

# Kennebec MM&CN

## Meeting Minutes

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**December 4, 2017**

**Time: 10:00am**

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

***Present: Ben Kaler, Angela Sanford, Bill Card, Pam Trinward, Teague Morris, Nathaniel Grace, Patrick Crowley, Amy Line, Chaplain Andy Gibson, Laurie Cyr-Martel, Sheriff Mason, Jess Quinn***

- 1. The Kennebec MM&CN opened meeting with agreement to sign the Kennebec Community Veteran Engagement Board charter. Ben Kaler (Veteran's Experience Office) provided information about the CVEB and how it will benefit local veterans. Our group is currently the 133<sup>rd</sup> CVEB in the country to sign a charter and assist local veterans with resources, events and recognition. Amy Line motioned to adopt the CVEB on December 4, 2017. Pam Trinward seconded the motion. Maine National Guard members were present but did not offer vote. All others concurred. Sheriff Mason: motion passed.*
- 2. Sheriff Mason updated the group on the current Veteran's block in the jail – they have been moved to A Unit and will remain there as long as housing is available for general population. Jess Quinn added that after having had a chance to see a facility in Massachusetts, this is a positive move for the veterans as it provides a more 'barracks' style setting and offers all inmates an opportunity to watch out for each other instead of being in cells by themselves.*
- 3. Sheriff Mason also advised that he recently visited Camp Chamberlain and met with those putting changes in place to provide better resources within the Veteran/Service Member area.*
- 4. Teague Morris provided updated information for Senator King's office – Scott Wilkinson will be the service rep. for the Kennebec, Lincoln and Somerset areas.*
- 5. Pam Trinward advised that while Washington is very distracted at the moment, a couple of bills were passed - one being a notification to veterans when debt is incurred for co-*

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- pays or other expenses. These notifications will be delivered via phone, email and US postal mail.*
- 6. Patrick Crowley gave updates on the offices at the VA – with the effort to put public service in the forefront. The RAMP process is moving forward, getting the oldest claims in appeals process looked at more rapidly with a goal of 125 days to resolve a claim. There is also movement on the Veteran ID card act – for those that are in the ‘middle’ – either not in the VA system, discharged etc.  
Also, the White House hotline is fully staffed 24-7 now, mostly veteran staffed and has received over 10K calls since mid-October. **1-855-948-2311**  
There will be a symposium at USM in Portland which will address suicide prevention – Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.*
  - 7. Bill Card provided updates from the Small Business Administration – they will hold events to celebrate a small business success and would like to include veterans and get the word out to community about small businesses doing well. Chaplain Gibson referred Joe Tatum with Maine National Guard for Bill to reach out to. If anyone has any info/names of any veterans with a small business, please forward.*
  - 8. Amy Line – Congrats to Amy for a great article and hard work that went into the opening of the Veterans Academic Center at UMA.  
Leadership council will be held on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at Camp Keyes.  
At this time, it looks like the annual conference will be held by the Portland MMCN group and will be at the Augusta Civic Center again.*
  - 9. Laurie Cyr-Martel introduced herself to the group. She is the Director of Psychological Health and oversees the behavioral health program at Camp Keyes.*
  - 10. Angela Sanford provided information from the Military Family Assistance Center – Christmas Across Maine has a great amount of sponsors this year, a lot of assistance with heating fuel and if anyone knows of someone that wishes to sponsor, they can inquire with her office.*
  - 11. Chaplain Gibson gave updates on upcoming deployments – there are approximately 80 currently deployed with the Maine Army National Guard and no others scheduled yet aside from those deploying in April.*
  - 12. Nathaniel Grace gave information from Military OneSource. There are many resources available to those serving and anyone that would receive benefits from a family member. Non-medical counseling, employment services and financial counseling.*
  - 13. Ben Kaler advised of a study that the VA is involved with concerning TBI at the 1, 2 and 7 year marks. This will study the long-term effects of TBI and the veteran is paid for transportation, lodging and a stipend. Currently looking for veterans to participate.*

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14. *Sheriff Mason thanked the National Guard and staff at Camp Keyes for recently assisting a Kennebec County employee.*
15. *CVEB Charter was signed by Sheriff Mason and Jess Quinn (co-chairs.)*

### ***2018 Meeting Dates:***

***March 7<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m.***

***June 13<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m.***

***Sept 12<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m.***

***Dec 5<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m.***

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