



# The SUNFLOWER "SCUTTLEBUTT"

Official "Mouthpiece" of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League July 2017  
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## DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2016-2017

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Commandant Jan Denney

Greetings,

The Department of Kansas Conference was held in Wichita hosted by the Air Capital Detachment on 3 June. Members of Detachments 612 – 682 – 730 – 773 -1025 were in attendance. The Commandants of three (3) Detachments (SEK – Air Capital – Gen. Oppenheimer) were in attendance and presented reports of the status of their Detachments. The Paymasters of Tri Rivers and Gen. Walt Detachments presented reports in the absence of their Commandants.

It was my honor to be re-elected as Department Commandant for the 2017-2018 term. I am fortunate to have a great staff of officers and we are here to serve you in the upcoming year.

We have work to do! At this writing, 24.4% of the Department's Non-Life members are delinquent in their dues. A total of 56 **are not** members in good standing. Detachment Jr. Vice Commandants and Paymasters need to contact these Marines / FMF Corpsmen / FMF Navy Chaplains and get them paid up and current.

The National Convention in Overland Park is fast approaching. I look forward to seeing a large contingent of Department of Kansas members. This convention is hosted by a Detachment 1025 of the Department of Kansas and they deserve our support.

If your detachment's tax year ended on 30 June, Form 990-N is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your [tax year](#). You cannot file the *e-Postcard* until after your tax year ends.

A link to irs.gov: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard>

Set up an account (if you have filed on-line, logon to existing account.) Have your federal EIN handy

when at login. It takes 5 minutes to keep your detachment tax exempt status current with the IRS. Email a copy of the filing confirmation to Paymaster Harris.

Semper Fidelis,  
Jan Denney 785-826-5087



Sr. Vice Commandant Joe Hughes

I hope everyone had a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend with your family. For me, it was spent remembering the Marines and Corpsmen I served with 50 years ago in Vietnam.

We are just a month away from our 2017 National Marine Corps League Convention in Kansas. The convention starts with registration on Sunday August 13, the General Sessions begin Monday morning at 09:00, and the Grand Banquet & Dance Friday evening August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Other events include; Barbecue Lover's dinner Monday night, The New Theater Restaurant dinner & show Tuesday evening, MODD/MODF Luncheon Thursday afternoon, Ameristar Casino Thursday evening.

I am asking each Detachment to consider sponsoring an active duty Marine (in KC area) & companion to attend the Friday evening Grand Banquet & Dance. I believe it is a great way to introduce them to the Marine Corps League. Information available on the website.

### **THE LAST DAY TO PURCHASE EVENT TICKETS IS JULY 20, 2017**

Visit and make ticket reservations on the website: [www.2017mclnationalconvention.com/](http://www.2017mclnationalconvention.com/)

Semper Fi  
Joe Hughes,  
Sr. Vice Commandant  
2017 MCL Local National Convention Chairman



Jr. Vice Commandant John Byrnes

This is the first Scuttlebutt article that I'm writing and I'm going to keep it short. First, I would like to thank everyone for this opportunity in serving as the Department Jr. Vice Commandant. I'm looking forward in getting to know everyone and especially the Detachments Jr. Vice Commandants, I will make every effort in helping you with making the Department of Kansas the best Department in the Marine Corps League so please feel free to contact me with any ideas or questions you may have, I'm excited about the upcoming year for the Department and the opportunities we have this year.

Semper Fi  
John Byrnes



Adj. / Paymaster Harvey Harris

Greetings, Great news, July 1, 2017 National Marine Corps League hired a Chief Operating Officer (COO) Robert J. Borka. Mr. Borka comes to the League with 30 years' experience in the business world and since 2014 served as Director of Operations, with the Young Marines. Mr. Borka is former Cryptologic Technician (2651)/SSO. Life member of Flint Michigan #155.

