



The SUNFLOWER "SCUTTLEBUTT"

Official "Mouthpiece" of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League January 2016
Editor: Jan Denney 1200 Louise Lane Salina, Kansas 67401
E-mail: jadenney@cox.net

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2015-2016

COMMANDANT: Jan Denney
e-mail: jadenney@cox.net

SR. VICE COMMANDANT:
e-mail:

JR. VICE COMMANDANT: Thomas Huxtable
e-mail: tshux@cox.net

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Bryson Allen
e-mail: brysonallen@sbcglobal.net

ADJUTANT / Paymaster: Harvey Harris
e-mail: harveyharris@att.net

CHAPLAIN: Howard Runft
e-mail: crunft_22@yahoo.com

SGT. AT ARMS: Joe Hughes
email: jmhughes@everestkc.net



Commandant Jan Denney

Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025 will host the 2016 Midwest Division Spring Conference. Information on the Conference is included in this newsletter. This is an important conference and your attendance is needed. One of our own, ADVC Harvey Harris will be standing for election as the Midwest Division National Vice Commandant.

Dave Zeferjohn has rendered his resignation as Commandant, Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League effective Saturday 5 December 2015. Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League - *Chapter 5 Section 5 (a) "In event of a vacancy in the office of Commandant, the Senior Vice Commandant will automatically succeed to the office of Commandant"*. Being the duly elected Senior Vice Commandant of the Department of Kansas, I have assumed the office of Commandant of the Department of Kansas and was duly sworn effective this date, 8 December 2015. The office of Sr. Vice Commandant will be vacant until elections at the Department Conference in June.

As your detachments conduct elections and installations of officers, insure that the Report of Installation (ROI) is completed and sent to the Department Paymaster – PO Box 67582 – Topeka, KS 66667-0582, in a timely manner. I will be honored to travel to your detachment and to install your officers at your detachment's Ritual of Installation ceremony. This is an important part of your detachment's activities and needs to be treated as such. Your officers are chosen to lead your detachment and the oath of office ceremony should reflect the detachment's faith and trust in their selection and officers should be installed with the ceremony they deserve.

Semper Fidelis,
Jan Denney 785-826-5087



Jr. Vice Commandant Tom Huxtable

No Report

Semper Fi,
Tom Huxtable



Adj / Paymaster Harvey Harris

I hope to see a large member turnout in Overland Park for the Midwest Division April 2016 Spring Conference, hosted by the General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment, and MSGT Luis Romero, Jr. Unit. (Marine Corps League Auxiliary) The leadership for the Division, National Vice Commandant and National Assistant Vice Commandant will be selected during the conference. I received notice from our current National Vice Commandant, David Hunter, on 31 December indicating he does not plan to seek a second term as National Vice Commandant. At this time, I will announce that as your current Assistant Division Vice Commandant, I will run for the Midwest Division National Vice Commandant position. As your National Vice Commandant, my goal will be to continue to represent the Department of Kansas and Midwest Division. A goal for the Division, when National looks at the 10 Divisions of the League there will be no doubt that the Midwest Division is the best up to date and current Division in the League. With assistance from the remaining six (6) Departments in the Midwest Division, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota, by maintaining the standards the Department of Kansas currently enjoy we will accomplished our goal. The Midwest Division will be in a great position to guide the League in the future as the current National Sr. Vice Commandant and past Midwest Division Vice Commandant, Wendell Webb, will be installed as National Commandant at the Overland Park National Convention in 2017. We, as Marine

Corps League members, are facing a difficult time like all other organizations - that being retention of members and recruiting of new members. In the hard times to come, the Marine Corps League needs to maintain focus, stay current, improve, and continue to grow. Although times have been difficult, we as Marines will Adapt and Overcome. I would appreciate your vote of confidence and support at the Midwest Division Spring Conference in Overland Park.

Semper Fidelis,
Harvey L. Harris, ADVC
Department Paymaster
PO Box 67582
Topeka, KS 66667-0582



Judge Advocate Bryson Allen

As I write this we are just beginning to reach the knee deep stage of the Political season. Every two to four years the same problems arise and the same questions asked. So to start of lets clear the air. All members of the Marine Corps League are encouraged to support the candidate and/or party of their choice. The Marine Corps League, however, is a 501c4 exempt under the IRS Code and may not support any Political Candidate or Political Party. As such when you go to your rallies and political meetings leave your MCL uniform items at home. The same goes for MCL meetings, don't bring political items to the meeting to pass out. This just keeps everything cleaner. Many of you are members of other Veterans Groups and Organizations that do not fall under these restrictions. As they say when in Rome etc.

Remember the Division Spring Conference this year, NVC Dave Hunter has stated he will not run for a 2nd term and our very own ADVC Harvey Harris has thrown his hat in the ring. Let's all go and show our support.

Semper Fi and thanks for all the calls and get well cards.

Bryson L Allen
Judge Advocate/Jr. Past Commandant



Chaplin Howard Runft

SLOW ME DOWN

Slow me down; I cannot do all the things that I want to.

Slow me down so I will see when others have a need for me.

Show me who needs loving kindness, take away my selfish blindness.

Slow me down when I rush so, help me take the time to grow in life's busy restless maze, from my swift and careless ways.

R. Tobey

Detachments: Report all membership deaths utilizing the *Notice of Death* forms. Complete the form; keep 1 copy and mail the balance to:

Department Chaplain

Howard Runft

1827 Dallas St.

Wichita, Kansas 67217-2247

crunft_22@yahoo.com

The Department Chaplain will forward the forms to National. Following this procedure ensures that the Department, National and Semper Fi magazine are correctly informed of your member's death.

Semper Fi,
Howard Runft



Department of Kansas Detachments

Mount Suribachi Detachment #105

Meets 2nd Tuesday at 1900 hours

VFW 620 A St

Smith Center, KS 66967

Phone 785.695.2357



Oct 2015 Mt Suribachi Detachment hosted its annual "Bingo for Vets" at the Grand Island Ne. VA hospital.

The most mature Detachment Marine, Past State Department Commandant and Detachment Chaplain Roy Wangerin, and the youngest Detachment Marine present, Larry Thompson cut the cake at the annual Marine Corps Birthday Dinner 2015 at Pooches in Smith Center



Formation at the Veteran's Day ceremony Kensington Ks.

Mt Suribachi Detachment Marines and families met at the Kensington Ks Post 166 American Legion for an annual Christmas party.

Semper Fi,
Larry Thompson, Commandant

Tri Rivers Detachment #730

Meets 3rd Tuesday at 1900 hours

VFW 1108 W. Crawford

Salina, KS 67401

Phone 785.826.5087

The Tri Rivers Detachment was the host to the celebration of the 240th Marine Corps' Birthday and the 25th anniversary of Charter of the Detachment at the Courtyard Marriott in Salina on 10 November.



(L-R) Jan Denney, Marine of Year Society Chairman; Ron Styles; Alvie Furbeck Detachment Commandant

Chaplain Ron Styles was awarded the Detachment Marine of Year for his contributions to the Tri Rivers Detachment.



(L-R) Jan Denney; Ron Styles; Alvie Furbeck; Jack Gallagher Sgt. At Arms Jack Gallagher and Chaplain Ron Styles were honored for their 25 years of service in their respective offices. They are the only Chaplain and Sgt. At Arms the Detachment have known.

The Detachment recognized nine of the remaining eleven Detachment Charter Members with certificates and 25 year MCL lapel pins. Spouses of the Charter Members present were also recognized for their contribution for the past 25 years and presented a USMC bracelet.



Detachment Charter Members: (L-R) Front Row: Jack Gallagher, Robert Westgate, Ron Styles, John Smutz, Jim Baughan, Gib Cunningham, Wendell Peacock . Back Row: Jan Denney and Alvie Furbeck. Not Pictured Joel Wimer and Don Vineyard.

The Detachment Christmas Party was held on 15 December 2015 at the Courtyard Marriott in Salina. Members and spouses enjoyed good food and a gift exchange. Jim Baughan was celebrating his 90th birthday a day early.

Semper Fidelis,
Jan Denney, Adjutant / Paymaster

B. Gen. William A. Kurtis / SEK Detachment #612

Meets 3rd Sunday at 1930 hours
VFW Post 1186 113 E Myrtle
Independence, KS 67301
Phone 620.331.1874

Our Detachment enjoyed a wonderful MC Birthday party on Saturday, November 7th at the VFW in Independence with 30 leaguers and guests. David Fuqua emceed and did his usual stellar job of keeping the evening moving along, emphasizing the importance of the Marine Corps and all veterans protecting the red white and blue. There were the traditional readings of the Birthday letters as well as the cake cutting ceremony. Charles Davis provided the spare ribs which were delicious. The covered dishes that complemented the meat made for a festive occasion. We had our raffle for the Iwo Jima Memorial as well as drawings for other items and had a very successful silent auction. In all, it was a nice fund raising effort.

Our Detachment provided the Color Guard for the Neewollah Parade on October 31st as well as the Thanksgiving/Christmas Parade in Independence on Sunday, November 22nd. We also had a two man detail lead the Parsons Christmas Parade on Thursday, December 3rd. We also presented the colors for the Independence High School home opener on Friday, December 18th. We were involved in several military funeral details so we are keeping active. We are still actively trying to recruit new members with limited success. Wish all the best for the holidays and look forward to a prosperous new year

Semper Fidelis,
Dan Dollison, Adjutant/Paymaster

Gen. Lewis W. Walt Detachment #682

Meets 4th Thursday at 1900 hours
VFW Post 1650
Topeka, KS 66604
Phone 785.273.2149
No Report

Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025

Meets 4th Wednesday at 1900 hours
VFW Post 7397
9550 Pflumm Road
Lenexa, KS 66215
(913) 492-1199

The General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment held its annual Marine Corps Birthday Dinner on November 10. Two prestigious awards were presented. Don Marsolek received the first detachment "Life Time Achievement Award". Don was the person instrumental in chartering the detachment and serving as our first Commandant.

Jim O'Connor received our detachment "Marine of the Year Award" for his fundraising efforts, volunteer hours, leadership and dedication to the Marine Corps League

The end of November and first part of December our efforts were totally dedicated to our Toys for Tots campaign. Bill Clinton again led and organized a very successful campaign resulting in 37,884 being collected.

In addition a new Marine Corps League Auxiliary will be chartered as the Luis Romero, Jr. Unit. The Marine Corps League Auxiliary will hold its installation of officers meeting on January 27 at the VFW, Lenexa, KS

The General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment is hosting the spring Marine Corps League Mid-West conference, April 15 & 16 in Overland Park, KS. Please plan on attending. Your Commandants have all the details and additional information is included in this newsletter.

Semper Fi,

Joe Hughes,
Detachment Communications

Air Capital Detachment #773

Meets 3rd Tuesday
Social Time 1830
Meeting 1900 hours
American Legion 101 E 31st St South
Wichita, KS 67216-1002
Phone 316.259.4172

2015 was a typical year with reason for gladness and sadness. We sadly lost some dear friends and comrades, but also gained new valued members

Some of the highlights of the year were participation in the Memorial Day & Veterans Day Parades, our summer covered dish picnic and monthly Saturday breakfasts.

In November we held our Birthday ceremony at Veterans park, and many of us attended the Marine Corps Ball.

In December we held our annual Christmas Party, catered by our members spouses at American Legion Post 4 in downtown Wichita. Our invited guests were the local I & I Staff and local Marine Reserves and their families. A visit from Santa Claus and our grand Christmas story teller Gene Taldo made the evening complete.

Have a great 2016.

Semper Fi
John Kiser, Commandant

Edwin A Schumacher Detachment #740

Meets 1st Monday at 1930 hours
Camper & RV Center 709 Canterbury
Hays, KS 67601
Phone 785.628.3067

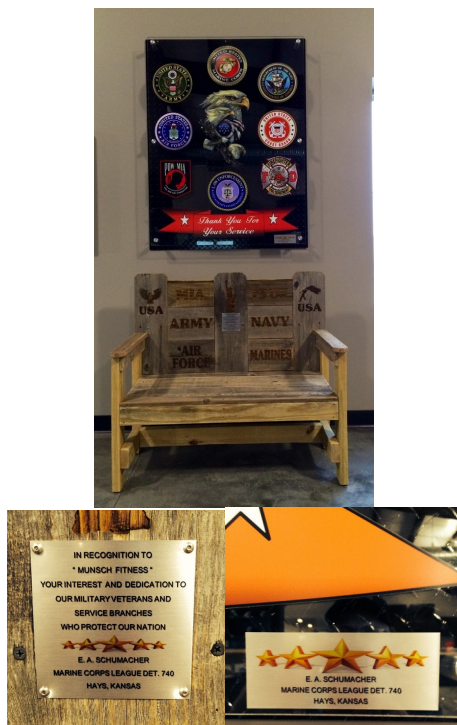
The Edwin A. Schumacher Detachment recently celebrated a successful past year with a Christmas Party at the American Legion post in Hays on December 18. A good time was had by all. The special comradery that exists between our members makes for an amusing and interesting time. Just ask the barmaids.

The league again participated in the Toys-4-Tots campaign in Ellis County. Our volunteers collected and guarded hundreds of dollars' worth of toys and over \$650 cash during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Walgreen's was especially generous again this past year and donated enough toys to fill two large boxes.

Sadly, our league lost long-time charter member and past Commandant Edgar "Ed" Dies on November 18. Ed was drafted into the Marines in 1943 and served in the Marshall Islands with the VMF 155 squadron towards the end of WWII. He was an Historian and an avid gardener.

Hays native Alex Munsch, son of current Commandant Bob Munsch, a short time ago opened Munsch Fitness, a 24 hour access fitness center in Hays. Just inside the front entrance one will find a fantastic looking military appreciation display above a wooden bench made by Bob and donated in honor of the Edwin A. Schumacher Detachment for all customers to enjoy. There is not a more patriotic family in Kansas than the Munsch's. It's a real piece of art.



(Photos courtesy of Bob Munsch)

Semper Fi,
Asher C. White, Chaplain



THE MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS

Greetings from the Kansas Pack.

Seems our Worthy Pack Leader, PDD Bryson Allen, is trying to stand a little taller on his hind legs, a short time ago he underwent back surgery in an attempt to stand a little straighter, with a lot less pain. Hopefully Big Dog is doing better after the back surgery, get back to the dog house and have a speedy recovery.

The Pack is doing well, but to continue to grow we could use a few more Pups in the Pounds. Know any GOOD members that you can invite into your Pounds? The time is right, invite them into the "Fun and Honor Society" of the Marine Corps League, and have fun in your Pound growls. The Pack has 24 Devil Dogs eligible to advance to Pedigree Devil Dog. All advancement forms have been distributed to the Pound Dog Robbers, to date the Pack Dog Robber has received and forwarded to Kennel 4 advancement requests, all from the Salina Devil Dogs Pound 365. Let's get the forms to the Pack Dog Robber by March 2016 so Kennel will have time to process them as the National Convention will be hosted by the Southern Division, Tulsa, Oklahoma August 8-12, 2016. You can't get much closer to Kansas than that. Your last chance for a short trip will be the 2017 National Convention, hosted by the General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025, in Overland Park, after that who knows where it may be. Good luck and happy hunting in the COLD days to come.

Harvey Harris, PPD ADVC
KS PK Dog Robber

Kansas Pack Officers 2015-16

Pack Leader	PDD Bryson Allen
Sr. Vice	PDD Dan P. Dollison
Jr. Vice	PDD Harvey Harris
Smart Dog	PDD Tom Huxtable
Mad Dog	DD Alvie M. Furbeck
Police Dog	PDD Eldon D. Holsey
Barking Dog	DD Jan A. Denney

Watch Dog PDD Dave Zeferjohn
 Dog Robber PDD Harvey Harris
 Dog Trainer DD Howard L. Runft



TAPS

Edgar Dies - Edwin A Schumacher Detachment
 11/18/2015
 Lee Reynolds - Gen. Larry Oppenheimer
 Detachment 12/12/2015
 Keith C. Boedecker - Tri Rivers Detachment
 Jerry W. Rich - Air Capital Detachment
 Donald L. Ross - Air Capital Detachment

TAPS information is from Death Notices received by the
 Department Chaplain as submitted from each Detachment.



COMING EVENTS

Department Staff Meeting
 1200 Hours
 VFW Post 1432
 1108 W. Crawford
 Salina, KS 67401



Marine Corps League
 The Midwest Division Spring Conference

April 15 - 16, 2016

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 15, 2016

1200 – Registration
 1400 – Hospitality Open
 1900 – Auction (Cash Bar)
 Hospitality Room closes
 Room Re-Opens after the Auction

Saturday, April 16, 2016

0730 – Registration opens
 0830 – Memorial Service - Courtyard
 1000 – Joint Session
 1030 – Session MCL Meetings
 1030 – Session MCL Auxiliary Meeting
 1200 – Chow time (Hospitality or Restaurant)
 1300 – Reconvene meetings
 1430 – Devil Dog Growl
 1500 – Hospitality Room Opens
 1800 – Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)
 1900 – Banquet
 Hospitality Room re-opens after Banquet

MCL Midwest Division
 2016 Spring Conference
 HOTEL RESERVATIONS – CODE M4C
 DoubleTree/ Hilton Hotel, Overland Park,

\$109.00 w/ breakfast buffet included

10100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kansas,
 66210-1462, TELEPHONE: 1-913-451-6100

MEETING REGISTRATION – by March 24th
 MCL Member / Guest

Name _____
 Detachment _____
 Title _____
 Phone/email _____

MCL Auxiliary Member / Guest:

Name _____
 Unit/Guest _____
 Title _____
 Phone/email _____

_____ Hospitality (Food & Drinks - \$30.00 each)
 _____ Banquet - \$40.00 each
 _____ Grilled Chicken Breast
 _____ Chicken Fried Steak
 _____ MCL League Registration Fee \$5.00
 (No fee: MCL Auxiliary or Guest)
 _____ Total amount enclosed

Make Check payable to:
 General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment
 Mail to:

Joe Hughes
8021 Hall Street
Lenexa, KS 66219



Department of Kansas Marine of the Year

Nomination and Award Instructions

CUT OFF DATE MARCH 24th, 2015



The General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025
is proud to host the 2016 Department of Kansas
Conference:
VFW Post 7397
9550 Pflumm Rd, 66215
Lenexa, KS

Registration Fee \$6.00 per person at the door

11 June 2016

0800-0900 Registration (Coffee & Donuts)
0900-1200 Department of Kansas Business Meeting
1200-1300 hot lunch (BBQ)
1300-? Business Meeting Continues if Necessary
Growl of the Kansas Pack MOOD follows Business
Meeting

Make your reservation before 3 June 2016

Send no money – Payable at the door.

If you are making reservation for a group please
give a list of those attending and titles (if
applicable)



**2016 Marine Corps League National
Convention Hyatt Regency Tulsa Ok.**

Aug. 7, 2016 - Aug. 13, 2016.

Convention Website:

<http://www.mclschwabdet857.com/2016-national-convention>

Reservations opened on Monday, 17 August 2015
Hyatt Regency Tulsa
888-591-1234

MAKE RESERVATIONS At:

http://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=14080583

This award shall be presented to a REGULAR MEMBER of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League who has rendered service(s) and/or performed a deed(s) above and beyond the duties and obligations required of a member of the Marine Corps League, or a meritorious deed(s) so identified as being within the scope of these rules shall be of such substance that the weight will or shall have brought acclaim, and prestige to the member's Detachment and must be substantially at the Department or higher level; or has enhanced and/or furthered the concepts of the duties of being a citizen of the United States of America; or a deed(s) of courage or valor without regard for his/her own safety.

Letters of nomination must originate only at the DETACHMENT LEVEL. No individual nor any subsidiary unit of the Marine Corps League shall submit a letter of nomination.

All letters of nomination shall include a letter signed by the Detachment Commandant and Adjutant, stating that the nominee for the Department of Kansas Marine of the Year was approved at a regular meeting of the Detachment by a majority vote. (In the event a nominee is the Commandant, the letter shall be signed by the Sr. Vice Commandant and the Adjutant. In the event a nominee is the Detachment Adjutant the letter shall be signed by the Detachment Commandant and the Sr. Vice Commandant.

Each nomination submitted shall be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to: "Chairman, Dept. of Kansas MOY Committee". THIS ENVELOPE SHALL THEN BE PLACED IN ANOTHER ENVELOPE and mailed or delivered in person to the Department Commandant no later than **1 April** of the year for which the nomination is made. It shall be the duty of the Department Commandant to deliver the unopened envelopes to the Chairman of the Department Marine of the Year Committee in sufficient time for an awardee to be selected and proper recognition devices to be purchased and engraved prior to the Department Convention.

The Chairman of the Marine of the Year Committee shall be elected by the MOY Committee members which shall consist of all previous recipients of the Department Marine of the Year Award. The Marine of the Year Committee shall be the sole judge of all recipients with the exception of the following:

Semper Fi,
Gonzalo Reyes, PDC

Next Scuttlebutt Deadline is 10 April 2016

A ONCE MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE!

The Committee shall consist of the previous Marines of the Year and the Department Commandant, who will be a non-voting member of the MOY committee.



Scuttlebutt Articles

The Scuttlebutt is mailed to 380 + members and emailed to 190 additional members. The Scuttlebutt serves to provide information to our members. Send articles and photos of your Detachment to jadenney@cox.net.

If you know a member who is not receiving the email addition and would like to be added to the email address lists, have them email a request to jadenney@cox.net

Do you have a special place for veterans in your community? Send photos and a short description to jadenney@cox.net.



On behalf of the Marine Corps League, I was privileged and honored to be asked by [Wreaths Across America](#) to lay the Marine Corps wreath at Leavenworth National Cemetery on 12/12/15.....on my birthday! With Debra Franke, Marine Nam vet and F4 pilot widow.