



S.V.A.C.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 5 MAR 2013

Location: NG Aviation Facility, Concord

In Attendance:

<p><u>Members:</u></p> <p>Peter Burdett, Chairman, MOAA Bobby Broneske, Vice Chairman, CVMA Steph Riley, Secretary, NGANH Sen. Sam Cataldo Rep. Robert Theberge Rep. Al Baldasaro Francis "Sharkey" Madden, AMLEGION Benjamin Saxon, DAV Paul Lloyd, VFW Al Grant, VVA Raymond Goulet, Jr VVA David Kenney, ROA Joe DiChiaro, MOAA Kevin Grady, AFA Ed Josephson, AFA Mark Willer, Rolling Thunder Joe Shea, MCL Frank Musmanno, NH Army Retiree Council Susan Cuddy, WVA Mike Farinola, CVMA Raymond Schwendeman, CVMA</p>	<p><u>Advisors:</u> (non-voting)</p> <p>Peggy LaBrecque, NH Veterans Home Mike Horne, NH Veterans Cemetery Jo Moncher, DHHS Brig Gen Carolyn Protzmann, Deputy Adj. Gen Barry Conway, SAGE Emeritus</p> <p><u>Guests:</u></p> <p>Sarah Holmes, Special Assistant for Senator Shaheen Steve Monier, Special Assistant for Senator Ayotte Joshua Denton, caseworker for Rep Shea-Porter Sean Downey, Dist. Director for Rep McLane-Kuster Amy Kennedy, Policy Advisor for Gov Hassan David McCloskey, State Rep/ American Legion Howie Howe, HOTH Ken Maynard Dan Marcek, VetFlix Robert Garand, Catholic War Veterans Ann Hewins, Friends of Recovery- NH Alex Ray, Soldier On Project/ Common Man owner Cathy Brentwood, Soldier On Project Charlotte Cross, Operation Military Kids Ian Dyar, American Red Cross LeighAnn Shriver Bruce Montville, LifeWise Dominic DiNatale, Volunteer NH Karen Dandurant, LifeWise volunteer; journalist Andy Lacoste, Public Affairs Director WRJ VA</p>
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1. Open Meeting/ Call to order: Chairman, Pete Burdett convened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance: P Burdett

Invocation: J DiChiaro

b. Welcome/Remarks: Thanked everyone for taking time to be here. Lots of programs going on, have a number of different speakers to present today on the different programs that they do. Even though legislation review is one of the primary things that we do, we also want to make people aware of veteran events and organizations. Important for us to do this type of coordination because sometimes we hear of news that there are grants or resources out there that would benefit veterans. Recently I became aware of a grant that SAMSHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) is making available to states to help fund for a veterans court. Have had conversations with Judge Gerry Boyle and Judge Paul Moore about getting one set up, big problem with that is funding. So passing

along this opportunity to them is a wonderful thing and a great result of our coordination efforts. Have talked with Griff Dalianis and he seems to be doing fine. Our Sage Emeritus, Barry Conway, is here tonight. He has been enjoying retirement for the last month and is now getting back into the swing of things after a vacation to Key West.

c. Introduction of New Members/Guests/Visitors:

Ann Hewins, Friends of Recovery- NH
Alex Ray, Soldier On Project/ Common Man owner
Cathy Brentwood, Soldier On Project
Charlotte Cross, Operation Military Kids
Ian Dyar, Director of Emergency Services for American Red Cross
Bruce Montville, LifeWise
Dominic DiNatale, Director of Emergency Services for Volunteer NH
Karen Dandurant, LifeWise volunteer; journalist
David McCloskey, State Rep/ American Legion
Andy Lacoste, Public Affairs Director, White River Junction VA

d. Secretary's Report: S Riley reported the presence of a quorum, making it an official meeting. The minutes from the FEB 2013 meeting were approved with a motion by A Grant, and a 2nd by B Saxon, unanimous vote to accept minutes.

e. Speakers:

