



# The SUNFLOWER

## "SCUTTLEBUTT"

Official "Mouthpiece" of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League  
Fall Edition 2019

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### DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2019-2020

**COMMANDANT:** Joe Hughes

e-mail: [jmhughes@everestkc.net](mailto:jmhughes@everestkc.net)

**SR. VICE COMMANDANT:** Vacant

e-mail:

**JR. VICE COMMANDANT:** George Waugh

e-mail: [gw10502@gmail.com](mailto:gw10502@gmail.com)

**SGT. AT ARMS:** Eldon "Doc" Holsey

email: [docmf.70@gmail.com](mailto:docmf.70@gmail.com)

**JUDGE ADVOCATE:** Bryson Allen

e-mail: [OldDD59.69@gmail.com](mailto:OldDD59.69@gmail.com)

**ADJUTANT / Paymaster:** Harvey Harris

e-mail: [hharris@MCLeague.org](mailto:hharris@MCLeague.org)

**CHAPLAIN:** Wes Topel

email: [Wes.topel@gmail.com](mailto:Wes.topel@gmail.com)

**Jr. Past Commandant:** Jan Denney

e-mail: [jadenney@cox.net](mailto:jadenney@cox.net)



Commandant Joe Hughes

First congratulations, Jan Denny, PDC, PDD on being named MCL Mid-West Division 2019 Marine of the Year. Jan received this honor at the Mid-West Division Winter Conference in Minneapolis, MN. Jan is the third person from the Department of Kansas to receive this honor.



The Mid-West Division Conference was well hosted and fun. If you get a chance take the opportunity to attend one.

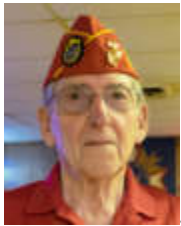
One of the main topics was the need for Detachments to place an emphasis on September 1<sup>st</sup> member renewals. The Department of Kansas Detachments have done a good job to date in this area. Where we fall short is the last 10 to 12 outstanding renewals in each Detachment. If you are one of the 10 to 12 in your Detachment, please renew now. Membership renewal is the cash flow that keeps the day to day Marine Corps League in operation. Currently we have approximately 14,000 outstanding renewals across the league.

Next, we need to be in the process of updating our Detachment Bylaws and Administrative Procedures in accordance with the new National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. Once completed please submit them to our Department Judge Advocate, Bryson Allen for review and signature. We need to be in compliance as soon as possible.

I want to thank all Detachments for completing their 990, Secretary of State and Life Member reports.

Have a great 244<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday with your brothers and sisters. As always keep the Marines currently serving in your prayers.

Semper Fi,  
Joe Hughes  
[jmhughes@everestkc.net](mailto:jmhughes@everestkc.net)



Jr Vice Commandant George Waugh

What does it take to increase attendance at your Detachment meetings? The more members that attend on a regular basis give more out looking to recruit new members. Is there a reserve unit in your area that can be contacted? Do you have a public library with a public bulletin board that you can post a notice about your Detachment? Look for new ways to find Marines out there. Once a Marine Always A MARINE.

Semper Fi,  
George Waugh



Judge Advocate Bryson Allen

As of this writing I have 4 approved By-Laws in my file. They are the Dept of Ks, Tri-Rivers, SEK, and Gen Walt. The Oppenheimer and Air Capitol Det's are in the works and should be ready shortly. Marines, If your By-Laws are not in compliance with the National By Laws that were approved at the 2018 National Convention you are in jeopardy of losing your charter. There is a template on the Dept web site that will get you in compliance if you just use it. Please get it done and sent it to me for approval before I am forced to start a very unpleasant duty.  
Semper Fi,

Bryson Allen,



Adj. / Paymaster Harvey Harris

Greetings Marines,  
As you can see by the calendar our Birthday is almost upon us again. Where does the time go? Happy Birthday Marines! Everyone should have renewed their membership by now for another year. If you have not, send you renewal amount to your detachment paymaster. The Detachment Paymasters have completed all required reporting for the coming year, keep up the good work, makes everything much easier when the paperwork is finished. Commandants & Paymasters the current National roster should be in your hands by now, it was due out by the 10th of October. If you have not received one, please contact me and I will send you one. Please review your detachment information and contact me with any corrections, again the National database information is reportedly going to be available by December of some year. I will contact paymasters when it does come online and have a class on how to access the information.

