



Maine Veterans in Need
February 20, 2024
Meeting place is
Mid-Coast Veterans Council
at 1:00 PM
Zoom Call information
1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID 226 075 9875
Passcode MaineVets

Meeting Started at 1:00 PM

Attendance:

James Bachelder, Maine VFW, MVN President
David Patch, MVN Veteran Outreach Officer
Jerry Dewitt, DAV
Ritch – Bangor Vet Center
Shawn Lewin
Scott Swisher, MBVS
Matt Kennedy, MBVS
Roy Driver, Maine foster program with dogs.
David Hassen
Kristin Gillis, Health Affiliates of Maine (free case management to Veterans)
Dennis Michaud, Veterans Inc.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the January meeting minutes by: David Patch, seconded by Roy Driver, so voted

Treasurer's Report: Lodging account balance is \$4,695.64, Operating account balance is \$7,086.67. Total all accounts is \$11,782.31.

1. Fundraising AL Post 202 - \$20,000 AL Post 42 - \$3,500 Maine American legion will be expanding this Softball Tournament state wide. The proceeds will continue to come to Maine Veterans in Need. There will be 2 Disc Golf fundraisers later this year. Dave Patch wrote a thank you article thanking them. It behooves us, when we are in-front of the American Legion leadership, to thank them for their support. 90% of the people at the Post 42 had no idea who VN was. They only knew it we supporting Veterans. I told the Post leadership I would con and talk about what MVN is and what we do.
2. We are ready to submit the \$50 refund paperwork for every hotel stay we cover.

Jim – Cave, it would be nice to get a Disc Golf game in York County.
Dave P. - Butch Freeman is running them.

Motion to Accept the Treasurer's Report by: David Hassen, seconded by Shawn Lewin, So Voted

Available Funds: Elks \$500.00.
VFW – Hotel Stays \$3,363.00. Stand-Down Funds \$855.00.

Unfinished Business:

1. Stand-Downs, we received the initial information from Matt.
Oct 2nd – Portland, 9th – Lewiston, 23rd - UMA Bangor (Hannaford or Career Center) and 30th
Togus VA. These dates are all on Wednesdays.

Veterans' Park is not available like last year. The parking lot useable available and the area on top where the walkway is.

Dave P. – What is the timing for submitting the grant?

Jim – It need to be in 90 before the first event. Since the events are in October it will be dependent on the government not shutting down. To avoid any budget issues, we should plan to submit the grant request 90 before the end of August (late May). Who ever is applying for the grant will need \$10,000 to purchase the product until the grant is paid off in February.

We will give this a couple of months to find a non-profit capable to cover the funding.

2. Jerry asked about someone needing an extra hotel night. He confirmed the DAV would cover the cost. Dave patch can forward all necessary information.

New Business:

1. We have worked out an agreement with Veterans Forward where, when they approve support for a Veteran but need time to release the funds, MVN can make the instant payment and receive the refund from Veterans Forward in a week or so.
2. Outreach, the pace has increased with most Veterans coming from 211. The MCVC was receiving some calls but it was not needed so they come directly to us.
3. Election of Interim President: Dave Patch has accepted the position of president in our next elect and agreed to take the position now.

Motion to elect David Patch as Interim President by, Shawn Lewin, seconded by Jerry Dewitt, so voted.

David said he will continue to hold the Treasurer Office.

Moton to elect James Bachelder as the Veterans Outreach Officer by David Patch, seconded by Shawn Lewin, so voted.

4. Jim, I will continue as the Secretary and get the minutes out until we find a replacement. Michael Roy is our Vice President.

5. Dave will take care of the corporation renewal. And requested assistance from anyone that could help us change our IRS non-profit designation of a trust acting as a public foundation. We want to be no-profit corporation. This affects how we can and should raise funds. A foundation is not allowed to fundraise. They are required to spend their own funds. A corporation can fundraise like we do. It is fundamental for us to apply for the change in classification to be in line with our mod of operandi.

Dave Patch has the documentation on how to resolve quandary and is looking for someone to follow thru with this task.

Shawn, why don't we pay someone to resolve this? We are paying \$400 a year when we could pay onetime and save \$400 annually. He volunteered to work on this issue.

6. Shawn requested membership as an individual member. Motion Dave Jerry so voted.
7. Kristin Gillis explained the services (case management) they can provide to Veterans free of charge. Case management: helps find services, helps filling forms needed for those services. Getting them services if they need them, counseling, housing, applying for a disability, job hunting. We can help them understand the services that are available to the as Veterans and a citizen of the country.
8. Veterans Inc. has one opening for a homeless Veteran. It takes 3 to 5 days to be approved if they lived in Maine, If they lived in several states it takes longer to do the background check.

There are 3 or 4 Veterans on the list. Our SSVF program can assist or connect them to the VA Grant and Per Diem program.

9. Roy Driver, have we looked into the 501C29?
Jim, a 501C19 is a Veteran Service Organization. We are a service provider but not a Congressionally recognized Veterans Service Organization.

Our next meeting is on March 19th at 1:00 PM.

Adjourn at 1:56 PM