



The SUNFLOWER

"SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

Winter Edition 2021

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DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2020-2021

COMMANDANT: Joe Hughes

e-mail: joehughes50@gmail.com

SR. VICE COMMANDANT: George Waugh

e-mail: gw10502@gmail.com

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e-mail: cushdog@speednet.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

e-mail: Wes.topel@gmail.com

Jr. Past Commandant: Jan Denney

e-mail: jdenney@MCLeague.org



Commandant Joe Hughes

I hope every member had a very safe and healthy holiday season.

The COVID virus has shut down many of our in person Marine Corps League activities the past four months, hopefully each of us has made the effort to stay in touch with each other via a phone call or text message. It is important that each Marine realizes we care about them and they are not alone.

The main concern I have currently to address is the Departments lagging 2020 membership renewals. If you have forgotten to pay your dues, please mail your dues to your Paymaster. Our dues are the monetary life blood of the Marine Corps League. The due date for renewals is September 1st, the National budget is based on receiving these

revenues. Let us get each Detachment to the 100% renewal level by February 1st.

At the start of our 2020-2021 Marine Corps League year last July, I am not sure we had any idea how these past six months would impact our normal Detachment, Department or National gatherings. It has been challenging but let's all pray that the current vaccines will allow us to return to our normal League meetings and Devil Dog Growls in the next couple of months. In the meantime, please stay safe.

Thank you, Marines and Corpsmen, for all you do in your community. Thank you for your service to our nation, and especially thank you for your friendship to each other.

Semper Fi,
Joe Hughes
Joehughes50@gmail.com



Sr Vice George Waugh

We are past the Holidays and I hope all our members and family are safe and well. As each area of the state are experiencing local recommendations for ways for us to meet safely,

one way will be to have more committee groups and stay in touch by email or phone. As Marines, I know that no one will be left behind in our efforts grow our Marine Corp League.

Let us hope that shortly we can get back to our normal meetings and events that we are working on.

Semper Fi,
George Waugh



Jr Vice Larry Cushenbery

Happy New Year Marines,

To start with congratulations to all for making it through the "Bravo Sierra" of the last year. It is my hope that this finds each of you in good health and spirits. Last year was a challenge, but as Marines we Improvised, Adapted, and Overcame all the obstacles that were thrown at us. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again at "Normal" activities, such as Conventions and Growls.

Sadly, we have lost a few members since we all gathered last. They will be missed. With that, it reminds us of how we need to keep recruiting new members to strengthen our membership. I am aware of the difficulties of getting some people to commit, but we need to encourage the continued effort of spreading the word about who we are, and what we do. I believe there are still quite a few Marines out there that are not aware of the Marine Corps League, and if they are not made aware of our existence they cannot join. Carry a application

with you, and every time you see a fellow Marine, while you are out and about, tell them "Semper Fi Marine" and ask them if they know about the League. Invite them to visit a meeting. I know we have not been out much and around folks but here is hoping that all of that gets better.

In closing, I know we all took an oath to "Protect the constitution against all enemies, both foreign and domestic" and that there was no expiration date on that oath. It looks like there is coming a time where we will need to honor that oath and back the President of the United States in his efforts of defending our Republic against the insurrection of both foreign and domestic enemies. Not since the Civil War has there been such circumstances in this Great Nation and it is my hope and prayer that the Patriots, Veterans, and God-fearing people of this country will show the courage of our forefathers to stand up and defend our freedoms. I know all of you will, and I thank you in advance. May God Bless all of you.

Semper Fi,
Larry Cushenbery



Judge Advocate Bryson Allen

I am happy to report that there were no Uniform violations during the National Election season that will end on Jan 20th this year. There is, however, much unrest in the country and some groups and organizations have organized to protest various actions taking place in our nation's capital. Do not get me wrong, if you see a situation that you wish to protest against that is your constitutional right and should be recognized. But please do not wear any item that identifies you as a member of the MCL. The League is not a political organization and as such may not participate in rallies or protests. Exercise your rights but please do not include the league in your manner of dress.

Semper Fi and hope to see you all in the Midwest Division's Spring Conference in Wichita,
Bryson Allen



Adj. / Paymaster Harvey Harris

To all a Happy New Year. Let us hope the coming Spring will bring a new normal to our lives, I know I am certainly ready to get back to normal. Some of you (Bryson) would say that would be a long trip.

The Department is attempting to gather member information to get the information in the new national database correct. I am requesting that all members get with their detachment paymaster and verify address, contact phone number, email, join date to the League and Life member join date if applicable. We have a long way to go to get all the department member listing correct. The paymaster should forward to me the correct verified information on a copy of the detachment roster, I will correct it in the database. Example: If the League does not have a Life member join date listed on the roster, the detachment will not get credit for the life member and will not receive his /her portion of the refund from the Life membership fund. Next request is the members original Marine Corps League join date be verified so it also can be listed correctly. Some member dates were grouped together on a batch data dump and are not correct. Department membership renewals are running on the slow side. Currently the Department has 42 overdue members. All non-life memberships expire on 09-01.

