



Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 10th, 6pm

The meeting will be held remotely using Zoom due to current restrictions

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Introduce Visitors

Karissa Kelly, Director, Department of Aging and Disabilities, VSCC Update

Denise Robinson, Legacy of Honor, Gold Star research, in preparation for Memorial Day.

Chairman's Report

Farewell to Pete Hill, Liaison to this Commission, who resigned effective Apr 21st

Potential vote on Chair recommendation. Quorum required.

County Board and Commission will begin to relieve VAC commissioners and process veterans interested in joining the VAC.

The commission needs help to maintain the VAC website – who will help Kelly Mackall?

Executive Committee

Outreach Activities

Denise Robinson, Eastport, Annapolis; research of Gold Star Families and steps to memorialize them at Mountain Branch Library.

May 18th, expect a reply from the Library Board of Trustees about a policy to commemorate Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

May 29th, Memorial Day, Crownsville Veterans Cemetery. John Dove to read the Gov's Proclamation. POC for planning is MAJ Rick Barnes (rpbarne51@gmail.com), MD Defense Force; meet at American Legion Post 276, Severn, Md, April 25th, 3 pm.

July 26, CVEB Claims Clinic, AA Community College. During discussion in April, we agreed this should be an **"All Hands on Deck"** effort by VAC commissioners. Anne Arundel County has forwarded insurance confirmation to AACC. Notification / announcement information will be made available by the Baltimore VA o/a June 26th, to be distributed with help from VAC commissioners. Mark you calendars. POC – Gunny and Kat?

Sep 30th, Welcome Week, Blue Star Families and this commission. Yolanda Rayford explained that in 2022, Howard County supported the Stronger Together program to welcome military families being assigned to this area. In 2023, Anne Arundel County will host the program. The venue is Downs Park, Pasadena, AA County. This will be another “**All Hands on Deck**” event. Mark your calendars. Awaiting details to prepare. POC - ?

Nominating Committee

Membership Committee

Waiting for County update / confirmation of membership.

Veterans have begun to use County application. Kaley Schultze is the AA County Boards and Commissions Coordinator. Her email is exschu22@aacounty.org or call her at 410-222-4931. The new boards and commissions application can be found online at aacounty.org/boards-and-commissions

Membership Committee is contacting the individuals interested in the Commission for interviews.

Chairman Church recommends the VAC recruit from the Coast Guard Yard, Curtis Bay and also from the Naval Support Activity, Annapolis. Who has a connection with either organization and will make contact?

Quality of Life Committee –

April 22d, American legion Post #141, Annapolis. Each 4th Saturday of the month, Gunny hosts a chess class / tournament, 0900-1500, meant especially to attract young minds.

In the Annapolis City Council, Gunny is fighting for affordable housing for veterans. For example, The Willows at Forest Drive, a proposed 58-unit Affordable Family Rental Community. The Annapolis Planning Commission will hold a virtual hearing on this proposal, 7 pm. May 04, 2023.

The Baltimore VA Hospital has asked Gunny to be it's representative in AA County to fight Veteran Suicide; the VA is identifying a Veteran in each county to focus on this issue.

Educational and Employment Committee –

Legislative Affairs –

During summer break, July and August, Commissioner Debra Luzietti-Myers will continue to send legislative updates. Commissioners are requested to advise her of anything they want to bring to the attention of the County Executive, County Council or our legislators.

Recently, Debra identified HR 984 (118th Congress) Commitment to Veterans Support and Outreach Act which has the potential to provide grant money to

counties for service officers. Given the significance of this legislation the Chair will call for a vote to request County Executive authorization for commissioners to contact their elected legislators in support of this Act.

Dave Dragics, MD Military Coalition, will join us on September 13th to advise how to prepare for the MD General Assembly, 2024.

New Business

April 30th, 3d Annual Lewis Class Shoot, to support the Building Fund, for American Legion Post 18, Centreville, MD. At Pintail Point.

Maryland Military Installation Council (MMIC), Crownsville, TBD

Old Business

Liaison w/ Anne Arundel Dept. of Aging and Disabilities. Curtis Jones and John Dove have volunteered.

April 19th, Our Community Salutes, honored new enlistees, graduates of Anne Arundel High Schools, Class of 2023. Chesapeake Arts Center, Brooklyn Park. Seventy enlistees and estimated 200 family members and guests at the ceremony. Super ceremony. Many thanks to Brooks Tucker for his part in organizing this very special evening.

May 9th, the Vet Center, 100 Annapolis St, Open House and Resource Fair, 1000-1400.

Guests in Attendance:

Good of the Order. Next meeting, June 14th, Army Birthday and Flag Day. Meeting to be conducted by Brooks Tucker.