



The SUNFLOWER "SCUTTLEBUTT"

Official "Mouthpiece" of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League January 2018
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DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2017-2018

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SR. VICE COMMANDANT: Joe Hughes
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JR. VICE COMMANDANT: John Byrnes
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Commandant Jan Denney

The new year brings new opportunities.
The opportunity to gain new members.
The opportunity to bring past due members back into active rosters.
The opportunity for new leadership to step up and move the League forward.
The opportunity for today's leaders to mentor new members into leadership roles.
The opportunity for new members to learn from the "Old Salts".

So as the new year begins, make a resolution to recruit and welcome new members, keep existing members coming back, get involved, teach, learn and support members at risk.

At the time of this writing, there are:

39% of the Department's non-life members currently past due. This is after removing the over 1-year delinquent members still carried on rosters. This means that 39% of the Department's non-life members cannot vote on detachment business and cannot hold an office. In one detachment, 81% of non-life members cannot vote or hold office. 33% of the Department's Associate members are currently past due. The Department could lose over 20% of our total membership by 31 August. Have the past due members been contacted? National HQ does not send renewal notices. The only contact with members is your Detachment. Contact past due members and ask that they pay their dues.

Ask yourself – Why members not renewing? Why are there so many "One and Done"? 47% of the past due members have not renewed after the first year. What can we do different to make members want to become active members for life?

There will be a Department Staff meeting in Salina on 27 January at VFW Post 1432 at 12 noon. We will be discussing this and other Department issues.

Semper Fidelis,
Jan Denney 785-826-5087



Sr. Vice Commandant Joe Hughes

It is hard to believe that it has been two years since Harvey Harris has been elected Mid-West National Vice Commandant. Harvey is up for re-election at the MCL 2018 Mid-West Spring Division Conference on April 13-15, 2018, hosted by Greater Omaha Detachment #609 (See *Upcoming Events* for additional information) and I suggest that as many of us from Kansas attend as possible to vote for another two-year term.

His leadership has made the Mid-West Division a visible and strong entity within the National Marine Corps League organization. Remember Harvey played a big role in bringing the 2017 Marine Corps League to Kansas. Secondly, the endless hours and travel trying to bring the Mid-West Division membership accounting / paperwork current.

Harvey has been asked to take on the lead responsibility of serving as the Division to test and implement the new Marine Corps League Membership Information System. This task has already started under his direction.

Semper Fi
Joe Hughes,



Jr. Vice Commandant John Byrnes

Marines and FMF Corpsmen, I would like to wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year in 2018. I know that this sounds like a broken record but membership recruiting and retaining is one of the most important things for a Detachment. There are things that your Detachment can do that don't cost anything to keep everyone informed. Email is one way; if you send out a monthly email with your upcoming events for two or three months your Detachment can plan appropriately and work it in to

their schedule. Renewing your membership is one of the most important things, so if you have not paid your dues for 2017/2018 please do so ASAP.

Semper Fi,
John Byrnes



Adj. / Paymaster Harvey Harris

Greeting Marines, Corpsmen & Associates: Winter is with us in full force and I am ready for Spring. The Department of Kansas is trying to get all members in good standing. By addressing the overdue members, we can overturn the 30.9% presently overdue. As of 12-07-2017 the Department roster listed paid up members at 330, 212 Life members and 118 members in good standing (Paid up), and 102 overdue. Remember, from now on all non-Life memberships expire 31 August of each year.

Paymasters - if you have a member that is twelve (12) months overdue and fail to make contact to find out why the member chose to leave the membership REMOVE THEM from your roster.

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



Judge Advocate Bryson Allen

The Department of Kansas has been very quiet as far as the normal duties of the Judge Advocate is concerned but there is one big issue that will cause serious issues if it is not solved in short order. All the Detachments of the Department are getting ready for Election of Officers and the Department will do the same in June. The issue is that a very

large percentage of members are not up to date on dues. By Laws clearly state that no member can serve in any office, elected or appointed, unless they are in good standing," Paid Up Dues" is the issue. All annual members were due in August of last year and to date the majority are in arrears.

The Department Adjutant/Paymaster has been notifying all the Detachments of this problem, but little action has been taken. This year, all ROI's will be checked to see if those elected are eligible before the paperwork is sent on to National so let's all work together and get this problem solved while we can (and keep me bored and out of work).

Semper Fidelis,
Bryson L. Allen



Chaplain Robert Patterson

Having just completed Hanukah, Christmas and the New Year, we should consider what is before us in 2018.

Every year is a new beginning. It gives us the opportunity to make changes in our lives, work together to make our detachments and our communities' better places to live. It isn't difficult to look around our own homes and neighborhoods and see that some changes need to be made. Maybe it is greeting the neighbor who antagonizes you or your family. No one knows what that person might be dealing with in the recesses of their soul and personal life. Maybe it's a work project. Start the ball rolling and see how much help you get.

