



COMMISSION FOR VETERANS
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES
6420 ALLENTOWN ROAD
CAMP SPRINGS, MD 20748



Meeting was held at the Family Services Building located in Camp Springs, Maryland and began at 7:22 PM after official pictures were taken.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Excused Absences: Commissioner Milligan and Commissioner Nordhorn

Minutes were approved. Motion made by Commissioner Martel and seconded by Commissioner Watson. Passed 9/0.

Dr. James Dula was introduced and explained the role of the veterans affairs office. He thanked the commissioners for their hard work and highlighted the three committees that he asked the commission to form. He also stated that there will be mixers and socials were the veteran community and a newsletter is in its infancy.

Guest speakers:

Travis Rahill from Melwood Veterans Services (MVS) and Operation Tohidu. MVS offers retreats for veterans and active duty personnel who are coping with PTSD, traumatic brain injury, anxiety and/or depression related to military service, including military sexual trauma. For more info go to www.Melwood.org and www.OperationTohidu.org.

Keith Hauk from University of Maryland University College (UMUC) which will be changing its name to University of Maryland Global Campus. Provides critical services to military and veteran students through programs such as Vets Success on Campus, Veterans Assistance Fund and SALUTE honor society, mentoring and career assistance services. They have been ranked as the #2 school for overall military tuition assistance funding. For more info go to www.UMUC.edu.

Brian Smith, Legislative Affairs Officer and a member of AARP MD was unable to attend. He provided Commissioner Jewitt with his comments. Commissioner Jewitt emailed the Commission Mr. Smith's notes and read them aloud at the meeting. They include:

SB 105 Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program- Therapy Horses. Passed in both the House and the Senate and will become a law.

HB 81 Property Tax Credit for the Surviving Spouse of a Veteran.

HB 672 Housing Grant Program for Homeless Vets and Domestic Violence Survivors
These 2 are likely to pass.

Commissioner Hendricks-Roach asked for a follow up on using official email to answer veterans' concerns in a timely fashion.

Commissioner Hendricks-Roach left at 8:22 PM.

Old business:

The bylaws were signed by the A/Chair, the A/Vice Chair and the A/Secretary.

These are the new names of the Committees and its members:

Employment and Education- Hafford, Martel, Milligan and Hendricks-Roach

Communication and Outreach- Dickens, Pauling and Watson

Programs and Activities- (this includes the awards program) Jewitt and Nordhorn

Commissioners Parker and Hollis will identify a committee at a later time.

The Commissioners stated the events they will attend in honor of Memorial Day.

The commission agreed to host meetings in different locations within the county.

Commissioner Martel thanked the committee for his time as chair since September 2018. He has asked to be removed from this position due to personal reasons. On a motion made by Commissioner Watson and seconded by Commissioner Pauling, Commissioner Martel will become the A/Vice Chair. Motion passed 9/0.

Commissioner Jewitt will serve as the acting Chair until a permanent Chair is appointed.

Honors to the Colors.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Jewitt
Acting Secretary.

8 guests total