

# The SUNFLOWER \*\*\* "SCUTTLEBUTT"

Official "Mouthpiece" of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League
Winter Edition 2024
Editor: Wes Topel, 3331 N. Flat Creek Cir, Wichita Kansas 67205-8703
E-mail: wes.topel@gmail.com

### **DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2023-2024**

**COMMANDANT:** Wes Topel e-mail: wes.topel@gmail.com

SR. VICE COMMANDANT: Bill Koonce

e-mail: billkoonce@gmail.com

JR. VICE COMMANDANT: Nathan Bogard

e-mail:<u>oldcorps0341@gmail.com</u> **SGT. AT ARMS:** Eldon "Doc" Holsey email: docfmf.70@gmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Joel Wilson e-mail: wilsonjoel.1@gmail.com

**ADJUTANT / Paymaster:** Harvey Harris

e-mail: hharris@MCLeague.org

**CHAPLAIN**: Al Sanchez

e-mail: <a href="mailto:asanchez.usmc@proton.me">asanchez.usmc@proton.me</a>
<a href="mailto:Jr. Past Commandant:">Jr. Past Commandant:</a> George Waugh

e-mail: <a href="mailto:gw10502@gmail.com">gw10502@gmail.com</a>



# **Commandant Wes Topel**

Greeting Kansas MCL and MODD Sunflower Pack members,

I hope your 2024 is off to a smooth start. We often start a new year by looking INWARD and resolving to achieve a new set of goals to better ourselves. Often New Year resolutions are made to improve our personal health habits, finances and relationships. This year, I challenge

you to look OUTWARD and make meaningful goals of how you might contribute to the improvement of the lives of others. Let's strive to live out the greatest commandment in 2024 by loving our neighbors as ourselves. As Commandant, I have the pleasure of compiling the semi-annual Department report which details all the good works being done by each detachment. Such work includes providing honors for fallen service members, collecting and distributing toys for deserving tots, giving time and money to veteran charities and families in need, and numerous hours dedicated to community service. As we enter into 2024, pledge to give more to support others through your involvement in the Marine Corps League.

If you are not already using it, I encourage everyone with a smartphone to download the MCL Mobile App from the Apple Store or the Google Play Store. There is a lot of great information available on the App with new feeds directly from the DOD, VA and Marine Corps. My favorite feature of the App is the digital membership

card available in your profile. With this feature there is no longer a need to carry a paper membership card in your wallet. Please be advised that headquarters has recently reconfigured the log-in. Instead of using your MCL member number the App now requires your MCL profile number. If you don't know your profile number please get with your Detachment Paymaster.

Our annual Department Conference will be held June 1, 2024 in Independence, KS. This year we are planning a Friday evening social event. This will provide us the opportunity to enjoy each other's company outside the Saturday business session. Hotel information is provided in the back of this Scuttlebutt. Details on the Friday night social event will be finalized and presented in the upcoming Spring edition of the Scuttlebutt.

In closing, I want to warn everyone to be vigilant when responding to emails and opening email attachments. Phishing is the fraudulent practice of sending emails or other messages purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers. Recently, scammers have been using my name and title as your Department Commandant to send emails to members. The email address being used is <a href="mailto:president.executive8655@gmail.com">president.executive8655@gmail.com</a>. Please know this is not me. If you receive such an email and you use an email system that allows for the reporting of Phishing like gmail, please report these messages and maybe they will stop.

Semper Fi, Wes Topel Department Commandant/Sr Vice Pack Leader



# **Sr Vice Bill Koonce**

Woof Woof,

2024 is here and we all know it's a time where we make New Years Resolutions. I would like to see League Members and Dog's try to make a commitment to travel to other Detachments and Pounds to help support them and exchange ideas on what is working and

not working.

So far I have received three Pounds Growl Dates so Dogs can plan accordingly. We have two important dates coming up. First is the Midwest Division Conference, the first weekend in April 5-7. The second date is the State/ Pack Growl the first Saturday, June 1 in Independence, KS. Let's make this a great attendance this year.

If any Detachment or Pound does a fundraising event please let us know so we can spread the word. Let's make 2024 a great year and start getting Kansas back up and running. If any Detachment or Pound does a fundraising event please let us know so we can spread the word.

