



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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NACo has created a fact sheet for the MCCA Convention of Maine Counties! NACo Membership Coordinator Alex Koroknay-Palicz wrote, "We're glad to have all 16 Maine counties as members of NACo and appreciate your continued involvement. Sallie Clark, Immediate Past President, Matt Chase, Executive Director, David Thompson, President and Managing Director, NACo FSC, and Andrew Goldschmidt, Director of Membership Marketing are all looking forward to attending your upcoming meeting. Thank you in advance for any assistance you can offer them."

This fact sheet has been updated for 2016! Now you will find even more information on many of NACo's advocacy efforts that result in payments to counties, results of the prescription discount program, participation on committees and information on other NACo programs. This fact sheet also includes maps of membership, prescription discount program participation, U.S. Communities usage and NACo Deferred Compensation program participation in the state."

~Click here to read the full email from Alex and NACo's Maine Fact Sheet



Fun Facts about Kennebec County

The area was explored by the Popham Colony in September of 1607. It was first inhabited by English settlers from the Plymouth Colony in 1629 as a trading post on the Kennebec River. The settlement was known by its Indian name—Cushnoc (or Coussinoc or Koussinoc), meaning "head of tide." Fur trading was profitable before the Plymouth Colony sold the Kennebec Patent in 1661. Cushnoc would remain unoccupied for the next 75 years. This area was inhabited by the Canibas Indians. During the 17th century they were on friendly terms with the English settlers in the region. The name Kennebec comes from the Eastern Abenaki /kínipek"/, meaning "large body of still water, large bay." Kennebec County was established on February 20, 1799 from portions of Cumberland and Lincoln Counties and Augusta became county seat for newly created Kennebec County. Augusta was named after Augusta Dearborn, daughter of Henry Dearborn. Augusta was designated Maine's state capital in 1827.



100 Days, 100+ Employers, 100+ Veterans Hired

Since 2013 Kennebec County has employed over 44 veterans. The experience overall has been very positive. Given that the Sheriff's office is a paramilitary organization, it is a great advantage to hire people who are used to following the chain of command and taking orders. Veterans have also learned an, "I've got your back" attitude which is extremely important when working in a corrections setting or as a deputy.

Governor Paul LePage stated, "We want Maine's employers to fully appreciate the value a veteran can bring to their workforce... I fully support the Maine Hire-A-Vet campaign. We want our veterans who have given so much to our nation to return home to good-paying careers that take advantage of the skills developed by service in the Armed Forces."

The Kennebec County administration certainly supports their working veterans 100% whether it's honoring their service, or accommodating drills and deployment. Kennebec County collaborates with a representative at the Maine Department of Labor to match veterans with appropriate job openings.

To join the program, contact Campaign Coordinator, Steven Roy, at 207-624-5156, or MaineHireAVet.DOL@maine.gov.



The Deeds Office Has a New Home

The county department, where land records like deeds and maps are recorded and kept, moved to 77 Winthrop St. recently after two decades in rented space at One Weston Court, just across from the county offices at 125 State Street. "This is something I dreamed of for 15 years," Kennebec County Register of Deeds Beverly Bustin-Hatheway said. The new space, in the former Pierce Atwood law office, doubles the space the registry had in One Weston Court and allows all staff offices to be located together at one end of the building. In its former home, Bustin-Hatheway said her office was separated from those of her staff.

The new building has dedicated areas for research, secure storage for the historic deed books that date back to 1799 when Kennebec County split off from Lincoln County, and a room for storing county commission documents.

The ball started rolling on the move earlier this year when both Devlin and Bustin-Hatheway spotted a real estate ad for 77 Winthrop St. in the Kennebec Journal. County officials had been working with state officials to acquire the former Augusta District Court building, which has been vacant since the court's operations moved to the new Capital Judicial Center, but the deal fell through. The sale price was \$575,000, and the county was able to pay cash, thanks to the capital improvement funds that had been set aside and identified for use for the new building. The move represents a savings to taxpayers, because the county no longer has to pay \$70,000 annually in rent.

~Click here to read the article by Jessica Lowell

Criminogenic Addiction & Recovery Academy C.A.R.A.



During the spring of 2010, Sheriff Liberty and the Corrections Administration at Kennebec County Correctional Facility (KCCF), in coordination with the Maine Board of Corrections (BOC), decided to transform the facility into a facility that specialized in intensively addressing substance abuse and criminal thinking. In collaboration with Crisis & Counseling Centers, a pilot program was started in 2010 with seven inmates with clear evidence of longstanding substance abuse and criminal behavior. The academy has graduated over 58 people who completed an intensive five week program focusing on the key issues fueling their continued substance abuse and criminal involvement. 240 graduates are expected annually from the program once it is running at full capacity. The program is intended to be a statewide resource and encourages referrals from other correctional facilities.



Remembering Jim Mitchell

Kennebec County Probate Judge Mitchell passed away recently of multiple organ failure. Jim Mitchell had been the judge of probate for 37 years in Kennebec County as well as a practicing attorney for 46 years. In the picture above, it was a hot summer day and over 95 people were noticed in a large intestate estate. So many showed up for the hearing that there was no room large enough in the Court House so Judge Mitchell decided to solve the problem and let justice keep on rolling. The hearing was moved to the front steps where folding chairs were set out for the elderly who couldn't stand. Judge Mitchell explained who would be entitled to an inheritance and the proof that would be needed. He patiently answered questions from dozens of pro se litigants. Remembering how many hours, weeks, months it took to locate all the people and calculate the amount each would receive. Register of Probate Kathleen Ayers said she couldn't help but think how brilliant, articulate and kind he was. His biggest worry that day was how he was going to explain the sunburn on the top of his head to Libby, his beloved wife of 51 years. He was glad the Kennebec Journal took pictures providing proof he really was working.

Jim Mitchell is noted for the accomplishment of authoring the "Maine Probate Manual" which has since been revised by Mitchell himself and Philip C Hunt.

Kathleen Ayers comments, "There are so many examples of how Judge Mitchell helped everyday people, protected the rights of Veterans, the mentally ill, children and their parents, and was always gracious and kind to every person who entered his Courtroom." This is his legacy and how Jim Mitchell is sure to be remembered.

Restorative Community Harvest

The Kennebec County Sheriff's Office is committed to supporting the community in Central Maine. The 17-year-old Restorative Community Harvest program provides meaningful agricultural skills to the inmates participating in the Public Works while contributing fresh and healthy produce to those families in need. A portion of the harvest will serve to augment the diets of inmates within the facility. In collaboration with the Maine Department of Corrections, Central Maine Pre-Release Center to meet our shared goals and utilize our manpower resources for those purposes.

~Click here to read more about this program.



Restorative Community Harvest Program