Charlotte Cross, Operation Military Kids-Was requested to speak by Rep Theberge. The Cooperative Extension Program is a part of every land grant university across the country. The sort of programming that is done for military youth revolves around getting them together since they are all geographically dispersed. We have about 5000 kids in NH that have a parent in the military. The programs mostly focus on school age youth, although some younger aged kids are worked with through our family program. We work with agencies and organizations about what it is like to be a military kid. We work with teens in a Speak Out for Military Kids leadership project where they make videos in which they are interviewing one another on what it's like to be a military kid. We partner with NH Air and Army Guard as well as with other branches of the service, including Active Duty and Reserves, to get information out to the families. We do programming relating to science, nutrition, citizenship, etc. Could use your help, need subject matter experts to help with different topics. Also have a program where we try to connect military youth to our traditional 4-H program. We just finished some camps that are funded by grants out of DoD, NH is one of 10 states to receive the funding. Partner with Northeast Passage on campus which try and provide active, outdoor experiences for people with disabilities. Had one camp for military kids with physical disabilities and one for military kids with developmental disabilities. Also had a high adventure camp for military kids without disabilities that involved skiing, dog sledding, snow-shoeing, etc. Will be partnering with National Guard to do summer camps and will focus in on healthy living and on environmental science. Our family camp will focus on flight: rocket launcher design, etc. April is the month of the Military Child. Have had a governor's proclamation for the month. NH started something last year that went nationwide, wore purple to raise awareness for military kids. Purple symbolizes all branches of the military as it is the combination of Army green; Marine red; and Coast Guard, Navy and Air Force blue. Need to spread the word about wearing purple on 15 April, can go to the website to get ideas for wearing purple. www.nhomk.com

Alex Ray and Cathy Brentwood, Soldier On Project- (showed a 6 minute video on the Soldier On Project) Cathy heads up Bridge House which is a homeless shelter in Plymouth, connected to Whole Village Resource Center. They host quarterly vet-to-vet peer support meetings for the facilitators. Alex is the owner of Common Man and cooks for the vet-to-vet facilitators at the meeting. DHHS statistics show 650 homeless vets in NH, the real number is probably double. The Bridge House has 20-30 beds and the philosophy is to never turn a vet away. Their focus is on Grafton County and north of that. Have had 27 vets in the last 18 months, also let in vets with animals. The Soldier On Project out of Pittsfield, MA is the gold standard for the program of limited equity community housing. It tries to do away with the corporate lies that say vets need to conform to the corporations' expectations. It is a veteran ownership program where a building site has housing units and vets run it, take care of the grounds, are on the board and buy the unit that they live in. Alex Ray has found a site, secured the funding and will work with Soldier On to develop the program. It will have 38 units. The veteran owned properties do generate tax revenue for the state, which is also a positive outcome.

[Conway]- questioned what the term "corporate lie" means and was told that it relates to vets needing to conform to corporations' expectations instead of the other way around.

Ian Dyar, Emergency Services Director of the American Red Cross-NH- Has responsibility for all emergency services: disaster response, service to the Armed Forces including emergency communications to those families that need information from overseas and verify what the situation is and international disaster relief. Last year did a survey with local emergency management to see determine the gaps and work out strategies on how to bridge those gaps. Found a lot of gaps in local emergency management, working with them to find out what information they might need

as well as what materials and supplies. Are taking that survey premise to determine what exists for our military right now and how can we bridge any gaps. Launched the survey last Thursday and have already had 70 responses. The survey was sent to about 400 military and civilian provider agencies that serve veterans. Some of the questions included identifying the agency filling out the survey; asking what they believed their shortfalls are. Partnered with the NH Senate Commission on PTSD and TBI which had done a recent veteran survey. They found that the number one thing that vets struggle with is embarrassment and shame, which causes them to not want to reach out for help. The second thing was that vets felt that providers don't understand them and their issues. Because of those findings, the Red Cross survey includes questions to see what providers are doing to help vets with those two issues. Once the survey is complete, the data will be analyzed to discover what the gaps are and to figure out ways to reduce them by partnering with other agencies. For example, for transportation gaps in the North Country....who to partner with? Will need to figure out how to disseminate the survey results. Can come back to this meeting to brief on them.

Keith Howard, Liberty House- it is a 10 bed transitional house in Manchester. It is undergoing a similar transformation from a staff run organization to a resident run facility. Has a clothing and food distribution program that is run by vets. The goal is to try and get vets to regain the dignity that they felt in their military service. Am looking to get the service flags donated for the multi-use building that is currently being built.

