

L/A Maine Military and Community Network  
Meeting Notes October 26, 2016

**Present:** Jerry Dewitt, Kyra Darling, Ed Stanhope, Jamie Demers, Lorrie Spaulding, Jerry Smith, Bob Moseley, Nancy Dubord, Scott Hutherson, Denis Fortier, Rudy Wing

Updates:

**Jerry-**

- Governor Lepage will be issuing a proclamation in the Hall of Flags at the State Capitol, in support of the Ringing Bells for Peace initiative.
- The annual veterans Day Pass in Review will be held at the Lewiston Armory on 10 November at 10 AM.
- The Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding their November breakfast on November 10 at 7 AM at the Ramada Inn. Senator Susan Collins will be speaking. See Jerry for reduced price tickets at \$20.
- Home Base is sponsoring a Beach Boys concert at the Harry Agganis sports complex on Commonwealth Avenue, Boston University on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Jerry has 2 free tickets to the event.
- The annual statewide MMCN conference will be held in Augusta at the Civic Center in July. Details to follow.
- April 22 has been designated as Veterans Suicide Awareness day. 22 lifesize silhouettes will be displayed at USM-Lewiston-Auburn campus in observance of the day.
- The 13TH ANNUAL VETERAN'S DAY PRAYER SERVICE will be held Friday, November 11 at 6:30 PM at Holy Family Church on Sabattus St. In Lewiston. This is an evening of reflection honoring those who served and those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces. This is a non-demoninational service.
- The Christmas Cards for Veterans initiative will be conducted again this year. All cards should be submitted no later than December 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The LA Veterans Council has acquired an F-86 Sabre Jet for display at the Veterans Memorial Park in Lewiston. The City Council is currently reviewing the project for approval.
- Applications are ready for the next memorial stone honoring any veteran from the local area. The latest stone will be dedicated on Memorial Day 2017.
- Applications are ready for the Eagle Cane for qualifying veterans. Contact Jerry for details.
- Jerry talked about the process for applying for burial in any of Maine's Veterans cemeteries. This is open to eligible veterans and their spouses.

**Member Notes:**

- Scott Hutcherson**—"Searching for Home" a movie highlighting the struggles of Vietnam veterans, will be shown at University College, Bath -Brunswick, on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Discussion will follow the movie.
- Ed Stanhope**—The DAV will be accepting donations at Shaw's in Auburn on November 11, from 10 to 2. People donating will receive flowers.
- Lorrie Spaulding**--provided more detail regarding the 22 silhouettes to be displayed at USM LA College on April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Kyra Darling**—Talked about the Thanksgiving Basket and Christmas Across Maine initiatives for needy military families,.
- Jerry Smith**—He has received 219 books containing a history of the Kuwait Liberation campaign of 1991. These books are available for distribution. Please see Jerry if interested.
- Bob Moseley**—Introduced himself as the newest staff member at VereransInc.
- Jamie Demers**—Informed the group that SAPARS has hired an Assistant Director.
- Nancy Dubord**-- Reported on several items. 1. General Varnum, State Adjutant General, informed her that the National Guard is now deploying more than in the last 15 years, especially the Air National Guard. 2. The Governor is trying to get a bill passed to address the issue of homeless WW II and Korean War veterans. 3. In her conversations with various groups, she has learned that many veterans do not know that they are eligible

ro reduced property taxes in Maine. 4. Alley Smith is contemplating initiating a proposal entitled House-A-Vet, to parallel the Hire-A-Vet program here in Maine. 5. She talked about St Martin de Porres expansion into providing a homeless shelter for women. They have bought the former St. Andre's Home at the intersection of Sabattus, Central, and Ash Streets. They must obtain permission from the city of Lewiston to zone that building as a homeless shelter.

**Rudy Wing**—Rudy was a guest at this month's meeting. He talked about the South Auburn Meeting House project. He provided flyers explaining the project. He purchased the building several years ago, but it burned down in 2013, but the church bell was saved. The bell has historic value because it was cast by Hooper Foundry in Boston in the 1830's. Hooper Foundries were connected to Paul Revere's foundries in Massachusetts at the time of the Revolutionary War. He hopes to rebuild the house in order to use it to house a youth program centered on the First Tee national project. It is adjacent to Fox Ridge Golf Course. The LAMMCN agreed to partner with the First Tee project last year.

**NEXT Meetings:**

**The next two meetings of the LAMMCN will be on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1 Pm, at Tri County Mental Services building on Lisbon Street in Lewiston.**