Woof Woof
Pack Leader/Sr Vice
Bill Koonce

# **Chaplain Al Sanchez**

Detachment Commandants and Chaplains,

Please stay in communication with your members:

Now more than ever it is important for all Department Chaplains to stay in contact with our members. Many of the Marines are looking to their detachment to pass on important

information regarding members who are in need of home visits, hospital visits and family support. Most important is our Marines who are without family and are living alone. A quick phone call or a buddy check can make all the difference in the wellbeing of the Marine and the Detachment. Members should pass on as soon as possible information to the Detachment Commandant and Chaplain, regarding a member who is ill or in the hospital. We can all do our part to provide moral support and encouragement to our Marines.

### **Detachment Chaplains:**

It is very important to timely submit NOD (Notice of Death) reports of all Marines in your detachment to the Department of Kansas Chaplain so the information can be sent to National MCL for support and written condolences to surviving family members.

Stay warm out there and check on your fellow Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

Al Sanchez
Department of Kansas Chaplain
email: <u>ASanchez.usmc@proton.me</u>

### **Detachment Chaplains**

Report all membership deaths utilizing the <u>Notice of Death</u> form. Complete the form and email to:

**Department Chaplain Al Sanchez** 

asanchez.usmc@proton.me

OR

Complete the Notice of Death paper form; keep one (1) copy and mail the balance to:

Department Chaplain Al Sanchez

31150 W. 170TH Terrace

Gardner, KS 66030-8101

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 <u>transmittal</u> listing the deceased member with the Code **NOD** and date of death. If the NOD is the only item on the transmittal and there is not a check involved, email the transmittal to the Paymaster at <a href="mailto:hharris@MCLeague.org">hharris@MCLeague.org</a>



# From Left to Right:

Department Chaplain, Al Sanchez, and Detachment #1025 member, Joe Padilla, visit fellow detachment member, Steve Crawford in the hospital.

Below: We have a lot of members shut-in and unable to attend monthly meetings and events. Make it your mission to check-in with these Marines. Scheduling home visits is a great way to honor them and keep them up to date and informed of the detachment's activities.





# Department of Kansas Detachments

### **Mount Suribachi Detachment #105**

Chartered 9 February 1955
Commandant: Larry Thompson
msglarry1@gmail.com
Adjutant Paymaster Howard King
howarddeanking@gmail.com

Meets 2nd Tuesday at 1900 hours VFW Post 1141 620 A St Smith Center, KS 66967 Detachment Contact 785.282.0975

Mount Suribachi Detachment 105 just lost life member Arthur W Woodcock on December 13, 2023. Arthur was also a life member at the Smith Center American Legion. This past quarter the Detachment participated in the Old Settlers Days Parade in Smith Center and the Veterans Day celebration in Kensington at which we ate USMC Birthday Cake after the celebration. One detachment member spoke at Rotary about the MCL along with Marine Corps history prior to 1919. Last year we began helping the Edwin A Schumacher Detachment #740 with the Toys for Tots. Everyone should be very proud of the Schumacher Detachment as they do all of the work: collecting the toys, making the delivery list, packaging each family and much more. Mount Suribachi delivered toys to 6 families which had 20 children in Phillips County. We also had our annual Christmas Supper in Smith Center. Membership stays steady but we have lost 3 life members since January 2023.



**Left:** These Devil Dogs clean up nicely when they gather with family and friends to celebrate at their annual MCL Christmas supper.

**Right:** Detachment Commandant, Larry Thompson, and Adjutant/ Paymaster, Howard King, serve up USMC Birthday Cake after the Annual Veterans's Day Parade in Kensington.





**Left:** Partnering with Detachment #740 to bring Christmas morning joy for 20 children, Howard King manned the Toys For Tots sleigh and delivered toys to six families in Phillips County.

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

Chartered 6 January 1986 Commandant: Tony Cook cookytony@gmail.com Adjutant Paymaster Chad Follmer nl\_breaker@yahoo.com

Meets 3rd Sunday at 1700 hours VFW Post 1186 113 E Myrtle Independence, KS 67301 Detachment Contact 620.331.6951



The B. Gen. William A. Kurtis
Detachment's color guard saw much action
this quarter. They participated in four
parades, including the annual Veteran's Day
parade as seen on the left. They also
presented the Colors at the Eyes of Freedom
Traveling Military Exhibit, pictured below.