Bruce Montville, LifeWise Community Projects- gave out Veterans Family Place handout. Introduced Karen Dandurant who is a journalist who has volunteered to promote our project to help get the word out. Don Dinatale is with Volunteer NH, he has deployed several times. He creates and coordinates many of the citizen corps groups in the state and disaster and recovery services in the state. He also runs a volunteer veteran service. LifeWise is a 20 year old non-profit that is all about citizen involvement, community service, public safety. Up to know the focus has been on making disability structures and youth development: Hampton Beach structure; Water Guardians; drop-out prevention program called Wildcat Youth mentors. In fall of 2012 the subject of suicide was a concern that the youth mentors brought up so Bruce attended the Seacoast Suicide Prevention Conference and met Jo Moncher. He also attended an event in which the NHNG was honored and he heard a presentation by MajGen Reddel which included the stats on PTSD and suicide among vets. Jo put Bruce in touch with Jon Worrall, who runs a camp for wounded veterans, and Jon became an advisor to the Bow Lake project. The Veterans Family Place was established after Hannaford gifted the building to LifeWise. Bow Lake was created as a retreat for veterans. Jonathan Halle from Warren Street Architects is drafting up the design for Bow Lake, which is a 10 acre island that needs to be cleared for trails and campsites. The land use design will dictate the vision of what can be done with the island. LifeWise has generated many partnerships in many different areas of the community that are willing to help with the project. Am here to ask for guidance, resources and overall support for the project. [Conway]-recommended to Bruce Montville that he first needs a vision of just what this will be, and then produce a visual for folks to see and understand.

Dan Marcek, VetFlix- runs a company that focuses on veteran history films. There has been a movement in the last year for increased military culture awareness and a focus on telling the military story in many ways to the rest of the 99% who don't serve. VetFlix can run a one hour show that will educate spouses on what it is like for their loved one to be in the military, can be shown at annual conferences that have spousal programs. Will encourage discussions about what it was like for their loved ones that served, can be very educational and cathartic. VetFlix also has a high school education initiative. Contact Dan with any questions about these programs.

2. Old Business:

a. Legislative Committee- Ed Josephson: has sent out the LSR spreadsheet to everyone. Will take questions on the status of any of the bills.

HB 234- occupational and professional boards and commissions' procedures concerning military service and occupational experience or training. One for the spouses and one for the military service member. To make it easier to get a license and/or certification in the state of NH.

HB 519-requiring the division of higher education to develop a policy on academic credit for a student's military occupation, military training, coursework, and experience

[Josephson]-both bills were sponsored by Rep Baldassarro and they OTP (Ought to Pass) These are national efforts, as well, but they have to be implemented at the state level. There was a recent Governor's conference in DC and this effort was briefed to them. Amy Kennedy called down to the conference and got some questions answered and gave some feedback.

SB 47- relative to the surviving spouse retaining the right to use the Purple Heart license plate until he or she dies or remarries. SVAC opposes it. The daughter of a PH recipient that supports the bill has attended SVAC 4-5 times. She is disappointed in our position but thanked us for being fair and well balanced. Right now the bill OTP in the Senate even though we oppose it.

[Cataldo]-there is a caucus tomorrow, will bring up SVAC's position at it

[Theberge]-leadership on both parties do not support this bill or SB 88

SB 88- Honor and Remember Flag legislation. Ed missed the hearing but did send an email to the Chairman of several committees outlining SVAC's position. Assuming it is on a Consent Calendar- should we ask the Senate to take it off?

[Cataldo]-in committee nothing was brought up about the flag owner may get royalties. Am looking to bring that up [Josephson]-we have been assured that the flag wouldn't be used at funerals, wouldn't be expanded upon.

Concerned that once it gets passed, expansion will happen "mission creep".

[Theberge]-14 states have adopted this and we are gathering info about the rationale behind passing it. Want to be fair and collect all of the facts.

3. New Business:

a. National Legislative Staff Remarks:

Sarah Holmes (Senator Shaheen):

SHAHEEN: CONGRESS MUST COMPROMISE TO AVOID AUTOMATIC CUTS

U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) denounced Congress' current inability to arrive at "a long-term solution to address this country's deficits" at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the impact of budget sequestration. Shaheen also renewed her call for bipartisan action to avoid the impact of automatic budget cuts. Deputy Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey and each member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff testified at this morning's hearing.

