



BALTIMORE COUNTY COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

May 24th, 2023 – Meeting Minutes

Date / Time:

May 24th, 2023 / 6:00pm-8:03pm

Location:

Baltimore County Center for Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park
1114 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21030

Mission: To advocate for the veterans of Baltimore County and connect them to resources through outreach and education.

Call to Order / Roll Call / Quorum: Meeting was called to order by the Commission Chair Jeff Bonner, at 6:05pm followed by roll call & approval of quorum

District 1	Michael Eagle	Present
District 2	George White	Present
District 3	Edward Bauer	Present
District 4	Danny Blount	Present
District 5	Robert Eckert	Present
District 6	James Hutson	Present
District 7	Dennis Cash	Not Present
At-Large	Jeff Bonner	Present
At-Large	Charles Jay	Present
CCBC Education Representative	Derrick Little	Present
Towson Education Representative	Dario DiBattista	Present
Department of Corrections	Jerlena Rhodes-Cadell	Not Present
Department of Health and Human Services	Richard Chilton	Not Present
Dept. of Housing and Community Development	Terry Hickey	Not Present
Baltimore County Fire Department	Ed Schwartz	Not Present
Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Warren Squirewell	Present
Baltimore County Police Department	Joe Jamerson	Present

- Commission Chair Jeff Bonner reviewed the Baltimore County Commission on Veteran’s Affairs Mission: To advocate for the veterans of Baltimore County and connect them to resources through outreach and education.
- Chair announced departure of Shawntae Jacobs & welcomed Towson University Education Representative Dario DiBattista as an Educational Representative on the Commission.
 - Mr. DiBattista is the Director of Towson University Military and Veterans Center. He provide an overview of the wide range of activities and support that Towson University provides to student veterans.



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- Chair introduced “Guest Speaker” – Command Sergeant Major, USA (Ret.) Perlisa Wilson; Court President, Delta Court of Lambda Beta Alpha Military Sorority, Inc. (Area of Coverage: Maryland & D.C.)
 - National sorority for military veteran women – network needed to ensure success in the next stage of their career. Connecting women veterans with resources needed to be *success*. Veteran are welcome but not prepared for women – voicing the voice that women need the same resources for transition. Women tend to suffer more due to a lack of purpose. Sometimes women challenges are not viewed the same as men. Goal to ensure that veteran servicing organizations realize women need the same resources as men. Make sure women are included in the veteran support process. CSM Wilson mentioned that June 12th is Women Veteran appreciation day and the State is having an event at American Legion Post 22 in Towson on June 10th highlighting Maryland’s women veterans. Concluded with that all (both women and men) need to support all (both women and men) veterans.

Commission Chair provided update of past events/meetings:

- Baltimore County Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition, April 27th
- Central Maryland Veteran Collaborative, May 10th
- Our Community Salutes, May 15th
- Baltimore Vet Center, Pikesville, MD, May 19th

Commission Chair provided update of future events:

- **Baltimore County Suicide Prevention Coalition** - Thursday May 25th – 1:00pm — Towson Library Meeting Room
- Memorial Day “Weekend”
 - **Eyes of Freedom Exhibit** May 24th/May 29th – Hereford H.S.
 - May 24th – Parade & Opening ceremony
 - May 25th – Exhibit 3:30 p.m./8:00 p.m.
 - May 26th – Exhibit 3:30 p.m./8:00 p.m.
 - May 27th – Resource Event 10:00 a.m./4:30 p.m.
 - May 28th – Exhibit 10:00 a.m./6:00 p.m.
 - May 29th – Closing ceremony 4:30 p.m.
 - **Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens**, 200 East Padonia Road, Timonium, MD. The 56th annual Memorial Day ceremony at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens will take place on Monday, May 29, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
 - **Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery**, 11501 Garrison Forest Rd, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The annual Garrison Forest Memorial Day ceremony will take place on Monday, May 29, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Women Veterans Recognition Day** - Saturday June 10th; June 10th, the MD Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans/Inclusion Program will celebrate the women who served in military service, and their accomplishments at American Legion Towson Post #22 - 125



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York Road Towson, MD 21204; For more information contact Ms. Roslyn Jones,
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Commission Chair moved to Commission Business Meeting

Old Business

- Approval of Last Meeting Minutes
 - Chair solicited questions or feedback for the March 29th meeting minutes – none received.
 - Chair requested motion to approve meeting minutes. Motion provided by Commissioner Jay and seconded by Commissioner Eagle. Commission voted to approve March 29th meeting minutes.
 - Commission Chair solicited questions or feedback for the April 26th, 2023 meeting minutes – none received.
 - Chair requested motion to approve meeting minutes. Motion provided by Commissioner Eagle and seconded by Commissioner Blount. Commission voted to approve April 26th meeting minutes.
- Business card distributed to Commissioners.
- Commission Flyer update – pause while we refocus and update.
- Update on Commission Communications
 - Website – Commissioner White, website manager, requested picture and bio from each member for website.
 - Social media – working w/County to see what parameters we need to follow – goal is to manage our own Facebook page.

New Business

- Memorial Day 2023 - What events are Commissioners' planning to attend?
- Veterans Day 2023
 - Budget – Jim Hutson – provided update on DoL grant
 - Communications – George Little
 - Veterans Resource – Jason Marshall
 - Entertainment –
 - Overall Event – Rob Eckert
 - Towson University – collaborative w/Towson University – offering lots of resources
 - Four phases – planning; identifying specifics; media; execution
- Commission discuss ways to reach out to Baltimore County Veterans – much more work is needed.
- Chair announced the Commission now has county government employee support – Patrick Taylor – Office of Community Engagement – time and actual duties to be developed.
- Next Meeting: June 28th at 6:00 p.m.
- **Meeting adjourned 8:03pm**