The Eyes of Freedom Traveling Exhibit consists of eight large paintings presenting life-size portraits of Ohio-based Lima Company's 23 fallen Marines of 3/25. In front of each Marine stands a pair of standard issue combat boots, most worn by the men represented behind them. Independence, KS hosted the exhibit on November 8-11, 2023. This was the first ever stop in the state of Kansas. Below are links to the local news coverage and the Eyes of Freedom Facebook page.

https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=OflrXe9hi8o

https://www.facebook.com/EyesOfFreedom/



## What happened to Lima company in Iraq?

The battalion rotated out of Iraq in late September 2005, and deactivated on January 3, 2006. Forty-six Marines and two Navy Corpsmen serving with the battalion in Iraq were killed in action. Lima company received the most combat losses of any infantry unit since the Vietnam war.



**Left:** Detachment 612 stepped up and made a donation of toys to the Community Crisis Team and the Community Access Center of Montgomery County.

**Below:** The Detachment celebrated the 248th birthday of the Marine Corps in style at the Memorial Hall in Independence.





### Gen. Lewis W. Walt Detachment #682

Chartered 18 January 1989 Commandant: Paul McGuire paulmcguire574@yahoo.com Adjutant Paymaster Harvey Harris hharris@MCLeaque.orq

Meets 4th Thursday at 1900 hours VFW Post 1650 3110 SW Huntoon Topeka, KS 66604 Detachment Contact 785.640.6077

January 2024 has arrived the same as 2023 left us, with a lack of members residing in Topeka or unable to travel. The General Lewis W. Walt Detachment has been unable to maintain sufficient members and/or detachment officers to conduct meetings. Therefore, the detachment is being carried as INACTIVE. Unfortunately, younger Marines have shown little interest when approached for membership in the League. We continue trying to get the General Lewis W. Walt Detachment back on track.

Semper Fidelis Paul McGuire

### **Tri Rivers Detachment #730**

Chartered 10 November 1990 Commandant: John Voisine

jvoisine@cox.net

Adjutant Paymaster: Cindy Klingaman

cindyklingaman@gmail.com

Meets 3rd Tuesday at 1900 hours VFW 1108 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401 Detachment Contact 785.826.5087

The Tri-Rivers Detachment recently inducted two new members; Thomas Jon Carver and his service dog "DOC" and Donald Koelling. The 18th annual Raminator Monster Truck event was held by the detachment at Marshall Automotive in Salin on 7 OCT 2023. The event raised funds for the detachment's Marine Toy Box. The 248th Marine Corps Ball was held on 10 NOV 2023 at the Salina VFW at 1108 W. Crawford. The oldest Marine was Gerald McAtee (age 92) and the youngest Marine was PFC Hannah Boyer (age 18). PFC Boyer just graduated from bootcamp and was home on leave. The Honor Guard represented the detachment on Veteran's Day at the War Memorial in Sunset Park. On 7 DEC 2023, detachment members joined forces with volunteers from Kansas Wesleyan University to buy toys for children of needy families at Ace Hardware Center. The toys were delivered to Salina Shares and the gift cards were delivered to the Salvation Army.

Semper Fi, John P. Voisine Commandant

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

Chartered 11 November 1990 Commandant: Bob Munsch bmunsch@ruraltel.net

Adjutant Paymaster Joshua Enslow

joshuawsu@gmail.com

Meets 1st Tuesday at 1930 hours VFW Post 22<sup>nd</sup> & Vine Hays, KS. 67601 Detachment Contact 785.261.0779



MCL Detachment 740 once again has stepped up to bring Christmas joy to children all over western Kansas. Chairperson Steve Unrein organized the collection and distribution of toys for children in Ellis County plus many



Members and friends of Detachment 740 organized toys by families on Friday, December 8th and on the following Monday. Toys were distributed on Saturday, December 16 at the Hays Mall. A big thank you to the Hays Mall for providing the space each year for this project, and also, a big thank you to all the Marines and friends who assisted in bringing joy to children at this giving time of year.

**Left:** This little fellow came prepared to play Santa for the Toys for Tots Campaign. Thank you, Steve, for directing the program this year.

# WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Detachment 740 Commandant Bob Munsch assisted the Wreaths Across America Organization by placing Christmas Wreaths on veterans graves at Wakeeney National Cemetery on Saturday, December 16. What a great representation of our Marine Corps League.