"The fact we have not [come up with a long-term solution] means each and every one of us in Congress should take a second look at what our jobs are in this body," Shaheen said. "The fact is, we can come up with a long-term solution that avoids the impact of sequestration, that avoids the devastating toll all of you are talking about this morning on our military and on our defense. In order to do that, we've all got to put aside some of our sacred cows and be flexible."

SHAHEEN ANNOUNCES SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) announced this afternoon her subcommittee assignments for the Senate Committee on Appropriations for the 113th Congress. Shaheen will serve on the following subcommittees that will allow her oversight of the spending of taxpayer dollars: Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; and Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. Shaheen will also serve as the Chair of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch.

SHAHEEN VISITS PEASE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, RENEWS SUPPORT FOR BASE AS IDEAL LOCATION FOR KC-46A TANKER

U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen visited Pease Air National Guard base to receive an update from New Hampshire Air National Guard officials and continue her support of Pease as the ideal location for the new KC-46A refueling tanker. The Air Force announced last month that Pease - home to the 157th Air Refueling Wing - was one of five finalists to receive the next generation tanker. Air Force officials visited Pease last week to assess the base's qualifications.

SHAHEEN, AYOTTE TO LEAD KEY ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) have been appointed to serve as Chairman and Ranking Member, respectively, of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support. As the senior Democrat and Republican on the subcommittee, Senators Shaheen and Ayotte will be in a strong position to advocate for military facilities and programs that are important to New Hampshire and the nation -- including the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Pease Air National Guard base

Shaheen hosts Derry veteran in D.C. - Derry native David Taylor joined Sen. Jeanne Shaheen as guest of honor at this year's State of the Union address in Washington, D.C. Taylor, an Army veteran and former Derry Fire Explorer, was wounded by an improvised explosive device while serving his third tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2011. He lost a leg below the knee as a result of his injuries.

Sen. Shaheen receives Navy's highest civilian award - U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., was presented with the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest award given to non-Navy civilians. Shaheen, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was recognized for her commitment to the Navy and Marine Corps.

Senator Shaheen also met with members of the American Legion and VFW during their annual visits to Washington in February and March.

Steve Monier (Senator Ayotte):

Feb 7, 2013

Senator Ayotte questioned Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey on the Defense Department's response to the attack on the U.S. Temporary Mission Facility (consulate) in Benghazi, Libya.

Senator Ayotte introduced the Down Payment to Protect National Security Act of 2013 (S. 263), which was referred to the Senate Budget Committee. If enacted, the bill would pay for the first year of defense and non-defense sequestration by finding savings in other areas of the budget.

The legislation would make this down payment by requiring a government-wide reduction in the number of federal employees by 10 percent through attrition. This would allow federal agencies to hire 1 person for every 3 who leave their employment through attrition. In addition, the legislation would freeze pay for Members of Congress for any year in which there is a federal budget deficit.

This hiring limitation would occur at the agency level and is not an across the board reduction within agencies, giving the Department of Defense the freedom to best protect our military readiness and high demand workers like those at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. This hiring limitation may be waived for a national security concern or extraordinary emergency.

Feb 8, 2013

Senator Ayotte sent a letter to the Secretary of Defense asking the status of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, the only known U.S. Prisoner of War in Afghanistan.

Feb 10, 2013

Gave remarks at the 237th Military Police Company Deployment Ceremony at Southern NH University.

Feb 11, 2013

In a letter to Air Force Chief of Staff General Mark Welsh, Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Kelly Ayotte along with Congresswomen Carol Shea-Porter (NH) and Annie Kuster (NH) encouraged the Air Force to select Pease Air National Guard Base as a home for the new KC-46A aerial refueling tanker.

Last month, the Air Force announced that Pease - home to the 157th Air Refueling Wing - was one of five Air National Guard finalists that may receive the KC-46A, which will replace the Eisenhower era KC-135 tankers. Air Force officials visited Pease in mid-February to begin assessing its competitiveness to receive the tanker.

"Pease stands out because of its existing infrastructure to support the KC-46A with nearly one million gallons of bulk fuel storage and parking for up to 19 of the new aircraft. In addition to having one of the largest aircraft parking ramps in the Air National Guard, Pease has one of the longest runways in the Northeast and an absence of any environmental issues that would impede the basing and operation of the KC-46A," the letter said.

Senators Shaheen and Ayotte serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Shea-Porter serves on the House Armed Services Committee.

