



Annual Report 2020

20210407

Commission for Veterans Affairs

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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 Commission members elect the chairperson, the vice-chair, and secretary. The Assistant Chief of Staff, 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 2020 - (*) denotes a special meeting

February 5, 2020 Guest speaker Lee Osberry spoke about the Census in Maryland. Guest speaker Stan Friedman from A&S Trust Properties spoke about affordable housing for veterans. The Women Veterans subcommittee developed resource brochure for coffee event. Final Salute Memorialization subcommittee plans to use Library of Congress to record Charles County Veterans' personal history. Commissioners who attended Joint Veterans' Commission Summit share information. The new Chairperson was installed for the Legislation Subcommittee.

*March 4, 2020 The quorum requirement was not met; hence, the meeting was not held.

August 5, 2020 The CVA welcomed three new commissioners. The VSO subcommittee reports over 40 veterans supported through claims clinics, with COVID protocols, from January to July 2020. The CVA discussed by-law updates and we voted to cancel Veterans' Resource Event that was postponed to October due to state COVID 19 pandemic. Chairpersons for three subcommittees were installed.

*August 12, 2020 The CVA elected a new Secretary, discussion of by-laws updates and legislative proposal for veteran tax credit finalized and approved. There was also a discussion of upcoming claims clinics.

October 7, 2020 The CVA elected a new Vice-Chairperson, discussed Veterans' Day events and possible support. Also, the Communications Subcommittee created an official email address and was working to establish official phone number. We appointed an Open Meeting Act Designee and approved changes to by-laws article X and VI.

December 2, 2020 The CVA elected new Chairman and welcomed guest speaker Mr. Jaelon Moaney, Regional Director for Anne Arundel/Southern Maryland, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen who provided legislative updates about restitution to veterans from 8 lenders who were fined for deceptive and fraudulent practices, increased funding for Cheltenham, and information about omnibus package concerning DOD 3% pay increase for military and increase for DESA support installations. The CVA approved 2021 meeting dates and discussed the Acting Chairperson film debut honoring Maryland Veterans for Veterans' Day with support from Charles County video team.

Veteran Activities in 2020

1. Collected 80 coats during Veteran Coat Drive.
2. Veteran's Resource Event planned and scheduled for April 2020, then postponed to October 2020, and then canceled due to pandemic.
3. Women's Veteran Coffee planned and scheduled and then cancelled due to pandemic.
4. Several Commissioners attended Joint Veterans' Commission Summit.
5. Board Docs moved to new website.
6. Creation of Charles County Veterans' Corner on Facebook.
7. Bylaws updated.
8. Veteran's tax reduction legislation proposal submitted to Charles County Board of Commissioners.
9. Charles County CVA Veterans' Day video filmed consolidated CCG video for State of Maryland.
10. All CVA Commissioners attending training to begin virtual meetings after the BoCC's approval to resume meetings for BCC.