Remember, Honor, Teach

Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom. It's the mission of Wreaths Across America. You can participate by sponsoring a wreath, volunteering or partnering with the National Wreaths Across America organization

https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/

### **Air Capital Detachment #773**

Chartered 30 June 1994 Commandant: Nathan Bogard oldcorps0841@gmail.com Paymaster Andy Babb notalus@gmail.com

Meets 3rd Tuesday Social Time 1830 Meeting 1900 hours American Legion Post 4 816 North Water St Wichita, KS 67203 Detachment Contact 316.342.6209

The Air Capital Detachment #773 participated in several activities over the last few months. On November 10, 2023 the detachment hosted numerous area Marines and FMF Corpsmen at the Wichita Veterans Park for the 248th USMC cake cutting ceremony. After brief remarks from the Detachment Commandant, Nathan Bogart, guests were served birthday cake and hot apple cider. The next day, November 11, 2023, the Detachment's firing detail rendered honors for the annual Veterans' Day ceremony and then quickly moved downtown to participate in the Veteran's Day Parade with the Tornado Alley Young Marines. On November 18, 2023 members of the detachment attended the Marine Corps Birthday Ball hosted by the Wichita USMC Reserve unit. On December 16, 2023 we gathered to share our annual Christmas meal together. At this event, the detachment recognized Bill Koonce as the Detachment's Marine of the Year.



### Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025

Chartered 13 December 1999 Commandant: Kimberley Mancuso kimberleymancuso@gmail.com

(913) 215-8977

Paymaster: Tara Knighton <a href="mailto:taraknighton@gmail.com">taraknighton@gmail.com</a>

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 1830 hours VFW Post 7397 9550 Pflumm Road Lenexa, KS 66215

Happy New Year!

As the Commandant for the General Larry Oppenheimer Marine Corps League Detachment #1025 I want to commend all of our Detachment members and our community partners for an extremely successful Toys for Tots campaign. We were able to help Combat Logistics Regiment 4 (CLR4) collect over 64,000 toys and support 43,000 kids in the Kansas City metro area, approximately 7,000 more kids than last year. The 2023 Kansas City Toys for Tots campaign served 273 organizations and CLR4 with the help of our Detachment supported 44 Toys for Tots events. I am extremely proud and appreciative of everyone's hard work. This campaign cannot be successful without all of you and the countless hours you donate to this worthy cause. Well done Marines!

As always, we would welcome participation/attendance from both League members and any FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains that are interested at any of our monthly events.

### Monthly Events:

Date	Time	Location	Event
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed of the	1830	VFW (9550 Pflumm Rd	Officer's Meeting
month		Lenexa, KS)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. of the	0900	Eggtc. (7182 Renner Shawnee,	Breakfast with the Best
month		KS)	
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed of the	1800	VFW (9550 Pflumm Rd	Chat and Chow
month		Lenexa, KS)	
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed of the	1830	VFW (9550 Pflumm Rd	General Larry Oppenheimer
month		Lenexa, KS)	Detachment Meeting

If you have any questions about these events feel free to reach out to me.

Semper Fi!
Kimberley Mancuso
MCL Detachment #1025- Commandant
(913) 215-8977
Kimberleymancuso@gmail.com



# **BY THE NUMBERS:**

64,000 toys collected 43,000 K.C. area kids supported 273 partnering organizations 44 Toys for Tots events

Way to Go DET #1025!!



# Department of Kansas Marine of the Year

Nominations for Department of Kansas Marine of the Year (MOY) is due 1 April 2024. The Award will be issued at the Department Conference in Independence on 1 June 2024.

### **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 at the Department or higher level**; or has enhanced and/or furthered the concepts of the duties of being a citizen of the United States of America; or a deed(s) of courage or valor without regard for his/her own safety.

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

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

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

The Chairman of the Marine of the Year Committee shall be elected by the MOY Committee members which shall consist of all previous recipients of the Department Marine of the Year Award. The Marine of the Year Committee shall be the sole judge of all recipients. The Department Commandant will be a non-voting member of the MOY committee.

# The Military Order of the Devil Dogs



Kennel Website: www.moddkennel.org

Kansas Pack Website: http://www.mcleaguekansas.com/modd.html

### Kansas Pack Officers 2023-2024

Pack Leader: PDD Bill Koonce

billkoonce@gmail.com

316.435.2086

Pack Dog Robber: PDD Harvey Harris

hharris@MCLeague.org

785.640.6077

Sr. Vice: PDD Wes Topel
Jr. Vice: PDD Joe Hughes
Smart Dog: PDD Joel Wilson
Dog Trainer: PDD Al Sanchez
Mad Dog: PDD Doc Holsey
Police Dog: DD Richard Cornelius

Watch Dog: PDD Larry Thompson Barking Dog: DD Kimberly Mancuso



**Left:** The Honorable 60th Chief Devil Dog, Alan Sanning, and our Worthy Pack Leader, Bill Koonce, traveled to the home of Kenton Holloway on October 29, 2023. Kenton was advanced to Pedigree Devil Dog under a provision allowing for Devil Dogs who cannot travel to attend the National Convention due to medical restrictions.



**Left:** After PDD Holloway's advancement ceremony, Pound 196 held a growl in which CDD Sanning installed the 2023-2024 Pound officers.

**Right:** On October 21, 2023, the Twister Dogs Pound #401 held their first annual pistol shoot.

1st Place: DD Rob

Anderson

2nd Place: DD Nathan

**Bogart** 

3rd Place: PDD Wes

Topel





**TAPS** 

# Ralph R. Anderson, Jr.

General Lewis W. Walt Detachment 682 August 18, 1935 - September 28, 2023

# George Beran

Air Capital Detachment 773 January 5, 1931-December 10, 2023

# Joseph V. Dantono

Air Capital Detachment 773 October 2, 1950-November 23, 2023

# Walter F. Hudiburg

B. Gen. William A. Kurtis Detachment 612 April 4, 1939-August 5, 2023

### Hollis D. Stabler

Air Capital Detachment 773 September 8, 1949-November 19, 2023

## Arthur W. Woodcock

Mount Suribachi Detachment 105 March 15, 1936-December 13, 2023

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**



## **National Mid-Winter Conference**

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone: 800-325-3535 Reference National Marine Corps League

2/22/2024 - 2/24/2024



The Midwest 2024 Spring Conference will be held in Jefferson City, Mo.

April 5-6, 2024

Hosted by Samuel F. Gearhart Det. #656, Jefferson City, Mo.

Location:

Capitol Plaza Hotel

415 W McCarty St.

Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

**Reservations open** 

Room rate: \$105/night +tax, Breakfast Buffet included for 2 per room.

Phone: 563-635-1235

Dinner on Friday and Lunch on Saturday included in hospitality

Auction - 1900 Friday. Donations welcomed

Corn hole tournament if enough interested.

# Uniform for the opening and memorial service will be Cover and Red Blazer for Division Officers and Staff.

Uniform for meetings will be cover, white shirt or polo shirt.

Cost:

**Banquet \$35.00** 

Hospitality \$20.00

Marine Corps League Registration Fee \$5.00 per MCL Member

Register HERE!



Department of Kansas 2024 Conference 1 June 2024 Friday Night Social Event 31 MAY 2024

VFW Post 1186 113 E. Myrtle Independence, KS 67301

10 Rooms Blocked Off
Mention "Marine Corps League" for special rate when making reservation
Make Reservations by 5/17/2024 for special rate
Standard King - \$100
Double Queen - \$108

# Comfort Inn & Suites Independence

3000 West Main Street, Independence, KS, 67301, US (620) 332-2222

**Hotel Amenities include** 

FREE WIFI, FREE HOT BREAKFAST, PET FRIENDLY ROOMS



# 2024 MCL National Convention and MODD Supreme Growl

# **WESTIN RANCHO MIRAGE GOLF RESORT AND SPA**

7133 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

You may book two (2) rooms with your name. 30 days prior to the convention, you must provide the hotel with the second name.

# **HOTEL RESERVATION LINK**

**HOTEL RESERVATION PHONE: (888) 627-7086** 

RESERVATION CODE: "MCL" or "Marine Corps League"

Dates: Monday August 12, 2024 to Friday, August 16, 2024

Rates are \$159 single (one person in room) & include breakfast Monday through Saturday for one (1) and are inclusive of taxes, resort fee, and parking.

Rates are \$169 double (two persons in room) & include breakfast Monday through Saturday for two (2) and are inclusive of taxes, resort fee, and parking.



MCL National Website
<a href="http://www.mclnational.org/">http://www.mclnational.org/</a>
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. <a href="https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/">https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/</a>

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

Midwest Division Website <a href="http://www.midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org/">http://www.midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org/</a>

Military Order of the Devil Dogs http://www.moddkennel.org