



The SUNFLOWER

"SCUTTLEBUTT"

Official "Mouthpiece" of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League
Fall Edition 2023

Editor: Wes Topel, 3331 N. Flat Creek Cir, Wichita Kansas 67205-8703
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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: docmf.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



Greetings everyone. I am your newly elected Department Commandant. I reside in Wichita with my wife Janie. We have three adult children who all attend Wichita State University. I recently retired from a 27-year career in public school education. I look forward to serving the Kansas Department. If you need me, don't hesitate to call or email. My address and email is listed above and my phone is 785-208-0127.

My intent is to get out and visit all the detachments over the course of my tenure. Since taking office in June, Bill Koonce, Senior ViceCommandant/Pack Leader, and I have made two visits to Detachment #612 and I made a solo trip to Detachment #105 to help conduct funeral honors for the 6th Department Commandant, Howard Grauerholz. We hope to get out often to see the great things our detachments are doing.

We have brought back the Sunflower Scuttlebutt as it is important to stay connected. Unfortunately, we don't have the manpower or resources to print and mail this publication so it will be delivered electronically. I do ask the detachment leadership to print and distribute the quarterly publication to any members who do not have an active email address.

You will see from this Scuttlebutt issue there are several officers pulling double duty, serving at the state level in both MCL and MODD positions. One of my goals this year is to challenge detachment members to attend

the annual Department Conference/Pack Grand Growl and consider stepping up and serving a term in a department or pack office.

The 100th Annual Convention is in the books. It was quite an experience to be in Oklahoma City. We had 12 Kansas delegates attend representing 6 of our 7 detachments .



Semper Fi,

Wes Topel
Department Commandant/Sr Vice Pack Leader



Sr Vice Bill Koonce

Marines and Devil Doc's,

Hello and Woof Woof Devil Dog's. Due to my dual role as Worthy Pack Leader and Sr. Vice I will just write (scratch) one letter. We just celebrated 100 years as an organization and the only one that is recognized by Congress which is something to be celebrated and proud of.

We just came back from National Conference/ National Growl. We advanced six Devil Dogs to Pedigree Devil Dog (PDD). It was a good time for fellowship and the exchanging of ideas.

The Commandant and I have made the commitment to visit your Detachments and Growls this first year. Please email me your Growl dates so we can make arrangements. Our second goal is to make sure we have better communication with our Detachments and Pounds. For this to work we need to have your feedback, especially if you are having issues with National or Kennel. If you have a special event, please let us know and we will see what we can do about attending.

We have already visited SEK Detachment and Topeka Pound where we imitated a Pup and advanced two Pups to Devil Dog. Remember if you want to be a Life Member in the Dog's you must be a Pedigree which can only be done at a National Convention or Medical Waiver.

National and Kennel are paying particular attention to Federal Tax filing reports. Please make sure you file your 990's and the State Filings as well when they are due. Remember all Annual Dues for Detachments and Pounds are now past due, August 31st was the deadline. If you have not submitted your Dues and Bones please do so immediately.

Remember Marines and Devil Docs it takes a team to make things happen. Do as much as you can as your time allows. Just the little thing of helping can always make a huge difference in your Detachment and Pound.

Semper Fi/Woof Woof

Bill Koonce

Worthy Pack Leader/Sr. Vice



Jr Vice Nathan Bogard

No Report



Judge Advocate Joel Wilson

No Report



Adj. / Paymaster Harvey Harris

Greetings to all Department members, it is a great day when we again start up SCUTTLEBUTT, our information network.

Department Status Update:

Department Conference, 06-03-2023. Department Officers elected and installed.

