



Annual Report 2019

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Commission for Veterans Affairs

Commission for Veteran Affairs

2018-2019 Annual Report

In order to better serve the over 17k veterans in Charles County, the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) signed Resolution 2018-02 on May 1, 2018 to establish the Commission for Veterans Affairs (CVA).

The mission of the Commission is to provide leadership that creates opportunities for all Charles County veterans and their families. The Commission exists to evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs within Charles County. This Commission is dedicated to making our County the best place to live, work and start a business in the state of Maryland.



The Commission is served by thirteen (13) members that are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners. The BoCC appoints the Chairperson and the Commission members elect the vice-chair and secretary. The Veterans Services Manager, Julie Bryson, serves as the ex-officio non-voting member.

The CVA has established a consistent avenue of communication for our veteran community so Charles County veterans can better understand, communicate and have their needs addressed.

Meetings in 2018

September 12, 2018: bylaws were discussed, elections held, subcommittees established, and received public comments.

November 7, 2018: We hosted the County Attorney to refine our by-laws, received an Opioid Crisis briefing from Army veteran Dr. James Bridgers, agreed to host a Holiday Mixer for local veterans, supported the 2019 legislation proposal by Delegate C.T. Wilson for the Income Tax Checkoff for the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund and received public comments.

Activities in 2018

On December 7, CVA members went on the T-Bone and Heather radio show to promote the CVA Holiday Mixer

The Maryland Independent newspaper feature a front-page article on veterans and the new CVA Holiday Mixer.

December 12, 2018: hosted a Holiday Mixer with can food drive with over 100 local veterans, comrades, public officials and dignitaries. Collected over 100 cans of nonperishable food items donated to Lifestyles of Maryland.

Meetings in 2019 - (*) denotes a special meeting

March 6, 2019 Discussed homelessness with a briefing by Sandy Washington the Executive Director of Lifestyles of Southern Maryland, Transportation subcommittee discussed collaboration with the TriCounty Council, Metro Access, VanGO and PG County's The Bus for transporting veterans to their medical appointments in other counties and/or Washington D.C. Veterans Hospital.

May 1, 2019: Received a briefing from Serving Together's Ms. Alicia Downs regarding the networking of veteran-supportive business and services for our Charles County community, discussed the April 4th Charles County Veteran Organization meeting that was hosted and held by Commissioner President Reuben Collins and attended by over 20 organizations, established six (6) additional subcommittees and received public comments.

*August 7, 2019: Special meeting held to discuss the by-law updates and received public comments.

September 4, 2019 Dr. Norman on Southern Maryland Telehealth, badging and Veterans Day events support from the CVA. Discussion was on free medical ID bracelets for veterans.

November 6, 2019 Mr. Eric Jackson- Charles County Treasurer provided information about tax credits and explanation regarding veterans, we held elections for the Vice-Chairman and Secretary along with taking recommendations for the Chairman to give to the BoCC. CVA agreed to begin a Female Veteran subcommittee and voted a chairman for the subcommittee. Discussed November as Military Family Month which is being celebrated on the CCG Vet's Corner FB page.

*December 4, 2019 Special meeting called to address and vote to support a veteran resource day in the Spring of 2020 and use the Holiday Mixer coat drive to continue through January 25, 2020 for the WDC coat drive for veterans.

Veteran Activities in 2019

1. Presented to COMREL the inception of the CVA on February 27, 2019,
2. Attend the Fuery American Legion Women's Recognition on March 2, 2019,
3. Support Commissioner President's meeting for all Charles County veteran organizations on April 3, 2019,
4. Received citation for Women's Veteran Month on June 22, 2019,
5. Coordinated with other Maryland Veteran Commissions soliciting support for Delegate C.T. Wilson for the Income Tax Checkoff for the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund,
6. Celebrated the 244th Army Birthday with a BoCC proclamation,
7. Celebrated the Air Forces Birthday with a BoCC proclamation,
8. Celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day with a BoCC proclamations on November 5, 2019,
9. Support the Anne Arundel Veteran EXPO in Annapolis on April 27, 2019,
10. Supported the Charles County Veterans Corner Facebook Page established on September 25, 2019,
11. Support November as Military Family Month by posting Charles County military family photos and biographies,
12. Hosted a table at the Veteran Stand Down at the La Plata American Legion in October 2019,
13. Hosted a table at the Veterans Day Celebration at the Clark Senior Center in November 2019, and
14. Hosted the 2nd annual Holiday Mixer on December 4, 2019.