



The SUNFLOWER

"SCUTTLEBUTT"

Official "Mouthpiece" of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League

Winter Edition 2020

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DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2019-2020

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email: Wes.topel@gmail.com

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e-mail: jadenney@cox.net



Commandant Joe Hughes

I hope each member of the Department of Kansas had a great Holiday season.

As we embark on the second half of our 2019-2020 fiscal year I would like to thank each Detachment for their efforts in completing all our yearly Marine Corps League paperwork requirements. Report of Officer Installation, Membership Renewals, Life Member Audits and updated Detachment rosters submitted to the Department Paymaster completed. We were also requested to submit our Detachment bank account information which will be used as we move forward with our new electronic management system. The first phase of the banking part of the project will be the electronic deposit of LMA monies into the Department level account this year. Next year, your Detachment level account will

receive a direct deposit instead of a check. Thus, you will receive your last check this year. In April this year the Air Capitol Detachment will host the MCL Mid-West Division Spring two-day conference in Wichita. This will be a great opportunity for all Department of Kansas Marine Corps League Corps members to attend a Division conference and Devil Dog Growl. Open to all members. Visit the Department website for details;

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

The main topic at this meeting will be an introduction to the new electronic MCL Paymaster system. I strongly suggest Commandants and Paymasters attend for first hand training and the ability to ask questions.

Also, mark your calendars, June 6, 2020 - Department of Kansas Conference, Salina, KS. Open to all members.

Thank you again for all your support.

Semper Fi,

Joe Hughes

jmhughes@everestkc.net



Jr Vice Commandant George Waugh

Happy New Year. As we start a new year and decade it is time return our efforts in the work of our detachment's projects and growth. Best Wishes for success in the coming years.

Semper Fi,
George Waugh



Judge Advocate Bryson Allen

I am happy to announce that your Judge Advocate(s) in the Department have been busy getting the local by-laws in compliance with National. All, that is, except for two and I expect at least one of those to get onboard shortly and the other is, hopefully, not far behind. To my knowledge, there have been no National filings against any Department or Detachment for being out of compliance yet but it could happen so let's all get with the program and get current.

Other than that, things are quiet on the home front and with any luck that will continue. Hope to see you all at the Midwest Division Conference in Wichita this coming April and again at our Department Conference in June.

Semper Fi,
Bryson Allen,



Adj. / Paymaster Harvey Harris

Greetings Marines and Happy New Year.

A short note to advise the Department is in good shape with a Balance in the Black. Majority of our Department members are current, and we are working on getting our membership roster correct and complete. National is reportedly in the final stages of going operational with the new membership database. Reportedly no additional Transmittals will be added to the old database from December 20, 2019 until January 21, 2020 when the uploading of information is to be complete. We can hope the data base will work this time.

Paymasters are reminded your banking numbers (routing and account numbers) will be used by National to send all funds due your Detachment, i.e., (Life Member Audit Refund), probably will not be used until the 2020 refund payment. National will start the process with Department's refund for the 2019 refund. All Transmittals will continue to require a check and one copy of the new Transmittal being sent to the Department Paymaster where it will be copied and sent along to National. ALL other forms should be electronic and only one copy sent to the Department Paymaster where the forms will be sent to the required office.

Air Capitol Detachment #773 and the Department of Kansas will host the Spring 2020 Midwest Division Conference in Wichita, 17, 18 April 2020. Location: Best Western Hotel, 53rd St N and I-135 (Park City) KS. Additional information can be found at www.mcleaguekansas.com. The last item on the agenda for the Division Conference will be the election of the National Vice Commandant for the Midwest Division. The term is two years with one additional two year option, if re-elected. Any member interested will be requested to submit a Bio with qualifications to hold the position. With all the responsibilities involved in the position, the more experience with leadership in Detachment's and Department's would be of benefit. The most desirable experience would be Detachment and or Department Commandant.

Semper Fidelis,
Harvey L. Harris, MWD NVC



Chaplain Wes Topel

According to a 2018 article on Forbes.com, the statistics on how many people actually follow through and accomplish their New Year's resolutions are rather grim. Less than 25% of people actually stay committed to their resolutions after just 30 days and only 8% stay on course to accomplish them.

Have you made a resolution for 2020? Are you still sticking with it? Resolutions involve a change in thinking and behavior. Therefore, it is no wonder that the American Psychological Association (APA) would have some thoughts on how to keep your 2020 resolutions. Here are their tips from <https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/resolution>

Start small

Make resolutions that you think you can keep. If, for example, your aim is to exercise more frequently, schedule three or four days a week at the gym instead of seven. If you would like to eat healthier, try replacing dessert with something else you enjoy, like fruit or yogurt, instead of seeing your diet as a form of punishment.