Feb 14, 2013

Senator Ayotte questioned General Lloyd J. Austin, III, USA who was nominated to be Commander of United States Central Command; and General David M. Rodriguez, USA, who was nominated to be Commander of United States Africa Command.

Feb 15, 2013

Senator Ayotte was appointed to serve alongside Senator Shaheen as Ranking Member and Chairman respectively, of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support. As the senior Democrat and Republican on the subcommittee, Senators Shaheen and Ayotte will be in a strong position to advocate for military facilities and programs that are important to New Hampshire and the nation -- including the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Pease Air National Guard base.

"Congress has a responsibility to provide our servicemen and women with the resources and training they need to complete their mission and as Chair of the Readiness Subcommittee I'm looking forward to having a leadership role in the oversight of that effort. The responsibilities that come with chairing this committee - including jurisdiction over depots and shipyards like our own in Portsmouth, business management and contracting oversight, and energy security issues - will allow me to continue to work on a range of programs critical to our armed services and to ensure proper and rigorous oversight over Pentagon spending," said Senator Shaheen. "I'm honored to have this opportunity and I'm eager to get to work with Senator Ayotte on behalf of our men and women in uniform and our national security priorities."

Feb 19, 2013

- * Gave remarks at the NH Global Leadership Coalition Breakfast
- * Gave remarks at the BAE Systems Women in Technology Graduation luncheon, and
- * Held an Editorial Board meeting with the Nashua Telegraph.

Feb 26, 2013

Senator Ayotte voted to conclude debate on the nomination of Chuck Hagel to serve as the next Secretary of Defense. On final approval of the nomination, she voted no. Ayotte released the following statement:

"Senator Hagel has earned the respect and gratitude of all Americans for his brave service in Vietnam. I appreciated the opportunity to meet personally with him in my office and to question him during his appearance before the Armed Services Committee.

"As our military leaders have testified, the United States faces one of the most complex and dangerous national security environments in our history. We need a strong secretary of defense at the Pentagon who will fight to maintain

America's military strength and speak with clarity and consistency on the leading national security challenges our country confronts.

"Senator Hagel's prior positions on Iran sanctions and the designation of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organization, as well as the troubling statements he has made regarding Israel, place him far outside the national security mainstream of both parties. Given his record, his testimony, and his past statements - including his endorsement of proposals that would gut our nuclear deterrent - I couldn't vote to confirm his nomination."

Feb 28, 2013

As the U.S. Senate debated proposals to avert across the board sequestration cuts, Senator Ayotte offered legislation that was an alternative to two bills backed by the Republican and Democratic leadership, respectively. Under an agreement reached between the Majority Leader and the Republican Leader, the Senate voted on proposals from each party. Ayotte's request for a vote on her alternative proposal, which replaces the sequester with savings found elsewhere in the budget, was blocked.

"I think it's time for us to stop the charade," said Senator Ayotte, who noted that neither the Republican nor the Democratic proposal is expected to pass today. "With the clock ticking, it's my hope that we actually get down to resolving this in a responsible way for our country, by finding alternative savings to replace sequestration while still addressing our deficit. That's why I put pen to paper, to provide an alternative to the leadership-backed bills and demonstrate that we can find alternative savings to address sequestration without raising taxes. I firmly believe that we should have a vote today on every proposal, and I think anything less is a disservice to the American people, who are demanding that we start governing. It is time for us to pass a budget to prioritize spending."

Senator Ayotte questioned the president's nominees for positions in the Pentagon, including Alan F. Estevez nominated to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Frederick E. Vollrath nominated to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and Force Management, and Eric K. Fanning nominated to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

Senator Ayotte joined 21 of her colleagues to introduce Senate Resolution 65, which was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. If enacted, the resolution would express the sense of Congress that Congress strongly supports the full implementation of United States and international sanctions on Iran and urges the president to continue to strengthen enforcement of sanctions legislation.

March 5, 2013

Senator Ayotte questioned CENTCOM Commander General Mattis, and SOCOM Commander Admiral McRaven to review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program. During an exchange with General Mattis, Senator Ayotte asked if Senator Ayotte's No Contracting with the Enemy legislation from last year would be helpful if expanded beyond CENTCOM. General Mattis replied that it would be helpful if expanded.

