

MINUTES

2020 MID-WINTER RALLY

Holiday Inn NW

Jackson, Michigan

January 24 – 26, 2020

OPENING CEREMONY

At 1440 hours,

Opening Prayer by Department Chaplain, Fred Green

The Commandant recognized Past National Commandants and Past Department Commandants.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Appointed Department Staff absent:

Webmaster – Ralph Rosa

Dept Emailer – Emil Franz III

Great Lakes Nat'l Cemetery Liaison- Keith Overby

Fort Custer Nat'l Cemetery Liaison – William Marry

1/24th Memorial Liaison – Angelo Lima Jr.

Marine for Life – Joseph Zane

Detachment Representatives absent:

Belcher-Lane-Williams # 146

Fred Cochran # 151

Monroe County # 157

Sgt G. P. Porta # 163

Washtenaw # 414

George St. Martin #550

Cpl. Jack A. Davenport #684

Northern Michigan #690

Wolverine # 722

Lake Superior #764

Harold R, Cooley # 841

Keweenaw # 1016

Shoreline # 1027

Irish Hills # 1182

S/Sgt Bryan K. Burgess 1337

REPORT OF OFFICERS

COMMANDANT'S REPORT – Jonathan VanTol

I'm in the process of shutting down the Greater Michigan Detachment # 156 in Rogers City. They have filed a Report of Officer Installation form since 2007. Life Members are given the opportunity to transfer to other detachments. They are mostly at-large members.

COMMANDANT'S TRAVEL

June 25 – Attended the Tiger Veteran Appreciation game

Mark Sutton (Northwestern Detachment #162) was selected at the 2018 Michigan Veteran of the Year. He was nominated by the Dept of Michigan American Legion.

Aug 4 – 10 – Attended the National MCL Convention in Billings, Mt.

Aug 21 & Dec 10 – Attended the Michigan Commanders Group

Sept 21 – Attended the Upper Peninsula Zone Meeting and Northern Wolves Pound 174 Growl.

Oct 26 – Fall Staff meeting in Bay City

Nov 2 – Attended the Flint Det. 155 MC Ball and the joint Bay and Saginaw Counties MC Ball on Nov 8th

Nov 20 – Along with Ass't Sgt at Arms Steve Kelley, delivered the Dept Ceremonial Rifles to the Army.

Nov 30 – Honored to take part in the rifle detail paying respects to Sgt Maj. Ken Rice, a member of the

Dec 19 – Grand Rapids Veteran Home Christmas party

DISCUSSION POINTS

Due to the resignation of Al Pearson, Senior Vice Commandant and Art Menard moving up to fill his position, Richard Monroe, Flint Detachment has been appointed by the Dept Commandant to fill the position of Jr. Vice Commandant vacated by Art Menard until the Convention in June.

Donations poured in from Macomb and Grand Rapids for the new Veteran's home. Asking for \$45 million in funding for another 2 Veteran homes.

Freedom Centers at airports for Military Service Personnel and Veteran, "Serving those who served us".

Ann Arbor Fisher House will be opened for business February or March 2020 with a dedication ceremony planned for June 19 at 1000 hrs.

The Iron Mountain Detachment was transferred to the Department of Wisconsin. This required that the VAVS Director Mike Miller be replaced. The new VAVS Director for the Department of Michigan MCL is Steve Kelley from the John C. Rock Detachment 902.

Conducted 2019-2020 Installation of Officers at the following Detachments:

Edson-Kline-VanSlyke Det. # 1423 on Oct 23, 2019

John C. Rock Det. # 902 on Nov 20, 2019

Northwest Det. # 162 on Dec 16, 2019 along with Zone Vice Cmdt Tim McGee and Ass't Sgt at Arms Steve Kelley.

Associate Members can hold an appointed position in the Detachment.

NATIONAL NOTES

Commandant Webb

The new database is getting closer to rolling out, near the end of Sept for National to perform a data review of the information being transferred to the new data base.

After someone joins, they will be able to update their personal information online and their Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster and Commandant will also be able to make changes. Online dues paying may be in the future. The Detachments will be able to see their “Real Time” rosters!

Sr Vice Tobin

Important to follow bylaw guidelines and performing responsibilities such as IRS 990's, Incorporation, ROI, Death Notices and Transmittals. If Detachments are not current, they should have their Charters suspended.

Jr. Vice Baker

In 2017, there were over 69,000 members in the League, in Aug 2019, there are 63,250. We are decreasing in membership.

Irish Hills Det. 1182 received 1st Place for membership growth.