Maybe this is the year you decide to become more involved and productive as a member of your detachment. All detachments need help. Whether stepping up to work on a project, or, better yet, chairing a project, or becoming a member of the leadership team. Run for an office. Accept new responsibility. Use your experiences to make your detachment more viable in 2018.

Maybe there is difficulty in your family: illness, joblessness, homelessness, or problems with a child.

Try this year to move outside your comfort zone. If you need help, ask your fellow Marines. They'll help. That's what Marines do!

Commandant's Note - Chaplain Patterson will be moving out of state within the next few months to be closer to family. We wish him and his family well. Richard "Doc" Pustka will serve as Department Chaplain for the remaining term. **JD.**

For the immediate future, follow instructions below to report members' deaths.

Detachments: Report all membership deaths utilizing the [Notice of Death](#) forms with 5 copies

- Complete the Notice of Death form
- Complete a transmittal listing the member with the Code **NOD** and date of death
- Retain 1 copy and attach 4 copies to the transmittal
- Mail transmittal to: Department of Kansas Paymaster – PO Box 67582 – Topeka, KS 66667-0582



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



Prior to Veterans' Day Ceremonies (L-R) Larry Thompson, Steve Keirns, Sen. Jerry Moran, Ed Thompson and Wes Topel



Detachment Members attending the 242th Birthday Celebration at Pooches in Smith Center.



Members attending the Detachment Christmas Party at the Kensington American Legion.

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 celebrated the 242nd Birthday of the Marine Corps at the Courtyard by Marriott on 10 November.

The Detachment Color Guard participated on Veterans' Day Ceremonies at the Salina-Saline County War Memorial in Sunset Park, Salina on 11 November. The Color Guard also participated in ceremonies at Brookdale Assisted Living and Presbyterian Manor for veterans who were unable to attend the War Memorial Ceremonies.



Veterans' Day at the Manor
(L-R) Jan Denney, John Smutz & Dave Eberhart

Members of the Detachment along with volunteers from Kansas Wesleyan University and Marshall Motor Co purchased toys for 465 children on 12 December and delivered them to the Salvation Army for distribution. This marks the 26th year that Marine Toy Box has provided toys to the children of Salina.

The Detachment Christmas Party was held at the Courtyard by Marriott on 19 December.

The Detachment has gained three (3) new members since the Birthday and only has one member past due.

With regret, we report the death of member Melvin Wienck, a Life Member of the League and member since 10/1/1990.

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 leaguers enjoyed the Marine Corps Birthday on November 10th at the Independence VFW. Attendance was down but those that were there enjoyed the cake cutting and chili which was furnished by Kenton & Mary Holloway. Highlight of the evening was signing up a new member. Ed

Truelove a former Marine Recruiter in Independence back in the 80's now a retired Marine and recently assumed the duties of City Manager in Neodesha. We're hoping his enthusiasm will spread and bring in more new members.

Our color guard has been busy with the various Christmas parades. We did not have a December meeting, so our next meeting will be Sunday, January 21st and we're looking forward to a good 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

Fourth quarter 2017 is over and in the books thus ending a tremendous year for Detachment #1025. We wrapped up the 4th quarter busy as usual with Toys for Tots, Marine Corps Birthday celebrations, Veteran's Day services, community involvement, and fund-raising programs. It is with heartfelt thanks to all our Detachment members who went above and beyond this year allowing our Detachment to make such an impact on our community.

In October we kicked off our annual Toys for Tots drive with league members again devoting many long hours to the program. This year after the December close out the Toys for Tots numbers, as reported by our T4T drive leader Bill Clinton, was an outstanding 42,305 toys for the kids.



Thanks go out to all the Detachment #1025 members for all their hard work and long hours in making this year's drive a great one.

November continued to keep everyone busy as we celebrated the 242nd Marine Corps Birthday. Also at the birthday celebration Detachment #1025 announced the 2018 MARINE OF THE YEAR. This year's selection was Joe Hughes. Joe was the driving force behind all the work the past two years in getting ready and in hosting the 2018 Marine Corps League National Convention. Congratulations Joe on a well-deserved award.



In November we also supported the Rawhide Harley Davidson Toys for Tots bike ride, and participated in several different Veteran's Day observances. During fourth quarter our league members service hours for the many different community service programs we support totaled 1,041 hours. And for the last two quarters this group of outstanding Marines gave 4,141 hours of their time in support of the many League Programs. As we close out this year and get ready for **2018**, I would personally like to thank each and every one of these fine Marines for their hard work.

