



# **HARFORD COUNTY COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS**

April 1, 2021 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Virtual, Online, Meeting on MS Teams

This meeting is open to the public.

Link to Meeting, click: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

(Full link at the end of the agenda, last page)

*NOTE: The Teams Room will open at 6:15 PM. Members and guests will first be in a waiting status until the host checks you in.*

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – All in attendance

**PRAYER** – Chaplain

**MISSION:** *To advocate for our veterans and their families and connect them to resources through outreach and education.*

**VISION:** *A Harford County community that is responsive to the needs of Veterans and their families.*

## **WELCOME, OPENING COMMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- Committee Chairperson
- Committee Liaison/Coordinator

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Approval of the February meeting minutes

## **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

- Joe Giordano, Founder of Project Opportunity (Update)

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- MOAA Community Project. Request to partner update
- Businesses offering discounts for veteran booklet project update

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Legislative Issues.
  - Congressional Budget Office Proposals, including initiating Tricare for Life enrollment fees, ending of VA's individual unemployability payments to disabled veterans at full retirement age, reduce VA's disability benefits to veterans who are older than full retirement age for Social Security, reduce BAH to 80% of average housing costs, and include VA disability payments in taxable income.
- Legal.
  - Three new presumptive conditions have been added to agent orange presumptives: bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson's like symptoms. It is recommended that veterans begin filing claims for these conditions now, while the VA finalizes its procedures to receive these claims, see a veteran service officer for assistance.
- Programs and Outreach.
  - A request to move the Baltimore Regional Office to Phase II has been made to VA Central Office. If approved, it may open as early as March 29<sup>th</sup>. They will open the building on an appointment only basis.
  - The Maryland Challenge Team participated in the implementation academy virtual site visit the last week in March. Priorities for the implementation academy have been determined.
- Assistance requests received during the past month
- Information for the County Executive and/or County Council
- Public Events and Recognition
  - Memorial Day Ceremonies
  - Monument to Monument Run

## **MEMBER UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilman Andre Johnson- Committee Liaison/Coordinator  
Hayden Anthony (Vice Chair) – Education & Community Outreach  
Robert Appleby-Outreach  
Jennifer Button-Social Media and Outreach  
Arthur Kaff – Technology, Social Media & Legal  
Bill Montgomery – Education, Community Outreach  
Dennis Miller-Outreach  
Denise Perry-Benefits and Outreach  
Lisa Brown – Community Outreach  
Pam Silcox – Education & Community Outreach  
Scott Kearby – Commission Web site, Education & Community Outreach  
Janice Cassidy – Education; Representing Harford Community College  
Mike Ray –Representing Harford Chamber of Commerce; Benefits and Employment  
Colonel Druell –Aberdeen Proving Ground Designee  
Vic Petrosino - Chaplain Updates; Outreach  
Simon Ballard - Harford County Department of Community Services (Associate Member)

## **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Final comments from members and guests.

- Next meeting scheduled is May 6, 2021.
- Meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of the month unless otherwise announced. Meetings are open to the public.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Full link to Teams Meeting:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MWY2Y2VhY2QtMzFmNi00MmQ5LThhMjktMjQ2MWQ3OWVjY2Yx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Ti)

[join/19%3ameeting\\_MWY2Y2VhY2QtMzFmNi00MmQ5LThhMjktMjQ2MWQ3OWVjY2Yx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Ti](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MWY2Y2VhY2QtMzFmNi00MmQ5LThhMjktMjQ2MWQ3OWVjY2Yx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Ti)  
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