



The SUNFLOWER

"SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

Summer Edition 2020

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DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2020-2021

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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: jadenney@cox.net



Commandant Joe Hughes



Dan P. Dollison and Bryson Allen received the 2020 Department of Kansas Marine of the Year Award.

The MCL 2020 Department of Kansas Meeting was held Saturday October 10, 2020, hosted by the General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment in Lenexa, KS. The message this year was for each Detachment to move forward with an emphasis on new membership. We are only a few memberships short of completing our renewal campaign. Please call these members to renew. Secondly, our meetings and events this year should be conducted with membership safety in consideration and follow current COVID guidelines. This meeting was held wearing masks, hand sanitizer on the table and temperatures taken before the start of the meeting. These requirements did not interfere with business conducted, camaraderie, or fun.



The Marine Corps League Distinguished Citizen Gold Award presented to Harvey Harris and Bryson Allen for exceptional Marine Corps League contributions.



Eldon "Doc" Holsey accepted the Marine Corps League Heroism Award on behalf of his son Kenneth "KC" Holsey for conspicuous heroism in providing lifesaving first aid and coordination of essential advanced medical care.



Wes Topel accepts the National Unit Meritorious Award for Mt Suribachi Detachment 105, Smith Center, KS. 65 years of continuous service to the United States, Marine Corps, community, and the Marine Corps League.

Semper Fi,
Joe Hughes
jmHughes@everestkc.net



Sr Vice George Waugh

As we start forward into the fall months, we need seek ways to expand our search to find new members to join us. One way is to look in our community and volunteer as a way of showing support and attracting new members. Our cities and

counties are all in need of volunteers and this would be a way to meet more of the public and show we care. A lot of fall events are coming up and we need to take advantage of letting Marines know we are there and welcome new members to join us in effort to support our veterans and community.

Semper Fi,
George Waugh



Jr Vice Larry Cushenbery

I hope that all of you are doing well during this unique time of chaos that we have been experiencing in this year of 2020. I know that besides the Covid-19 worries we all are getting older and have issues that pop up from time to time, some bothersome and some serious. I know I have had two surgeries since 23 July 20 and that I am not alone, nor is my experience been the most serious, but do know that I understand how frustrating life can be. Thank God we face these things as Marines, and Brothers in the Marine Corps League. That is one of the reasons it is paramount that we maintain and grow our membership. I wish to thank and commend all of you who have been checking on and assisting one another. Most of the Detachments are getting back to semi-regular meetings and activities which will help out in a huge way. I am aware that some Detachments have gained at least 1 new member since my last report and wish to commend them for their accomplishment and encourage all to keep diligent in maintaining and expanding our membership. By the time this prints all members should have paid their dues. Thank you to all who paid early and in a timely manner. Remember that if you meet a Marine, ask them if they are in the Marine Corps League or aware of it. Some may not know about us or how to join. Always have an application on you, just in case. Semper Fi Marines and be safe.

Semper Fi,
Larry Cushenbery



Adj. / Paymaster Harvey Harris

Greetings Marines and Corpsman of Kansas, hope everyone is in good health. The Department of Kansas was able to hold a mini conference in Lenexa on Saturday, 10 October 2020 and were able to complete several overdue items. Congratulations go out to Dan Dollison and Bryson Allen on being the Department Marine of the Year. Long overdue and well deserved. Congratulation also to Mount Suribachi Detachment #105 for their 65th Detachment Anniversary. All Detachment except for Edwin A. Schumacher #740 were represented at the mini conference.

National will release the Department Roster October 16, 2020. I will send a copy of the roster to each Detachment Commandant and Paymaster when it is received. The information will come from a combination of the OLD database and the NEW, some of the information will not be correct or current but I need you to review the list and give me an update by email of all correction you find. I will be able to make the corrections in the system. I am requesting a list of members that have not received their new membership card from National and those that do not or have not been receiving the Semper Fi Magazine. I will find out why you have not and get that corrected.

At the present time the Department of Kansas stands at 196 Life members, 170 annual members, total membership 366.

Midwest Division

My term as the National Vice Commandant (NVC) for the Midwest Division is about to be completed, the 24th of October, 2020 the Midwest Division will hold a mini Conference in Jefferson City, MO the purpose is to elect the new National Vice Commandant (NVC) Assistant Division Vice Commandant (ADVC). I am proud to say the Department of Kansas has two of the three nominations, Jan Denney has been nominated for



Judge Advocate Bryson Allen

No report, everything is quiet on the judge advocate's screen.
Semper Fi,
Bryson Allen

the NVC position and Joseph Hughes for the ADVN position. Missouri has one nomination for NVC, I would like to express what a privilege it has been being able to represent you and the Midwest Division, Marine Corps League, as your National Vice Commandant for the last four years and two months, it has been a pleasure to do so. I hope to be the first to congratulate Jan and Joe on their new position on the 24th.

Semper Fidelis,
Harvey L. Harris, MWD NVC



Chaplain Wes Topel

A Modern Parable: The Story of the Three Trees
Author Unknown, Edited by Rev. Wilmer L. Todd

Three trees on a wooded hill were discussing their hopes and dreams. The first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. People could fill me with gold, silver and precious gems. They could decorate me with intricate carvings, and everyone would see its beauty."

The second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the seas and sail to unknown places. Everyone will feel safe because of the strength of my hull."

Finally, the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of a hill, look up to my branches and think of the heavens and God. They will remember me as the greatest tree of all time."

After years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. One came to the first tree and said, "This looks like a strong tree. I can sell the wood to a carpenter." After being cut down, the tree was happy because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree a woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree. I can sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down, his dreams would not come true. A woodsman said, "I don't need anything special from this tree so I'll just take it back with me."

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, they made it into a feed box for animals. It was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. They cut the second tree and made a small fishing boat. They cut the third tree into large pieces and left it alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot their dreams. Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the feed box made from the first tree. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One man went to sleep. A great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man. He stood and said "Be calm" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. Later, they nailed the man to the tree and raised him up to die at the top of a hill. On the third day, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible. Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral is: When things are not going our way, know that God has a plan for us. God will do almost anything for us. Jesus reminded us through his teachings and his stories how much God loves us. Place your trust in God and God will always give you what is best for you.

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 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

NO REPORT
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's annual picnic was held Sep. 12th with 15 enjoying the eats and the perfect weather. Chef Meadows prepared the dogs at home and brought to the W.R. Leonard gazebo in Riverside Park in Independence.

We held our first meeting in three months on Sunday, Sept. 20th with 10 leaguers in attendance. We welcomed and initiated new member Irwin G. Sanborn. It was decided to not hold the MC birthday party due to the pandemic.

David Fuqua, Benny Vernon, and I attended the Department of Kansas Meeting in Lenexa this past weekend. I was honored to receive the Dept. of Kansas Marine of the year award for 2020 along with Bryson Allen of Air Capital Detachment.

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 General Lewis W. Walt Detachment has been trying to reconvene our detachment meetings, with COVID -19 hanging around much longer than any of us would have liked it has been difficult, but we

will adapt and overcome (soon) we hope. It has been hard with all our outside activities being cancelled, no gun show attendance for this year, no rose distribution again this year. We are working on our Birthday Ball, will know more at the end of October. Renewal of membership has started and is progressing, have a few more members to renew but will get there in time. Stay Safe and pray for our Brothers and Sisters that remain in Harm's Way.

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

The Tri Rivers Detachment has conducting monthly business meetings with steady attendance numbers.

On 26 September, the Detachment conducted a fundraiser for the Marine Toy Box, selling ride tickets on the Hall Brothers Racing Monster Trucks. Attendance was down but the fundraiser was an overall success.

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

All's well in western Kansas. The Edwin A. Schumacher Detachment continues to meet the first Tuesday at 1930 at the VFW, 22nd & Vine St in Hays.

Our detachment participated in the Wild West Festival parade on July 4 with members in their

summer service league uniforms and two of our Marines in their dress blues. We are always a crowd pleaser. The theme was "Hometown Heroes" and our detachment took 2nd place earning \$75 prize money.

Our annual fried Bologna sandwich fund-raiser during Oktoberfest was canceled due to the pandemic. The city of Hays and FHSU made the decision to not hold the annual event.

Sadly, our detachment lost past Commandant and long-time charter life member Leroy Herrman on September 15. He passed away while surrounded by family at Via Christi Village in Hays at the age of 87. Leroy served in the USMC during the Korean War era and played in the Marine Corps band.

Commandant Bob Munsch has reserved the Venue at Thirsty's Brew Pub & Grill for this years Marine Corps Birthday Ball. It's always a blast, so watch our Facebook page for photos.

T.J. Mages is our newest league member. T.J. works for the city of Hays. Welcome aboard, T.J.

Attached to the Scuttlebutt is a letter and fact sheet concerning the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

Semper Fi,
Asher C. White, Chaplain

Air 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

Air Capital Detachment has been busy in September with several Rifle Salutes at Veteran Memorial Park. We saluted the Submariners on Eternal Patrol and will be Saluting the Veterans on November 14,

2020, for Veterans Appreciation Day gathering, also at Veterans Memorial Park.

Our Detachment was represented at a Gun Show in September. We were taking Donations and recruiting. Many younger Marines were talked with and given business cards of our Detachment. We are also doing a raffle on a 1 of 1,000 USMC Glock 9mm semi-auto. Raffle tickets have been selling very well. The total number of tickets printed was 300. The drawing will be October 26th. The winner will be announced and contacted that day.

Several members will be attending the Midwest Division meeting on October 24th, in Jefferson City. Hope to see many other members there, from the other Midwest States.

Not much happening during these times with the Corona Virus. We wish all Marines and FMF Corpsman Good Health and safety during these times.

Semper Fidelis and WOOF-WOOF to all.
Doc Holsey

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

NO REPORT

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!

I had the pleasure of the attending the Pound 378 Growl and installing their officers on 10 October. The growl raised several big bones for the Children's Fund.

Covid 19 has disrupted some our schedules pound growls but as restrictions loosen up a bit pounds need to reschedule growls. Remember: 4 growls are required each fiscal year as per the MODD By-Laws.

Stay safe and take care of each other.

WOOF, WOOF!

PDD Jan Denney 93-056

Worthy Kansas Pack Leader

Woof, woof Dogs of the Pack. A reminder we need to get out of the Doghouse and round up the members in our detachments that would make good pups in the Pack. This is the "Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League." Time to get out and have some fun. We have been held hostages long enough.

Pounds are reminded there are to conduct four Growls a year if possible. Dog Robbers will need to send the Passport Fees through the Pack Dog Robber or at least let me know how many Bones were sent to the Kennel. I need to keep the MWD VCCDD informed as to the number of Bones for his report to Kennel. If you are currently a Devil Dog and have the required time in grade and wish to advance to PDD at the 2021 Supreme Growl, in Springfield, IL get your advancement request into your Pound Dog Robber so he can get it to me in time. After Springfield, the Supreme Growl will not be nearby, 2022 may be in Daytona Beach, FL. 2023 may be in Penn or Charleston, WV .

Officer election are due no later that 90 days after the Supreme Growl, (it should have been August 12, 2020, so we can go from that date). Happy barking.

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@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

John L Sparks DOD 9/2/2020
Mount Suribachi Detachment #105

Edward L Thompson DOD 8/7/2020
Mount Suribachi Detachment #105

LeRoy Herrman DOD 9/15/2020
Edwin A. Schumacher Detachment #740

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



**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