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**David E. Hassen**  
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## MAINE ELKS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL VETERANS REPORT 2021 – 2022

### IMPACT OF PANDEMIC CONTINUES

We are still seeing a shortage of available housing.  
Made worse by increasing rent prices.

### CURRENT HOMELESS VETERANS as 1 Feb 2022 IS 123

Veterans housed in previous 90 days =46, newly identified in previous 90 days= 63, this is the opposite of what the system is trying to achieve. We are moving towards “Functional Zero” when we are housing more than we identify. It is anticipated that we will house over 200 if housing can be found, currently we are putting up Veterans in motels.

### THE ELKS VETERANS BUDGET EXPENDITURES

The Elks in Maine primarily support the VA and the Veterans Bureau responding to their wish list items. To date we have expended over one half of the year’s budget on food gift cards 53%, gas cards 15%, UHAUL rentals 15% , motels 8% and household items 7%. We expect to see this trend to continue during the next year. The MEA Veterans Committee’s budget for the coming year was increased by \$3,500. Stand – Down food will be funded \$1500, the remainder will be used to provide for commercial transportation of our motel donated furniture. The estimated cost to make 6 pick-ups is \$6,000 leaving a short fall of \$4000. We are applying for a \$3000 Freedom Grant which I am hopeful will be awarded leaving us with \$1000 to fill with fundraisers and donations.

### STAND-DOWNS

The Maine Bureau of Veterans’ Services will provide for 4 mobile Stand-Downs in the projected locations pending final approval.

Ellsworth	5 October
Togus	12 October
Portland	9 October
Springvale	26 October

Due to the restrictions still in place our sack lunches will be provided to the veterans only. We will provide 25 sack lunches at each location at a budget of \$350. The lodge nearest the Stand-Down location has the option of providing the sack lunches or leaving it up to the Veterans Committee. Should the lodge want to provide the lunches let me know and you will be reimbursed for your expenditures.

*“So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them”*

## WELCOME HOME KITS

There is no limit to the number that the lodge can be reimbursed for. If every lodge bought 13 kits we would have 260 kits to provide to homeless veterans. The cost is currently under \$400 with shipping. We can make this happen, it's the easiest and cheapest thing we can do that will have a major long lasting impact on our newly housed homeless veterans. The lodge Veterans Committee has two other options. 1. Take the Veteran shopping, 2. Purchase individual items for the kits.

### MAINE VETERANS IN NEED (MVN) 501c3 organization.

Formed with many members of the VA Homeless Veterans Networking Group (HVNG) Mission: To assist veterans and their dependents who are in need, advocating for those in active crisis or emergency, preventing homelessness, and helping homeless transitioning into stable housing. Membership open to all organizations and individuals with a common interest.

### MAINE VETERANS HOME IN AUGUSTA VOLUNTARY SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Elks National Veterans Service Commission (ENVSC) has appointed Robert Kittredge PER as Certified Volunteer Representative. Congratulations Bob and thank you for taking the lead on this most important and often overlooked part of our Veterans programs.

### ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS IN VARIOUS STAGES OF PLANNING

Belgrade Lakes Fishing trip  
Dew Haven Animal Farm  
Guitars for Veterans  
VA Recreation Departments support for adaptive sports and Golden Age Games

Fraternally,

*David E. Hassen*

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MEA National Veterans Service Commission Chairman

*David Hassen and ?  
awards Robert Kittredge, PER  
of Augusta Elks #964,  
a Special Citation*



*2021-22 MEA Female Veteran Volunteer of the Year is Darlena Bugbee.*



*2021-22 MEA Male Veteran Volunteer of the Year is Rinaldo (Randy) Ellis.*



Maine Elks Association 93rd Convention