



The SUNFLOWER "SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

Fall Edition 2021

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DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2021-2022

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ADJUTANT / Paymaster: Harvey Harris

e-mail: hharris@MCLeague.org

CHAPLAIN: Bill Koonce

e-mail: bknoonce@gmail.com

Jr. Past Commandant: Joe Hughes

e-mail: joehughes50@gmail.com



Commandant Larry Cushenbery

Let me begin by saying that I am honored to have been elected to the Department Commandant and will do my best to provide a smooth transition with help from past Commandants. Thanks to all who have already been assisting me in that endeavor.

On 5 June 21, we had the Department Conference in Salina, hosted by the Tri-Rivers Detachment. Thanks to all who attended and special thanks to Joe Hughes and Harvey Harris for their training that was provided. Training was given on the use of the new data system and the proper way to fill out ROI and transmittals. We will continue to try and have training available to anyone wishing to learn more about the Marine Corps League and the inner workings. Congratulations to everyone for being

presented the National Meritorious Unit Awards twice this past year, thanks to Joe and Jan for the work that made that possible. A personal thanks to Bryson Allen for taking care of the Department votes at the National Convention for me. Unlike some I am still working and was unable to get off for the week. Hopefully that will soon change.

Detachment Commandants if you haven't already collected all of your dues and sent in your paperwork it needs done A.S.A.P. since by the time this goes out, they will be past due. Thanks to all the paymasters who have already taken care of this.

Hope to see you all at the Midwest Conference October 21-22, 2021, in Jefferson City, Missouri. I will be there the 22nd but at this date I cannot yet confirm the 21st.

The talk of Covid and restrictions is starting to rear its ugly head again, here's to hoping this season goes smoother than the last one. Either way we have been there, done that, and as Marines we will

see this through. May you all stay healthy and safe and will be looking forward to seeing everyone.

Semper Fi,

Larry Cushenbery



Sr Vice George Waugh

As we are ending summer, look to fall events for ways to let Marines know that the Marine Corp League is here to help in our communities and want their input and help growing our Detachment membership. Recently while at the Leavenworth Memorial Patriot Rider monthly service, I spoke to a Marine and a Marine Family that did not know about the MCL or where to find a Detachment to join. I gave them info on MCL in the area they live. Look for ways to get our word out there.

Semper Fi,

George Waugh



Jr Vice Wes Topel

Greetings Marines. For the past two years, I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as the Department of Kansas Chaplain. It was a honor to help process the notices of death (NOD) for our late members, insuring they received the proper respect and recognition at the Division and National levels. William "Bill" Koonce is our new Chaplain. We have spoken and emailed a lot. I know he will serve the Department well during his tenure. Please see his article in this issue as I am sure he will be sharing his contact information for all the Detachment Chaplains. Rest assured any NODs I continue to receive during our transition will be promptly forwarded to Bill.

As I assume the responsibilities of Jr. Vice Commandant, I want to thank those who had enough faith and confidence in my abilities to nominate and vote me into the position. I promise to work hard and serve the department with the goal of assisting the Commandant in moving the organization to the next level.

Now for the thoughts on my mind today... As a veteran of Afghanistan, the last couple of weeks have been hard to accept. In my disappointment, I feel a sense of connection with my Vietnam brothers in arms in understanding their discontent with the fall of Saigon. For 20 years we equipped and trained the Afghan Security Forces only to see their command and control unravel and collapse in a matter of days. They never had the heart to defend their nation. I thank God I live in the nation of citizen patriots who 245 years ago determined they did want to live under tyranny and thus took up arms to win their independence. Count it a blessing to live in such a nation because obviously the innate desire to be free of tyranny does not burn as fierce in the hearts of all.

Semper Fi,

Wes Topel



Judge Advocate

Overall things on the home front have been quiet this summer. One exception was the National Convention held in Springfield IL the second week of August. By Law changes were one of the sessions that attracted the most interest and I am sure that there are some changes that will have long lasting effect on our League. As soon as I can lay my hands on a copy, I will get the changes out to the membership so we can all remain in compliance.

Until then, stay safe and keep in touch.

Semper Fi,

Bryson Allen



Adj./Paymaster Harvey Harris



Chaplain Bill Koonce

Detachment Paymasters it is September and time for all non-life members to renew their membership with the League. To date (09-01-2021), the Department has renewed membership for 76 members. Renewals remaining 81, with a total of 23 members that National will drop from the roster due to nonpayment. The number of members that will be dropped is much too high, let us continue to work on returning all members to active status within our detachments.

All Officer Installation reports have been received, need a few 990-N, Life Member Audit reports and five conformations for renewal of Incorporation, (KS Sec of State).

National Database continues to be a work in progress. If you need assistance with locating your members information, the ability to update information, please contact me and I will assist any way I can. Please check the latest copy of your detachment roster for errors. In need of D/O/B for members, current email addresses and phone numbers.

A Data Base Training class is scheduled from 1330-1600, October 23 at the 2021 Midwest Division Fall Conference, Jefferson City, MO, for all Commandants and Paymasters in the Division. Please bring your laptop.

Thank you, Paymasters for all your hard work in getting the Department information correct and current.

Semper Fi,

Harvey Harris

Greetings Marines, Devil Docs, and Navy Chaplains,

At the annual Department Conference in June, Commandant Larry Cushenbery appointed me to serve as Department Chaplain. I am replacing Wes Topel who was elected to serve as Jr. Vice Commandant.

In addition to serving in this Department staff position, I also serve as the SR. Vice Commandant for Air Capital Detachment #773 and Dog Robber for Wichita Pound #94, in Wichita, KS. I live in Wichita, KS.

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

Please note change of contact address for reporting NODs: Report all membership deaths utilizing the Notice of Death (NOD) form. The form can be downloaded from the MCL National website at https://www.mclnational.org/uploads/1/0/3/1/103183322/death_notice.pdf.

Complete the form and keep 1 copy and mail the balance to:

Department Chaplain Bill Koonce
2453 N. 127th Ct E, Wichita, KS. 67226.

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@MCLeague.org

Semper Fi,
Bill Koonce



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 620.330.6070

BGen William A Kurtis SEK Detachment is resuming our activities after taking July and August off. We will be providing a color guard for a 911 ceremony on September 11, 2021, at the new Plaza 210 at 10:30AM, in Independence. We will hold our annual picnic Saturday, September 18th at 11:00AM. Fun for all and we use as a recruiting aid. Our busy season is upon us, and we will be

busy with parades like NEEWOLLAH and Fall parades in Southeast Kansas. We will enjoy the Marine Corps birthday on Saturday, November 13th at the VFW in Independence. Looking forward to the Midwest Division Conference in Jefferson City, Missouri, October 21-24. Christmas parades to follow so our Color Guards will be busy.

Semper Fidelis,
Dan Dollison, Adjutant/Paymaster

Gen. Lewis W. Walt Detachment #682

Chartered 18 January 1989

Commandant: Paul McGuire

Adjutant Paymaster Harvey Harris

hharris@MCLeague.org

Meets 4th Thursday at 1900 hours

VFW Post 1650

3110 SW Huntoon

Topeka, KS 66604

Detachment Contact 785.640.6077

Where has the summer gone? Just as we get the opportunity to get out of the house and meet and greet people again COVID rears its ugly head. Again, we are being restricted in travel, and recommending facemask use, just starting to recognize what members look like without one. Our detachment is looking for officers due to increase in age 98, health, jobs or change of address. Currently searching for four replacements. Trying to get life back to near normal again so the detachment can get active and moving forward again. Remember always advance, adapt, and overcome.

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 Detachment is in the planning stage of the Marine Corps Birthday Celebrate which will be held at the Salina Hilton Garden Inn on 10 November.

Randy Carlson is the new Chairman of the Eagle Scout Committee, and the Detachment has presented certificates to 2 Eagle Scouts this quarter.

Semper Fidelis,
Jan Denney, Adjutant / Paymaster

Edwin A Schumacher Detachment #740

Chartered 11 November 1990
Commandant: Dan Dischner
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,
Dan Dischner-Commandant

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

No Report



MIDWEST DIVISION
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



On my recommendation, the Department of Kansas was awarded the Meritorious Commendation at the National Convention by Commandant Dennis Tobin. Everyone who was a member in good standing of a MCL Detachment in the Department of Kansas between 10 August 2020 and 9 August 2021 is authorized to wear this award.

The Department received this award in recognition of the Kansas Detachments navigating the Covid-19 restrictions, taking care of their membership, and competing all requirements to stay in "in Good Standing".

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

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs



**Worthy Pack Leader
Kansas Pack**

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs

WOOF, WOOF!

Congratulations to our new Pedigree Dogs who received the honor at the recent MCL National Convention in Springfield, IL

- PDD Bill Koonce
- PDD George Waugh

MODD Kansas Pack website:

<http://www.mcleaguekanssas.com/modd.html>

BUSINESS REMINDERS

Visit our MODD National website to stay current with information.

<https://militaryorderofthedevildogs.org/publications/>

MANUALS
MODD FORMS
WOOF-O-GRAM NEWSLETTER
MODD CLASSES

When holding elections please copy the Kansas Pack Leader and Dog Robber with your ROI. Check the MODD Kansas Pack website to make sure your Pound information is correct.

- Submit you EIN postcard yearly.
- Send in your annual renewal Transmittal Forms to the Pack Dog Robber.

I am in the process of scheduling a Kansas Pack Growl in early November, any suggestions on a location? If I don't receive any I will schedule the Growl in Lenexa, KS.

WOOF, WOOF!

PDD Joe Hughes

Worthy Kansas Pack Leader

Woof, woof

It is time for election of Pound officers and Devil Dog renewal with the Kennel. To stay out of the doghouse, Pound Growls should be soon. Remember 4 growls per year are required. Dogs are restless and need to get out and spend a little time in the park.

Returning from the Supreme Growl, Springfield, IL, WELCOME our new Pedigree Devil Dogs:

PDD George Waugh, 16-332

PDD Bill Koonce 18-224.

Semper Woofing,
PDD Harvey Harris
Kansas Pack Dog Robber

Kennel Website: www.moddkennel.org

Kansas Pack Website:

<http://www.mcleaguekanssas.com/modd.html>

Kansas Pack Officers 2021-2022

Pack Leader: PDD Joe Hughes

JoeHughes50@gmail.com

913.894.2006

Pack Dog Robber: PDD Harvey Harris

hharris@MCLLeague.org

785.640.6077



TAPS

Posted Since April 2021

**Stephen Thomas DOD 5/17/2021
Gen Oppenheimer Detachment 1025**

**Arnold E Beever DOD 04/01/2017
SEK Detachment 612**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



Midwest Division Fall Conference

The Midwest 2021 Fall Conference will be held in Jefferson City, Missouri

October 21-24, 2021
Hosted by Samuel F. Gearhart Detachment #626,
Jefferson City, Missouri

Location:

Capitol Plaza Hotel
415 West McCarty Street
Jefferson City, Missouri



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