Change one behavior at a time

Unhealthy behaviors develop over the course of time. Thus, replacing unhealthy behaviors with healthy ones requires time. Don't get overwhelmed and think that you have to reassess everything in your life. Instead, work toward changing one thing at a time.

Talk about it

Share your experiences with family and friends. Consider joining a support group to reach your goals, such as a workout class at your gym or a group of coworkers quitting smoking. Having someone to share your struggles and successes with makes your journey to a healthier lifestyle that much easier and less intimidating.

Don't beat yourself up

Perfection is unattainable. Remember that minor missteps when reaching your goals are completely normal and OK. Don't give up completely because you ate a brownie and broke your diet, or skipped the gym for a week because you were busy. Everyone has ups and downs; resolve to recover from your mistakes and get back on track.

Still looking for a 2020 resolution. How about resolving to recruit just one Marine into your local detachment. Think what this would mean for the Department of Kansas if each current member enlisted a new member in 2020. Many of us know Marines on active duty. Did you know they could be honorary detachment members while they serve? Get the hook in them and they will likely continue in the MCL once discharged.

Detachment Chaplains

Report all membership deaths utilizing the [Notice of Death](#) form. Download form from <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Notice-of-Death.pdf>

Complete the form and email to:

Department Chaplain Wes Topel
Wes.topel@gmail.com

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

Detachment Paymasters

Complete a transmittal listing the deceased member with the Code **NOD** and date of death. Mail Transmittal to: Department of Kansas Paymaster – PO Box 67582 – Topeka, KS 66667-0582

If the NOD is the only item on the transmittal and there is not a check involved, email the transmittal to the Paymaster at hharris@MCLLeague.org

Semper Fi,
Wes Topel



Department of Kansas
Detachments

Mount Suribachi Detachment #105
Chartered 9 February 1955
Commandant: Larry Thompson

Adjutant Paymaster Wes Topel
Wes.topel@gmail.com
Meets 2nd Tuesday at 1900 hours
VFW Post 1141
620 A St
Smith Center, KS 66967
Detachment Contact 785.695.2357

Local Marine, L/Cpl Beau Drake (home on leave newest member Mt Suribachi Detachment) takes the Oath of Membership administered by Commandant Larry Thompson. He finished training at NAS station Pensacola Fl and is heading for duty station Cherry Point, NC. His father is Ret SGT Mikey Drake KSARNG and Smith Center Ks Police officer.



Mt Suribachi Det 105 Smith Center Ks Christmas party at Pooches' Vineyard Room in Smith Center Ks. Thank you to all who could attend Marines, Associate Members, friends and family. Wishing those who were ill and could not make it a get well soon and those with prior commitments, see you soon. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Semper Fi. Thanks to Darla Conaway and Staff at Pooches for making another great event with great food, drinks, and that personal touch.



In October, Mt Suribachi Det put on Bingo for Veterans and families at the Grand Island Nebraska VA hospital at the Annual Bingo event.



Color Guard participated in Veterans Day parade and the Detachment celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday at the Kensington American Legion.

Semper Fi,
Larry Thompson, Commandant

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

Chartered 6 January 1986
Commandant: Charles Davis
Adjutant Paymaster Dan Dollison
Dan.dollison@yahoo.com
Meets 3rd Sunday at 1830 hours
VFW Post 1186 113 E Myrtle
Independence, KS 67301
Detachment Contact 620.331.6951

Our Detachment has been very busy with color guard details, flag postings, funeral details from October to the present. Our Color Guard led the Neewollah parade in front of the 4thMarDiv Band. Fuqua and Meadows posted the colors at the commencement of the Bands Neewollah performance at Memorial Hall.

The Color Guard led the Veterans Parade in Independence on November 9th, Holiday Parade on November 24th and Christmas parades in Parsons, Oswego and Altamont.

Colors were posted at the Mid-Continent Band Veterans Day concert on November 11th by Fuqua after we held our Marine Corps Birthday Party on the 10th. Also, on Veterans Day Fincher and Fuqua did a flag folding presentation at the Oswego HS.

On November 8th, Fuqua did the graveside service for burial of the urns with assistance from Prunty. Our Detachment lost two life members. Leon Stark passed away on December 20th and Dick Hurst on December 25th. We did military honors for Stark on the 27th. The leaguers that did all the details were Cook, Davis, Fuqua, Meadows, Fincher and Prunty, Dollison helped with the funeral details.

