



The SUNFLOWER

"SCUTTLEBUTT"

Official "Mouthpiece" of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League
Fall Edition 2024

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DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2024-2025

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SR. VICE COMMANDANT: Bill Koonce

e-mail: billkoonce@gmail.com

JR. VICE COMMANDANT: Joel Wilson

e-mail: wilsonjoel.1@gmail.com

SGT. AT ARMS: Eldon "Doc" Holsey

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e-mail: Kimberleymancuso@gmail.com

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e-mail: hharris@MCLLeague.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,

We are moving right along into the Fall and Winter months. This is typically the busiest time of the year for our detachments. Veteran Day celebrations, Toys for Tots drives, USMC Birthday Balls, detachment Christmas parties are all on the horizon. Members, this is the time your detachment needs you the most. Remember **TEAM** means **T**ogether **E**ach **A**ccomplishes **M**ore.

It was an honor to represent the Department at the 101st National Convention in Palm Springs, CA. The major items voted on were the location for the 2026 National Convention, the 25 proposed Bylaw amendments and the election of National Officers. Here is my report of the voting:

1. The location of the 2026 National Convention will be Indianapolis, Indiana, August 10-14, 2026.
2. Bylaw Amendments. There were 25 proposed bylaw/ administrative procedure amendments. Fourteen (14) were approved as written or with additional changes. Three (3) were not approved and the rest were pulled by the maker of the proposed bylaw or administrative procedure and were not voted on. If you want details on the outcome of a particular proposed change, please contact me.

- Election of National Officers. There was an election held as Warren Griffin announced in the Spring that he would not seek a second term as National Commandant. Due to personal life changes over the Summer, he changed his mind and sought a second term at the convention. So, there was an election for National Commandant between Warren Griffin and TJ Morgan (National Senior Vice Commandant). By a large margin, TJ Morgan was elected as the National Commandant. I voted all 274 Kansas votes in favor of TJ Morgan. As a result of this outcome, Russ Miller was elected as National Senior Vice Commandant unopposed and Dave Porter was elected as Junior Vice Commandant unopposed. Because of these officers moving up the chairs, there was an election to fill the National Judge Advocate position. The two candidates were Bruce Rakfeldt and Bob Ziltz. The results of this election were very close with Bruce Rakfeldt winning. I voted all 274 Kansas votes for Bob Ziltz.

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



Sr Vice Bill Koonce

Woof Woof

Marines and Devil Dogs

The year is coming to an end. Things will be getting busy for detachments with birthday celebrations, Toys for Tots, and detachment Christmas parties. Please email us your dates for celebrations to see if any members outside your area might be interested in attending.

The Department Conference is June 6th and 7th, 2025. I am currently working on getting things arranged and would like input on what y'all would like to do on Friday night for a meet and greet. The Conference will be at the American Legion Thomas Hopkins Post 4, in Wichita KS.

I would like to congratulate all the Pounds as the Kansas Pack took 2nd Place in the Kennel for membership retention. Commandant Topel received the award for us at the Grand Growl in Palm Springs in August. Let's keep up the good work.

To all Pounds reference dues cards, there are several changes being made so they are coming. Remember all Pound elections need to be completed by Nov 10th and submitted on the new forms.

Bill Koonce
Pack Leader/Sr. Vice



Judge Advocate Kimberley Mancuso

I have nothing to report as Department of Kanas Judge Advocate so I thought I'd share a couple of inspirational quotes instead that are especially pertinent as Toys for Tots season is about to begin.

Ronald Regan once said "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem." Secretary of State Donald Regan also said "It is friendship, and something beyond friendship...that binds the Marine Corps together."

Toys for Tots is a major endeavor and it takes a strong collaboration between Marine Corps Reserve Units, Marine Corps League Detachments and civilian volunteers. We appreciate all the time and effort each and every one of you put into preparation and execution of this valuable mission of making Christmas bright for local children. We couldn't do this without you. So, here's to a successful Toys for Tots season making lots of children smile!



Semper Fi!
Kimberley Mancuso
Dept. of Kansas Judge Advocate
MCL Detachment #1025- Commandant
(913) 215-8977
Kimberleymancuso@gmail.com



Paymaster Harvey Harris

Greetings Members of the Department of Kansas, Marine Corps League.

It is time for the third quarter status report. MEMBERSHIP: Paymaster's, please check your September Detachment Roster for accuracy, National is a little behind in updating.

Currently Department records indicate membership status as follows:

Mount Suribachi 105, Profile (19769) five (5) members not current and sixteen (16) current. SEK 612, (19770) one (1) member not current and thirty-six current. General Lewis W.

Walt 682, (19771) zero (0) not current and fifty-five (55) members current. Tr-Rivers 730, (19772) six (6) members not current and twenty-seven (27) members current. Edwin A. Schumacher 740, (19773) sixteen (16) members not current and eight (8) members current. Air Capital 773, (19774) two (2) members not current and sixty-one (61) current members. General Larry Oppenheimer 1025, (19775) five (5) members not current and sixty-six (66) current members.

Department numbers as of 09-25-2024 are Life members - 218, 71 non-life members not current and 268 are current members. The membership numbers may not be correct due to recent renewals not processed by National. The reason Paymasters need to check rosters for accuracy is recently a member tried to renew membership after a three-year absence and listed on the National database as a deceased member. The Department had no record of a deceased report, it is unknown how this error occurred, but it will be corrected. Members will be dropped from National roles after 180 days due to non-payment. If the member is dropped from the roster, to be reinstated the member must furnish a signed member application along with a transmittal.

Additional items required to report to Department and National are IRS 990's, Secretary of State registrations and Life member audits. Paymaster's, please send a copy of these reports not on file to the Department.

Reports that Department does not have on file for current year (also see color coded tables below):

Mount Suribachi 105, IRS 990
Edwin A. Schumacher 740, IRS 990
Air Capital 773, IRS 990
General Larry Oppenheimer 1025, IRS 990

Current year reports may have been forwarded to the Department, but I do not have them in file. Please send a copy of the request reports to complete my records. Paymasters are doing a fantastic job. Keep up the excellent work. All reports may be emailed to Department at HHarris@MCLeague.org the only exception is the Transmittal it must continue to use snail mail due to membership payment.

Semper Fi,
 Department Paymaster
 Harvey Harris

Report of Officer Installation
105
612
682
730
740
773
1025
Department

Secretary of State Report	Next Report Due
105	6/15/26
612	12/15/24
682	6/15/25
730	6/15/26
740	6/15/26
773	6/15/25
1025	6/15/25
Department	6/15/26

Life Member Audit
105
612
682
730
740
773
1025

IRS 990
105
612
682
730
740
773
1025

	Completed - in good standing
	Not Completed - Not Yet Due
	Not Completed - Overdue



Chaplain Al Sanchez

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

NO REPORT THIS QTR

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

Chartered 6 January 1986

Commandant: Doug Harlin

jtdug@att.net

Adjutant/Paymaster: Darla Fullerton

Fullerton2111@gmail.com

Meets 3rd Sunday at 1700 hours

VFW Post 1186 113 E Myrtle

Independence, KS 67301

Detachment Contact 620.331.6951

NO REPORT THIS QTR

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

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

jvoisine1@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

On 27 September 2024 the detachment lost a life member, David W. Eberhart. Funeral Services were held Saturday, October 5th, 2024 at the Jewell Christian Church with burial following in Jewell City Cemetery.

The detachment recently added a new member to our rolls. Jeanette Robinson joined the Marines in 1963 and currently lives in Abilene, Ks.

A detachment color guard was provided for the Memorial Day celebration.

On 28 September 2024, the detachment supported the 19th annual Raminator Monster Truck event hosted at Marshall Motors in Salina, Ks. The turnout of detachment personnel was outstanding.

The detachment is currently gearing up for the 249th Marine Corps Ball.

Semper Fi,
John P. Voisine
Commandant

Edwin A Schumacher Detachment #740

Chartered 11 November 1990

Commandant: Bob Munsch

bmunsch@ruraltel.net

Adjutant Paymaster: Lance Koerner

lmkoerner3@gmail.com

Meets 1st Tuesday at 1930 hours

VFW Post

22nd & Vine

Hays, KS. 67601

Detachment Contact 785.261.0779

NO REPORT THIS QTR

Air Capital Detachment #773

Chartered 30 June 1994

Commandant: Nathan Bogard

oldcorps0341@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 stays busy during this quarter with monthly detachment meetings, rotating breakfasts at local restaurants and dinners at the American Legion Post 4. The detachment continued fund-raising with their monthly 1st Thursday Chili Feed at American Legion Post 4 and attended two gun shows to recruit new members and accept donations for the detachment.

The Wichita Police and Fire Foundation (WPFF) is raising funds to purchase and install three additional cameras specifically in the Veterans' Memorial Park. Their goal is \$40,000. There has been vandalism to this cherished area and this would assist the Wichita Police Department to provide footage as evidence in a case, collect footage to assist in investigations, provide descriptions of suspects to a responding officer, monitor all directions of travel coming in and out of the area and more rapidly deploy resources and target the deployment of resources to a more precise location. These cameras would be tied into the existing camera network, called Blue Light.



The Air Capital Detachment maintains a Marine and Corpsman memorial in the Veterans' Memorial Park. To date we have donated \$1,500 to WPFF for the additional cameras. **If you would like to help, you can mail a donation to Wichita Police and Fire Foundation (WPFF), PO Box 782736, Wichita, Kansas 67278. You can also visit the foundation online at <https://wichitapoliceandfire.org/>**

Gen. Larry Oppenheimer Detachment #1025

Chartered 13 December 1999

Commandant: Kimberley Mancuso

kimberleymancuso@gmail.com

(913) 215-8977

Adjutant/Paymaster: Mark Murphy

mamurphy003@gmail.com

Meets 4th Wednesday at 1830 hours

VFW Post 7397

9550 Pflumm Road

Lenexa, KS 66215

Semper Fi Marines. The General Larry Oppenheimer Marine Corps League Detachment #1025 has kept busy these past few months.



We recently had the honor of helping welcome home an Honor Flight. It was a great experience for all in attendance, especially Detachment members Tom Gaume, Gonzolo Reyes and Walter Schley who were part of the Honor Flight.





Left: At our July Detachment meeting, we also had the honor of presenting four outstanding students with a Master Sgt. Luis Romero Jr. educational scholarship.

Below: Detachment members Kevin Elmer and Stephen Sullins have been hard at work presenting Eagle Scout certificates and coins to Eagle Scouts throughout the metro area.



Our Detachment is also now gearing up for another great Toys for Tots season in conjunction with the Marines of CLR4. Here's to spreading lots of Christmas Joy to children throughout the metro area.

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.

Monthly Events:

Date	Time	Location	Event
2 nd Wed of the month	1830	VFW (9550 Pflumm Rd Lenexa, KS)	Officer's Meeting
3 rd Wed. of the month	0900	Santa Fe Café (9946 W. 87 th St Overland Park, KS)	Breakfast with the Best
4 th 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
Kimberleymancuso@gmail.com



Members of the Department of Kansas Marine Corps League were invited to the KC Chiefs training camp on August 15, 2024 for a special salute to service. Our Department's 2024 Marine of the Year, George Waugh was presented a special football from Coach Andy Reid.

We hope to be invited back next year to celebrate the 250th birthday of the USMC. However, there is a limited number of veterans we can send.

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

Smart Dog: DD Kimberly Mancuso

Mad Dog: PDD Eldon "Doc" Holsey

Barking Dog: PDD Joe Hughes

Jr. Vice: PDD Joel Wilson

Dog Trainer: PDD Al Sanchez

Police Dog: DD Roy Villarreal

KANSAS PACK DOG ROBBER UPDATE REPORT

Woof, woof Dogs of the Pack, congratulations Dog Robbers, all Pack Dogs are current. The Kansas Pack consists of four (4) Pounds, 196 Topeka Pound located in Independence, 365 Salina Pound located in Salina, 401 Twister Dog Pound located in Wichita and 402 SSgt Max DEWESSE Pound located in Lenexa.

Number of Dogs in the Pack as of September 1, 2014: PUPS 11, Devil Dogs 26 and PDD's 27. Pack total is 64 Dogs. Pack Dog Robber has received three eligible Pup requests for advancement to Devil Dog.

Dog Robbers please verify your current registration with the Secretary of State and IRS 990 status. I do not have current Pound information regarding the required annual filing. Please forward a current copy of the reports to Pack Dog Robber, I will forward a copy to Kennel. Kennel Dog Robber has indicated as of September 1, 2024, all required reports submitted on current Kennel forms all of which can be located on the Department web site under MODD



TRANSMITTAL PASSPORT FEES



Per the Kennel Bylaws, these funds must be sent directly to the Kennel Dog Robber immediately after the Growl. Attach the check to this form.

Pack Pound
Date of Growl Pound #
Dog Robber Email
Phone Number of Dogs in attendance

Stamping Fees: (\$1 per dog in attendance)	\$ 0.00
Passport fines	\$ 0.00
Past Chief Devil Dog Stamping fees	\$ 0.00
Donations to: Children's Hospital Fund	\$ 0.00
Operation Chow Hound	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 0.00

Check Number

Per the Kennel Bylaws, these funds must be sent directly to the Kennel Dog Robber immediately after the Growl. Attach the check to this form.

Email copy of this form to Pack Dog Robber

Kennel Dog Robber Janice Hartley
Address 2013 Collier Boulevard
City, State, Zip O'Fallon, MO 63366
Email jghartleykdr@gmail.com
Phone 314-799-4568

July 13, 2024

FORMS, (NO HANDWRITTEN REPORTS ACCEPTED).

The Marine Corps League member Profile ID number must be use on all reports. If the reports are not complete and on the correct form, Kennel will return the material to the Pound Dog Robber for correction. It will be easier to do the task correctly the first time.

Kennel requires Pounds to hold four (4) Growls per year and the new Passport Fee transmittal form (see picture above) to be utilized in reporting the number of Dogs attending, bones collected and forwarded to Kennel with a copy to Pack Dog Robber. September Pound Rosters were emailed to Dog Robbers, if you did not get one or if you need another, please let me know and I will send you one. Kennel is in the process of updating their records to match the League database. Will make it easier for Kennel to verify a Dog is current with the League and therefore eligible to be a Dog. We are making progress. Kennel has reminded all Dog Robbers you have 7 to 10 days from Growl date to forward information to Kennel with a copy to Pack Dog Robber, membership renewals are to be in alphabetical order and no nicknames are to be used. Transmittal numbering system to be used on the Transmittal will be Pound #- FY-001-01. Example: 365-25-001-01. Note FY starts 1 July and ends 30 June. Kennel now has a website, MODD POUND AND PACK DOG ROBBERS CALLED KENNEL MANAGEMENT APPLICATION (KMA). All Pack and Pound Dog Robbers can join. One new idea Kennel is processing is to have the Pound Dog Robber print new membership cards for their Dogs. This will ensure all Dogs have a current membership card. KMA is a Private Group only for active Pound and Pack Dog Robbers. Kennel PDD Dog Robber, Helen Breen, will assist with all questions you may have. Her email is: kennelgrobber@gmail.com

Remember the Military Order of the Devil Dogs is the Fun and Honor Society. Let us check out our Detachments and recruit all eligible members to become Dogs.

Semper Woofing,
Pack Dog Robber

PDD Harvey Harris
KS PK Dog Robber



Three Kansas Pack Dogs attended the Supreme Growl in Palm Spring, CA on 14 August 2024. From Left to Right; PDD Wes Topel, Newly Initiated PDD Roy Villarreal, and PDD Joe Hughes. The Kansas Pack brought home the 2nd Place Award for Membership. This means we had the 2nd highest percent of membership.



TAPS

David W. Eberhart

Tri-Rivers Detachment #730
August 1, 1946 - September 27, 2024

Charles R. Gadberry

Air Capital Detachment #773
September 5, 1944 - May 24, 2024

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



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 <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/conference/> for more details and schedule.



The 2025 Midwest Division Conference will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

April 11-12, 2025

Sheraton Sioux Falls & Convention Center

1211 N W Ave, Sioux Falls SD 57104

Phone: 605-331-0100

Reservation Link: <https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1715282331174&key=G>

**Room rate: \$149 Room per night - includes all taxes
Breakfast Buffet voucher included 2 per room each night.**

Complimentary parking

Airport Shuttle (complimentary)

Bar & Restaurant on premise

Service Dog friendly – Pet Fee \$75, Waived for verified service animals. Must register all animals when checking in.

Hospitality: \$20 includes snacks, soda, beer and water

**Banquet: \$50 plated meal 2 entrees Beef Pot Roast with Chef's Choice Sauce or
Grilled Chicken with Creamy Spinach Parmesan Sauce
Vegan/vegetarian/gluten free menu will be available.**

Salad Rolls, & Dessert

Water/Tea/Coffee

Cash bar



Save the Date

The 2025 Department of Kansas Conference will be held on June 6-7, 2025 in Wichita, Kansas. More details, agenda, and registration coming soon to the Department website at:

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



2025 MCL National Convention and MODD Supreme Growl

HYATT REGENCY DFW AIRPORT

2334 N. International Pkwy, DFW Airport, TX 75261

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/DFWAP/G-MCL5>

Phone # for reservations – 1-800-233-1234

Group code = G-MCL5

Dates: Monday August 11, 2025 to Friday, August 15, 2025

Rates are \$159 inclusive of taxes. Parking is free.



Schedule



Resources

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/>

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>