

The SUNFLOWER *** "SCUTTLEBUTT"

Official "Mouthpiece" of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League Winter Edition 2024 Editor: Wes Topel, 3331 N. Flat Creek Cir, Wichita Kansas 67205-8703 <u>E-mail: wes.topel@gmail.com</u>

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2023-2024

COMMANDANT: Wes Topel e-mail: wes.topel@gmail.com SR. VICE COMMANDANT: Bill Koonce e-mail: billkoonce@gmail.com JR. VICE COMMANDANT: Nathan Bogard e-mail:oldcorps0341@gmail.com SGT. AT ARMS: Eldon "Doc" Holsey email: docfmf.70@gmail.com JUDGE ADVOCATE: Joel Wilson e-mail: wilsonjoel.1@gmail.com ADJUTANT / Paymaster: Harvey Harris e-mail: hharris@MCLeague.org CHAPLAIN: Al Sanchez e-mail: asanchez.usmc@proton.me Jr. Past Commandant: George Waugh e-mail: gw10502@gmail.com



Commandant Wes Topel

Greeting Kansas MCL and MODD Kansas Pack members,

Kansas was represented at the recent Midwest Division Conference with eight (8) regular members and one (1) associate member. We had a good time and connected with members of

several other departments to share information and ideas. Our very own Joe Hughes of the Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025 passes the gavel as National Vice Commandant of the Midwest Division to Jim Maevers, Department of Missouri. Dan Harrington of the Department of Minnesota was duly elected as the Assistant Division Vice Commandant. Both of these Marines will be sworn into office at the National Convention this summer in Palm Springs, CA. Pictures from the Midwest Division Conference are posted in this issue of the Scuttlebutt. Posted below is the Department of Kansas annual report to the division. I'm proud of the many accomplishments our detachments have achieved over the past year. If still serving as your Department Commandant, I look forward to reporting even greater accomplishments in April 2025 when the Midwest Division meets in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Remember our Department and Pack Grand Growl is scheduled for June 1, 2024 in Independence, KS. We will have a social Friday night starting at 1900. If you plan to attend Friday night and want to stay at the hotel you

need to make reservations by May 17, 2024. After that date, our blocked rooms will expire. The hotel is completely booked due to other activities happening during the same weekend. If you call for your reservation you need to remind the hotel staff you are with the Marine Corps League and that we have rooms blocked off. Some of their staff members are not trained well and may just tell you there are no rooms available for Friday, May 31st. If you have any issues call me and I will deal with the manager.

Finally, our hearts are heavy as we mourn with some of our fellow Marines who have recently lost their spouses. Please keep Al Reif and George Waugh in your thoughts and prayers. Al is a dual member of the Tri-River and Mt. Suribachi detachments. He lost his wife, Anne, on January 20, 2024. George is our Department Jr. Past Commandant. He recently lost his wife, Sharon, on March 26, 2024.

Department of Kansas Annu Demographics	an Report 2	.025
Detachments	7	
Total Members	334	
Life Members	219	
Paid Non-Life Members as of 4/1/24	81	
Total Paid members (Life and Paid)	300	89.82%
UnPaid Non-Life Members as of 4/1/24	34	10.18%
Record of Service		
Hours of Community Service *	6,075	
VA Service Hours	230	
General Assistance Hours	332	
Funeral Honors provided	71	
Color Guard Service provided	9	
Honor Guard Ceremonies	5	
Eagle Scout Presentations	3	
M4L Program	17	
Rose Program \$ raised	0	
Scholarship \$ raised	\$10,250	
Toys for Tots **		
Children served	58,703	
Toys Collected	65,371	
Cash Donations Collected	\$2,050	

Semper Fi, Wes Topel Department Commandant/Sr Vice Pack Leader



Sr Vice Bill Koonce

Woof Woof Marines and Devil Dogs

The Midwest Division Conference is in the books. We had a good time in Jefferson City, MO with some good training and camaraderie with our fellow Marines and Doc's from

around the Midwest. Some great ideas were shared on how other Detachments/Pounds are doing some fundraising around our Division.

Our next big event coming up for the Department is the Annual Department Conference / Pack Grand Growl in Independence, KS., May 31st and June 1st in Independence. I know the members of the South East KS Detachment/ Topeka Pound are working hard to make sure we have a good time with food and events. So please do everything you can to attend. Remember we are only as strong as the membership is involved.

Topeka Pound will be doing Operation ChowHound as part of Passport Stamping. Please bring a large bag of Dog Food or Dog Treats for their local Animal Shelter. Dogs, let's make a statement and show we are out there to help support the local community.

My report to the Midwest Chief Devil Dog was not as good as I wanted it to be. I had to report KS Pack was not 100% in compliance with the IRS because a Pound Tax Filing was incorrect. It is currently being corrected and we will be 100% compliant soon. Midwest Division is still out performing the other Divisions in Tax Filings so let's keep up the good work.

We will be holding our Pack Election of Officers on June 1st. If anybody is interested in serving in the Pack leadership please let me know ASAP so I can look and see what positions we may have open.

Pound Keepers if you have any Pups who need advancing to Devil Dog, now is the time to get their paperwork into the Pack Dog Robber ASAP. The Pack Grand Growl would be a great time to get them advanced, because they could advance to PDD at the 2025 National Convention in Dallas, TX. We currently have three Mongrels we will initiate at the Pack Grand Growl. If you have any potential Mongrels please get their names in as well and we can get them initiated.

See y'all soon in Independence soon and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Woof Woof Pack Leader/Sr Vice Bill Koonce



Paymaster Harvey Harris

The Department of Kansas is making progress with renewing members for 2023/2024 year. As of 1 April 2024, the Department strength stands at 219 Life members, eighty-one paid members for a total of three hundred paid members and we have thirty-four not paid for the current year. New members, June 2023 through April 2024 stands at 11. The thirty-four overdue members must renew their membership with the League prior to August 31, or be dropped from the National Roster. If a member is not a member in good standing (current) they cannot hold an office in their Detachment. All annual current members are

due for renewal by August 31 of each year. Do not wait until August to renew, get your renewal to your Paymaster early.

Detachment Paymasters and Commandants receive a copy of their detachment roster each quarter. If you need an additional printout, please contact the Department Paymaster and one will be furnished. Paymasters, if you have a question regarding a member's status, please contact me and I will furnish a Detachment Account Payable report that will show all payment transactions by member's name, date of payment, invoice number and check number. Make sure your 990's and Secretary of State Registrations are current for the year. Report of Officer Installations are due upon Detachment Elections. Life member audit report must be

submitted to Department Paymaster after receipt of the June 30 roster, Commandant's and Paymaster need to review, sign, and return the form to Department Paymaster allowing your detachment to receive the Life member refund. Detachment Chaplains need to complete a Notice of Death form and the Paymasters completes a Transmittal with the members name and date of death forward both to Department Paymaster. Please use the current forms found on the Department web site, www.mcleaguekansas.com Email reports to department, only one copy required, a hard copy of the Transmittal is required by snail mail due to payment for membership renewals/new members. All new member and R/I renewals require a signed membership application. New members or new Life members need a date of birth listed on the Transmittal. Marine Corps League is in the process of changing over to using a Member Profile ID for database entries. Division, Department, Detachments, and members all have a Profile ID. Example of unit Profile ID numbers: Midwest Division 19751, Department: 19753, Detachments: 105 19769, SEK 19770, 682 19771, 730 19772, 740 19773, 773 19774 and 1025 19775. Your Member Profile ID number is listed on the National Roster. Ask your paymaster for yours.

Semper Fi, Harvey Harris Department Paymaster



Chaplain Al Sanchez

Detachment Chaplains

Report all membership deaths utilizing the <u>Notice of Death</u> form. Complete the form and email to:

Department Chaplain Al Sanchez

asanchez.usmc@proton.me

OR

Complete the Notice of Death paper form; keep one (1) copy and mail the balance to: Department Chaplain Al Sanchez 31150 W. 170TH Terrace

Gardner, KS 66030-8101

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 <u>transmittal</u> listing the deceased member with the Code **NOD** and date of death. If the NOD is the only item on the transmittal and there is not a check involved, email the transmittal to the Paymaster at <u>hharris@MCLeague.org</u>



Department of Kansas Detachments

Mount Suribachi Detachment #105

Chartered 9 February 1955 Commandant: Larry Thompson <u>msglarry1@gmail.com</u> Adjutant Paymaster Howard King howarddeanking@gmail.com

Meets 2nd Tuesday at 1900 hours VFW Post 1141 620 A St Smith Center, KS 66967 Detachment Contact 785.282.0975

The Mount Suribachi Detachment is going through a time of poor health. John Overmiller is having issues with his leg and is unable to walk. Jay Williamson had a head trauma during

December and is finally on the mend in the last month. Alfred Reif's wife Anne passed away since the last Scuttlebutt. We all grieve with him during his time of loss. Elizabeth Phy has been dealing with an ailing foot for months now. We wish her well! Paymaster Howard King kidneys nearly failed and was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney by ambulance where he spent 16 days. The kidneys were failing because of a multiple myeloma of the blood of which He is now undergoing chemo. Kidneys are slowly being restored and he is responding to the chemo very well with few side effects. As an active duty Marine during the Vietnam Era and stationed at New River Air Station, he is jumping through the hoops of the Camp Lejeune Toxic water and the PACT Act. Thanks for all of your help, Larry! We wish all of them well and Gods speed!

The latest roster shows us at 20 paid members with one unpaid. We also have another application signed but need to track down the DD 214 and a check for the dues.

Semper Fi to all and WOOF, WOOF!

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

Chartered 6 January 1986 Commandant: Tony Cook <u>cookytony@gmail.com</u> Adjutant Paymaster Chad Follmer <u>nl breaker@yahoo.com</u>

Meets 3rd Sunday at 1700 hours VFW Post 1186 113 E Myrtle Independence, KS 67301 Detachment Contact 620.331.6951



Gen. Lewis W. Walt Detachment #682 Chartered 18 January 1989 Commandant: Paul McGuire <u>paulmcguire574@yahoo.com</u> Adjutant Paymaster Harvey Harris <u>hharris@MCLeaque.org</u>

Meets 4th Thursday at 1900 hours VFW Post 1650 3110 SW Huntoon Topeka, KS 66604 Detachment Contact 785.640.6077

January 2024 has arrived the same as 2023 left us, with a lack of members residing in Topeka or unable to travel. The General Lewis W. Walt Detachment has been unable to maintain sufficient members and/or detachment officers to conduct meetings. Therefore, the detachment is being carried as INACTIVE. Unfortunately, younger Marines have shown little interest when approached for membership in the League. We continue trying to get the General Lewis W. Walt Detachment back on track.

Semper Fidelis Paul McGuire

Tri Rivers Detachment #730

Chartered 10 November 1990 Commandant: John Voisine jvoisine@cox.net Adjutant Paymaster: Cindy Klingaman cindyklingaman@gmail.com

Meets 3rd Tuesday at 1900 hours VFW 1108 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401 Detachment Contact 785.826.5087

In February, the Tri-Rivers Detachment held elections and the following are the results: Commandant: John P. Voisine Senior Vice: Randall Carlson Junior Vice: Vern Flaherty Adjutant/Paymaster: Cindy Klingaman Chaplain: Ron Styles Judge Advocate: Gilbert Cunningham Jr. Past Commandant: Harriett Voisine Sgt-at- Arms: Douglas Randolph

Recently a member of our detachment, Al Reif, of Osborne, KS lost his wife who passed away on 20 Jan 2024. The detachment Honor Guard is currently gearing up for a memorial service. George McDonald, who was a member of our detachment when it was originally formed, passed away. He was a FMF Corpsman and was in the first wave that landed on Iwo Jima. He was eventually wounded and evacuated.

Semper Fi, John P. Voisine Commandant Edwin A Schumacher Detachment #740 Chartered 11 November 1990 Commandant: Bob Munsch <u>bmunsch@ruraltel.net</u> 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

One detachment from each of the seven (7) departments received special recognition by the Midwest Division Vice National Commandant for their outstanding efforts during 2023. The E.A. Schumacher Detachment #740 received a Department Unit Commendation for its 2023 recruiting efforts and work with Toys for Tots this past Holiday season. Pictured below is Department of Kansas Commandant, Wes Topel, accepting the award on behalf of the E.A. Schumacher Detachment #740.



May is gearing up to be a busy time for E.A. Schumacher #740. They invite all MCL members to attend their Armed Forces Day Dinner and Dance on May 18, 2024 in Hay, KS. Please see the poster on the next page.

The detachment will also be participating in the American Legion Memorial Day Service and well as the annual memorial ceremony at the State Veterans Cemetery in Wakeeney, KS.

The Marine Corps League #740

AKMERICAN DINNER & DANCE

Saturday, May 18, 2024 6pm Social Hour / 7pm Dinner / Dancing 8-11pm Hays VFW Hall

50/25/25 Raffle And Drawing Prizes

Silent Auction

Recognition of Our Branches of Service

Quilts of Valor Presentation

\$ 30 Per Person

Tickets Info: Ray Karlin 951-551-9963

Semi Formal

Air Capital Detachment #773

Chartered 30 June 1994 Commandant: Nathan Bogard oldcorps0841@gmail.com 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

The Air Capital detachment stayed connected through the winter months with monthly detachment meetings, rotating breakfast at local restaurants and dinners at the American Legion Post 4. The detachment continued raising funds with their monthly 1st Thursday Chili Feed at Post 4. Starting in April this will turn to a Taco Feed and continue until October or whenever cold weather hits and people crave chili again. On March 2, 2024, detachment #773 supported the JROTC Air Capital Drill Meet at Northeast Magnet by grilling hamburgers and hotdogs. Over 150 hungry cadets and spectators were served. We also brought a old dog tag machine and raised funds by selling personalized tags for \$15 per set.

Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025

Chartered 13 December 1999 Commandant: Kimberley Mancuso <u>kimberleymancuso@gmail.com</u> (913) 215-8977 Paymaster: Tara Knighton <u>taraknighton@gmail.com</u>

Meets 4th Wednesday at 1830 hours VFW Post 7397 9550 Pflumm Road Lenexa, KS 66215

The General Larry Oppenheimer Marine Corps League Detachment #1025 recently coordinated the Iwo Jima 79 th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony at Leavenworth National Cemetery followed by a sponsored reception that honored the service of league member SSGT Jerry Ingram (see photos below). The League is also gearing up for a busy spring with another Detachment fun shoot at Frontier Justice and hopefully the start of our Young Marines Unit.

As always, we would welcome participation/attendance from both League members and any FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains that are interested at any of our monthly events. Please note the location of our monthly Breakfast with the Best has changed.

Date	Time	Location	Event	
2 [™] Wed of the month	1830	VFW (9550 Pflumm Rd Lenexa, KS)	Officer's Meeting	
3 [™] Wed. of the month	0900	Santa Fe Café (9946 W. 87 th St Overland Park, KS)	Breakfast with the Best	
4 [™] Wed of the month	1800	VFW (9550 Pflumm Rd Lenexa, KS)	Chat and Chow	
4 th Wed of the month	1830	VFW (9550 Pflumm Rd Lenexa, KS)	General Larry Oppenheimer Detachment Meeting	

If you have any questions about these events feel free to reach out to me.

Semper Fi! Kimberley Mancuso MCL Detachment #1025- Commandant (913) 215-8977 <u>Kimberleymancuso@gmail.com</u>





The Military Order of the Devil Dogs



Kennel Website: <u>www.moddkennel.org</u> Kansas Pack Website: <u>http://www.mcleaguekansas.com/modd.html</u>

Kansas Pack Officers 2023-2024

Pack Leader: PDD Bill Koonce billkoonce@gmail.com 316.435.2086

Pack Dog Robber: PDD Harvey Harris hharris@MCLeague.org 785.640.6077

Sr. Vice: PDD Wes Topel Jr. Vice: PDD Joe Hughes Smart Dog: PDD Joel Wilson Dog Trainer: PDD Al Sanchez Mad Dog: PDD Doc Holsey Police Dog: DD Richard Cornelius Watch Dog: PDD Larry Thompson Barking Dog: DD Kimberly Mancuso

KANSAS PACK DOG ROBBER UPDATE REPORT

Woof, woof from the Pack Dog Robber. It is about time the doghouse has an information source to get the doghouse news out to the Pack dogs. The Kansas Pack lost two Pounds, 094 Wichita Pound and 378 Lenexa Pound, but gained two new Pounds, 401 Twister Dogs Wichita and the SSGT Max Deweese Pound 402, Lenexa.

During the Supreme Growl in Oklahoma City the Kansas Pack gained five new Pedigree Devil Dogs, (PDD). Our new PDD's are Wes Topel, John Voisine, Harriett (Lucy) Voisine, Al Sanchez and Joel Wilson. Congratulations to all. If a Devil Dog would like to advance during the National Convention in Palm Springs, CA August 14, 2024, please get your application for advancement to your Pack Dog Robber.

Pounds of the Kansas Pack. 196 Pound in Independence consists of 4 PDD's, 9 DD's and 1 Pup. Salina Pound 365 has 4 PDD's, 3 DD's and 3 Pups'. Wichita Pound 401 has 9 PDD's, 9 DD's and 1 Pup. Lenexa Pound 402 has 6 PDD's, 6 DD's and 3 Pup's. The Kansas Pack currently stands at 58 dogs.

To become a Devil Dog, you must first be a member of the League for one year, be a member in good standing and recommended by two members of your detachment. Membership dues are \$10.00 per year and \$2.00 Pack dues per year. For 2022/2023 the Military Order of Devil Dogs (MODD) donated \$74,000 to the Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City, this is where our bones (money) collected during a growl goes.

Woof, woof

PDD Harvey Harris KS PK Dog Robber

KANSAS PACK MEMBERS ENJOYED CAMARADERIE AT THE 2024 MIDWEST DIVISION GROWL





Eight members of the Department of Kansas attended the Midwest Division Conference Annual Banquet Saturday Evening, April 6, 2024.

Pictured Left to Right:Bill Koonce, Wes Topel, Eldon "Doc" Holsey, Bryson Allen, Joe Hughes, Brian Mancuso, Kimberly Mancuso, Harvey Harris. Joe Hughes (pictured right), of the Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025, Department of Kansas, passes the gavel as National Vice Commandant of the Midwest Division to Jim Maevers (pictured left), Department of Missouri.





TAPS

Micheal T. Chism

Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025 December 29, 1972 - February 27, 2024

Kenton L. Holloway

B. Gen. William A. Kurtis / SEK Detachment #612 December 2, 1955 - February 4, 2024

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



Department of Kansas 2024 Conference

31 MAY 2024 - 1900 - UTC Friday Night Cornhole Tournament and Hamburger Feed-NO CHARGE Free Soda and Cash Bar will be Available Prize for 1st Place Cornhole Player

> 1 JUNE 2024 Registration opens at 0900 Door Prizes, Donuts and Coffee - NO CHARGE

> > Department MCL Business Meeting 0930 to 1130

> > > Lunch

1130 to 1230 Catered Fried Chicken Dinner and Fixings- \$15 Fixings include Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Beans, Mac and Cheese and Rolls

> Pack Grand Growl Passport Stamping starts at 1245 Growl 1300 - UTC

> > VFW Post 1186 113 E. Myrtle Independence, KS 67301

10 Rooms Blocked Off - be sure to mention "Marine Corps League" and tell them rooms are blocked for special rate when making reservation

Hotel is completely booked for the night of 5/31/24 so make reservations by 5/17/2024 All unbooked blocked rooms will be released after 5/17/2024 Standard King - \$100 Double Queen - \$108 Comfort Inn & Suites Independence 3000 West Main Street, Independence, KS, 67301, US

(620) 332-2222

Hotel Amenities include: FREE WIFI, FREE HOT BREAKFAST, PET FRIENDLY ROOMS



2024 MCL National Convention and MODD Supreme Growl

WESTIN RANCHO MIRAGE GOLF RESORT AND SPA

7133 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

You may book two (2) rooms with your name. 30 days prior to the convention, you must provide the hotel with the second name.

HOTEL RESERVATION LINK

HOTEL RESERVATION PHONE: (888) 627-7086

RESERVATION CODE: "MCL" or "Marine Corps League"

Dates: Monday August 12, 2024 to Friday, August 16, 2024

Rates are \$159 single and \$169 double & include breakfast Monday through Saturday inclusive of taxes, resort fee, and parking.



2025 National Mid-Winter Conference

2/27/2025 - 3/1/2025 (check-in 2/26, check out 3/2)

Sheraton Pentagon City 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

The hotel overlooks Arlington National Cemetery

- Parking: On-site garage parking is \$10 per day
- Any cancellations after February 10, 2025, will forfeit the one-night deposit
- Free shuttle to/from Reagan Airport (DCA)
- Go to <u>https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/conference/</u> for more details and schedule.



Save the Date - The 2025 Midwest Division Conference will be held on April 11-12, 2025 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. More details, agenda, and registration coming soon to the Midwest Division website at:

http://www.midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org/

The SGT MAJ of the Marine Corps is coming to Kansas! Make plans to come and meet him!





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. <u>https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/</u>

Department of Kansas Website http://www.mcleaguekansas.com/home.html

Midwest Division Website http://www.midwestdivisionmarinecorpsleague.org/

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