We held our MODD election and are looking forward to initiating two new pups into the Pound at our January 19th Growl and looking forward to a good 2020.

Semper Fidelis,
Dan Dollison, Adjutant/Paymaster

Gen. Lewis W. Walt Detachment #682

Chartered 18 January 1989
Commandant: Paul McGuire
Adjutant Paymaster Harvey Harris
hharris@MCLLeague.org
Meets 4th Thursday at 1900 hours
VFW Post 1650
3110 SW Huntoon
Topeka, KS 66604
Detachment Contact 785.640.6077

Welcome Marines, now that 2020 is here it is time to plan our activities for the coming year. Before long we will need find members willing to become new officers for our Detachment and to review the Detachment Scholarship applications.

Our Detachment will decide what type of weapons to offer for this year's Gun Show raffle, our means to increase funding that supports our veteran's services.

As with the rest of the League we are attempting to increase membership in our Detachment, this is getting more difficult due to the younger Marines are very busy with family life.

Semper Fidelis,
General Lewis W. Walt Detachment

Tri Rivers Detachment #730

Chartered 10 November 1990
Commandant: Larry Cushenbery
Adjutant Paymaster Jan Denney
jadenney@cox.net
Meets 3rd Tuesday at 1900 hours
VFW 1108 W. Crawford
Salina, KS 67401
Detachment Contact 785.826.5087

Tri Rivers Detachment celebrated the 244th Marine Corps Birthday at Courtyard by Marriott with 43 members and guests in attendance.

The Color Guard represented the Detachment at the Veterans Day ceremonies at the War Memorial in Sunset Park, Salina.

Detachment members along with volunteers from Kansas Wesleyan University and Marshall Automotive Group went toy shopping on 4 December at Ace Home Center and purchased toys for 463 children. This is the 28th year that the Marine Toy Box has provided toys to the Salvation Army for distribution.

The Detachment Christmas Party was held on 17 December at the Courtyard by Marriott.

The Election of Detachment Officers will be conducted on 21 January and installation ceremony will be on 18 February.

Semper Fidelis,
Jan Denney, Adjutant / Paymaster

Edwin A Schumacher Detachment #740

Chartered 11 November 1990
Commandant: Bob Munsch
Adjutant Paymaster Joshua Enslow
joshuawsu@gmail.com
Meets 1st Tuesday at 1930 hours
VFW Post
22nd & Vine
Hays, KS. 67601
Detachment Contact 785.261.0779

Marines of the Edwin A. Schumacher Detachment in Hays manned a Fried Bologna Sandwich booth at the FHSU Octoberfest celebration. Our booth, decorated with the MCL logo and scarlet & gold

banners, was a great fund-raising success for us and we sold out of sandwiches by 2 PM. We plan to double our inventory for next year. Members wish to thank the family of long-time life member Frank Pfannenstiel for donating the bologna and bread for this event.

Several Marines assisted with a Veteran's Day ceremony held at the Hays VFW post. As usual, the ceremony was a great tribute to those that served, and currently serve, our country.

Marines also collected and guarded toys for the Toys For Tots drive held the weekend following Thanksgiving at Walgreen's in Hays. Hundreds of dollars' worth of toys and cash were collected for kids in and around the Hays area.

Work is still on-going in our attempt to get every member of our league into MCL uniforms. We've come a long way this past year and will continue this effort in January 2020.

Wishing all a safe & Happy New Year,

Semper Fi,
Asher C. White, Chaplain

Air Capital Detachment #773

Chartered 30 June 1994

Commandant: Irona Cliver

Paymaster Frosty Evans

evansfa@gmail.com

Meets 3rd Tuesday

Social Time 1830

Meeting 1900 hours

American Legion Post 4

816 North Water St

Wichita, KS 67203

Detachment Contact 316.721.8009

Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025

Chartered 13 December 1999

Commandant: Ken Fain

Paymaster Bill Clinton

bdclint@sbcglobal.net

Meets 4th Wednesday at 1900 hours

VFW Post 7397

9550 Pflumm Road

Lenexa, KS 66215

Detachment Contact (913) 484.3078

Fourth quarter 2019 is in the books and what a tremendous year for Detachment #1025. We wrapped up 4th quarter with Toys for Tots, Marine Corps Birthday celebrations, Veteran's Day services, community involvement, and fund-raising efforts which fund our many support programs. Our Detachment members went above and beyond this year allowing our Detachment to make a tremendous impact in our community.

In October we kicked off our annual Toys for Tots drive with league members again devoting many long hours to the program. Also, with the Rawhide Harley Davidson motorcycle ride to collect toys we had an outstanding year. This year after the December close out, the Toys for Tots numbers, as reported by our T4T drive leader Bill Clinton, was an outstanding **38,481** 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.