Semper Fidelis,  
Harvey L. Harris,  
Department Adjutant / Paymaster

The 2019 Midwest Division Fall Conference was held in Bloomington, MN September 28-29, 2019, information was relayed from National Commandant, Dennis Tobin, regarding detachments and departments that are not in compliance with current bylaws, i.e., ROI's, IRS 990's or registration with their states not-for profit requirements. All were requested to get current or face the suspension of their detachment until they are in compliance with the bylaws. The Department of Kansas does not have any detachments in that position.

The Midwest Division Marine of the Year was selected, and the 2019 recipient is Jan Denney, Department of Kansas Pack Leader, Jr. Past

Department Commandant, current Midwest Division Sgt-at-Arms. CONGRATULATIONS Jan. Well Done

Semper Fidelis,  
Harvey L. Harris,  
NVC Midwest Division



Chaplain Wes Topel

I recently saw the inspirational Christian movie, Overcomer. In the movie, the main character is asked “Who are you?” Although the man professed be to a person of faith, his immediate answers were based on the outward - his gender, race, job, and his roles as a father and husband. As the movie continues, the man realizes the importance of knowing and expressing to others who he truly is by letting his inward Christian character shine through. You may or may not be a person of faith, but we all are Marines and FMF Corpsmen who have a special identify. We earned a title that very few will ever earn. At the heart of our identity lie 3 core values, Honor, Courage, and Commitment. We do not forsake these values when we are discharged or retire. We continue to live by them the rest of our lives and desire to continue in organizations like the Marine Corps League because we long to be around others that share the same values. So, “who are you?”

**Honor:** Honor requires each Marine to exemplify the ultimate standard in ethical and moral conduct. Honor is many things; honor requires many things. A U.S. Marine must never lie, never cheat, never steal, but that is not enough. Much more is required. Each Marine must cling to an uncompromising code of *personal integrity*, accountable for his actions and holding others accountable for theirs. And, above all, honor mandates that a Marine never sully the reputation of his Corps.

**Courage:** Simply stated, courage is honor in action -- and more. Courage is moral strength, the will to heed the inner voice of conscience, the will to do

what is right regardless of the conduct of others. It is mental discipline, an adherence to a higher standard. Courage means willingness to take a stand for what is right in spite of adverse consequences. This courage, throughout the history of the Corps, has sustained Marines during the chaos, perils, and hardships of combat. And each day, it enables each Marine to look in the mirror -- and smile.

**Commitment:** Total dedication to Corps and Country. All for one, one for all. By whatever name or cliché, commitment is a combination of (1) selfless determination and (2) a relentless dedication to excellence. Marines never give up, never give in, never willingly accept second best. Excellence is always the goal. And, when their active duty days are over, Marines remain reserve Marines, retired Marines, or Marine veterans. There is no such thing as an ex-Marine or former-Marine. Once a Marine, always a Marine. Commitment never dies. (from *Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines*, copyright 2001 Marion F. Sturkey)

#### **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](mailto: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.

#### **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](mailto:hharris@MCLLeague.org)

Semper Fi,  
Wes Topel



## Marine Corps League National News

### National Committee Appointments

Department Commandant Joe Hughes has been appointed to National Awards & Citations Committee.

Jr. Past Department Commandant Jan Denney has been appointed to the National Homeless Veterans Committee.

### Department of Kansas Detachments

#### Mount Suribachi Detachment #105

Chartered 9 February 1955

Commandant: Larry Thompson

Adjutant Paymaster Wes Topel

[Wes.topel@gmail.com](mailto: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

Commandant Larry Thompson was asked to go on the 75th Kansas Honor Flight and the highlight Honor was to represent the Marine Corps laying the Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Got to visit all branches monuments and many more landmarks.

Our Detachment will be putting on Bingo at the Grand Island Nebraska VA this month. We will also be celebrating Veterans day and the Marine Corps Birthday at the Kensington American Legion.

Sadly, we lost a past State Department Commandant Roy Wangerin from our Detachment. He was strong to the end. Always involved and very humble. Semper Fi Marine RIP

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](mailto:Dan.dollison@yahoo.com)

Meets 3rd Sunday at 1830 hours

VFW Post 1186 113 E Myrtle

Independence, KS 67301

Detachment Contact 620.331.6951

The Detachment will celebrate the USMC Birthday on 10 November at the Independence, KS VFW.

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](mailto:hharris@MCLLeague.org)

Meets 4th Thursday at 1900 hours

VFW Post 1650

3110 SW Huntoon

Topeka, KS 66604

Detachment Contact 785.640.6077

Greetings All, Our detachment just completed the Topeka Gun Show for September. Seems like the shows are getting a bit slow, everyone must have all the toys they can get past the wife by now. We are preparing for our local Birthday Ball, 10 November, and the Topeka Veterans Day Parade, our detachment will have members 7 members that plan to ride on the float. Not ready for the COLD weather that will soon be on the way, but nothing

we can do about that. Semper Fi, Happy Birthday

Semper Fidelis,  
Paul McGuire, Commandant

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

Chartered 10 November 1990  
Commandant: Larry Cushenbery  
Adjutant Paymaster Jan Denney  
[jadenney@cox.net](mailto:jadenney@cox.net)  
Meets 3rd Tuesday at 1900 hours  
VFW 1108 W. Crawford  
Salina, KS 67401  
Detachment Contact 785.826.5087

The Detachment held a fundraiser for the Toy Box Program on 21 September. Detachment members sold Raminator Ride Tickets with the proceeds going to the Toy Box Program. This was the 14<sup>th</sup> year of this event and record number of tickets were sold.

The Detachment gathered on 15 October for its annual potluck supper.

Tri Rivers Detachment will host a celebration of the USMC 244<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the Courtyard by Marriott on Saturday, 9 November.

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](mailto:joshuawsu@gmail.com)  
Meets 1st Tuesday at 1930 hours  
VFW Post  
22<sup>nd</sup> & Vine  
Hays, KS. 67601  
Detachment Contact 785.261.0779

The Edwin A. Schumacher Detachment in Hays is happy to announce we have two new members. Welcome aboard to Stuart Wiita and Daniel Dischner, both of Hays.

Our detachment has a busy Fall schedule as follows:

On 11 October, league members will man a booth at the FHSU Homecoming Octoberfest grounds along south Main Street. We will be selling fried bologna sandwiches, an old German favorite, while donned in our league's Polo and MCL cover. We will have a tip jar guarded by our sentry Ken Funk, and it's been ordered that no Marine will partake in the beer until at least 10AM. The festival opens and the kegs are tapped at 10AM.

On 10 November, we will host our annual Marine Corps Birthday dinner at Thirsty's Brew Pub & Grill. This is always a great time for members and guests. Commandant Bob Munsch always surprises our members and guests with something special each year. We will, again, have a red rose for each female guest and, of course, our Missing Man (or fallen comrade) table setting.

The local VFW will host our community Veteran's Day ceremony on 11 November. Our league will participate, as usual, however we are needed.

Congratulations to Marine Jan Denney, PDC, PDD, for being named the 2019 MCL Midwest Division Marine of the Year. A well-deserved honor!

Semper Fi,  
Asher C. White, Chaplain

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

Chartered 30 June 1994  
Commandant: Irona Cliver  
Paymaster Frosty Evans  
[evansfa@gmail.com](mailto: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

Our Detachment has been involved with several Gun Shows of late. We able to meet and greet several Marines who were interested in our League and gave all the necessary information to come to meetings and check our Marines out. We have had several of these individuals become members.

Our Marine Rifle Squad have been busy with funeral details and at one dedication at Veterans

Memorial Park here in Wichita. This dedication was to the members of the Air Force that were involved in the Berlin Air Lift campaign. These dedicated pilots were involved with feeding the West Berliners who were starving due to the blockade by the Soviet Forces in early 1948 to late 1949. This was a joint venture by the American Air Force and the British to feed these people during this time. Among these members of the Berlin Air Lift was the “Candy Bar Bomber”, who threw over 200,000 pounds of candy bars to the children of West Berlin and others that picked up these gifts. Thirty-two of these brave individuals lost their lives during this period of time. The USAF Rifle Squad was supposed to be at this dedication, however, due to other priority assignments were unable to attend. So, a call to our rifle detail and the rifle Salute was given.

Our involvement with the Gun Shows of late have almost been a bust. Our locations at the past two (2) gun shows have been out in left field. We do get some people that stop by and are very generous with giving to our collections, however, they are few and far between. We are going to the next show, but if we are in the same location or area, we may have to rethink our involvement.

Our Devil Dogs have held our quarterly Growls and have collected many bones for the Kids at the next National Conference to be held in Daytona Beach. This past National Convention held in Billings, Montana; the Children’s Hospital was given a check from the Kennel for, drum roll please, 50,000.00 BIG BONES! They matched the total from our National Convention in Kansas City in 2017. This Children’s Hospital was really in need for support and a big “Thank You” was given to our Dawgs. All of the area newspapers had pictures on the front page showing the presentation of the check and the people of Billings when we went out for dinner would stop by and give all thanks, too.

Well, that is about all from the Air Capital Detachment. Remember Marines and Dawgs, our meetings and growls help others, especially the children. Don’t take personal the fines levied at these Growls as a bad thing. They are for a very Worthy Cause.

Semper Fidelis,  
Doc Holsey

### **Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025**

Chartered 13 December 1999

Commandant: Ken Fain

Paymaster Bill Clinton

[bdclint@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bdclint@sbcglobal.net)

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 1900 hours

VFW Post 7397

9550 Pflumm Road

Lenexa, KS 66215

Detachment Contact (913) 484.3078

Wow, summer is over and maybe you’ve asked yourself, where did it go. I know I have. As I was putting together my thoughts for this article, I couldn’t help but think of all our League events, fund raising, and service opportunities in our communities that our League members have been involved with. I think sometimes time simply flies by when you enjoy what you are doing and that would explain why summer is over and why we are planning for our busy fall schedule.

This summer’s fundraising events were extremely successful and a big thank you goes out to Rawhide Harley Davidson for their continued support of the Marine Corps League and our many fundraising events. Also, a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped staff all the events we held this past quarter. Below are photos of the troops at our last fundraising event.





Max Deweese WWII Marine



Four of our founders pictured are, Frank Mcgough, Jerry Sullivan, Don Marsolek, and Loueta Tostrud.

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!

It was my honor to attend the Lenexa Pound 378 Growl and to install the Pound Officers on 14 September. There are great Dawgs in Pound 378.

I attended the Midwest Division Grand Growl in Bloomington, Mn host by the Minnesota Pack on 27 September. Several Big Bones were collected for the kids.



The recipients of the 2019 Detachment 1025 Louis Romero Scholarship. We are very proud of each of this year's recipients and wish them much success in college. This is another example of the opportunities our League can provide because of the hard work and fundraising of our League members.

Our annual League Family picnic was a big success again this year. It rained all morning and just as we were getting ready to set up for the picnic it stopped raining and we had a wonderful time. We honored our League members who were part of the original founders of Detachment #1025 twenty years ago at the picnic.

Salina Pound 365 held its Growl on 12 October. Election and installation of officers was conducted with PDD Larry Cushenbery elected as Pound Keeper.

Contact your local Pound Keeper or Detachment Commandant for additional information details on joining the Military Order of the Devil Dogs.

It is an Honor to be a Devil Dog!

WOOF, WOOF!  
PDD Jan Denney 93-056  
Worthy Pack Leader  
Kansas Pack

Woof, woof, the Kansas Pack is doing well, most of the Pound renewals are complete, The Dog Robber has not received all of the 2019 Sec. of State Registrations and 990's from all Pounds. Pound Dog Robbers please check to make sure you are current for the FY and send a copy to the Pack Dog Robber. We need to search the membership to see if we can find worthy members out in the wild to become Pups in our Pounds.

Semper Woofing,  
PDD Harvey Harris  
Kansas Pack Dog Robber

**Kennel Website:** [www.moddkennel.org](http://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](mailto:jadenney@cox.net)  
785-826-5087

**Pack Dog Robber:** PDD Harvey Harris  
[hharris@MCLLeague.org](mailto: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:**



## TAPS

*Jim O. Brown SEK Detachment 8/22/19*

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**2020 MCL Mid-Winter Conference**  
**February 26 to March 1, 2020**  
**Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel**  
**Norfolk, VA.**



**Midwest Division Spring Conference**  
**April 17 – 18, 2020**  
**Wichita, KS**  
**Best Western Hotel**  
**I-135 & 53<sup>rd</sup> St North**  
915 E. 53rd St North  
Wichita, Kansas 67219  
Telephone # 1 (800) 528-1234.

Room will be \$92.99 per night plus tax for MCL members. They also have 7 ADA rooms available. Room reservations may be made on January 6, 2020. Each Room Reservation has two complimentary breakfast tickets per room.

More information will be available in December.

**2020 MCL National Convention**  
**August 9 to August 15, 2020**  
**Daytona Beach, FL.**



**HILTON DAYTONA BEACH OCEANFRONT  
RESORT**



**Department of Kansas  
2020 Conference  
6 June 2020  
VFW Post 1432  
1108 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401  
Details to follow**

<http://www.mcleaguekansas.com/home.html>

Midwest Division Website

<http://www.midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org/>

*Next Scuttlebutt Deadline is 10 January 2020*

***ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE!***



**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](mailto: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