Effective August 1, 2017 all new members and renewals will be assessed the full amount for dues and will expire on August 31, 2018 (09-01-18) from September 1, 2017 on, all memberships will be due for renewal on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

National has purchased a stand-alone server for use as a National Database for membership. The incoming National Commandant, Wendell Webb, and company have been giving training and a preview of the system to Division Vice Commandants and Department Paymasters, looking

for problems and questions regarding system operation. Sr. Vice Commandant Webb, indicated the system will go online around October of 2017 with division start-up, the indication is the Midwest Division will be the first to implement the new system. I ask all Detachment Paymasters and Commandants to review their membership rosters for accuracy, completeness including names correctly spelled, address, phone number, membership number, EIN #, Secretary of State Incorporation number, contact information for your detachment and the amount of dues you collect. One question that remains to be answered is how dues will be paid. One thought is to leave it as it is currently. The paymaster may collect renewal dues from members during the last few months prior to renewal date and send in a check for the amount due to Department and National. This will eliminate the time a detachment would have to wait for National to refund the dues amount to department and the detachment. More when the final decision is made. Training will be given to all paymasters prior to implementation. The paymaster will have to have a computer and have a basic knowledge of how to use a spreadsheet. The information on the membership will be entered by the Paymaster. The member will be able to enter the date base and only change, phone number, address and email address. All other information will be the responsibility of the paymaster. All National forms will be available as a fill-in and send form.

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



Judge Advocate Bryson Allen

As your Judge Advocate I am happy to report that there has been no business to report on this past quarter. Department elections were held in accordance with Kansas bylaws and the one open position was appointed by the Department

Commandant. I am preparing for Budget meetings at National and look forward to meeting and working with the New Executive Director of the League. More on this when I return.

Semper Fidelis,  
Bryson L. Allen



Chaplain Robert Patterson

In 1775, the thirteen colonies comprising the new United States of America declared their Independence from Great Britain. Great Britain had imposed the Stamp Act, an act of taxation, which the colonist deemed to be taxation without representation. The British attempted to put down the American rebellion, but from 1775 – 1783 the Revolutionary War, also known as the American War of Independence, was fought between these two countries.

On July 4, 1776, America severed her political ties with Great Britain by adopting the Declaration of Independence. 241 years later, we Americans still benefit from the foresight and thoughtfulness of the Continental Congress that penned and signed that document.

George Washington, the commander of the Continental Army, prayed every morning and evening. He was a man of great faith. May we hear his eternal words in his “Prayer for the United States of America” as we prepare to commemorate and celebrate another year of freedom. May God Bless the United States of America! Semper Fidelis, Marines!

“**Almighty GOD**; we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection, that thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States of America at large. And finally, that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of The Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without whose example in these things

we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech thee, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen”

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

**Department Chaplain Robert Patterson**  
14323 Marty Street,  
Overland Park, Ks. 66223-2290.

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 Fidelis,  
Robert Patterson



## 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



The Detachment hosted the Seventh Annual Independence Run on 7 July. \$308 will go to Detachment 105 and the Military Order of Devil Dogs’ Children’s Mercy Hospital Project.

Major Wes Topel, Detachment Sr. Vice Commandant, has assumed command of C Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 235<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Kansas Regional Training Site – Maintenance on 10 June 2017.

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 Detachment Color Guard participated in Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremonies on 15 May at Jerry Ivey Park in Salina.

The Color Guard represented the Detachment in Memorial Day Ceremonies at Gypsum Hill Cemetery, Roselawn Memorial Gardens and the Salina-Salina County War Memorial.

Detachment Officers, Alvie Furbeck, Dave Eberhart, Larry Cushenbery and Jan Denney, attended the 2017 Department Conference and Devil Dog Growl hosted by the Air Capital Detachment in Wichita on 3 June.

The Detachment lost a good friend with the passing of Bea Baughan on 4 June. Bea’s husband, Jim Baughan, is an Iwo Jima veteran, Charter Member

of the Tri Rivers Detachment and Life Member of the Marine Corps League.

The Annual Detachment Picnic was held in Jerry Ivey Park on 20 June.

The Raminator Monster Trucks return on Saturday 16 September to benefit the Marine Toy Box. Raminator will offer \$3 rides from 9 to 5 with all funds going to the Detachment's Toy Program. There will be Car Crush at 3 PM which is free to the public.