Next on the agenda in November was our celebration of the 244 Marine Corps Birthday. Our guest speaker was Colonel Failsmezger, Commanding officer of Combat Logistics Regiment 4.



Everyone working our November fundraiser was treated to a Birthday cake from League member Dennis Armstrong.



At the Birthday celebration Detachment #1025 announced the 2019 Marine Of The Year recipient. I am very honored to have been selected as the 2019 recipient of this honor. It was an honor standing alongside the other winners of this award.



During fourth quarter our league members service hours for the many different community service programs we support totaled 2,147. Thousands of hours of work by our volunteers each year is what makes it possible to help our Community, Marines, and Navy Corpsmen and make their lives a little better. I would personally like to thank each one of our League members for their hard work. You are the best. So, here's to each of you and may 2020 be a great year.

Semper Fi,
Ken Fain, Commandant



The Military Order of the Devil Dogs



PDD Jan Denney 93-056
Worthy Pack Leader
Kansas Pack

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs

WOOF, WOOF!

Happy New Year Dogs.

At this scratching, there are only 2 delinquent Dogs in the Pack. This is outstanding!

Let's get off the porch and secure new Pups into the Order. The hardest workers in your Detachment should be Devil Dogs.

There will be a Grand Growl of the Pack at the Spring Conference on 18 April and we need Dogs in attendance. If you have been a PUP in good standing for more than one year, this is an opportunity to advance to Devil Dog. Contact your Pound Dog Robber for advancement forms.

It is an Honor to be a Devil Dog!

WOOF, WOOF!

PDD Jan Denney 93-056
Worthy Pack Leader
Kansas Pack

WOOF, WOOF!

Greetings All KS Dogs. Current Kennel Roster was sent to all Pound Dog Robbers, January 4, 2020. Currently the Pack has a total of 62 Dogs with two Dog memberships overdue. Remember during the National Conference in Billings Montana the MODD collected a total of 52,000 bones and were delivered to a local Children's Hospital. The prime function of the MODD is to "have fun" and all fines received for any and all violations uncovered during the various Growls, (Pound and Pack) are used to support Children's Hospitals. A great cause and all benefit the KIDS. All Dogs are instructed to be on the lookout for Marine Corps League members that are qualified to become a Devil Dog. Let us seek out those qualified and bring them to the Pack.

Semper Woofing,
PDD Harvey Harris
Kansas Pack Dog Robber

Kennel Website: www.moddkennel.org

Kansas Pack Website:

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

Kansas Pack Officers 2019-2020

Pack Leader: PDD Jan Denney

jadenney@cox.net

785-826-5087

Pack Dog Robber: PDD Harvey Harris

hharris@MCLeague.org

785.640.6077

Sr. Vice: PDD Dan Dollison

Jr. Vice: PDD Harvey Harris

Smart Dog: PDD Bryson Allen

Dog Trainer: PDD Larry Cushenbery

Mad Dog: PDD Alvie Furbeck

Police Dog: PDD Tom Huxtable

Watch Dog: PDD Joe Hughes

Barking Dog: Open



TAPS

Leon R. Stark B. Gen. William A. Kurtis / SEK
Detachment #612 DOD 20 December 2019

Dick Hurst B. Gen. William A. Kurtis / SEK
Detachment #612 DOD 25 December 2019

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



2020 MCL Mid-Winter Conference
February 26 to March 1, 2020
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
Norfolk, VA.



Midwest Division Spring Conference
April 17 – 18, 2020

**Wichita, KS
Best Western Hotel
I-135 & 53rd St North**

915 E. 53rd St North
Wichita, Kansas 67219
Telephone # 1 (800) 528-1234.

<https://www.wichitabestwestern.com/>

See the attached Registration Form

Room will be \$92.99 per night plus tax for MCL members. **Ask for the Marine Corps League Midwest Division Conference rate.** They also have 7 ADA rooms available. Room reservations may be made on January 6, 2020. Each Room Reservation has two complimentary breakfast tickets per room.



**2020 MCL National Convention
August 9 to August 15, 2020
Daytona Beach, FL.**

**HILTON DAYTONA BEACH OCEANFRONT
RESORT**



**Department of Kansas
2020 Conference
6 June 2020
VFW Post 1432**

**1108 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401
Registration Fee \$5.00 Payable at the door
Details to follow**



Scuttlebutt and Booster Club

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



**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

MCL Library – Documents and Forms that are available to download.
<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/>

Websites of Interest

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

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

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE!