



The SUNFLOWER "SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

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Commandant Jan Denney

Past Due members continue to be an issue in the Department. At this writing, 22% of non-life memberships are past due. My congratulations to B. Gen. William A. Kurtis / SEK Detachment #612 with (1) past due, Gen. Lewis W. Walt Detachment #682 with (2) past due, Tri Rivers Detachment #730 with (1) past due and Edwin A. Schumacher Detachment #74 with (2) past due for their efforts in membership retention.

1 April was the deadline to receive nominations for the Department of Kansas Marine of the Year (MOY). I did not receive a single nomination. 1 April was marked with an empty mail box. I am disappointed because I know that there are worthy candidates for the award.

If your detachment has been issued ceremonial weapons from the US Army, you should have received an audit form to be completed and returned. If that is fact, I am requesting that you scan and forward a copy of the completed form to Department Paymaster Harris. This will allow for copies of the audit to be on file at the Department in case of the weapons or your inventory audit are lost. The Army audits the rifle inventory every 3 years.

It was my honor to be the Installing Officer for the Tri Rivers Detachment on 20 February. I offer my services to be the Installing Officer for your Detachment's Installation of Officers. I will require a small advanced notice. Contact me by phone or email.

I will attend the Midwest Division Spring Conference in Omaha, NE. on 13-15 April. All Department Officers and representatives from 5 of the 7 Detachments of the Department of Kansas will be attendance.

Semper Fidelis,
Jan Denney 785-826-5087



Sr. Vice Commandant Joe Hughes

Eagle Scout Award Application, Pistol and Rifle Scoring Sheets for Postal Shooting Competition.

NEW CONFERENCE TAB

- CONFERENCE REPORTS, DOCUMENTS & PHOTOGRAPHS

Please take the time to visit each of the above websites.

Semper Fi
Joe Hughes,



Jr. Vice Commandant John Byrnes

STAY CONNECTED / STAY INTOUCH / BE

ACTIVE with your Marine Corps League.

Your first source of information is your **Detachment** Newsletter / Website and/or Facebook page and attend meetings and enjoy the camaraderie with fellow members.

Your second source of information is your **Department of Kansas** website.

Department By Laws, News, Officers, Detachment contacts, Calendar, Department Eagle Scout Program, Devil Dog information, past Scuttlebutt Newsletters & a email the Department Commandant tab.

<http://mcleaguekansas.com>

Your third source is the **MCL National website**.

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

<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/>

NEW NATIONAL LIBRARY Tab

- CORPORATE DOCUMENTS

Staff Roster, National 2-19-18 Bylaws & Admin. Procedures, Uniform Code, Past National Commandants, and Past National Convention locations, Membership Applications, 2018 Insurance Letter, Award Recommendation Form, Store Order Form, and Ribbon Chart.

- DETACHMENT DOCUMENTS

Detachment Guidebook, Detachment Meeting Procedure, Report of Officers Installation, Transmittal Form, Request for Transfer Form, Notice of Death Form.

- CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS

2018 Midwinter Conference Schedule, Registration, Delegate Form. Information for 2018 National Convention in Buffalo NY, AD Book Form for National Convention

- PROGRAM DOCUMENTS

Marines & FMF Corpsmen

Recruiting and retention of members is one of the most important things for a Detachment. Every Detachment should have a game plan for recruiting and retention using a social media. With today's social media resources; there is a wide range of free networks out there for you to use, here are some examples

Social networks: *Facebook, Twitter & LinkedIn*

Media sharing networks: *Instagram, Snapchat & YouTube.*

Here is a link to an article [10 Types of Social Media and How Each Can Benefit Your Business](https://blog.hootsuite.com/types-of-social-media/)

<https://blog.hootsuite.com/types-of-social-media/> this will help you determine which social media would work best for your Detachment. I hope each Detachment takes advantage of the social media resources that are out there. With social media you can keep your members engaged with what your Detachment is doing in your community.

Remember these social media networks are what today's Marines are using and they are all potential new members. It's important to let them know what you are doing in the community. If you have any questions, contact me.

Semper Fi,
John Byrnes



Adj. / Paymaster Harvey Harris

Greeting all, it will soon be time for renewals of all non-life memberships with the Marine Corps League. All memberships will be come due on 1 September. Renewals may be made through your detachment paymaster at any time prior. The Department has encountered a slowdown of renewals for this year, the reason may have been due to the new method of collecting and making everyone now due on 1 September. The Marine Corps League is counting on all members remaining in the League. Currently League wide we stand at approximately 12,500 members overdue.

With the election of current officers for your detachments, remember to fill out and sent in the Report of Officer Installation at the time of installation of officers. The report must be sent to the Department Paymaster.

National is in the process of updating the database for use in obtaining a current roster for the League. The new system that was due to go on line last year for our use did not come about due to one problem or another. Be patient - someday it will happen.

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



Judge Advocate Bryson Allen

All of the Detachments within the Department of Kansas will elect officers for the coming year this spring as is always the case. Detachment Judge Advocates need to review their By-Laws to ensure that proper procedures are followed, and the Report of Installation is filled in a timely manner. The

Department will conduct its election in June at the Department Convention in Independence.

Speaking of By-Laws, National should be releasing the 2018 changes for our National By-Laws and Administrative Procedures no later than 1 May. I encourage each of you to keep an eye on the National Web Site for information and copies of the changes. This year will bring the total re-write and we all need to read and understand what if being changed and why. Additionally, I believe that no more printed copies will be mailed out as they will be on National Web Site and will be available in PDF Format for your use.

Other than the above, this has been a fairly light quarter for your Judge Advocate. I have conducted no investigations and have only rendered 4 opinions during the time period. As always, no news is good news for this position.

Semper Fi,
Bryson Allen



Chaplain Rick Pustka

This past February our Commandant Jan Denney asked me to stand in as Chaplin for the Department while Bob Patterson plans an out of state move.

On the day Jan called me, I was reminded that on this same date, only 75 years earlier, January 3, 1943, the USAT Dorchester, steaming across frigid U-boat invested waters in the North Atlantic when suddenly a German torpedo struck near the engine room, triggering a massive explosion. The transport vessel, which was caring more than 900 soldiers and crew bound for Greenland, capsized and sank in less than 20 minutes. As the ship sank, panic-stricken and wounded were calmly aided into lifeboats by four ordinary men who handed their own lifejackets to the wounded. Survivors caught a final glimpse of the four men standing on a slanted deck, arms locked singing hymns as the ship slipped beneath the waves. More than 670 died that day.

Four ordinary guys from diverse backgrounds each motivated by a profound love of God, country and neighbor. Each one volunteering to serve their country following the tragedy of Pearl Harbor.

Known as “The Four Chaplains” these men from different religious traditions rose to the occasion in a life-and-death crisis working together at a moment’s notice to serve others. All four received, posthumously, the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart.

We are losing members of the “Greatest Generation.” They went from living through the Great Depression to fighting for our survival in WWII.



Let each of us remember: Lt. John P. Washington, a Catholic priest; Lt, Alexander D. Goode, a Rabbi; Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Reformed minister; and Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister. These four men are only one example of Chaplains who served honorably, some more who come to mind include: Fr. Emil Kapaun, (a Kansas native) Korea; and Fr. Angelo J. Litekey, Vietnam. Chaplains are bound to our Marine Corps as Brothers; their inclusion is our Honor.

I am humbled to be your Chaplin this year and will do my best to honor the office.

Semper Fi,
Rick Pustka

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 Notice of Death and 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

Mt Suribachi Detachment Thursday meeting will focus on Memorial Day plans.

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 lost a Charter Member with the passing of Don Vineyard. Don was a Marine Raider, Iwo Jima veteran and Life Member of the Marine Corps League. Don joined the League on 10 November 1990 and served several tours of duty as the Detachment Paymaster and will be missed by the members of Tri Rivers.

Detachment officers for 2018 were elected in January and installed on 20 February,

Commandant Larry Cushenbery
Sr. Vice Alvie Furbeck
Jr. Vice William Johnson
Judge Advocate David Eberhart
Adjutant/ Paymaster Jan Denney
Chaplain Ronald Styles
Sgt. At Arms David Nichols

John Smutz, World War II and Korean Veteran, Life Member of the League and Charter Member of the Tri Rivers Detachment celebrated his 93rd birthday on 11 March.

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 Southeast Kansas Detachment 612 has been meeting monthly and planning events for the summer. We will have a fund-raising pancake and sausage breakfast on Saturday, June 16th after we host the Department conference on Saturday, June 2nd. We will also have a recruiting picnic in July. So, we are keeping busy. We have signed up three new members these past three months and total 40 members now.

Tony Cook, Charles Davis, Dale Meadows and Dan Dollison will be attending the Midwest Division Conference in Omaha on April 13th and 14th. Hope to see a good turnout there.

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

The General Lewis W. Walt Detachment is ready for Spring and Summer. We are sick of this weather. The detachment has elected the officers for the coming year, Installation will be April 26. 2018 Officers:

Commandant Paul McGuire,
SVC: Terry Wood,
JVC: Curtis (Gunner) Kelley,
JA: James Freel,
Adj. / Paymaster Harvey Harris
Chaplain: Donald DeBarge
Sgt-at-Arms Steve Stalcup.

It is getting harder to get volunteers for our detachment functions, our last March gun show had to be cancelled due the lack of volunteers, illness, travel and other commitments seemed to be the cause. Upcoming events for the detachment will be the VA Carnival on April 27, 2018. Our detachment operates a Black Jack table at the VA and seem to lose every hand. There will be approximately 250 veterans go through the carnival site. Will soon be time for the detachment pistol team to start practicing for the summer fun.

Semper Fidelis,
General Walt Detachment

Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025

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

First quarter 2018 is already in the books, and what a busy quarter it turned out to be. On January 13th and 14th we held our Rawhide Harley Davidson Luau BBQ cookout. The league members who supported the event with their time and effort are what help make the event extremely successful. We also held our Friday night BBQ dinner at VFW post 7397 along with our monthly Detachment Breakfast at the Santa Fe Café. Also, in January, we held our Toys for Tots luncheon where we celebrated yet another successful Toys for Tots drive. A big thank you to everyone who worked the Toys for Tots drive and helped make it a tremendous success.

In February we held the Rawhide Harley Davidson Mardi Gras celebration BBQ cookout. Again with tremendous support from our league members the event was another big success. Our fund raising efforts are off to a great start for 2018.





In March the 73rd Iwo Jima Memorial Ceremony at Levenworth National Cemetery was held. The American Legion Band of Greater Kansas City performed before the ceremony. Guest speaker introduction was done by Jerry Ingram who organized this very important ceremony and is himself a veteran of the battle of Iwo Jima. Jerry's dedication to the Marine Corps and his Country is an inspiration to myself and all our members. Guest speaker was Colonel Steve Lewallen Commanding Officer Marine Corps detachment and Director Marine Corps Element US Army Command and General Staff College.

I would like to say a big thank you to League member Marc Nelson who heads up the committee for our Marines Assistance Program. He has put in tremendous effort to get this new program off the ground. Below is a note from Marc about the program.

"The Marine Corps League of Lenexa, KS would like to thank all individuals and organizations that

meet at the VFW in Lenexa, Kansas for making the last two Veterans Community Project (VCP) & Tiny Homes assistance drives a success. The clothing and basic household needs have gone a long way toward easing the veterans transition back into society. The veterans have not had to worry as much about these basics and can spend their time thinking about their continuing education, learning a vocation and training as they move back to be a contributing member of society."

"The VCP Veterans Outreach Center is located at 8900 Troost Avenue KC, MO 64131 and is right across Troost St from the Tiny Homes. They offer services to veterans including but not limited to, immediate transportation and RideKC free Veterans pass, employment, legal services, host classes that will teach Veterans day-to-day living skills, provide professional counseling and advocacy."

"The Veterans Village and Community Center is located at 1201 East 89th St., KCMO 64131 (basically across the street from the Outreach Center.) Built to provide the Veteran with a sense of community as they transition back into society."

VCP's four pillars of service are:

- 1) End Veteran Homelessness*
- 2) Never Say No to a Veteran in Need*
- 3) Connect Veterans to their Community*
- 4) Connect Community to their Veterans*

"The Marine Assistance Program (MAP) committee hopes to be able to announce a future partnering program involving a local grocery company and the MCL in a continuing effort to support veterans. Input is always welcome so please contact any committee member with your thoughts and ideas."

To learn more about the VCP you can go to <https://www.veteranscommunityproject.org/>

*Respectfully Submitted:
Marc Nelson*

Detachment #1025 Service hours for first quarter 2018 totaled 1086 hours.

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

Chip Webber from the Young Marine's, reports a new recruiting cycle has begun and 5 new recruits have been enlisted at this time. Thirteen Young Marines trained for the reenactment of the Bataan Death March which they will be participating in on March 23rd.

The Indian Center hosted a Warrior Society ceremony and dance honoring Wes Powell.

Members attended a retirement ceremony at the Wichita Marine Corps Reserve Center for 1st.Sgt. Roy Matthews on January 20.

The detachment members voted to buy two new light fixtures for Marine Memorial at Veteran's Park.

Detachment members voted to have a Detachment Picnic in June 2018. SVC Cliver will coordinate.

Detachment members voted to donate \$100 to the Young Marines.

Doc Holsey said he will be traveling to Maryland on June 1st to see his son and UCMCL member Major Kyle Holsey graduate from Test Pilot School.

Jimmie Wood reported that the detachment earned \$230.00 at the BBQ fundraiser at Sgt. C's Leathers on March 17th.

Bryson Allen reported on various changes in the National USMC business model.

Members from the Air Capital Detachment attended the National Vietnam Veterans Day festivities held at the Wichita Veterans Memorial Park on March 29th.

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 elected officers for the 2018 as follows:

Commandant Bob Munsch
Senior Vice Commandant Ken Funk
Junior Vice Commandant Frank Pfannenstiel
Judge Advocate Kurt Sell
Adjutant / Paymaster Joshua Enslow
Chaplain Asher C. White
Sgt-At-Arms Tim Greenwood
Historian Chris Dreher;
Congrats, Marines!

Our Detachment researched the Semper Fi Fund that was created in 2004, and it was decided during our April meeting to plan a fundraising event in Hays to provide funds to the Semper Fi Fund from our detachment. The Semper Fi Fund is a non-profit 501 organization that provides a variety of programs to assist wounded veterans in all branches of the United States Armed Forces. Expect to hear more about our success with this endeavor later this year.

Our Detachment Commandant was contacted last month about a Vietnam War Marine Veteran living in Ellsworth that has requested to be buried in Dress Blues. A copy of his DD214 indicated he's a war hero and is much deserving of our help to furnish him a set of Dress Blues with the appropriate medals or ribbons. He suffers from a disease the VA has recognized as being caused by Agent Orange and this Marine doesn't have much longer to live according to our source. If any other detachment is interested in more details or in making a donation towards this Marine's cause, please contact Commandant Munsch or myself by email.

In July our detachment tentatively plans to participate with the Wild West Festival parade in July in downtown Hays. This is always a fantastic, fun time for our membership.

Semper Fi,
Asher C. White, Chaplain

MODD Growl of the Kansas Pack

2 June 2018

Hosted by B. Gen. William A. Kurtis / SEK
Detachment #612
VFW Post 1186 113 E Myrtle
Independence, KS 67301

Registration \$5.00 Pay at the door

Registration 0800
Opening Ceremony 0900
Memorial Services 0930 - 1000
(Veterans Freedom Square)
Business Meeting 1000-1200
Lunch 1200 – 1300

Business -Meeting Continues if needed
Growl of Kansas Pack follows Business Meeting

Any qualified member in good standing, interested in running for a Department office, should contact Eldon Holsey – Jr Past Commandant at docmf.70@gmail.com. Department By-Laws state that candidates must be present at the Department Conference on 2 June 2018 in Independence, KS to be elected.



Marine Corps History

12-13 April 1918: Marines of the 4th Brigade suffered their first gas attack on the night and early morning hours of 12-13 April when the Germans bombarded the 74th Company, 6th Marines near Verdun with mustard gas. Nine Marine officers and 305 enlisted Marines were gassed and evacuated, and 30 Marines died from the effects of the gas shells which hit in the middle of the reserve area cantonments in which they were sleeping.

15 April 1962: Marine Corps operational involvement in the Vietnam War began on Palm Sunday when HMM-362 with its Sikorsky UH-34s arrived at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon. The task unit was called "Shufly" and its first operational employment involved lifting Vietnamese troops into battle.

21 April 1951: Marine carrier-based airplanes made their first aerial contact with enemy planes over the Korean front lines. Captain Philip C. DeLong shot down two YAK fighters and 1st Lieutenant Harold D. Daigh destroyed one more and damaged another in the heavily defended Pyongyang-Chinnanpo area. Both pilots were with VMF-312 flying from the USS Bataan.

27 April 1805: First Lieutenant Presley N. O'Bannon, who with seven other Marines was part of a force of Greeks and Arabs led by American Consul William Eaton, raised the United States flag for the first time over a conquered fortress of the Old World at Derne, a stronghold of the Tripolitan pirates. Two

Marines were killed and one wounded in the assault on the walled city.

Usmchangouts.com



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 July 2018

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE!