



Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs Meeting Notes

June 6, 2019

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

Attending: Bob Brown, Hayden Anthony, Lisa Brown, Janice Cassady, Art Kaff, Scott Kearby, Dennis Miller, Bill Montgomery, Denise Perry, Deacon Vic Petrosino, Pam Silcox, Councilman Andre Johnson (liaison)

Excused: Robert Appleby, Jennifer Button, Mike Ray, Rick Scavetta

Guests: Bart Kennedy (Representative Ruppertsberger's office)

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 Bart Kennedy, representing Representative Dutch Ruppertsberger.

There was also an acknowledgement of the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion of Normandy & a moment to honor those who lost their lives on that day.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the May HCCOVA meeting were sent to commission members for review prior to June meeting. No corrections were put forward; Pam Silcox motioned for approval of the minutes and Denise Perry seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by commission members.

Opening Comments from Appointed Members:

Hayden Anthony – distributed shirts for new HCCOVA members. He also stated there is a new point of contact/events manager for the Bel Air Armory – Julia Potter. He will coordinate with her for the Veterans Resource Fair in November.

Bill Montgomery –represented the HCCOVA at the APG Retiree Fair (May 18th). The fair was well-attended & a lot of interest in the veterans commission. Many of the people who visited the table did not know Harford County had a veteran's commission. Veterans were excited about the property tax credit enacted this year, and appreciated the credit, the ease of the application process & if signed-up would receive a reminder each year. Bill also suggested it might be helpful to have a MOAA representative & someone from the APG Retiree Council at the Veterans Resource Fair in November.

Denise Perry – attended the Memorial Day events at Arlington National Cemetery & took part in the ceremony. She noted that any organization can request to lay a wreath at this ceremony, and a brief discussion followed about HCCOVA participation next year.

Denise will also be participating in the Women Veterans Task Force at the House of Representatives on June 26th.

Art Kaff – stated there are currently 419 “Likes” on the HCCOVA Facebook page and he continues to add postings, such as updates to the VA Mission Act, Memorial Day events, as well as Resource Fair information.

Vic Petrosino – presided at the funerals for two veterans: a Korean War veteran (Air Force) & a Vietnam War veteran (navy & Army).

OLD BUSINESS

Memorial Day activities:

Bob, Lisa, Hayden & Dennis attended the Bel Air ceremony, with HCCOVA laying a wreath & hosting a light refreshment tent (lemonade & cookies); distributed Save the Date flyers for Veterans Resource Fair. Next year, American Legion will include hospitality tent in program & the location of the tent will be moved to the center back of the park.

Art attended the ceremony in Aberdeen; Denise attended the ceremony at Arlington National Ceremony (see notes in Opening Comments)

Resource Fair Status – Saturday, November 9th at Bel Air Armory; Pam sent out save the date & initial inquiries to vendors who attended the fair last year; many already responded positively to participating this year. We’ll discuss subcommittees/assisting with event at future meeting. Coordination efforts with Cindy Mumby (Director, HC Governmental & community Relations) initiated for marketing & door prize/raffle giveaways.

4th of July Parade – HCCOVA will march in Bel Air’s parade on Thursday, July 4th – theme: “Celebrating Bel Air – Our Home Town”. The following people volunteered to march in the parade – Bill, Bob, Lisa, Scott, Art, Hayden, Linda Anthony and Garrett Anthony (1LT US Army); any veteran is welcomed & invited to march with HCCOVA.

Veterans Treatment Court /Docket – no updates at this time; Veterans Affairs has inquired about status/moving forward with the initiative, but has not received a response from Harford County State’s Attorney Peisinger.

NEW BUSINESS

Information for Veterans:

Mission Act: Health Care options for veterans; the time it takes to get an appointment at a VA clinic determines whether can opt in to receiving care within the community/outside the VA network. There is a decision support tool that was developed to assist veterans with this process. **As of this date, there is a shortage of contractors who have opted in to seeing people who are eligible/qualify for care in the community.**

Programs & Outreach Events:

Suicide Prevention – HCCOVA received a request from the County Executive’s office to explore the possibility of hosting an event for veterans & family members on suicide prevention. This is an opportunity to partner with county organizations as well as VA & APG organizations in this effort. Commission members will pursue possible options & dates.

Public Events & Recognition:

MG Taylor Farewell – June 19th at 4 PM – Water’s Edge, Belcamp

Elkton Veterans Center Open House – June 12th 3-5 PM

Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce/City of Aberdeen - flags representing local veterans around Festival Park & City Hall

Final Announcements

- MG Taylor is scheduled to PCS in June to STRATCOM.
- There will not be a HCCOVA meeting in July. Members will participate in an outreach activity (marching in July 4th parade).
- The next HCCOVA meeting will be Thursday, August 1st at 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Prepared by Lisa Brown