

Kennebec MM&CN

Meeting Minutes



June 14, 2017

Time: 10:00am

Location: Hill House Conference Room, Kennebec Sheriff's Office

Present: Jerry Dewitt, Karen Heavey, Donna Richardson, Leo Deon, Patrick Crowley, Bill Card, Amy Line, Libby Schecher, Kyra Darling, Dena Dix, Deidrah Stanchfield, Cathy Herr, Chaplain Andy Gibson, James Orr, Sheriff Mason, Chief Morin, Jess Quinn, Michelle Bardsley, Kurt Klappenbach, N. Ziggy Lawrence, Frederick Moody

- 1. Annual conference update was provided by Amy Line and Jerry Dewitt as follows:
 - Jerry provided brochures. If anyone needs additional, let Jerry know.
 - Kyra will also be finishing up a one-page informational sheet to outline speaker bio's etc.
 - The MM&CN website has a tab for resources etc. Amy will push info out to leadership groups.
 - Chaplin Gibson updated that there will be a resource fair in Bangor and that they are not having a July meeting in the area. Amy will push information out to the leadership groups for everyone to have updates.
 - Registration is currently at 160 – Reminder for those in the regional MM&CN group to register if they have not already!
 - Approximately 39 vendors are registered, with room for 11 more.
 - Jess will schedule for KSO Honor Guard and work crew to be available for set up the day prior. Deidrah can also have extra help if needed.
 - Right now, SAVE is the only monetary sponsor – if anyone has potential ideas for sponsors, please forward info to N. Grace and he will be able to reach out.
 - Leo Deon will get extra brochures from Jerry for the Lewiston business event.
 - Vietnam Veteran graffiti project will be on display at UMA Danforth Gallery from this weekend and through August 21st. UMA will be providing a press release to the Kennebec Journal and all attending conference will be invited to attend.*
- 2. June 25th will be the grand opening of the Travis Mills Foundation. Shuttles will be provided at Kent's Hill.*
- 3. Ben Tucker asked that we turn our thoughts to those wounded at the charity baseball game this morning.*

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4. *Donna Richardson (Veterans Experience Office at the VA) - provided information about the Veteran's Engagement Board which is changing and assimilating into MM&CN Regional groups. Further information will be sent to Sheriff Mason looking for the Kennebec MM&CN to sign a charter as part of the new board. Information to be provided.*
5. *Patrick Crowley (Public Affairs – Togus VA) - updated that Togus has been approved to hire 29 service representatives and 9 Veteran service raters. There is also a new initiative for getting answers more rapidly – Decision Ready Claims (DCR) as well as a White House hotline for any veterans where they can call M-F 8-5 to voice frustrations with the VA.*
6. *James Orr (Veteran Mentors of Maine) – Will be taking the place of Ziggy as he is stepping down. There are currently 10 mentors with a lot of good changes taking place.*
7. *Bill Card (Small Business Association) - will be attending the conference and providing information for veteran training, resources and small business/self-employment areas.*
8. *Ziggy (Veteran Mentors of Maine) - announced he will be stepping down from Veteran Mentors of Maine. The Rotary recently held a fundraiser for the group, raising \$1800 as well as presenting Ziggy with a certificate for his work with VMM.*
9. *Chaplain Gibson (Maine National Guard) - announced changes with the Family Assistance Center. There will be openings with Skyline Contracting Unltd., three positions for personal financial consultants as well as the position Kyra has held and will be moving on from. If anyone knows someone that has accounting backgrounds, please forward them to these positions.*
10. *Cathy Herr (Maine Conservation Corps) – Provided information about recruiting with Maine Conservation Corps.*
11. *Deidrah Stanchfield (Augusta Community Warming Center) – updated the group on the Augusta Warming Center and the receipt of 2 grants for the center as well as the need for a new location.*
12. *Fred Moody (Veteran Mentors of Maine) - introduced himself to the group, is a NAMI Volunteer, providing CIT training to law enforcement as well as equine therapy for Veterans. Has experience in many areas and focuses on helping Veterans in the darker times which they may struggle with. Will be holding an equine therapy group in Durham, Me on June 28, 29, 30 – 2 slots still open.*
13. *Libby Schecher (Augusta Veterans Acupuncture Clinic) - gave updates from the Acupuncture Clinic. To date, there have been over 2000 treatments provided. The Bangor acupuncture group will be at the conference.*

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14. *Karen Heavey (Maine National Guard) - provided information about the work being done with Substance Abuse Prevention at Camp Keyes. Stated that caseload is down, which is good but still seeing more alcohol-related incidents.*
15. *Kurt Klappenbach (KVCC) – advised that the school now has a volunteer to assist with new students within the Veteran Support area. Michelle Bardsley also works with KVCC Veteran Student Support Services, helping Veterans with transitioning into student life.*
16. *Leo Deon (Veterans Inc.) – Services provided in employment and housing for homeless veterans. They also provide a 20 bed per diem housing facility for up to 2 years.*

2017 Meeting Dates:

September 11, 2017 at 10:00am

December 4, 2017 at 10:00am

All Meetings will be held at the Hill House Conference Room, Kennebec County Sherriff's Office, 125 State Street Augusta, Maine.