Semper Fidelis,  
Jan Denney, Adjutant / Paymaster

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

Meets 3rd Sunday at 1830 hours  
VFW Post 1186 113 E Myrtle  
Independence, KS 67301  
Phone 620.331.1874

Our Detachment held a fund raiser on Saturday June 17th, with a pancake and sausage breakfast at the VFW in Independence. We didn't raise much money but we sure had a good time and will do it again next year. Charles Davis and Dale Meadows did the cooking everyone else pitched in with serving or cleanup.

Our Detachment will be hosting the Department meeting on June 2, 2018 in Independence. We will have representation at the National Convention in Overland Park and hopefully a couple devil dogs will advance to Pedigree Devil Dogs. We will not be meeting this month or next with our next meeting on Sunday, September 17th at 6:30PM or 1830 for military types.

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

Second quarter 2017, was a very busy quarter indeed. Along with all the preparations, committee meetings, and site visits for this years' National Convention, Detachment #1025 continues to be heavily involved in our community.

April kicked off our dance lessons. We decided that at the National Convention #1025 members, as a group, would kick off Friday nights' National Convention dance with our members dancing the first dance. That meant lessons and practice, LOTS OF LESSONS AND PRACTICE. Trust me, to get Marines on the dance floor in front of their fellow Marines was no easy undertaking. But nine members stepped forward to accept the challenge. I hope that everyone at the Convention who attends the dinner and dance on Friday night will join in the fun and jump on the floor with us. Below are the Marines and their dancing partners.



In April, we held election of officers for the coming year. Our dinner and installation of new officers was held on May 24. Our guests included -Harvey Harris – Midwest National Vice Commandant Jan A Denney – Department of Kansas Commandant Harvey Harris swore the new officers in for the coming year.



Semper Fi,  
Ken Fain  
Senior Vice Commandant

**Air Capital Detachment #773**

Meets 3rd Tuesday  
Social Time 1830  
Meeting 1900 hours  
American Legion Post 4  
816 North Water St  
Wichita, KS 67203  
Phone 316.641.8076

Also in May, we had a fundraiser for VFW post 7397 at their car show. It was well attended and several of our League members help made the event go off without a hitch.

Memorial Day Services were held at the VFW post 7397 in Lenexa, KS. On May 29th. Detachment #1025 members played a significant part in the days' ceremonies.



Eldon "Doc" Holsey, Doc's son Major Kyle Holsey, Kyle's wife Kelsi and daughter Mallory.



Kyle Holsey, son of Eldon "Doc" Holsey, was promoted to Major - United States Marine Corps at the Marine Training Unit on NAS Pax River. Kyle is a member of the Air Capital Detachment.

Lastly, I am posting a picture of League member Denis Armstrong. He is a gifted artist whose work will be on display at the Convention. Some of which will be offered for sale.

Air Capital Detachment now enjoying the dog days of summer. Heartened to report that four Marines have joined us since we last reported. Our Jr. Vice, Irona Cliver is a ball of fire when recruitment is involved!



We enjoyed a family picnic at a local park and had some of the best barbecue in Wichita.



Rode beside the Young Marines in our new parade trailer in the "shortest parade in Wichita", looping the parking lot of a nursing home for the benefit of home bound veterans. We were joined by 23 other organizations

Our Commandant, Doc Pustka, spoke at a Veteran appreciation bike rally in Cassody, KS. Believe he was the only one there not wearing leather.



Hosted Don Ballard for Independence Day festivities here in Wichita. As a FMF Corpsman in Vietnam he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He is a mirror of Honor and a Patriot.

Semper Fi,  
Rick Pustka, Commandant

### **Edwin A Schumacher Detachment #740**

Meets 1st Tuesday at 1930 hours  
National Guard Armory  
Main St.  
Hays, KS. 67601  
Phone 785.628.3067

On May 29, the E.A. Schumacher Det. 740 participated in the area Memorial Day ceremony hosted by the VFW Post in Hays. Thanks to

Commandant Munsch and others who tasked with their great ability the flag folding portion of the ceremony.

Then in early-June, our membership held a fundraiser to add funds to our bank account. Two hundred raffle tickets were sold or given away totaling \$2,000 earned. A Split the Pot drawing was held on June 6 with the league receiving 1K and local supporter and lucky ticket holder Roberta Oborny of Hays getting the other half.