Detachment #1025 members, here's to you. THE FEW. THE PROUD. THE MARINES.

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

The Detachment received a Thank you note from Lake Point Retirement Home, thanking us and the Young Marines for attending their annual, "Shortest Parade in Wichita" parade that was held in September 2017. The facility advised that they received a great deal of praise from their residents and family members.

On November 8th a handful of members attended a Veterans day ceremony at the Century II Expo Center.

On November 11th members attended the Veteran's Day Parade held in downtown Wichita. The parade also marked the 100th anniversary of the United States rising to become a global power.

On November 12th members held a fundraiser hamburger feed at Twister City Harley Davidson. The detachment rifle team was also present during Veteran's Day activities there.

At November's meeting, Alan Daniel was given a round of applause for his tireless work setting up the new MCL detachment trailer in time for the Veterans Day Parade.

JVC Irona Cliver made some suggestions for gifts for children attending our upcoming Christmas Party in December.

Doc Holsey reports that his son, recently promoted U.S. Marine Corps Aviator Major Kyle Holsey, also

a detachment member, successfully made several test flights that included, the T6 Texan trainer, FA18 Hornet, FA18 Super Hornet and the DeHavilland Beaver aircraft. Major Holsey is assigned to NAS Patuxent, Maryland where he is an AV8B Harrier pilot.

On December 1st several members attended a birthday party at the Veterans Administration Eisenhower Room for a 96-year-old veteran.

On December 12th. We hosted our annual detachment Christmas party at the American Legion Post #4. The local U.S. Marine Corps Reserve I & I staff were our guests. Approximately 100 persons were in attendance. A good time was had by all.

Semper Fi,
Kurt Peckenschneider, Commandant

Edwin A Schumacher Detachment #740

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

The Edwin A. Schumacher Det. 740 in Hays celebrated the Marine Corps 242nd birthday with a dinner banquet at Thirsty's Brew Pub & Grill. All members and guests had a great time. Haley, our waitress for the evening, invited our platoon back again next year. She said we were the best group of fun, patriotic rowdies she'd ever served.

League Jr. Vice Commandant Frank Pfannenstiel and Chaplain Charles White, two long time charter members, were awarded the Marine Corps League Distinguished Service Awards for their meritorious service to the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps, and the Marine Corps League. Both Pfannenstiel and White were grateful for the awards. Our members also welcomed new members Derek White and Lance Koerner to our detachment. Our recruiting efforts continue!



DEPARTMENT MARINE OF THE YEAR

2018 Marine of the Year Nomination and Award Instructions

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 involved at the Department or higher level; **and**
- Has enhanced and/or furthered the concepts of the duties of being a citizen of the United States of America; **or**
- Completed 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



Members collected and guarded toys for the Toys for Tots area chapter over the long Thanksgiving Day weekend at Walgreen's in Hays. Numerous new toys and hundreds of dollars in cash were collected for the areas disadvantaged children.

Moving into 2018, our league will discuss naming our detachment's next honorary member. This is a new biennial event for our group. In 2014, Royce Cook of Selden, Kansas, was named an honorary member. Cook, who served in the Marines during WWII, helped carry rocks and pile them around a pole to hold the first flag that was raised on Mount Suribachi. On March 1, 1945, Cook, a rifleman, was wounded when a bullet entered through his helmet and into the side of his head. He survived and was discharged in September 1945, and was the recipient of a Purple Heart.

In 2016, Lawton Nuss of Topeka, Kansas, was named an honorary member. The Salina native attended KU on a Naval Reserve ROTC scholarship, obtaining a bachelor's degree in English and history and a JD from KU Law School and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marines. He served as a combat engineer in the Pacific until 1979. After working as an attorney in Salina for 20 years, Nuss was appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court by Gov. Bill Graves in 2002, and was appointed chief justice in 2010 by Gov. Brownback. We will let Scuttlebutt readers know later this year who was our 2018 honorary member selection.

We continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 1930 at the National Guard Armory in Hays. Libations and camaraderie usually follows.

Semper Fi,
Asher C. White, Chaplain

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. 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.

Mail Nominations to:

Commandant – Department of Kansas
PO Box 2175
Salina, KS 67402-2175

Must be post marked on or before 1 April 2018

2018 Marine of Year Committee

Jan Denney MOY 2013 - Department Commandant
Alvie Furbeck MOY 2014
Harvey Harris MOY 2015
Joe Hughes MOY 2016



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 out there.

Well, the holidays are over, and I hope all of you had a great time with all your relatives and friends. It almost always seems that we are glad to see the

holidays, however, we are also ready for them to be gone.