I need a list of members that have not received a current membership card from national and have not received a Semper Fi magazine. This requires a correct/current return mailing address.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Midwest Division Spring Conference, hosted by the Air Capitol Detachment #773, at the Best Western, Wichita, 16 -17 April. Stay Safe, Stay Warm.

Semper Fidelis,
Harvey L. Harris



Chaplain Wes Topel

On the final night of his life, in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed this prayer for his followers.

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:20-21 ESV)

Jesus was within mere hours of his betrayal and false arrest. Actions that would lead to a sham trial, a brutal flogging, a shameful mockery, and finally a brutal death on the cross. Knowing these things were near, he fought through the intensity of the situation, which caused such stress and anxiety to produce sweat as blood, to take time to pray for his followers.

His prayer was not for their future success, their safety from persecution, or their happiness. His prayer was for their unity. He prayed that they would love each other. As he prayed for them, he also prayed for “those who will believe in me through their word.” That means us as followers today!

Sadly, unity is not easy. Not just in Christianity but for us as humans in general. Even in the greatest nation in human history, with the greatest system of government devised by humankind, we have struggled with unity over the past 245 years. Granted I am no history scholar but in my opinion, the Civil War was our Nation’s greatest unity challenge during the 19th century, followed by the Civil Rights struggle in the 20th Century. Both served as crucibles, testing our nation’s fortitude. In fact, our nation is still healing from these wounds. Now in the 21st Century we are again struggling with unity. Racial, political and economic divisions are tearing at our nation’s unity. I urge you to; 1) pray for our leaders, 2) be peacemakers and agents of reconciliation, 3) and encourage unity where disharmony exists.

Remember unity does not mean we agree on everything but rather we find common ground and work together for our nation's future.

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

OR

Complete the form; keep one (1) copy and mail the balance to: Department Chaplain Wes Topel, 520 W. Court, Smith Center, Ks 66967.

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 Marine of the Year

Nominations for Department of Kansas Marine of the Year (MOY) is due 1 April.

The Award will be issued at the next Department Conference.

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.



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



Funeral ride for Associate Member Edward L Thompson (brother of Commandant Larry Thompson) to Wakeeney Veterans Cemetery.



Members John Sparks and Don Suchland passed away as well.

Semper Fi,

Larry Thompson, Commandant

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

Chartered 6 January 1986

Commandant: Dale Meadows

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 was able to meet on October 18th and November 15th this past quarter. No meeting in December. Our Detachment led the Veterans Day parade and Holiday Parade on November 22, 2020. We have welcomed new members to the Detachment with Jack McCormick our newest member. He resides in Lakeview, Arkansas.

VFW Post 1186 in Independence has received 14 M1 rifles to replace those of our Detachment that have served their purpose but no longer reliable. They were used for far too many funeral details.

Our Detachment membership is holding steady with only three delinquents.

Hope everyone stays well and looking for things to get back to some sort of normal. Best to you all for 2021.

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

Greetings from a New Year. Our detachment is hoping this year will allow us to get back to normal, or as close as possible. We are sad to report two maybe three members if illness diagnosed correctly have passed due to COVID-19. This is three to many. Currently I have received the first of two vaccine shots for Covid but that has not stop me from being in quarantine due to a close contact with an effected person. We must continue to do our best to get over this disaster, like it or not, we must

continue to wear a mask when in public and maintain the recommended social distancing.

Our detachment has not had a detachment meeting since March 2020. One meeting was attempted in October resulting in three members in attendance.

We need to get back to the new normal so we can renew old friendship activities. Stay safe, stay warm and let us prepare for a better spring.

Semper Fidelis,
Paul McGuire, Commandant

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 Tri Rivers Detachment celebrated the 245th Birthday of the Marine Corps at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina on 10 November. Social distancing and mask protocols were followed.

The Honor Guard represented the Detachment at the Veterans Day Ceremony at the War Memorial in Sunset Park on 11 November.

On December 7, members of the detachment purchased toys for 435 Salina children and delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution on 17 December.

The Detachment lost long time member George F. Cardinal on 20 December 2020. Memorial will be held later.