100% Membership Ribbons to the following Detachments;

Irish Hills	Monroe County	Harold R. Cooley
Iron Mountain	Keweenaw	Capitol
SGT G. P. Porta	Kalamazoo	Shoreline

Mike King (Upper Peninsula # 444) received a citation for recruiting five or more new members.

Dues reminders will be in the Semper Fi magazine along with the membership applications.

COO BOB BORKA

When filing IRS 990's, use the Paymaster/Treasurer/Dog Robber information, this will save him time when auditing the IRS master list for the Marine Corps League.

There is a member only section on the National website, password is DD4.

Semper Fi digital copy on website and password is DD214

Working on iPhone and Android phone apps for the Marine Corps League, these passwords could be your real name and membership number.

National Marine Corps Foundation

The National Foundation is challenging all Department and Detachments to donate \$100.00 so they can continue to support their programs at their current levels.

M4Life

Still looking for local Detachments to submit M4Life coordinator to assist Marines returning home with issues concerning employment, schooling, housing, etc.

Resolution to endorse and establish a Nat’l 311 number for suicide prevention, past with overwhelming support.

Please go to the Nat’l website for the Bylaws that were passed and rejected.

VAVS

National VAVS committee and director Mike Miller recognized Dan Roach for outstanding service through the VAVS program.

Americanism

John C. Rock Det. # 902 received an Honorable Mention for their Americanism book.

National Newsletter

Our Michigan Marine News editor, Jerry McKeon received the 3rd Place Award for his outstanding job of publishing our Department Newsletter.

ELECTIONS

Michigan had 19 delegates present with 266 votes

Only contested office was for Nat’l Judge Advocate, after speaking with the Delegates, I cast 221 votes for Ray Daily and 45 votes for TJMorgan. Your new Nat’l Officers are;

- Commandant..... Dennis Tobin
- Sr Vice Commandant ...Johnny Baker
- Jr Vice Commandant.... Warren Griffin
- Judge AdvocateT. J. Morgan

I have recently been asked to be the National Scout Committee Chairman replacing Tom Minchin, who passed way last year. Recently added to the Nat’l Scout Committee is Richard Walsh from the Kalamazoo Detachment. Richard has been as asset over the years helping with the Eagle Scout program. The Department of Michigan has three members that sit on the Nat’l Scout committee now, Al Pearson, Richard Walsh and myself. Please contact one of us if you ever have any questions about the program.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT – Al Pearson

I have sent out all the Raffle Tickets. I have received payments from 3 detachments. If your detachment would like more tickets, call me at 231 233-2237. This Raffle supplements many Department activities.

The Bylaws say that the Detachment Commandants or their representative shall attend the Mid-Winter and Dept Convention. If you aren't there, you can't learn.

Because of health reasons, Al will be resigning his position as Senior Vice Commandant, effective immediately. However, Al will continue to work on the Department Raffle until its completion. Art Menard, Jr. Vice Commandant will move up to this position until the Convention in June.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT'S REPORT - Art Menard

Effective 01 September, all annual memberships expire. Those that have not paid their dues will become delinquent members losing the normal rights and privileges that members in good standing have. If you have not paid your annual dues you need to get in touch with your Detachment Paymaster and submit your payment. If anyone has any questions or needs help please contact me at menardart@gmail.com.

Detachment Commandants, Detachment Paymasters and Detachment Jr. Vice Commandants should be reaching out to delinquent members are the first members listed on the first page of all Detachment quarterly rosters.

As of 30 September 2019, the Department of Michigan has 1527 paid annual and Life Members combined and 408 unpaid delinquent members. There's been a lot of activity in regard to paid members due to the annual deadline of 01 September so the numbers should be changing in a positive way soon. We hope to have the 2nd quarter roster dated 31 December 2019 available to the membership soon. When available please check your Detachment Roster for accuracy with the Paymaster files.

There's excellent progress being done in the Manistique area of the Upper Peninsula as they have 28 members and are finalizing their charter application. The Fire Team has selected U.P. Devil Dogs as their future Detachment name and is really coming together as a group. There will be more news soon on when it will all come together.

VICE COMMANDANT'S REPORTS

NORTHERN ZONE – Matt Hagaman (absent)

CENTRAL ZONE – Ron View (excused)

EASTERN ZONE – Tim McGee

Appropriate action has been taken to correct the submission of 990's and MI Letters of Incorporation have been attended to by the Eastern Zone Detachments. Corrections should be completed by the Summer Convention.

Attended and participated in three of the Eastern Zone Detachment's Installation of Officers...Macomb County 154, Cpl. Stanley L. Moore 159, and Northwest 162. All of the detachment paymasters have been informed as to the timing and dispositions of transmittals.

UPPER PENINSULA ZONE – Paul Smigowski (excused)

Attended the Dept. Fall Staff meeting, the Gladstone Det. #444 MC Birthday celebration, Installed the Keweenaw # 1016 officers, and will be installing the officers of Upper Peninsula Det. #444 in January.

A big thank you goes out to Art Menard for his great work in helping a group of Marines from the Manistique area to form a new detachment.

On Sept 21, the Fall “U.P. Zone Meeting” was held in Marquette where the four detachments had members present, this meeting was followed by the Northern Wolves #174 Devil Dog Growl.

The Upper Peninsula Detachment #444 in Gladstone/Esanaba, the George Toog’s St Martin Detachment #550 in Munising, the Lake Superior Detachment #764 in Marquette, the Keweenaw Detachment #1016 all with the continuing involvement with activities in their area are expected to represent and be a benefit to the Marine Corps League

A tenuous contact was also maintained with the Wisconsin “Gogebic-Iron Marine” and some contact continued with the former Michigan –Iron Mountain Detachment #1239 through Mike Miller.

I end with the opinion that things are going relatively well, despite the usual universal detachment problems, and that as usual there are a number of things that can be improved.

.WESTERN ZONE – Kevin Magin (No Report)

SOUTHEAST ZONE – Stephan Fletcher

I have made visits to the detachments in the Southeast Zone.

I represented the Marine Corps League at the Veteran’s Day ceremony at Detroit VAMC and as the VAVS Deputy Representative at the Detroit VAMC.

I participated in Wreaths Across America, placing Christmas Wreath on the graves at GLNC.

Worked with detachments to ensure Corporation Filings and 990 Forms are completed and submitted. Some detachments were unreachable. Some are in the process of re-acquiring new EINs and fixing the issues with their old EINs.

Detachment 153 is still recovering from the fire where their detachment was housed. Working with insurance adjusters and continuing to meet at a secondary site while the building is being repaired.

SOUTHERN ZONE – Michael Moross

I missed the Fall Staff Rally in October

Have contacted the Detachments via email, phone or visit over the past year. I have been working to bring Branch Area 763 into compliance with their Tax Exempt Status

I continue to discuss Recruitment and Retention with the Detachments.

JUDGE ADVOCATE – Ray Rowley

I have made the 2015 and 2019 bylaw changes that were approved at the 2019 Convention.

In October, I installed the Cascades Detachment officers for the coming year. On Dec 8th, I had the privilege of presenting the Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Award to Mario Cyr of Troop 735.

I have reviewed and approved the bylaw changes that were made by the John C. Rock Det. # 902.

Many detachment bylaws have not been revised or updated, some of which since 1963. I have found many discrepancies in several bylaws.

PAYMASTER’S REPORT – Phil Zamora

Paymaster – When sending me your Transmittal Reports, only send 2 copies. More than that is just thrown away. When sending in also attach new member applications.

The Paymasters Report was distributed and a motion was made to accept the report by unknown and support by Kevin Magin.

JUNIOR PAST COMMANDANT – David Masunas

As Jr. Past Commandant it is my responsibility to mentor the Commandant. However, I have failed in my responsibility because the Commandant failed to bring his pants to the Mid-Winter Rally. Hopefully this does not present a problem in the future.

APPOINTED DEPARTMENT STAFF

ADJUTANT – Ray Rayl

The hard copy of the Report of Officer Installation form is no longer available from National. It is only available at mclnational.org in the library and at michmarine.org. Within ten days after your installation, the detachment adjutant needs to complete the form and send it to the Department Adjutant either using the snail mail or at jarhead1946@gmail.com or mimcladjutant@gmail.com. The quarterly Detachment Roster is only as good as the information it receives from each detachment via the ROI form. “Garbage in – Garbage out”. The form needs to be completed legibly and completely

CHIEF OF STAFF – Warren Tracey (No Report)

CHAPLAIN’S REPORT – Fred Green

I thank our Commandant for sponsoring a bylaw change that I completed and sent into the National HQ. This bylaw change will be voted on this year at the 2020 National Convention at Daytona Beach. I also completed another Christmas Season as a Toys for Tots LOC Coordinator, providing a little hope and joy for Lapeer and Sanilac counties. I completed two classes in September assisting Individuals in crisis and Group Crisis Intervention to better serve our league and individuals. Our Department had 27 members that passed away for 2019.

SERGEANT AT ARMS – Steve Kelley (absent)

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR – Mark Sutton

Discussion Points

The Governor has vetoed the “Buddy to Buddy” Program. The County VSO grant has been passed.

Two new Veteran Homes are nearly finished. The Fisher house in Ann Arbor will be open for business in February and dedication will be in June.

The Secretary of State is attempting to wave the \$5.00 fee for veteran license plates.

There is a possibility of having F-35 fighter jets at the Selfridge Base.

This is an election year- You CAN'T pose for photos in MCL clothing with a candidate. If you invite a candidate to your facility for a "Town-hall Meeting" you must invite all candidates. We can support or not support the issues, but not any candidate.

We are a non-profit organization – EVERYTHING is public information except the member's Social Security information. Anybody can attend your meeting and see your books.

Filing the 990 in July – if you don't file for 3 years, you lose your Tax Exempt Status and \$600.00 to reclaim.

HISTORIAN – Dale Erion

Asking detachments to send me dates they were chartered and a photograph of your Detachment Charter is needed. If you lose your Charter, it can be replaced faster if the Historian has a photo of it.

Currently working on acquiring 8x10 photos of PDC's. Any Marines or detachments, who can assist in obtaining these photo, please contact me at Dale Erion, 1015 Hall Street, Eaton Rapids MI 48827. Tele. # 517 663-3247 cell 517 441-1630 or eriondale@sbcglobal.net.

On a sadder note: a Veteran Memorial in Eaton Rapids was vandalized recently. The vandal(s) haven't been apprehended as yet. A reward for \$2000.00 for information to the arrest and conviction has been offered. No work on the monument is scheduled until Spring.

VAVS DIRECTOR REPORT – Steve Kelley (absent)

MICHIGAN MARINE NEWS- Jerry McKeon (absent)

WEBMASTER – Ralph Rosa (absent)

DEPARTMENT EMAILER – Emil 'Dutch' Franz (absent)

NATIONAL CEMETERY

Fort Custer – Keith Overby (absent)

Great Lakes – William Marry (Absent) Michael Hornev

The Fort Custer Nat'l Cemetery Advisory Committee is represented by VSO's and at-large individual by invitation. They meet bi-monthly and conduct a well-established, organized business meeting. The two major projects are the planning of the Annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day Observances.

The Advisory Committee also participated in "Wreaths across America" attendance at the "German Memorial Remembrance" Event as well as partnering with Plumeria Botanical Boutique and Memorial Day Flowers Foundation placing over 6,000 Roses on graves at the Cemetery.

DUANE DEWEY AWARD – Michael Hornev

The Department of Michigan sponsors the Duane Dewey Award every year. Dewey is a Medal of Honor recipient from Michigan. This year this was awarded to 2nd Lt Brandon Piggott, formerly a Sergeant in the infantry. 2nd Lt Piggott commissioned in August and is now a Student Naval Aviator awaiting his class date for the Basic School, before attending flight school in Pensacola, Florida.

1/24TH MEMORIAL LIAISON – Angelo Lema Jr (absent)

EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR – Dave Masunas

Thank-you to all the members that have been able to present the Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Award and help promote the program for the Department of Michigan.

For the time period of July – present, the Department has presented 30 Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Awards, the same time last year we had presented 63, so we are behind by 33 for the year.

Postage -.....1.50 x 30 = \$45.00

Awards/Folders = \$400.00

Seals/paper/envelopes.. = \$39.17

Printer ink..... = \$25.97

Total cost= \$510.14

Postage paid by me=\$45.00

MARINE FOR LIFE COORDINATOR – Joseph Zane (absent)

TOYS FOR TOTS LIAISON – Gary Dunn

Gary answered several questions from the membership after giving a breakdown of the Toys for Tots program.

STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET & FINANCE –Christine Tonegatto-Salo

FUND RAISING – Richard Monroe (see the Sr. Vice Cmdt Report)

RESOLUTIONS & BYLAWS – Tim McGee

I remind individual MI MCL elected members that any resolution, motion or consent must be according to the directions as set forth in MI MCL Department Bylaws, Section 265, 905, 906 and 910 and presented to the Resolutions & Bylaws Committee no later than April 1, 2019 for consideration at the MI MCL Department Convention.

The Department Bylaws have not been updated on the website to include the changes that were approved at the MI MCL Department 2019 Summer Convention. With the change in the webmaster for the department, it is hoped that the changes will be accomplished ASAP.

CREDENTIALS – Stephan Fletcher

TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE – Warren Tracy

The 2020 MCL/MCLA Summer Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Gateway Inn (tele # 810 232-5300) or on line at www.flintgateway.com use code “MMC” on June 12 - 14, 2020. Rooms will be \$105.00 +11% tax for a total of \$116.55 per night. The Flint Dawgs Pound # 288 will be hosting the convention. Hotel registration deadline is May 12, 2020 and Strip ticket deadline is May 25, 2020. More information on this will follow Michigan Marine News or on Department website.

Last year, members who used the hotels website got some Bass Fishing site somehow. This will be corrected this year.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – Tim McGee and Gerri Tuohy MCLA President

In 2019, thirty-three (33) students applied under the new qualifications, however twelve (12) did not send in verification of a minimum 3.0 GPA and /or a minimum 12 credit hours enrollment; resulting in twenty-one (21) qualified applicants.

As a result, scholarship grants in the amount of \$500.00 were awarded to the 16 successful applicants. This is the first year that scholarships were administered through the MI-MCL Department Foundation.

We are happy to report that the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 9 has awarded the Foundation for scholarships a check in the amount of \$2500.00 that was distributed on their behalf to five of the awardees.

The MI-MCL, *2020 Scholarship Purpose, Eligibility and Requirements Guideline and the scholarship Application* has been posted to the MI-MC: Department Foundation website

INVESTMENTS – Gil Zysarczyk

In the absence of Gil Dysarczyk, an explanation of the Investments was given by Phil Zamora and Christine Tonegatto-Sal

AWARD & CITATIONS – Phil Smith (No Report)

MCL FOUNDATION -Jerry McKeon

Our Foundation has established a new relationship with Chapter 9, Vietnam Veterans of America. The chapter is located in Detroit.

In the first transaction of our new partnership, the VVA funded five of this year’s scholarships, contributing \$2500.00.

The foundation is controlled by the Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League, as all officers of the department sit on the foundation board and control the foundations direction.

Currently, I am monitoring two potential donors, making frequent contacts with them. One has already committed and I’m waiting for the check.

Bringing in partners like VVA brings in new contacts, new ideas and new enthusiasm for our foundation.

The Corps Account presently has \$10,450.02 in the account. If we sell the remaining 29 Founders Coins, we will build the balance to almost \$14,000.00.

As important as it is to build the Corpus account, it's equally important to build the general account. Our present balance in the general account is \$13,551.77.

We've added two new members to our Board of Directors, John Tuohy PNC has stepped into the Assistant Treasurer's role and Gerri Tuohy MCLA President is now representing the Auxiliary.

Tim McGee and I will be meeting with the VVA Membership on Saturday. It is our expectations we will leave with a \$10,000.00 check. To be used for five \$500.00 scholarships per year, for the next four years.

MARINE OF THE YEAR –Dave Masunas

Every year at the Department Convention, one League member is honored as the Department Marine of the Year. Please consider nominating one of your fellow members for this high honor. The winner receives a Department of Michigan Marine of the Year Medallion, a beautiful wall plaque and his/her name will be added to the large and impressive trophy, It's our version of the Stanley Cup and the winner keeps it for one year. The winner also becomes a member of the Dept of Michigan Marine of the Year Society with the right to participate in choosing the Marine of the Year every year thereafter. Any member of the League can submit a nomination. Participation in the Marine Corps League at the Department level is the most heavily weighted criteria.

To make a nomination we need a written description of the nominee's activities and an explanation of why it is worthy of recognition.

You can submit by email or snail mail to the following address:

Email to mimclmoy@gmail.com Put "Department of Michigan MOY" in the subject line OR

PDC David Masunas

Marine of the Year Chairman

214 West Jackson, Rd.

Hart, Michigan 49420

The award is presented at the Department Convention banquet and the winner is not notified in advance.

CENTRAL DIVISION VICE COMMANDANT – Phil Zamora

Division Conference will be Louisville, KY on April 2 – 4. Hosted by Kentuckiana Detachment.

Paper membership cards are going to be replaced with plastic cards.

The “Oath of Membership” has been reduced in content and will be given to both Regular and Associate Members.

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A motion was made to accept the reports by Phil Zamora, supported by Kevin Magin. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS –

A motion was made by Art Menard to purchase a \$100.00 Full page ad for the Department of Michigan Convention in June and supported by John Daggett. Motion approved.

A motion was made to purchase an ad for the National Convention up to \$100.00 and supported by Mike Moross. Motion approved.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing Prayer was said by Flint Chaplain Fred Green.

The 2019 Mid-Winter Rally was closed at 2035 hrs. On January 25th by Department Commandant Jonathan VanTol until we reconvene at the 2020 Department Convention in Flint.

Respectfully Submitted

Raymond Rayl

Raymond Rayl

Department Adjutant