Josh Denton (Congresswoman Shea-Porter):

The Congresswoman did not vote for sequestration, she opposes sequestration and she spoke on the floor last week against sequestration.

The Congresswoman met with Dr. Susan MacKenzie and toured the VAMC.

The Congresswoman has signed a delegation letter in support of the KC-46A tanker.

The Congresswoman is cosponsoring the following pieces of legislation:

- o The Disabled Space A travel Act;
- o The Vietnam Veterans Donor Acknowledgement Act;
- o The Military Spouses Equal Treatment Act;
- o The Ruth Moore Sexual Trauma Act;
- o The Veterans dog Training Therapy Act; and
- o The Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act.

Sean Downey for Michael Ollen (Congresswoman McLane-Kuster):

Congresswoman Kuster was honored to be a part of the 237th Military Police departure ceremony last month. Today she met with MajGen Reddel discussing the need for improved VA services and the threat of sequestration on national defense, among other things. She also met today with NH VFW leadership, including State Commander Lynch, to discuss her membership on the Veteran Affairs committee, including improved mental health service, access to counseling for victims of sexual trauma, and making technical military certifications more transferable to the civilian workforce. From a legislation point of view she co-sponsored HR 543, HR 569. On Thursday she is scheduled to join the Veterans Affairs committee for several hearings and a joint committee with the Small Business committee, which she is also a member, to look at concerns by small business owners who are also disabled veterans. Proud to report on the North Country location that they have named Brian Bresnahan as the Constituent Services Representative for that area. He will be responsible for everything north of the "Notch". Haven't finalized an office space for him yet, though. Congresswoman Kuster did finish her second full North Country day with a trip to Colebrook and Berlin.

4. Misc. / Announcements / Calendar Items:

a. Al Grant: Groundbreaking ceremony at the Manchester VA for primary care/mental health outpatient clinic addition 6 MAR at 1000 in the Training and Education room. Also, 2 building entrances to be closed for the construction project: Urgent Care entrance and the pharmacy entrance. The road will be closed to that side of the building. Some handicap parking spots will be lost, they will have shuttle service in the lower parking lot. The project will take about 2 years to complete.

b. Steph Riley: Make Sure it's Me library presentations. A play that is coming to NH in June that addresses PTSD and TBI issues in veterans. The library presentations start in March and continue into April at 5 different locations: Portsmouth (Mar 18), Stratham (Mar 26), Manchester (Apr 4), Nashua (Apr 18) and Hampton (Apr 23). I will be reading the part of the doctor in two of the presentations. The hope is to facilitate community support and discussion on these issues. There are handouts provided, one is a resource sheet with listing of signs and symptoms and phone numbers of providers that can help with the issues.

c. Mike Farinola- Veterans Count is starting or expanding operations in the seacoast area.

d. Jo Moncher- honored to have Andy Lacost from WRJ VA with us tonight. Reminder that WRJ covers 4.5 counties in our state. The North Country Veterans Committee worked on homelessness issues in that area. Rob Norris, a Homeless Outreach worker with WRJ, spearheaded the development of a Homeless Resource Guide. It is a much needed document for folks wanting to know resources that are available. The NH State Police Peer Support Group was interested in finding out more of what services were available to veterans. Andy Lacost set up a tour for them at WRJ which went so well that now they feel comfortable taking vets to the VA. [Lacost]-at the WRJ VA Homeless Program there has been a shift in leadership focus and they are now putting Homeless Coordinators in each CBHCOs. In the last 4 years have put \$140 million into the WRJ facility. Now have a residential rehab center for substance abuse that is a 6 week program. 14 beds have been filled since OCT 2012, need to get the word out. Have 14 lodger beds that may be converted to rehab beds if there is a need.

e. Mike Horne- Welcome Home Vietnam Vets ceremony on Sat 30 MAR at 1400 at the Vet Cemetery. (Has since been changed to the Army Aviation Support Facility in Concord)

f. Pete Burdett- golf cart initiative: Marine Corps League donated \$200. The CVMA is ready to buy the first cart to be donated.

5. Motion to adjourn 1st E Josephson, 2nd A Grant and the meeting ended at 1925.

Next meeting date: 2 APR 2013 (Regularly the 1st Tue at 1700) Location: NG Aviation Facility - Concord, NH

Respectfully submitted,

Steph Riley
Secretary