



MINUTES
2022 MID-WINTER RALLY
DoubleTree Hilton Dearborn Hotel
Detroit, MI 48228
February 3-6, 2022

JOINT OPENING CEREMONY

At 1330 hours.

Opening Ceremony commenced by John Tuohy.

Recognition of Dignitaries:

PNC/PDC John Tuohy

PNC/PDC Jim Tuohy

National Judge Advocate Phil Zamora

Kennel Quartermaster Wendy Zamora

National Vice Central Division Mike Sturch

Central Division Aid De Camp Bruce Blackmer

Jr. Past Commandant Jonathon VanTol

PNP Gerri Tuohy

PDP Peggy Tuohy

National Judge Advocate PDP Mary Brief

Dept. Auxiliary President Marcy Oakley

Past Commandant PDC Phil Zamora

Past Commandant PDC Wendy Zamora

Past Commandant PDC Norm Pfaff

Brief presentation by Kate Melcher from Fisher House was given describing what they do and where they are located in Michigan.

Bill Browning from the VA Medical Center in Detroit spoke about how they are doing.

Chief of Police for the City of Dearborn welcomed us to the area.

A representative from Chesterfield Veterans Home gave remarks on their Veteran Home and also on Grand Rapids Home and DJ Jacobetti Home For Veterans.

Midwinter Committee Member PNP Gerri Tuohy gave brief welcoming remarks.

National Vice from Central Division Mike Sturch and Aid DeCamp Bruce Blackmer welcomed us all and wished for a successful Conference.

Department Auxiliary President Marcy Oakley a big welcome and thank you for coming.

Department Commandant Art Menard thank you for coming and welcome to all. With hopes for a successful Mid-Winter Conference and hopes we all have a good time.

A special presentation was given by Phil Smith as part of the Michigan Commanders Group to present Tracey Tippett with the 2021 State of Michigan Veteran of the Year Award.

Session was adjourned til 1500 hours.

OPENING CEREMONY FOR DEPARTMENT

At 1500 hours

Opening Prayer by Department Chaplain, Fred Green

The Commandant recognized Past National Commandants, Past Department Commandants and Dignitaries:

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| PNC John Tuohy | Jr. Past Commandant Jonathon Vantol |
| PNC Jim Tuohy | Past Commandant PDC Jim Tuohy |
| National Judge Advocate Phil Zamora | Past Commandant PDC John Tuohy |
| National Vice Central Division Mike Sturch | Past Commandant PDC Phil Zamora |
| National Kennel Quarter Master Wendy Zamora | Past Commandant PDC Wendy Zamora |
| Central Division Aid De Camp Bruce Blackmer | Past Commandant PDC Norm Pfaff |

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Appointed Department Staff Absent:

Vice Commandant-Western Zone 5 – David Masunas (excused)
Vice Commandant-Central Zone 6 – Troy Stewart
Vice Commandant-Northern Zone 7 – Matt Hageman
Chief Of Staff – Warren Tracey (excused)
Assistant Sergeant At Arms – Michael Drayer (excused)
VAVS Director – Steve Kelley (excused)
Department EMailer – Emil Franz III
1/24th Memorial Liaison – Angelo Lima Jr.
Eagle Scout Coordinator – David Masunas (excused)
Marine for Life Coordinator – Daniel Guerrero
Toys For tots Liaison – Gary Dunn

Detachment Representatives Absent:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fred Cochran #151 | Monroe County #157 | Sgt. GP Porta #163 |
| Yagle Brothers #165 | Washtenaw County #414 | George St. Martin #550 |
| North Oakland County #570 | Cpl. Jack A Davenport #684 | Northern Michigan #690 |
| Muskegon #703 | Wolverine #722 | Harold R. Cooley #841 |
| Keweenaw #1016 | Shoreline #1027 | Oceana/Brett Witteveen #1225 |
| Alpena #1327 | SSgt. Bryan Burgess #1337 | |

REPORT OF OFFICERS

COMMANDANT'S REPORT –Art Menard

Menard stated that most of the reports were emailed to Dutch for the Detachments to already read and to save time at the Conference. Upcoming events that Menard will be attending:

National Mid-Winter February 24 – 26, 2022
Central Division Conference March 17 – 19, 2022, Springfield, OH
Summer Convention, June 3-6, 2022, Escanaba, MI
National Convention, August 14-20, 2022, Daytona Beach, FL
Department Fall Staff, October 8th, 2022, Davison, MI

Talked about classes we will be conducting, and we have the VET Center in attendance. In addition, a class will be on the Department Website—lots of information out there, and who and how to contact. There are direct links available. Will be having a class on VA issues and how to navigate that system. Also on filing of 990's and LARA Corporate reports. Lots to come and discuss.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT – Richard Monroe

Monroe reiterated about what happened in Fund Raising Meeting in the morning. Major sporting events are opening up and letting organizations conduct their fund raising venues. Google them to contact them. Candy bar sales (Saykly's Chocolates) from the UP get with Monroe he has information to pass out if you are interested in selling candy bars. Also talked about the possibility of doing a golf outing, but need to form a committee to accomplish this. The Senior Vice still has raffle tickets to sell, please make sure your Detachments return them by the beginning of April and to return the tickets with a check or money order—no cash. There was discussion of a motorcycle raffle, this has been put on hold at this time once more events start opening up. Later tomorrow there will be a Detachment's Commandants Council meeting, all are welcome to attend.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT'S REPORT –Ray Rowley

Rowley has been reviewing our National Reports, stated that when viewing these reports over 21% are non-renewals (unpaid members). This is unacceptable, at this point should be at the most 10%. It is a team effort to work on these issues, it is easier to keep an existing member than recruiting a new one. Also, Rowley had the honor of being a guest speaker in Jackson County where they received a piece of the Arizona. Otherwise, Jr. Vice's report submitted stands as so written.

If you have issues with your roster, please reach out to Shanelle Ferringer at sferringer@mcleague.org she is our Michigan rep.

JUDGE ADVOCATE-Stephen Fletcher

Report was submitted electronically. Fletcher has been in the process of reviewing National By-Law changes, and a few on the Department/Detachment level. If a Detachment wants to do a By-Law change

they need to advise the Judge Advocate of it first. Also, he dealt with a couple of opinions that were addressed. Finally his contact phone number has changed, and will be updated on the Department's website.

VICE COMMANDANT'S REPORTS

SOUTHEAST ZONE 1 – Phil Smith

Been visiting the Detachments and keeping in touch with them. Report stands as stated.

EASTERN ZONE 2 – Tim McGee

No report submitted

SOUTHERN ZONE 3 – David Schmidt

Schmidt has attended at least one meeting of each Detachment. Suggested might look at advertising in the Marine Corps Times. Otherwise report submitted as stated.

SOUTHWEST ZONE 4 – Michael Moross

Report submitted as stated

WESTERN ZONE 5 – David Masunas (excused)

No report submitted

CENTRAL ZONE 6 – Troy Stewart (absent)

No report submitted

NORTHERN ZONE 7 – Matt Hageman (absent)

No report submitted

UPPER PENINSULA ZONE 8 – Tracey Tippet

Report submitted as stated

MICHIGAN MARINE NEWS EDITOR – MARK SUTTON

If you are not getting the Newsletter, make sure Dutch has your email address or else there is a link on the Department's Website. If you have any changes or suggestions to the Newsletter, please let Sutton know. Bylaw changes for the Department need to be submitted by 4/1 in order to be viewed/submitted for Summer Convention. Any submissions for the next Newsletter needs to be in by 2/11. Anyone running for an office, please email mm12sutton@gmail.com.

GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY – LARRY SWEERIN

Report submitted reads as stands. Some reports are available on back table. Next meeting will be on March 8th.

MOTION TO ADJOURN FOR THE DAY BUSINESS WILL RESUME AT 09:00 HOURS.

0908 DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENES

ROLL CALL OF MISSING STAFF OR DETACHMENTS

RECOGNITION OF DIGNATARIES

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| PNC John Tuohy | JR Past Commandant Jonathon VanTol |
| PNC Jim Tuohy | Past Commandant PDC Jim Tuohy |
| National Judge Advocate Phil Zamora | Past Commandant PDC John Tuohy |
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| National Vice Central Division Mike Sturch | Past Commandant PDC Wendy Zamora |
| Central Division Aid De Camp Bruce Blackmer | |

HISTORIAN –DALE ERION

Erion is still working on the History of our league. He is still collecting names and places and pictures. Looking for stories and putting together a booklet that tells our History throughout the league.

VET CENTER – (LOCATED IN BACK OF ROOM)

They are an asset to have in our community. They are here to answer some of the questions you may have. They are somewhat tied to the VA, but yet separate from the VA—when you get a chance check them out in the back room.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR – MARK SUTTON

Burn pit exposure legislation progress has been made on determining presumptive conditions, details are being conferenced between the US House and Senate Committees. The US House Veterans Affairs Committee would like to hear from service members who have been exposed to toxins while serving. Go To: <https://veterans.house.gov/share-your-story> to add yours. Sutton encourages you to visit CONGRESS.GOV and read the bills and keep track of their progress. There are lots of bills that use the term Veteran introduced. Watch Senate Bill 783 & 784—working out the details. 2022-2023 Michigan Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference forecast that includes an expected 1.7 billion more to invest yet this physical year and another \$1.4 billion more for the fiscal year starting October 1. A list of priorities we should be requesting for the new budget year would be 2 to 3 new Veteran Homes funded, and at least a 10% cost of living increase in the VSO Grants. Any questions contact Sutton at 248-390-5481 or email at mm12sutton@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN – FRED GREEN

Reported over 40 deceased members in the league, and will recognized in service later on. Green and Vantol had National pass an Associates Member Award. Worked with local recruiters on “Back To The Bricks” project and met with Marines all over that didn’t know about the league. His community did a Toys for Tots Campaign and helped over 800 children. Please keep sending in the death notices, and make sure to mark them on your transmittal also new forms are on the National Website.

NATIONAL COMMANDANTS CORNER

Johnny Baker has set up a monthly Zoom meeting for up to 100 people per Zoom to attend. Last one was on Toys For Tots and the next one in February will be on Marksmanship and Eagle Scout—usually around the third Tuesday of the month.

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT—TRACEY TIPPETT

Tippett is still learning the in's and out's of her new position since taking this over at Summer Convention. The one thing she stresses is that if someone sends you an email, or a text message—please respond back to them, or get ahold of someone that can get that information that is needed. No one contacted the Adjutant that they would not be at Mid-Winter Convention, and only ¼ of the Detachments submitted reports. Communication is the key to all of our jobs we do here. We are in the process of updating the Detachment Commandant's list—adding the Paymaster/Adjutants and a Point of Contact to the spreadsheet. If anything changes, please let me know to keep things updated and running smoothly.

NATIONAL VICE CENTRAL DIVISION – MIKE STURCH

Division Central Conference will be March 18-20 in Springfield, OH. Looking for Ad's for the Conference even if you cannot attend. Bob Borka-COO and Johnny Baker National Commandant will be in attendance. Brought up about Zoom meetings for the Commandant's Corner. Look on National's Website for the update installation forms and transmittal forms. Division Marine of the Year needs to be turned in by the 18th of March. Central Division now has a new polo shirt available for \$35.

The Ship's Store is having issue with supply and demand (like everyone else out there). Getting materials especially for covers is an issue being looked into. Certificates of Appreciation there is now a temp. plate on the National Website with just the logo to now utilize.