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

NO REPORT

Semper Fi,
Asher C. White, Chaplain

Air Capital Detachment #773

Chartered 30 June 1994
Commandant: Alan Daniels
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

NO REPORT

Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025

Chartered 13 December 1999
Commandant: Joel Wilson
Paymaster Bill Clinton
bdclint@sbcglobal.net
Meets 4th Wednesday at 1900 hours
VFW Post 7397
9550 Pflumm Road
Lenexa, KS 66215
Detachment Contact 913-492-1199

We bid farewell to 2020 and look forward to brighter days in 2021. In October, a local organization called FISH (Friends In Service of Heroes) honored MCL member Max Deweese by dedicating a bench at the third hole at the Falcon Lakes Golf Club. Max met Tom Watson and played the hole among all of those that attended the event. As the Coronavirus cases started picking up in the area the officers decided that it was among the best interest of the membership to not host a dinner in celebration of the Marine Corps birthday; therefore, we recognized MCL member Loueta Tostrud as our Marine of the Year at our regular membership meeting in October.

In November, local organization FISH honored MCL member Jerry Ingram by dedicating a bench

at the Fire Training Facility in Olathe. We kicked off Toys for Tots knowing that it was going to be a tough year. Our local partner and host of the 2017 National Marine Corps League Convention, the Overland Park Convention Center was a huge supporter by collecting 4,283 toys! Our total toy count to support the Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots was 25,377 toys and \$24,370 in donations collected.



MIDWEST DIVISION
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



It was my great honor to be elected National Vice Commandant for the Midwest Division (MWD NVC) at the Division Fall Conference in Jefferson City, MO. Department of Kansas Commandant Joe Hughes was elected to the office of Assistant National Vice Commandant.



Midwest Division National Vice Commandant Jan A. Denney and Assistant National Vice Commandant Joe Hughes

Joe and I have 60+ years' experience in the League and we look forward to serving and growing the Midwest Division. If we can assist you in any league matters, please contact us.

I thank Harvey Harris, Past MWD NVC, for his dedication and hard work for the Division. As he completes his term as NVC, it can be said "Job well done". Harvey is staying busy by working on the National Data base and as Department Paymaster.

I have appointed Eldon "Doc" Holsey of the Air Capital Detachment to serve the Division as the Sgt.-at-Arms.

Semper Fidelis,
Jan A. Denney
National Vice Commandant (NVC)
Midwest Division
jdenney@MCLeague.org

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! Dogs of the Pack
The Kennel Winter Woof-O-Gram is available at the following link:
<https://militaryorderofthedevildogs.org/featured/winter-wog-2020>

Looking forward to Division Growl in Wichita.
WOOF, WOOF!
PDD Jan Denney 93-056
Worthy Kansas Pack Leader

Woof, woof all dogs of the Pack. Warm weather will soon arrive, and we can get out of the doghouse, stretch our legs, create a little havoc, have a little fun in our Pound Growls. We will have a Pack Growl at the Midwest Division Spring Conference in Wichita, 18 April. All dogs that are eligible to advance to Pedigree Devil Dog (PDD), should have their paperwork completed and submitted at the Spring Growl to the Department Dog Robber so it can be collected and forwarded to Kennel Dog Robber so it will be available for the Supreme Growl in Springfield, IL this August. This will be the last Growl for advancement near Kansas for some time.

Dog Robbers and Pound Keepers, January 2021 MODD Kansas Pack Roster was emailed out 01-09-2021. The Pack has not installed any new Mongrels for some time, there are members in the department that qualify to be Pups, we need to capture them, add to the number of dogs in our "Fun and Honor Society"
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 2020-2021

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 Doc Holsey
Police Dog: PDD Tom Huxtable
Watch Dog: PDD Joe Hughes
Barking Dog: Open



TAPS

James Cockburn DOD 10/31/2020
Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment 1025

George F. Cardinal DOD 12/20/2020
Tri Rivers Detachment 730

Don Suchland DOD 12/31/2020
Mt. Suribachi Detachment 105

James W. Coward DOD 12/15/2020
Gen Lewis W. Walt Detachment 682

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



National Mid-Winter Conference

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

SHERATON NORFOLK WATERSIDE HOTEL
777 WATERSIDE DRIVE, NORFOLK, VA 23510

February 25-27, 2021



Midwest Division Spring Conference

April 16-17, 2021

Hosted by Air Capitol Detachment #773, Wichita,
Kansas

Location:

Best Western Wichita North
915 East 53rd St. N (I-135 & 53rd St N.) Wichita,

Kansas 67219

Reservations open are open

Room rate: \$92.99/night including free breakfast
Phone: 316-832-9387 or 800-780-7234



**Department of Kansas
2020 Conference**

**5 June 2021
VFW Post 1432
1108 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401
Details to follow:**



**2021 MCL National Convention
and**

MODD Supreme Growl
August 9-13, 2021
Wyndham Springfield City Center
700 E Adams St
Springfield, IL 62701



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/>

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

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE