



## **2022 SUMMER CONVENTION**



**June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Island Resort and Casino  
Harris, Michigan**

### **JOINT OPENING CEREMONY**

Opening at 13:30

Colors were presented by Sgt-At-Arms Tracy Berg.

Opening Ceremony commenced by Chief-Of-Staff Warren Tracey.

Recognition of Dignitaries:

Rachel Meshigaud-Sattam: Island Resort & Casino Marketing Director

John Jamison: Public Relations Officer, Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center

Sean L. DePuydt: Business Office Manager, DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans, Mqt.

Marcy Oakley: Auxiliary President, Department of Michigan

Stephen Fletcher: Pack Lead, Michigan Pack, Military Order Of Devil Dogs

Mike King & Ann Streichert: Convention Committee Co-Chairs, UP Detach. 444

Art Menard: Department Commandant, Department Michigan

National Judge Advocate Phil Zamora

PNC/PDC John Tuohy

PNC/PDC Jim Tuohy

PDP Peggy Tuohy

Kennel Quartermaster Wendy Zamora

Div. Auxiliary President Ann LeClair

National Judge Advocate PDP Mary Brief

Eagle Scout Coordinator David Masunas

PNP Gerri Tuohy

Color Guard: Upper Peninsula Detachment 444 Members

Colors were presented

Rachel Meshigaud-Sattam welcomed us to the Casino, and hope we are enjoying our stay and enjoying all the new amenities that are in place for us to use.

John Jamison gave a brief run down on the Oscar G. Johnson Iron Mountain VA Medical Center. Stating we are the most rural VA Medical Center in the Nation, eight Seabocs service the Upper Peninsula and a few parts of Wisconsin. Veterans are satisfied with their care. Continuing to make improvements at the VA, and they have great employees in the Veteran System.

Sean DePuydt from DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans from Marquette expresses great appreciation for the support that we give to Jacobetti's Home. Slowly trying to get back into Veteran's activities and in being safe. Looking down the line a possibility of a new facility in the future. Thank you again for all the help and support we give.

Stephen Fletcher Pack Dog Leader Military Order Of Devil Dogs for the State of Michigan, welcomed us and hoped for a successful Convention and to bring plenty of bones to the Growl tonight.

Mike King and Ann Streichert Co-Chairs of the Convention Committee, welcomed us to the Convention, and thanked all the Detachment members of 444 for all the help they gave and also to thank the Casino staff for all the outstanding help, and hope you all have a good time and buy plenty of raffle tickets.

Auxiliary President Marcy Oakley hoped everyone is enjoying themselves and welcomed everyone and to thank you everyone for coming and hope we have a great time.

Commandant Art Menard welcomed everyone to the UP, and stated what a great convention committee they had putting this together, and hope that everyone has a fantastic good time.

Session was adjourned at 14:10.

### **JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE WAS CONDUCTED**

Reading of the passing of 24 Marine Corps League Members.

### **CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS CEREMONY WAS CONDUCTED**

The Legion of Honor Award Program recognizes ordinary people who do extraordinary things. To honor the legacy of the Four Chaplains, this program has recognized selfless service in many, many forms throughout our communities, schools, veteran service organizations and neighborhoods. This program recognizes the many Marine Corps League & Auxiliary Members who are performing selfless acts. Commandant Art Menard and Chaplain Fred Green both received the Chapel Of Four Chaplains Awards.

Session was adjourned at 1515 hours.

### **OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE DEPARTMENT**

At 1530 hours

Opening Prayer by Department Chaplain, Fred Green

### **RECOGNITION OF DIGINATARIES**

The Chief Of Staff recognized Past National Commandants, Past Department Commandants and Dignitaries:

PNC John Tuohy	Past Commandant PDC Jim Tuohy
PNC Jim Tuohy	Past Commandant PDC John Tuohy
National Judge Advocate Phil Zamora	Past Commandant PDC Phil Zamora
National Kennel Quarter Master Wendy Zamora	Past Commandant PDC Wendy Zamora
Eagle Scout Coordinator Dave Masunas	Past Commandant PDC Norm Pfaff
	Past Commandant PDC Warren Tracey

Meeting was called to order by Department of Michigan Commandant Art Menard.

### **ROLL-CALL OF OFFICERS BY DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT (Tracey Tippett)**

Appointed Department Staff absent:

Junior Past Commandant Jon VanTol (excused)  
Eastern Zone Vice Commandant Tim McGee (excused)  
Southern Zone Vice Commandant David Schmidt (excused)  
Central Zone Vice Commandant Troy Stewart (excused)  
Northern Zone Vice Commandant Matt Hageman  
Assistant Sgt-At-Arms Michael Drayer (excused)  
VAVs Director Steve Kelley (excused)  
Department Emailer – Emil Franz, III  
1/24 Memorial Liaison – Angelo Lema Jr.  
Marine For Life Coordinator—Daniel Guerrero  
Toys For Tots Liaison Gary Dunn

**The following Detachments were not represented:**

Monroe County #157	Sergeant G.P. Porta #163	Yagle Brothers #165
Washtenaw Count #414	George St. Martin #550	North Oakland Co. #570
Corporal Davenport #684	Northern Michigan #690	Muskegon #703
Wolverine #722	Harold R. Cooley #841	John C Rock #879
Shoreline #1027	Irish Hills #1182	Alpena #1327
Staff Sgt Burgess #1337		

**REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Many of the reports from the Detachments and Zones have been emailed to everyone in advance for viewing, a few more are still coming in.

**COMMANDANT’S REPORT (Art Menard)**

The Commandant has been traveling to National Mid-Winter Conference, Central Division, Wisconsin’s Summer Convention, will be attending National Summer Convention in August. Commandant’s report is on the back table if anyone has any questions.

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT (Richard Monroe)**

Stated not much to report from Mid-Winter reports. The Senior Vice’s Department raffle took in \$3,380, expenses were \$1167.80, net profit \$2212.20. 25 Detachments partook in the effort. Had a discussion of some fundraising ideas, or how to better the raffle. Monroe attended a Memorial Day service at National Cemetery in place of Commandant. Went to Livingston County to awards ceremony for Veteran of the Year for Gary. Monroe also stated will not be running for a second term as Senior Vice.

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT (Ray Rowley)**

Stated membership numbers for third quarter are approximately at 19% unpaid in membership. We need to do better and to get these unpaid members back on board and to improve these numbers. Rowley recently joined a new 501c3 Veterans group called One Stop Veterans Resources. It helps Veteran’s in need. Rowley looking forward to working with the Department some more, and also will be running for Senior Vice Commandant.

**ZONE VICE COMMANDANTS**

Southwest Zone 4 Michael Moross reported the passing of his wife in February and has been a few rough months dealing with that. St Joseph Detachment is talking about disbanding, Moross

is still continuing to work with them and looking into maybe getting them established into a fire team. His report has been turned into the Adjutant.

Western Zone 5 Dave Masunas hasn't been visiting many of his detachments but has been in touch by emails and phone calls. Will be working with keeping better in touch with his detachments.

UP Zone 8 Tracey Tippet stated which Detachments belong to the UP Zone, we gather twice a year to have meetings, and it is a good and productive time. We are all active in our communities doing parades, Memorial Day Services, Flag Day etc etc. Greatly support DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans and the Iron Mountain VA. We live in rural areas, and challenging at times to meet, but we all get the job done when needed.

#### **EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR (Dave Masunas)**

Wanted to thank everyone who has been able to participate in the program and help out supporting the Department and National level. Masunas is the National Scout Committee chairman also with Phil Smith and Richard Walsh. 46 Eagle Scout Awards this year given out in the state and there was a zoom meeting done by National about the Scouts and lots of questions were asked. The Auxiliary does the awards for the Girl Scouts, but Masunas working with National to have both the Auxiliary and League to give out awards. It is a good program.

#### **JUDGE ADVOCATE (Stephen Fletcher)**

Has been in the process of reviewing the National and also the Department By-Laws. Department By-Laws are in process of making updates and then uploaded to the website. Fletcher noted his information is in the process of being updated.

#### **DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT (Tracey Tippet)**

Tippet is currently keeping a spreadsheet with all the Detachments, listing who is Commandant, Paymaster, Adjutant and Point of Contact and when their Officer Installation was conducted, and if they turned in bank and charter form. Currently there are 15 Detachments who have not turned in current Officer Installation Reports. Paperwork is not being turned in in a timely manner, or it is improperly filled out. A little bit of continued cooperation goes a long way. Please make sure you are directing your forms to the right individuals.

#### **CHIEF OF STAFF (Warren Tracey)**

Nothing to report at this time.

#### **CHAPLAIN (Fred Green)**

Will be sending a card to Jon Vantol for the passing of his sister. If anyone wants a card sent please give the name and Detachment number and it will be taken care of. Make sure notifying the Chaplain of deceased members.

#### **SERGEANT AT ARMS (Tracy Berg)**

Nothing at this time to report.

#### **LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR (Mark Sutton)**

Paying attention to what happens in Lansing, and Washington D.C. is important for each of us and to the Veterans we are committed to supporting. Burn Pit Exposure Legislation—HR 3967 promise to address comprehensive toxics act of 2021 or the Honoring our PACT Act of 2021.

Current Legislation Senate Bill 784 which seeks to reimburse local units of government for the Veteran property tax exemption benefit. House Bill 4568 seeks to give Veterans who have 50% to 100% VA ratings a \$2000 homestead tax credit to offset property taxes. HB 4568 must be signed to allow SB 784 to be signed. 2022-2023 Budget a forecast that includes an expected \$1.7 billion more to invest, yet this fiscal year and another \$1.4 billion more for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1. There is no proposal in place to ask for two or three new State Veteran Homes as promised by the legislature in 2016. Reminder it is an election year, please do not wear your MCL items around those campaigning for office. No actions are required by the board at this time.

### **1<sup>st</sup> ROUND OF NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS (PNC John Tuohy)**

Commandant	Art Menard
Senior Vice Commandant	Ray Rowley
Junior Vice Commandant	Ray Rayl and Phil Smith
Judge Advocate	Stephen Fletcher
Paymaster	Larry Sweerin

Nominations are closed until tomorrow when the convention convenes.

Meetings were closed for the day at 1645.

Open for business at 0900 on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **0900 RECONVENE OF MCL BUSINESS MEETING**

#### **RECOGNITION OF DIGNATARIES**

PNC John Tuohy	Past Commandant PDC Jim Tuohy
PNC Jim Tuohy	Past Commandant PDC John Tuohy
National Judge Advocate Phil Zamora	Past Commandant PDC Phil Zamora
National Kennel Quarter Master Wendy Zamora	Past Commandant PDC Wendy Zamora
Past Director of Young Marines Byron Hassie	Past Commandant PDC Warren Tracey

#### **ROLL CALL**

Roll Call took place of those not present yesterday and noted.

#### **HISTORIAN (Dale Erion)**

Still scanning items to his computer and working on scanning the Michigan Marines News and Convention books. Any pictures you may have, please identify the event and who is present in the picture. Erion brought the original Michigan Marine of the Year trophy on the back table. Other than that, things are going well.

#### **VAVS DIRECTOR (Steve Kelley-excused)**

Commandant Menard stated that things are going well from looking at the reports.

### **MICHIGAN MARINE NEWS EDITOR (Mark Sutton)**

End of June will be getting the next edition out of the Michigan Marine News, stated he has had lots going on.

### **WEBMASTER (Tracey Tippett)**

Trying to do the best at keeping the website updated as much as possible. Tippett does not have mind reading abilities, and if not notified of changes or updates, they will not get done. So if something needs to be taken care of, please let her know. The Departments website is: Michiganmarines.org, Thank you.

### **FORT CUSTER NATIONAL CEMETERY LIASON (Larry Sweerin)**

Memorial Day Ceremony went very well and had great attendance. Listed the number of burials taken place. They did receive our \$100 dues. Also a major renovation to re-do all roads and to add more grave site will be taking place.

### **1/24<sup>th</sup> MEMORIAL LIASON (Angelo Lema Jr)**

Not present, no report.

### **MARINE FOR LIFE COORDINATOR (Daniel Guerrero)**

Need to work on this, this is a good program. Need to meet this coordinator for the Department. This is a great way to get new members in our Detachments.

### **GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY LIASON (Ray Rayl)**

For the month of May, internments 518, year to date internments 2,888, total since 2005 of internments 55,216. There will be an open-house on June 11<sup>th</sup>. A golf outing planned for August 27<sup>th</sup>. Flag team continues to meet every Monday morning to look at Avenue of Flags. Memorial Day was a huge success with approximately over 500 people in attendance. More events, Flag Retirement Ceremony June 24<sup>th</sup>, Unaccompanied Ceremony September 10<sup>th</sup>, POW/MIA Day September 16<sup>th</sup>, Head Stone Cleaning October 8<sup>th</sup>, Veteran's Day-November 11<sup>th</sup>, wreaths across America to be announced.

### **TOYS FOR TOTS LIAISON (Gary Dunn)**

No report, National did do a zoom meeting in regards to the toys program.

### **NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE (Phil Zamora)**

Recently attended Modern Day Marine in Washington DC, good times, lots going on, and was well attended. National Convention will be held in Daytona Beach Florida this year. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for 2023, will be in Oklahoma City, OK. Central Division next March will be held in Indiana, Michigan should be hosting this event in a few years. Phil will be running again for 2<sup>nd</sup> term as National Judge Advocate.

### **SICK-IN-DISTRESS**

Detachment 1478 Marine Mike Drayer is in assisted living center recouping from a partial leg amputation. Chaplain in Dearborn Detachment Maples is having issues from a pinched nerve. Jon Vantol's sister passed away recently.

### **TIME AND PLACE (Jim Tuohy)**

No bids for 2023 Mid-Winter or 2023 Summer Convention, nor letter of intent to check it out. Don't be afraid to do it. If one is not turned in, the Department will be responsible for putting these on.

### **RESOLUTION OF BY-LAWS**

No changes as of now. Looking forward we need to do business according to Roberts Rules of Orders and one of the things was having a percentage of membership in attendance to these conventions which broke down to a percentage of Detachments—but the Detachments need to be in good standing filing 990's, lara corps, and filing installation reports. More to follow on this.

Menard added that after June 30<sup>th</sup> can file for the new fiscal year 990's and Lara Corporates. Just make sure you get it done.

If a Detachment is not in good standing they will not be receiving any paid for life membership funds deposited. Make sure you are sending in your PLM Audits by 31 December and copy in Paymaster Sweerin and keep proof of it.

### **FOUNDATION AND SCHOLARSHIP (John Tuohy)**

Only 12 scholarship applications were turned in, last year there were over 26, there has been a steady drop in them. Foundation raffle raised \$6,400 with over 725 raffle tickets being sold. General Operating fund has \$21,614.09 and the Corpus Fund has \$15,127.60. Major expense is the scholarship grants. Only have 4 coins left to sell as an added note. Donations were accepted to the Foundation from Detachment 444, Detachment 1401, and Detachment 1423.

### **BUDGET & FINANCE (John Tuohy)**

Budget for 2023 is not ready yet, we are still in decent shape. We are going to utilize the same numbers from 2022.

### **Paymaster (Larry Sweerin)**

Paymaster attended the Springfield Convention and attended paymaster classes and learned a lot. Transmittals are in the process of being changed and also how the payments are being processed. If a member is delinquent will be dropping off your rosters. Also will be looking into doing electronic payments, ACH or paypal payments, more information needs to be found out in doing these properly.

Balances in the checking account are in \$99,850.11. We are doing well with staying under budget in our expenses.

Motion to approve the Budget to carry 2022 to 2023 by Ray Rowley, second by Phil Zamora: motion carried.

Motion to approve the paymasters report by Richard Monroe, second by Michael Moross: motion carried.

Motion to look into electronic payments for transmittals etc etc by Phil Zamora, second by Michael Moross: motion carried.

## **AWARDS:**

The following awards were presented by the Senior Vice Richard Monroe to the following:

Distinguished Service Awards:

Phil Smith	Mike King	Tracy Berg
David Masunas	Michael Moross	Paul Smigowski
Larry Sweerin	Jonathon VanTol	Tim McGee
Tracey Tippett	Bill LaMarch	Gerry Rivord

Top Recruitment Award:

Shoreline Detachment 1027/Edward Lopez

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Recruitment Award:

Cascades Detachment 149/David Schmidt

Victor T Fisher Award (known as the Board of Trustees Award) goes to Senior Vice Commandant Richard Monroe.

### **AWARDS CHAIR (Phil Smith)**

Stated need to see more recognition from the Detachments in recognizing their members.

### **CREDENTIALS CHAIR (Ray Rayl)**

The list of detachments, delegates and delegates present were read prior to the election of officers.

### **ELECTIONS (John Tuohy)**

PNC John Tuohy conducted the election of officers for the 2022-2023 year. The results of the elections is as follows:

Commandant	Art Menard
Senior Vice Commandant	Ray Rowley
Junior Vice Commandant	Ray Rayl
Judge Advocate	Stephen Fletcher
Paymaster	Larry Sweerin

### **ZONE CACUS**

All Zones gathered together to discuss new changes and who is the Zone Vice Commandant.

### **ZONE VICE COMMANDANTS**

Southeast Zone 1	Phil Smith
Eastern Zone 2	Norm Root
Southern Zone 3	Forest Secord
Southwest Zone 4	Michael Moross
Western Zone 5	David Masunas
Central Zone 6	Troy Stewart
Northern Zone 7	Matt Hageman
Upper Peninsula Zone 8	Tracey Tippett



**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Letter of intent from the Red Knights for holding Mid-Winter Convention.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion on the floor to take out a full page AD for National Convention by Dave Masunas second that by Phil Zamora, motion carried.

Detachments listed raffles and upcoming events they would be having.

**Following the Installation of Officers at the banquet, the Convention was closed at 21:30 hours.**

**Respectfully Submitted**

*Tracey A Tippett*

**Tracey A Tippett  
Department Adjutant**