We have a lot of time, but remember time waits for no one, to begin having our Growls and begin to add up the bones for the National Conference in Buffalo, NY. These bones are collected, and a check presented to a local Children's Hospital or Charity. This is a very worthwhile thing and maybe they can break the record we set last year in Lenexa when we presented the Children's Mercy Hospital with 50,000 Big Bones.

There will be a Growl in Salina, Kansas on January 27th at the VFW. Wichita Pound will be having a Growl after their league meeting on January 16th. All are invited to attend either of these two Growls or if your local pound is having a Growl, let us know and maybe others will be able to attend; allowing for the weather.

Also, remember; if anyone is going to elevate to PDD this year in Buffalo, go get your paperwork into PDD Harvey Harris. He will check to make sure all being elevated are qualified and in good standing. The dates of the National Convention are August 12th – 18th. If you plan on elevating remember this; you MUST be checked into the Kennel Dog House on Sunday August 12 and no later than noon August 13. This will make sure you are listed and in your platoon of candidates to be elevated.

If any of the Pound Keepers have any news or information of Growls or other items, please let me know and I will attempt to attend any functions you may be holding.

So, until our Pack Growl in June; keep bringing in the new Pups and elevating the Pups to Devil Dog.

WOOF-WOOF!
Semper Fidelis
PDD Eldon "Doc" Holsey

Woof-Woof!

Greetings Dogs of the Kansas Pack. Here we are again, COLD and some of you may have received the dreadful SNOW. If you have not held your Fall growl to elect your Pound Officer's you need to get it in soon. The Dog House is getting ready for a

Pound Growl. Some Dogs are getting impatient and need to get out, chase a few cars and let off some steam.

Presently the Kansas Pack consists of 60 Dogs in four Pounds:

Wichita Pound 094, 27 Dogs: 26 Dogs current including 9 Pedigree Dogs; 9 Devil Dogs; 8 Pups. 1 Devil Dog overdue.

Independence Pound 196, 12 Dogs: 5 Pedigree Dogs; 6 Devil Dogs and 1 Pup. (That poor Pup)

Salina Pound 365, 11 Dogs: 5 Pedigree Dogs, 0 Devil Dogs and 6 Pup's

Lenexa Pound 378, 10 Dogs: 4 Pedigree Dogs; 5 Devil Dogs, 1 Pup.

Let us get the Devil Dogs out of the Dog House and look for a few Pups to continue growth in our Pounds.

The "Fun and Honor Society"

Semper Woofing
PDD Harvey Harris -Dog Robber – Kansas Pack

Kansas Pack Officers 2017-2018

Pack Leader: PDD Eldon "Doc" Holsey
docfmf70@gmail.com
316-774-0752

Dog Robber: PDD Harvey Harris

hharris@MCLeague.org

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: PDD Alvie Furbeck

Police Dog: DD Joe Hughes

Watch Dog: DD John Byrnes

Barking Dog: PDD Jan Denney



TAPS

Louis Mello - Gen. Lewis. W. Walt Detachment
10/20/2017
Stephen Yoakum - Gen. Oppenheimer Detachment
10/30/2017
Melvin Wienck - Tri Rivers Detachment
12/14/2017

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



**Department of Kansas
Staff Meeting
1200 Noon 27 January
VFW Post 1432 Salina KS**



**Midwest Division Spring Conference
April 13-15, 2018
Hosted by Greater Omaha Detachment #609**

**[Courttyard by Marriott Hotel & Convention
Center](#)**

**12560 Westport Parkway
La Vista, NE 68125
402-339-4900**

Room Rate \$109.00 + Tax
Registration Deadline 30 March

Banquet & Hospitality \$60.00
Hospitality only \$25.00
Banquet only \$45.00

League Registration \$5.00

[Link to Conference Registration Form](#)



2018 Department of Kansas Conference
2 June 2018
Hosted by B. Gen. William A. Kurtis / SEK
Detachment #612



Marine Corps History

16 January 1991: Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as forces of the allied coalition launched an all-out air campaign against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in an effort to liberate Kuwait and enforce the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Overall, in the theater of operations, the coalition forces included more than 415,000 U.S. troops.

18 January 1951: Marines of the 1st Marine Division began mopping-up operations against guerrillas in the Pohang area, South Korea, following the Division's return from its epic battle with Communist Chinese troops at the Chosin Reservoir.

20 January 1968: The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hill 881 South and Hill 881 North. More than 100 of the enemy were killed.



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



**Marine Corps League
National Headquarters**

MCL National Website
<http://www.mclnational.org/>

Mailing Address:
Marine Corps League National Headquarters
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554

WEBSITES

Department of Kansas Website
<http://www.mcleaguekansas.com/home.html>

Midwest Division Website
<http://www.midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org/>

Next Scuttlebutt Deadline is 10 April 2018

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE!