations in our area: Edgewood (Rt 40 near Bill Bateman's; Bel Air (Bond Street) & in Elkton. The Workforce is participating in the APG Job Fair on October 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>. Please see <http://www.swnetwork.org/> for additional information.

LaVerne Cash, Oak Grove Baptist Church Outreach Coordinator & LTC Dave Roberts (retired), REBOOT Program  
**“Reboot” Combat Recovery** is a 12 week faith-based, non-denominational program founded in 2011 by an occupational therapy specialist to address the spiritual aspects of veterans' injuries. The goal is to help veterans suffering from PTSD to find healing and hope through coursework and group work. The REBOOT program is currently operational in approximately 150 locations in the United States and Europe, with over 6,000 graduates. As of this date, Oak Grove is the only program in Maryland and is currently sponsoring its second class.

Reboot Alliance sponsors the course, and the church pays for it, so there is no charge for veterans. The church provides dinner, course materials, and a study guide, a certificate of completion, a t-shirt and other expenses. The spouses are also welcome to attend.

It's not a support group; it's a way to help veterans deal with what they experienced in combat. The church reached out to those who were familiar with the traumas of combat to teach the course. Iraqi War veteran David Roberts and Vietnam War veteran Alan Hix co-lead the group and teach classes while Laverne Cash coordinates the program. Anyone interested in the program or would like additional information can contact the church at 410—838-9898 or email Laverne; Laverne.cash@verizon.net. REBOOT will be represented at the HC Veterans Resource Fair.

#### **Opening Comments from Appointed Members:**

Robert Appleby – noted there are now two additional states which do not tax military retirement pay: Indiana and North Dakota. He also stated that service members should check the MilConnect website once a month to confirm eligibility for educational benefits and other date sensitive guidelines.

Art Kaff – recently posted on the Facebook page about upcoming events in Baltimore area including information about the upcoming HC Veterans Resource Fair. There are currently 424 *likes* on the HCCOVA Facebook page. He also responded to a request for assistance with a VA claim.

Denise Perry – stated she plans to attend the American Legion Havre de Grace meeting to assist with the planning of the town's first Veterans Day Parade on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> (time/parade route TBD)

Janice Cassady – will post HC Veterans Resource Fair information on the HCC television feeds and distribute the flyer throughout the HCC campus.

Chairman Brown reiterated Chris Joseph has been recommended as the APG representative to the commission and should be joining us within the next couple of months.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Harford County Veterans Events** – Harford County Government has initiated plans for a veterans benefits fair in the spring/summer of next year. The location and date have not been determined as of this date. The role of HCCOVA members will be to promote the event.

**APG Directory/Veterans Discount supplement** – Bill Montgomery stated that he has not received a response from the POC, but will reach out again so we can have it available at the Resource Fair.

**Office Call with MG Kilgo, APG Installation Commander** – awaiting coordination with MG Kilgo's executive officer to schedule meeting with HCCOVA liaison (Councilman Johnson) and commission members.

**Veterans Resource Fair Update** – Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at Bel Air Armory (10 am – 1 pm). Awaiting publication of flyers to publicize fair and provide information to media sources and organizations. Pam Silcox stated there are 25 confirmed vendors and is awaiting response from 10 additional vendors. She will also add the REBOOT program to the fair. American legion is providing the color guard and the C. Milton Wright Pep Band will play for the opening ceremony. Lisa is coordinating with the food vendors and will gather/package door prizes to be given away the day of the fair. She thanked commission members who brought donations for door prizes & requested remaining commission member bring them to the November HCCOVA meeting if possible. Hayden has continued his coordination with the Armory POC and submitted the food permit. Bob is coordinating the opening ceremony and is working on publicizing the event, including a scheduled radio interview. Jennifer is working on the event program.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Programs & Outreach Events**

**Gold Star Mothers & Families Brunch** – Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Top of the Bay, APG

**Harford County Job Fair** – Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-4:00 PM at Ripken Stadium

**Harford County Transit** – reduction in ticket prices for veterans; gives veterans better opportunity to access services within the county.

#### **Public Events & Recognition**

**Korean War POW Veteran** – Denise attended an event to honor a Korean War veteran who was a POW for 33 months.

**Sgt Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Celebration** – Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Water's Edge Events Center, Belcamp

#### **Final Announcements**

The next HCCOVA meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Prepared by Lisa Brown