At noon on June 11, members met at south city park for our first MCL Family Picnic. There was lots of great food, including Sr. Vice Commandant Ken Funk's famous smoked pork ribs. Following the meal, a small group of members stuck around to enjoy some libations and comradery. This small group has earned the name 'Sons of Tun'. We hope to make this picnic an annual event.



Our league also entered the Wild West Festival parade on July 1 in downtown Hays. There was a total of fifty-seven parade entries that helped celebrate Hays and Ellis County's sesquicentennial (150 years). anniversary. We didn't take the first-place prize this year, but our truck and banner did receive the loudest applause from the crowds.

Here is an update on our meeting venue. The American Legion building recently closed and was sold. Our monthly meetings have temporarily moved to the National Guard Armory building along south Main Street until a new Legion building is purchased or built. The legion will be taking some action on this matter later this month, so more news to come later. We still plan to meet the first Tuesday of each month at 1930.

Semper Fi,  
Asher C. White, Chaplain



## **THE MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS Kansas Pack**



**PDD Eldon "Doc" Holsey**

**Worthy Pack Leader**

**Kansas Pack**

**The Military Order of the Devil Dogs**

### **WOOF-WOOF ALL YOU DAWGS!**

Well, if you missed the Department Conference at Wichita on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, you missed a pretty good meeting. Lots of information was exchanged between all the Detachments. Lunch was a bust, however, we will not be going to that location again.

We had a good Pack Growl and raised about 300 big bones to be passed on to the Children's Mercy Hospital during the Supreme Growl at the National Conference in Overland Park, Kansas.

The Wichita Pound will be going to the Gun Show in Wichita on July 15-16 to continue to sell raffle tickets for the M-1A that will be given to one lucky Marine at the National Conference, also. We will also be taking donations for other things, too.

If you have not made any arrangements to attend the National Convention, get onto the National website and get your arrangements made. There are several hotels located at this site that are still taking reservations for any late comers. This will be a great event for the Kansas Department and the Kansas Pack to strut their stuff and impress the National Staff. A lot of really, good stuff has been planned over the past year and there will be a lot of fun to be had by all. So, I hope to see a lot of you Dawgs there.

For all of you that plan to upgrade to PDD, remember that you need to check into the MCL Convention on Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup> before checking

into the Kennel Dog House to begin your orientation to the degree of Pedigree. I hope all enjoy this orientation and has fun while doing your advancement.

Enjoy your summer!

WOOF-WOOF!

PDD Eldon "Doc" Holsey

Woof-Woof!

Kansas Pack DD's that have made application for advancement to PDD in Overland Park are John Byrnes, William Bailey, David Vanderpool, Tony Cook, Kenton Holloway, Larry Cushenbery, Alvie Furbeck, Jimmie Wood, Alan Daniel, Frosty Evans, Rick Pustka and Joe Hughes. Good Luck to All. Looks like we need to be on the lookout for more pups.

The Kansas Pack is in the process of gaining a Pound. The Lenexa Pound 378 will soon receive their Charter.

Semper Woofing

PDD Harvey Harris -Dog Robber – Kansas Pack

### **Kansas Pack Officers 2016-17**

Pack Leader: PDD Eldon "Doc" Holsey

docfmf70@gmail.com

316-774-0752

Dog Robber: PDD Harvey Harris

harvey.harris@att.net

785.640.6077

Sr. Vice: PDD Dan Dollison

Jr. Vice: PDD Harvey Harris

Smart Dog: PDD Tom Huxtable

Dog Trainer: PDD Phillip Griffiee

Mad Dog: DD Alvie Furbeck

Police Dog: DD Joe Hughes

Watch Dog: DD John Byrnes

Barking Dog: PDD Jan Denney





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



### Marine Corps History

**11 July 1798:** President John Adams approved "An Act for Establishing and Organizing a Marine Corps", and it became law. The following day, the President appointed William Ward Burrows the Major Commandant of the new Corps. In August, Major Burrows opened his headquarters in Philadelphia, at that time still the capital of the new nation.

**26 June 1918:** BGen James G. Harbord, the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Brigade, notified American Expeditionary Force Headquarters that Belleau Wood was "now U.S. Marine Corps entirely." After 20 days of combat, and at a cost of over 4,000 casualties, the 4th Brigade of Marines had proven its fighting heart. The grateful Commander of the French Sixth Army would soon decree that in all official correspondence, Belleau Wood would henceforth bear the name, "Bois de la Brigade de Marine."

**26 July 1947:** The National Security Act of 1947 became effective, reaffirming the status of the Marine Corps as a separate military service within the Department of the Navy. The Act Provided for Fleet Marine Forces, and confirmed the Corps' mission of seizing and defending advanced bases, as well as land operation incident to naval campaigns.



### Scuttlebutt and Booster Club

To join the Booster Club and Support the Scuttlebutt, remit \$5.00 per year. Make your check payable to Department of Kansas, MCL and mail to: Dept. of Kansas Paymaster PO Box 67582 Topeka, KS 66667-0582

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

### TAPS

No Deaths to Report

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### 2017 National Convention

August 13 – 19, 2017  
Overland Park, Kansas

#### Convention Website

<http://www.2017mclnationalconvention.com>

#### Convention Events Sign Up

<https://shop.2017mclnationalconvention.com/>



#### The Midwest Fall Conference will be held

**October 20-22 2017**

Hosted by

Lincoln County Marines Detachment 1405

#### Conference Site

Sheraton Westport Plaza  
900 Westport Plaza Drive  
St Louis, MO 63146

#### Room Rate

\$109 + Tax (Free Parking)

Hotel Telephone 314-878-1500

(Ask for MCL Rate)

Deadline to Register is 29 September 2017



#### 2018 Department of Kansas Conference

2 June 2018



## Marine Corps League – National Headquarters

The Board of Trustees is proud to announce the hiring of a new Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Marine Corps League. Mr. Robert J. Borka has accepted our offer and will join the Team on 1 July 2017. We are very excited about bringing Mr. Borka on board to help in the restructuring of the Marine Corps League. Mr. Borka brings experience, organizational and leadership skills from the corporate world with Knight Facilities Management Inc. (1998- 2014), before joining the Young Marines in 2014. He has a very impressive reputation in the success of organization and operations of the Young Marines. He comes highly recommended. Please join the Board of Trustees in welcoming Mr. Borka to the Marine Corps League, National Headquarters.



Robert J. Borka

Robert J. Borka is a business executive with almost 30 years of management experience. He joined the Marine Corps League in 1995 upon his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps as a Cryptologic Technician (2651)/SSO. Robert transferred to the Flint Detachment #155 (Michigan) as a Life Member. He volunteered with the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League from 2006 to 2014 earning the Lifetime Presidential Volunteer Service Award. He served the Young Marines as Unit Commander, Battalion Commander, Regimental Adjutant, Division Adjutant, and Assistant Division Commander. Robert served on the Young Marines Board of Directors as the Treasurer, Vice Chairman, and participated on several committees. In 2014, Young Marines National Headquarters brought him on full time as the Director of Operations.

Robert received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Management from the Forbes School of Business at Ashford University and graduated Summa Cum Laude. Prior to his position at Young Marines National Headquarters, he was an Executive Director for a global facilities support services company where he had been employed since 1998.

Robert and his family live in Dumfries, Virginia. They have three children. His wife, Patricia, is the Director of Administration at Young Marines National Headquarters. Both she and Robert are members of the Chapel of Four Chaplains.

The Board of Trustees would also like to thank Mr. Thomas W. Hazlett Sr. for his service as the Marine Corps League Executive Director during the past two plus years. We wish Mr. Hazlett the best in the future on his endeavors. We will be seeing Tom around the League and Devil Dogs. Mr. Hazlett has agreed to overlap for 30 days to help in the transition of the duties as Mr. Borka assumes his new Office on 1 July 2017.

### WEBSITES

Department of Kansas Website

<http://www.mcleaguekansas.com/home.html>

Midwest Division Website

<http://www.midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org/>

MCL National Website

<http://www.mclnational.org/>

***Next Scuttlebutt Deadline is 10 October 2017***

***ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE!***