

Maine Military & Community Network - Aroostook
Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, April 26, 2017
1300 (1:00 pm)
United Veterans of Maine - Farm of Hope
358 Washburn Road Caribou

Attendance: Tracy Rockwell, Director Houlton Higher Education Center, Melford Pellitier, BOV UMFK, David Buckingham UMPI/UMFK, Donna Richardson, Field Consultant VA, Leslie Brown MDOL, Kim Rohn Congressman Poliquin 's office, Philip Bosse Senator Collins's office, Barbara Hayslett , Senator King's office, John Deveau, United Veterans of Maine, Patrick Blanchette, MEOC and Jean Henderson HHEC

Review of recent events:

April 15, 2017 United Veterans of Maine Farm of Hope grand opening. The goal for the Farm of Hope is to fully serve homeless Veterans. UVM is working in collaboration with local service providers to provide medical/mental health services, job training, and transitional housing for homeless veterans. July 1st the target date for the delivery of 8 Amish cabins. The grand opening event will be available to view at AroostookOnline.com.

Updates:

Representatives from our congressional delegates Senator Collins's office, Senator King's office and Congressman Poliquin's offices gave updates on the veteran related community activities and meetings with veterans groups. There continued support is evidenced by their activities and involvement with veteran matters.

Department of Labor: Four more veterans were hired this quarter through the PI Career Center. Veterans from all over the country are coming to Maine for employment. Employers are asking for veterans to fill open positions. There are two an opening in the Maine Veterans' Services office for a Veterans' Services Officer and a traveling VSO.

VA update: The VA is looking to change their culture from a rule based to more Veteran based. A Journeys of Veterans Map was distributed displaying the road from Joining the military to Dying and the services that a veteran may encounter in their lifetime.

The VA is currently piloting a “Vet Experience Feedback” tool. The goal is to provide service recovery in 24 hours. Looking at best practices to improve veteran experiences. Projected to be in place by 2019.

New website from VA. <https://www.accesstocare.va.gov>

University of Maine at Fort Kent: Information centered on improving services to veterans throughout the UM System. Melford Pellitier is a member of the Board of Visitors for UMFK. He is committed to improving communication on veterans’ educational benefits in Aroostook County and the state of Maine. His commit is shared by the UMS Board of Trustee.

Upcoming Events:

May 6, 2017 9-noon Manufacturing Career Fair at the Career Center in Presque Isle

May 11, 2017 Caribou VFW will be celebrating it’s 70th Anniversary

July 20, 2017 7th Annual Conference of the Maine Military and Community Network

November 10, 2017 MMCN/HHEC/ Cary Library WWI & the Aroostook War of the late 1830’s community education lunch and learn with 1LT US Army Jonathan Bratten Maine Army National Guard historian.

Next Meeting MMCN Aroostook July 26, 2017 Houlton Higher Education Center