Commandant: Wesley "Wes" Topel
Sr. Vice: William "Bill" Koonce
Jr. Vice: Nathan Bogard
Judge Advocate: Joel Wilson
Adj/Paymaster: Harvey Harris
Chaplain: Al Sanchez
Sgt-at-Arms: Eldon "Doc" Holsey
Jr. Past Cmdt: George Waugh
Web Sgt: Joe Hughes

Department September 2023 strength:

Mount Suribachi 105 (19769) 6 LIFE members, 15 Paid members, 3 members not paid. Total 21 members
SEK 612 (19770) 22 Life members, 15 Paid members. Total 37 members
General Lewis W. Walt 682 (19771) 54 LIFE members, 2 Paid members Total 56
Tri-Rivers 730 (19772) 15 LIFE members, 14 Paid members 29 members.
Edwin A. Schumacher 740 (19773) 6 LIFE members 12 Paid members, Total 18
Air Capitol 773 (19774) LIFE members 54, 11 paid members, 8 not paid Total 65
General Larry Oppenheimer 1025 (19775) 56 LIFE members, 44 paid members, 14 not paid, Total 100 members.

Department of Kansas membership status.

**LIFE MEMBERS: 223; PAID MEMBERS: 103; TOTAL PAID: 326.
MEMBERS NOT PAID 25.**

Non-life members are due 09-01-2023. To be a voting member or an officer in a detachment or department you must be a member in good standing, that means you must be current. I have a list of all non-life members in the Department and will furnish it to the Detachment Paymaster's on request.
National Database. Member information in the database, phone number, email or mailing address may be updated by the Detachment Paymaster in the Portal, if you need assistance, please contact me and I will assist you in updating your member information. I need to update members' email, phone numbers and member's date of birth. Please send you information to the Department Paymaster at HHarris@MCLLeague.org when completed.

Additional Paymaster duties due at this time, Detachment Report of Officer Installations (ROI), Secretary of State Not for Profit renewals (due each year). Life Member Audit information was sent to each Detachment Paymaster, waiting on four Detachments to respond.

Paymasters may request a current Detachment Roster any time they need one and I will email you one. Transmittals start with a new numbering system on July 1, of each year. The numbering system sequence is 0000-24-001-01: 0000 Your detachment number, 24 FY, 001 number of reports, 01 number of pages. 1 copy is sent to the Department Paymaster along with two checks, one for National one for Department dues. Where the transmittal asks for # of years Paying, only the number of years the member is paying for will be entered there, Example 1 year. This is not the total number of years the member has been in the league. Department Paymaster information goes under the Detachment Paymaster information on the Transmittal. I hope to have a ZOOM setup available soon for Department meetings and can be used by Paymasters to get the word out and assist with any questions that come up.

WELCOME BACK
Semper Fi,
Harvey Harris



Chaplain Al Sanchez

The Chaplain plays an important role in the Detachment by tending to the needs of members and members' families, particularly during periods of distress, illness, and/or death. It is every member's responsibility to keep the Chaplain informed of situations and issues of need within the Detachment. The Detachment Chaplain will complete all Notice of Death (NOD) as soon as possible and forward it to the Department Chaplain so National MCL will have the information to send condolences cards to the surviving spouse or family.

This support should go beyond members and family - it should include the entire Marine Corps community (current or former) within the Detachment's geographic area. This may necessitate reviewing obituaries, or having hospitals make contact when a Marine is there. He/she should be supported by other officers and members during these times of distress. It is part of the adage that "Marines take care of their own."



The Chaplain also PERFORMS THE DUTIES OF A SPIRITUAL NATURE, VISIT SICK MEMBERS OR FAMILIES, and CORRESPONDS APPROPRIATELY.

Recently the Chaplain and MCL members assisted a 93-year-old Kansas City Marine where the family identified him as a "Marine in Need," as requested assistance.



Detachment Chaplains

Report all membership deaths utilizing the [Notice of Death](#) 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 [transmittal](#) 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 hharris@MCLeague.org



Department of Kansas Detachments

Mount Suribachi Detachment #105

Chartered 9 February 1955

Commandant: Larry Thompson

msglarry1@gmail.com

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

In the past year we have lost two charter members, Dale Lyons and Bill Lyons. This month we also lost life member Howard H. Grauerholz who had been a past Department Commandant 1994-1995. He also held nearly every position within DET #105. He was also a life member in the Kensington American Legion Post #166. We also plan to assist with the Old Settlers Day in Smith Center and the Veterans Day celebration in Kensington. Our membership is remaining consistent as we lose a few and gain a few.



Left: Current Department Commandant, Wes Topel, presented the burial flag to the spouse of past Department Commandant Howard H. Grauerholz. Howard served as the sixth Department Commandant from June 1994 to June 1995.



Right: The Mount Suribachi Detachment still actively participates with the American Legion and VFW to render honors at the annual Memorial Day services in Smith County.



Left: Mount Suribachi Detachment members recently replaced all three MCL signs on the highways entering Smith Center.

Howard King, pictured on the right, became the newest Mount Suribachi member to be initiated as a pup into the Military Order of Devil Dogs at the Grand Growl of the Kansas Pack on June 3, 2023.



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

Chartered 6 January 1986

Commandant: Tony Cook

cookytony@gmail.com

Adjutant Paymaster Chad Follmer

nl_breaker@yahoo.com

Meets 3rd Sunday at 1700 hours

VFW Post 1186 113 E Myrtle

Independence, KS 67301

Detachment Contact 620.331.6951



**Funeral Services for Walter Hudiburg September 16 2023
Members servicing honors: Phillip Fienan, Mike Prunty, Steve Fincher, Chad Follmer, Gene Sandborn, and Johnathan Pendergrass.**



Detachment #612 stays busy throughout the year with many activities to support MCL members and the community. Above Left: Two MCL members enjoying conversation at the VFW Hamburger Feed. Above Right: The 2022 Marine Corps Birthday Ball held at the VFW. Left and Below: The Neewallah Parade in October serves as the “Kick off” of the Montgomery County Toys for Tots drive.



Gen. Lewis W. Walt Detachment #682
Chartered 18 January 1989

Commandant: Paul McGuire
paulmcguire574@yahoo.com
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

NO REPORT

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

NO REPORT

Edwin A Schumacher Detachment #740
Chartered 11 November 1990
Commandant: Bob Munsch
bmunsch@ruraltel.net

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

Currently the E. A. Schumacher Detachment 740 is preparing for the annual Hays, Kansas 2023 Octoberfest, September 29th and 30th. Our Detachment prepares fried Bologna sandwiches, 1/2 “ cut and fried on a griddle, served on toasted Texas toast, condiments are numerous including sauté onions. This year we hope to sell approximately 600 sandwiches. We have been successful with this occasion as a money maker for our league as well as meeting, greeting and even finding new members for our league.

Semper Fi
Bob Munsch
Commandant
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 performed a rifle detail for the Memorial Day ceremony at the Wichita Veteran's park. They also provided rifle salutes for two funerals over the summer.



To raise funds to offset the cost of the birthday ball, the detachment is raffling off this Colt 1911 45. It's a Government Model MKIV Series 70/Model O. Drawing is October 25, 2023. Cost is \$20 per ticket. No more than 300 tickets will be sold. Contact Bill Koonce at 316-435-2086 or billkoonce@gmail.com. He can do PayPal, Venmo, or Cash App.

Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025
Chartered 13 December 1999

Commandant: Kimberley Mancuso
kimberleymancuso@gmail.com
(913) 215-8977
Paymaster: Tara Knighton
taraknighton@gmail.com

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

Greetings!

As the Commandant for the General Larry Oppenheimer Marine Corps League Detachment #1025 I look forward to continuing the traditions of the Marine Corps League in service to our fellow brothers and sisters and to our community as a whole. I'm also excited to share that our Detachment is in the process of putting together a Young Marines Unit as well as a Detachment shooting team.

In addition to our regular monthly detachment meeting, we have multiple special events in the next few months and would welcome participation/attendance from both League members and any FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains that are interested.

Upcoming Special Events:

Date	Time	Location	Event
3 rd Wednesday of each month	0900	Eggtc. (7182 Renner Shawnee, KS)	Breakfast with the Best
24 Sept	1100-1400	Heritage Park- Shelter 3 (16050 Pflumm Olathe, KS)	Detachment Family Picnic
8 Nov	1800	Stone Pillar Winery (11000 S. Woodland Rd Olathe, KS)	Marine Corps Birthday Celebration

11 Nov	1000	Forrest Park (400 N. Locust St Ottawa, KS)	Ottawa's Veterans Day Parade
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If you have any questions about these events or are interested in participating please reach out to me.

Semper Fi!
Kimberley Mancuso

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs



Kennel Website: www.moddkennel.org

Kansas Pack Website: <http://www.mcleaguekansas.com/modd.html>

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

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. First the Pack elected new Pack Officers at the Department Conference, June 3, 2023. WPL: PDD Bill Koonce, WSV: PDD Wes Topel, WJV: PDD Joe Hughes, WSD:PDD Joel Wilson, WDT: PDD Al Sanchez, WMD: PDD Doc Holsey, WPD: DD RichardCornelius, WWD: DD Kimberley Mancuso, WBD: PDD George Waugh and WDR:PDD Harvey Harris.

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. The Supreme Growl held in Oklahoma City is now complete and it is time all Pounds hold a growl and elect new officers. Dog Robbers remember the time is here to register with the Kansas Secretary of State and file your 990-N with the IRS. 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.

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



Members of the Twister Dogs Pound #401, Military Order of Devil Dogs, presented a check in the amount of \$500 to Nichol Scrivner of Beauties and Beasts, Inc. Beauties and Beasts, Inc is a state-licensed 501(c)(3) animal rescue group located in Wichita, Kansas. Their purpose is to rescue Death Row animals from the shelter and place them in foster homes that will provide them the love and care they need to become happy, healthy, adoptable animals. They do not discriminate against breed, age, medical, or behavior... **THEY LOVE THEM ALL THE SAME!**

Pictured from left to right are DD Rob Anderson, PDD Bill Koonce, PDD Byson Allen - Twister Dogs Pound #401 Pound Keeper, Nichol Scrivner, PDD Eldon "Doc" Holsey, and DD Wes Topel. Front and center is "Claude" a rescued Pitbull from Beauties and Beasts, Inc.



TAPS

Howard H. Grauerholz
 Mount Suribachi Detachment 105
 August 30,1931-August 27,2023

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



National Mid-Winter Conference

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone: 800-325-3535 Reference National Marine Corps League

2/22/2024 – 2/24/2024



The Midwest 2024 Spring Conference will be held in Jefferson City, Mo.

April 5-6, 2024

Hosted by Samuel F. Gearhart Det. #656, Jefferson City, Mo.

Location:

Capitol Plaza Hotel

415 W McCarty St.

Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Reservations open

Room rate: \$105/night +tax, Breakfast Buffet included for 2 per room.

Phone: 563-635-1235

Dinner on Friday and Lunch on Saturday included in hospitality

Auction - 1900 Friday. Donations welcomed

Corn hole tournament if enough interested.

**Uniform for the opening and memorial service will be Cover and Red Blazer for
Division Officers and Staff.**

Uniform for meetings will be cover, white shirt or polo shirt.

Cost:

Banquet \$35.00

Hospitality \$20.00

Marine Corps League Registration Fee \$5.00 per MCL Member

[Register HERE!](#)



**Department of Kansas
2024 Conference
1 June 2024
VFW Post 1186
113 E. Myrtle
Independence, KS 67301**

Details to come in the spring Sunflower Scuttlebutt edition



**2024 MCL National Convention
and
MODD Supreme Grawl**

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 (one person in room) & include breakfast Monday through Saturday for one (1) and are inclusive of taxes, resort fee, and parking.

Rates are \$169 double (two persons in room) & include breakfast Monday through Saturday for two (2) and are inclusive of taxes, resort fee, and parking.



**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