



The SUNFLOWER

"SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

Summer Edition 2019

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DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2019-2020

COMMANDANT: Joe Hughes

e-mail: jmhughes@everestkc.net

SR. VICE COMMANDANT: Rick Pustka

e-mail: rick@pustka.com

JR. VICE COMMANDANT: George Waugh

e-mail: gw10502@gmail.com

SGT. AT ARMS: Eldon "Doc" Holsey

email: docmf.70@gmail.com

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e-mail: OldDD59.69@gmail.com

ADJUTANT / Paymaster: Harvey Harris

e-mail: hharris@MCLeague.org

CHAPLAIN: Wes Topel

email: Wes.topel@gmail.com

Jr. Past Commandant: Jan Denney

e-mail: jadenney@cox.net



Commandant Joe Hughes

I hope everyone had a great 4th of July holiday.

Moving forward each Detachment needs to focus on membership renewals. All member renewals are due by September 1, 2019. We did a great job in this area last year. Let your members know that you are collecting dues now so there is not a heavy workload placed on your Paymaster this summer to submit transmittal's and checks all at one time. During this process talk to each member & review your current roster data with them and update your roster. Updated rosters should be submitted to Harvey Harris, ADJ/Paymaster along with your transmittal's.

Life Membership rosters are due out shortly, please review / verify upon receipt and sent back, plus copy Harvey Harris, ADJ/Paymaster.

New Commandant

Lt. Gen. David H. Berger will become the 38th commandant of the Marine Corps on July 11 — the Corps' other birthday. That's right, the Corps has two birthdays. The Continental Marines were established on Nov. 10, 1775, but on July 11, 1798, President John Adams approved "An Act for Establishing and Organizing a Marine Corps," according to a Marine Corps History Division. Time magazine reported that Maj. Edwin McClellan recommended to then-Commandant Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune in 1921 that the Corps celebrate its initial inception as the Continental Marines as the Corps' official birthday. The Corps commemorated the July 11, 1798, date as the Corps' birthday until 1921. On July 12, 1798, following the re-establishment of the Marines, Adams appointed Maj. William Ward Burrows as the commandant. Maj. Samuel Nicholas — who led the Continental

Marines — is considered the Corps' first commandant.

Berger will replace Gen. Robert B. Neller in a change of command ceremony being held at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., on July 11, 2019. Capt. Christopher Harrison, a Marine spokesman, told Marine Corps Times that Berger will pin on his fourth star prior to taking the reins of the Corps.

Semper Fi,
Joe Hughes
jmhughes@everestkc.net



Sr. Vice Commandant Rick Pustka

In concert with our National Commandant I agree and expand his stated primary focus of our Detachment's is the Marine4Life Program. Has your Detachment developed the tools and support network you will need when you are notified a Marine and his/her family is coming to your community? Contact the National Office for guidance.

Of equal importance is suicide prevention. Since 2015, nearly 224 Marines have ended their lives. That's more than an entire rifle company. In 2018, 354 active and reserve Marines attempted suicide, and 77 Marines died, more than any year previously. There is no shame in asking for help with life's struggles, seek help from your fellow Marines, they are there for you.

Semper Fi,
Rick "Doc" Pustka



Jr Vice Commandant George Waugh

Semper Fi. A simple greeting when you spot another Marine. When you get a response back and

they are not rushing off, start visiting to see if stationed at same place. Bring up the Marine Corps League. Give them a business card for your Detachment if you have one. Invite them to a meeting. Get their name and phone number if you can for a follow up call just a day or two before your next meeting.

Hope all detachments are taking advantage of all the Holiday celebrations and county fairs to be visible and ready to talk to former Marines to tell them about our Marine Corp League. While visiting with a younger Marine at a July 4th concert I turn to talking about the MCL. He advised me he tried the VFW and gave up as they sat around telling sea stories that kept getting bigger. I told him about the program's we do in the community and he said this is something he can do. I invited him to our meeting and gave him my card. We need to let young Marines what we do and not just go down memory lane.

As we go about contacting members for renewal of dues for next year, let them know that their input is important. We want them to attend meeting and hear what they would like to see happen within the next year. If your records indicate they are not in regular attendance to meetings, see if they need help getting to meetings. We need to work together to grow.

Please send any suggestions you have to get new members.

Semper Fi,
George Waugh



Judge Advocate Bryson Allen

This will be brief as I am at National getting ready for Budget meeting. All Detachments need to get their By Laws re-written, and approved, to be in compliance with the current National By Laws and Admin Procedures. There is a copy of "suggested" Detachment By Laws on the Department Home Page for you to use. It is simple and it might keep

your Detachment from becoming in violation of National. I will be available a week or so after National Convention to be of assistance.

Semper Fi,
Bryson Allen,



Adj. / Paymaster Harvey Harris

Now that July has arrived it is time for Detachment Commandant's and Paymasters to verify the Life Member Audit report recently sent to each by e-mail. To verify review the list of Life Members, the Commandant and Paymaster sign a copy of the report and sent a copy electronically to the Dept. Paymaster at HHarris@MCLeague.org. I will send the report to National. Remember to save a copy for your records.

Paymasters, remember now all reports except for ONE copy of your Transmittal can be electronic (saving paper) all other reports are electronic. It is time to renew your membership. Sent your renewal dues to your Paymaster and avoid the rush renew now.

The June 30 National Roster has been released and all detachments are requested to verify the information for accuracy and to maintain a current roster of your members.

Fill out a National Delegate form and submit it to Department this will allow the Department Commandant to cast a vote for the newly elected officers at National Conference in Billings MT in August. Each Delegate listed cost \$5.00 and covers 15 members from your detachment. By doing this The League will see the Department of Kansas is alive and well. To check your detachment voting strength, consult the 06-30-19 National Roster, last page of your roster.

Have a great summer,
Semper Fidelis,
Harvey L. Harris,
NVC Midwest Division
Department Adjutant / Paymaster



Chaplain Wes Topel

Greetings everyone! At the annual Department Conference last month, Commandant Joe Hughes appointed me to serve as Department Chaplain. I am replacing George Waugh who was elected to serve as Jr. Vice Commandant. In addition to serving in this Department staff position, I also serve as the Adjutant/ Paymaster for the Mount Suribachi Detachment in Smith Center, KS. I live in Smith Center with my wife, Janie, and three teenage children. I am very interested in matters concerning our current military families and veterans who served this great nation. As Department Chaplain, I hope to share timely and relevant information and resources for veterans and military families in upcoming issues.

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.

Semper Fi,
Wes Topel

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@MCLeague.org



Department of Kansas Marine of the Year



Eldon “Doc” Holsey, Air Capital Detachment, was awarded the 2019 Department of Kansas Marine of the Year (MOY). Pictured (Front Row L-R) Jan Denney (MOY 2013), Chairman of the MOY Committee; Doc Holsey (MOY 2019); Bryson Allen, Air Capital Detachment; (Back Row) Harvey Harris, (MOY 2015) and Joe Hughes (MOY 2016). Doc was nominated by the Air Capital Detachment for his dedication and service to his Detachment and the Department of Kansas.

Department of Kansas Conference

- In attendance:
- 6 of 7 Department’s Detachments
- 6 Past Department Commandants
- 4 Detachment Paymasters
- Current MWDVC Harris
- Past MWDVC Allen
- 4 Department Marine of the Year
- 2 MW Division Marine of the Year
- All attendees were Devil Dogs

Thanks to the General Walt Detachment #682 for hosting the Conference and Grand Growl. The 2020 Department Conference will be in Salina on 6 June. Stand by for details.



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



Poker Run in Smith Center on 1 June 2019

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

This is the time of the year when our Detachment takes a hiatus for July and August. We do continue to recruit by holding our annual picnic on Saturday, July 20, 2019 starting at 1100. Looking forward to a good turnout. I have notified all our leaguers of the need to pay their 2020 dues and have had two purchase life memberships and awaiting a third. We're striving for another 100% membership year.

The undersigned had L3-L4 fusion surgery on his back June 24th with a 4 to 6-week recovery period. So, I'm unable to drive, bend over, lift anything over 10 pounds and the pain is barely tolerable with pain medication. But the surgery was successful, and I am thankful for that. Hope everyone has a nice summer.

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

The detachment is attempting to get the Marine for Life program up and running. A recent planning session with the Representative for the Marine Corps, Major Mike Parrott, was held to discuss the best means of contacting Marines recently discharged from the Corps. The Marine for Life Program puts the recently discharged Marine in touch with where jobs, medical facilities and education in the area is available. When the program gets underway hopefully a list of Marines in the area will be available for contact.

Our Marine Rose distribution was put on hold this year due to heavy rain, maybe able to reschedule for a later date. It is a great fund raiser for the

detachment.

The detachment will have a table at the Topeka Gun Show, July 20-21, raffle tickets available for our shotgun and AR-15. The drawing for the winners will be at the end of the December Gun Show.

Semper Fidelis,
General 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

The Detachment Color Guard participated in the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service in May as well as Memorial Day Ceremonies on the 27th of May.

The Detachment gained a new member at the May meeting. Welcome Marine Vern Flaherty.

Commandant Cushenbery, Judge Advocate Eberhart and Adjutant Paymaster Denney attended the Department of Kansas Conference and the Grand Growl of the Kansas Pack on 1 June in Topeka.

Tri Rivers Detachment will host the 2020 Department of Kansas Conference on 6 June 2020.

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

The officers of the Edwin A. Schumacher Det. 740 in Hays are working and organizing diligently to outfit all its members with the league uniforms. Over the years it's been difficult to find certain items. Thanks to the Department of Kansas for forwarding some helpful information about purchasing the red blazers from JC Penney's online store.

Commandant Bob Munsch and Paymaster Joshua Enslow participated as riflemen in the color guard during the Wild West Festival: Freedom at its BEST parade on July 6 in downtown Hays. They both looked outstanding in their summer service league uniforms and both endured the early morning heat. Oorah!

Good news about our Senior Vice-Commandant Ken Funk. Ken was awarded a seat on an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. to visit the WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War memorials. Ken's flight will depart September 4 and he will be accompanied by his son, Keith Funk of Quinter, Kansas.

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

Marine Corps League Air Capital Detachment #773 participated in the Sundown Parade for Riverfest in downtown Wichita May 31st.



Our annual picnic was held in June once again. There was a phenomenal turnout and our winner for the horseshoe tournament was Claude Donham.

Semper Fidelis,
Irona Cliver, Commandant

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

Second quarter was busy with our fundraising, Budget, election of Officers for the coming year, and all the other community service events that the league is involved with. During second quarter our combined membership turned in 1260 service hours. Looking at the work our members have been committed to this quarter reminded me of a quote I

shared in our league newsletter and would like to share with all our Scuttlebutt readers.

“As you walk down the fairway of life you must smell the roses, for you only get to play one round.”

A golf metaphor yes, but profound in its meaning, and I felt it lent itself well to this month's message. We often get caught up in the little day-to-day things that happen, things we may or may not agree on. In so doing we often lose site of the wonderful things in our lives. I would like to take a minute to expound on that thought. I am very fortunate to have two families I care very much about. One is my wife, children, grandchildren, their families and all our brothers and sisters and their families. The other is my Marine Corps League brothers and sisters and their families. Each family is started with a pledge. The first pledge is to an individual you love and the second is to the Country we love. The family that is formed by these bonds is one that lasts a lifetime. So, as we reflect on the day-to-day aspects of our lives don't forget to stop and smell the roses along the way. Enjoy the people around you and the many blessings that God has given each of us. Two words that are often forgotten or lost in the busy lives that we lead are, THANK YOU. I know that if you stop and reflect, not on your entire life, but just today someone in your life deserves a thank you.

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!

The Grand Growl of the Kansas Pack was held in Topeka on 1 June 2019 with 18 Dogs in attendance. Four (4) PUPS were advanced to Devil Dogs and Big Bones were separated from the Dogs' Paws and will be forwarded to Kennel for the Children's Fund.

Attendees of the Grand Growl

14 were Pedigree Devils Dogs
All Pounds of the Pack were represented
All Pound Keepers were present

Pack Officers were re-elected and installed for 2019-2020.

If you are interested in joining the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, contact the Pound Keeper nearest you. You need to be recommended by your Detachment Commandant.

Wichita Pound 094

Pound Keeper: PDD Eldon "Doc" Holsey
docfmf.70@gmail.com
316.744.0752

Topeka (Independence) Pound 196

Pound Keeper: PDD Dale Meadows
marinedevildog@gmail.com
620.779.3489

Salina Pound 365

Pound Keeper: PDD Jan Denney
jadenney@cox.net
785.826.5087

Lenexa Pound 378

Pound Keeper: PDD Joe Hughes
jmhughes@everestkc.net
913-660-4817

It is an Honor to be a Devil Dog!

WOOF, WOOF!

PDD Jan Denney 93-056

Worthy Pack Leader
Kansas Pack

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@MCLLeague.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: PDD Rick Pustka



TAPS

No Notices of Death Received

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



2019 MCL National Convention
4 August to 9 August 2019
Billings, MT

<https://www.mclnationalconvention2019.com>



Midwest Division Fall 2019 Conference
September 27 & 28, 2019.

Crowne Plaza Aire
3 Appletree Square
Bloomington, MN 55425.

Rooms are \$119 a night for a King or two double
beds, King Suite is \$149 a night, all are Non-
smoking.

Block code MCL Marine Corps League
Guests can also call 800-227-6963 and secure
reservations as well.



Midwest Division Spring 2020 Conference
April 17 & 18th, 2020
Wichita, Kansas
Details to Follow



Department of Kansas
2020 Conference

6 June 2020
VFW Post 1432
1108 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401
Details to follow



Scuttlebutt and Booster Club

The number of Booster Club members has
increased since the Spring Edition however if you
read the list of members and you do not see your
name listed, **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

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/>

Next Scuttlebutt Deadline is 10 October 2019

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE!