



The SUNFLOWER

"SCUTTLEBUTT"

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

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DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS OFFICERS 2024-2025

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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,

The 2024 Department Conference was a success! We had members from four of our seven detachments participate. Special thanks to our host detachment, B. Gen William A. Kurtis SEK #612 for all the hard work put into planning and organizing the conference. Mark your calendars and join us on 6-7 June 2025 for annual Department conference hosted by the Air Capital Detachment #773 in Wichita. I look forward to representing the Department at the 101st Annual National Convention in Palm Springs, CA, August 12-17. After I return from California, it's back to work for the Ponca City Public Schools in Oklahoma. I will be working just three days a week this school year, typically on T/W/TH. This leaves me plenty of time to pursue my other interests to include serving as your Department Commandant. If you need me, call me and I will find time to assist.

I like to listen to the Rick and Bubba Radio Show as I travel between Kansas and Oklahoma. In honor of Independence Day, the following poem was read on-air. It was written by the father of the show's producer. I think it is powerful and I want to share it with you.

One Nation

*Twelve score and eight years ago Reps from 13 American colonies met,
Together we shall be one nation, was their resolve along with a break from Great Britain with no regrets;
A powerful declaration was written, 1320 words in all,
Confirmed by 56 signatures declaring independence that with God's help would never fall;
And ensuing war will take place led by ruthless King George,
But the mighty grace of God was with this new nation, even through the horrors of Valley Forge;
And throughout these 248 years The evil one has attacked from without and within to destroy what God has
ordained,
But now the 13 colonies are 50 United States, a democratic republic, unified as one nation under God, and
with His help we shall remain;
This powerful document declaring our independence must be taught and read by generations to come,
And pulpits throughout our land must stand in the gap declaring Divine guidance with purpose and courage
until Kingdom come.*

God bless America!

John C. Wilburn

07/04/2024

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



Sr Vice Bill Koonce

Woof Woof
Marines and Devil Dogs

Our new fiscal year is upon us and our dues for the League and Dogs are due, so please get your dues in no later than August 31 st . If you fail to pay your dues you cannot serve as an Officer in the League or Dogs. Pound Keepers remember you cannot hold elections until after the Supreme Growl in August and no later than Nov. On the night of your elections please complete your ROI and get it in the mail to the Pack Dog Robber. Det. Commandants and Pound Keepers - next year's National Convention will be in Dallas, Texas. If you are thinking of attending please let us know so we have an idea of how many will be joining us. Any Devil Dog who wants to advance to Pedigree needs to attend a Supreme Growl. You do not have to attend the whole Convention since the advancement is only 3 to 4 days. Please let your Pound Dog Robber know so they can get the necessary paperwork ready. If you have not heard or seen some of your members in a while, reach out to them and try and get them to come back and be an active member. We need as much participation in our Detachments and Pounds. Remember if you need anything or help with the paperwork please reach out to us, we are all here to help each other out. Enjoy the rest of summer months and be safe.

Bill Koonce
Pack Leader/Sr. Vice



Paymaster Harvey Harris

July has arrived and for the Detachment Paymasters that means it is time to ensure all required reporting is up to date.. Effective this year the Secretary of State registration is for two years and costs \$80.00. Everything else remains the same for information required. See table below for status on the Secretary of State report. Detachment #612 is the only detachment with a report due in 2024. 990-N are also due. A Life Member Audit roster was sent to each Detachment Paymaster and Commandant for review. Make corrections if needed, sign and return to Department Paymaster at

HHarrisMCLeague.org. Member renewals are due by August 31st and are renewable any time between now and then. To date I have received two member renewals for 2024/2025. The Detachment activity report was due July 12th. The Department Commandant needs that information to make his report to National at Palm Springs CA. Report-of- Officer Installation (ROI) is due upon installation of your Detachment Officers. Waiting on four Detachment ROI's. Any questions or assistance please contact me at HHarris@MCLeague.org and I will assist any way I can. Keep up the challenging work you are putting into being the Paymaster

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

	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

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 was busy over the Memorial Day weekend. One member participated in the Sunday services which lasts all day and goes to 8 or 9 cemeteries in the area. The Detachment participated in the Monday service at the Smith Center cemetery with 6 members present (photos attached). Larry Thompson, Detachment Commandant, traveled to the Burr Oak café to send off Marion Beldon, one of our two remaining charter members. Marion is moving to a new assisted living facility located in Lawrence, KS (photos attached) The Detachment is still showing 20 members as of the April 2024 printout.

Semper Fi to all and WOOF, WOOF!



Left: 2024 Smith Center Memorial Day Service.

Below-Left: Charter member, Marion Beldon, is center front. The other charter Member, John Overmiller, is on his left.

Below - Right: Send off at the Burr Oak Cafe. Marion is behind the young man in the blue tee shirt. Commandant Larry Thompson is in the background.



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

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 23 April 2024, the Tri-Rivers detachment Color Guard conducted a memorial service for Dr. Cliad McDonald. He was a Navy Corpsman assigned to the 5th Marine Division and was in the first wave to go ashore at Iwo Jima. He was eventually wounded during the battle and evacuated.

He passed away on 9 January 2014 and was cremated. He and his wife, Georgia, were married for 56 years. They desired to be buried together at the same time. Georgia recently passed away at the age of 101 and was also cremated. They were both buried in Downs Cemetery in Osborne County with full military honors for Claid. The Honor Guard, bugler and burial flag were provided by the VFW from Marysville, Kansas.

The Tri-Rivers detachment has acquired a new member, George Sanchez. Welcome to the Marine Corps League, George.

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

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 the spring and summer months with monthly detachment meetings, rotating breakfasts at local restaurants and dinners at the American Legion Post 4. The detachment continued raising funds with their monthly 1st Thursday Taco Feed at American Legion Post 4. We will continue with tacos until October or whenever cold weather hits and people crave chili again. The detachment's honor guard/rifle squad performed rifle salutes for Memorial Day and Independence Day ceremonies at the Wichita Veterans Memorial Park. See pictures below:





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

The General Larry Oppenheimer Marine Corps League Detachment #1025 recently held elections and I am honored to have been elected Commandant for a second year. I am also thankful to have a great board of officers elected to serve alongside. As a board we look forward to a year full of detachment growth, comradery and service to the community.

League members also recently attended the Department of Kansas Marine Corps League Conference that was held in Independence, KS. Elections were held and our Detachment is fortunate to have multiple members elected as Department of Kansas Officers- Joel Wilson as Jr. Vice Commandant, Kimberley Mancuso as Judge Advocate, Al Sanchez as Chaplain and George Waugh as Jr. Past Commandant. Congratulations to all!

I am proud to report that during the Conference, our Detachment received a Meritorious Unit Citation (National Level) which I accepted on behalf of the Detachment and our Detachment member and Department of Kansas Jr. Past Commandant, George Waugh, received the Department of Kansas 2024 Marine of the Year Award (it will be presented to George at our June Detachment meeting as he was unable to attend the conference). Such an honor for George and our Detachment.

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



Left: MWD NVC Joe Hughes presents a meritorious unit citation to Detachment #1025 Commandant, Kimberley Manuso in recognition of the Detachments achievements with the Toys for Tots drive in the Greater Kansas City area.

Department Marine of the Year



Unable to attend the 2024 Department Conference, Detachment 1025 Commandant Kimberley Mancuso proudly presented the Department of Kansas Marine of the Year award to the Department of Kansas Jr. Past Commandant George Waugh at their regularly scheduled June meeting. Way to go Marine!

2024-2025 Department Officers were duly elected and installed during the Business Meeting. From Left to Right: Al Sanchez, Eldon "Doc" Halsey, Kimberley Manuso, Joel Wilson, Wes Topel, Bill Koonce, and Harvey Harris.





The Department Conference's Friday Night Social included a hamburger cookout and Cornhole Tournament. Jesse Lopez of SEK Detachment #612 took the title of Cornhole Champ and took home the grand prize of an USMC KA-BAR.

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 all dogs of the Pack. Chief Devil Dog Sanning Kennel has reminded Pack Dog Robbers that all Pounds are required to hold (4) four Growls a year and the Passport fees are to be sent to the Pack Dog Robber for forwarding to the Kennel Dog Robber. The transmittal form for passport fees can be downloaded at

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

To date Pound 365 is current and up to date, all other Pounds are short one or more or the required Growls. Pound Officer Elections must be held after the Supreme Growl, August 14, 2024, and up to the Marine Corps Birthday. This will count as the first Pound Growl of the year. 990's and registration with the Secretary of State are now due for all Pounds. Pound Dogs are due for membership renewal. To date Pound 365 is current with all Dogs paid. The Grand Growl was held in Independence hosted by Pound 196. At the Grand Growl, the above Pack officers were elected and installed for the coming year:

Have fun in the Doghouse, Woof, woof

PDD Harvey Harris, KS PK Dog Robber



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
Address
City, State, Zip
Email
Phone

July 13, 2024

KANSAS PACK MEMBERS ENJOYED CAMARADERIE AT THE 2024 GRAND GROWL



Above: Four Mongrels are inducted and begin their MODD journey as Pups.

Right: Members of Pound #196 celebrate their victory in the team competition. Notice PDD Dale Meadow's "Sh_tbird" cover.



2024-2025 Kansas Pack Officers were elected and installed at the Pack Grand Growl. Pictured Left to Right: PDD Eldon “Doc” Holsey, DD Roy Villarreal, DD Kimberly Mancuso, PDD Joel Wilson, PDD Bill Koonce, PDD Wes Topel, and PDD Harvey Harris.



Left: Operation ChowHound was a huge success. Devil Dogs attending the Grand Growl arrived with dog food and treats.

359 pounds of dog food and treats were donated to Friends of Animals - Coffeyville Humane Society.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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



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>



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>