FOUNDATION – TIM MCGEE

Currently \$34,000 in the fund, \$15,000 in the Jerry McKeon Corpus Fund—set-up from funds from the Foundation Coins proceeds, only will be touching the interest. There are 5 Founders Coins left, and tons of challenge coins to purchase. The Scholarship program is not just for college education, any accredited program can be applied for. Last year 20-\$500 Scholarships were given out totaling \$10,000. Please consider donating to the Foundation.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE – PHIL ZAMORA

National Convention will be in Daytona Beach, FL in August, hotel is beachside, and already on the second hotel. 2023 will be in Oklahoma City, OK 100th anniversary for the Marine Corps League—as soon as National Convention in Daytona done, start calling to reserve rooms. In a few years will be the 250th Anniversary of the Marine Corps, go to: Homecoming250.org to see what will be going on and happening. Hoping to rebuild Tun Tavern in Philadelphia and hold celebration there.

GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY – RAY RAYL

There was a successful Golf outing fund raiser conducted in August. A lot of events took place in 2021, Unaccompanied Veterans Burial Service, 20th Anniversary of 911, Remembering POW/MIA, Honor Guard Appreciation Luncheon, Headstone Cleaning, Veterans Day Ceremony, Wreaths Across America. Currently there are over 53,263 buried there. Flint and Howell Detachments serving as the Color Guard. A few issues are being dealt with, with the director.

DEPARTMENT PAYMASTER – LARRY SWEERIN

Sweerin is also learning his new position as Paymaster. Transmittals are coming in fairly accurate, but make sure everything is completed with the death notices. Finances are doing well, total assets are \$137,489.05, doing well on our expenses from projected usage, and net income so far is \$9,811.01. Fund reconciliations balanced and a list of investments dividends were posted. A motion was made by Monroe, second by Tippet to pay for 2020 Christmas party and to utilize funds from the VAVS's in the amount of \$250, motion carried. A motion by Tippet, second by Tuohy to accept the Paymasters report as so written, motion carried.

TIME AND PLACE – PNC JIM TUOHY

2023 Mid-Winter Rally/Summer Convention no bids have been submitted. If no Detachment steps up to host, it will fall on the Department to host these events. Need to encourage other Detachments to step-up and host one of these functions. Help is always available from the Time and Place Committee. Summer Convention packets were handed out for June 3-6th in Escanaba.

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY FUNDRAISING CHAIR– Elizabeth LaPouttre

Transactions using PAYPAL totaled \$721.00, 8 transactions were done, they believed it helped in registration, CON was figuring out an acceptable fee to assess the member doing the transaction. Looked into WIX, would be able to be integrated easily into website that was created. Cons is a monthly cost, hard trying to determine an extra fee to add-on to each transaction. Another option was Eventbrite-completely free, can pass fees onto purchaser, able to integrate links into website. Cons, take more time to integrate a link into website, refunds would be manual on our end, and fees would be slightly more. She summarized to use Eventbrite for all future Rally's and Conventions if this is something we want to do.

SICK-IN DISTRESS

Michael Drayer

Don Longsten

Michael Moross (wife)

Lenny Brooks (wife)

Calvin Moore

JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE CONDUCTED

VA BENEFITS AND INFORMATIONAL CLASS – PHIL SMITH

Smith gave presentation on VA Benefits and what you could possibly claim, depends on when you served in the military and how much is documented in Military record. Listed who you can go to see if you qualify, County Service Officers, DAV, VFW, American Legion etc. Smith handed out new VA booklets, and also can go to www.VA.gov.

DEPARTMENT WEBSITE – TRACEY TIPPETT

Michiganmarines.org is the Department's website. The way to navigate the website, click and "play" browse, you will find oodles of information posted. Pointed out the S-1 admin, lots of important information is listed under there. Went through where information is located and notifying everyone that if something is not correct to please notify to rectify.

IRS & LARA WEB CLASS – ART MENARD

Menard explained the need to make sure you are filing your Lara Corporates. Go to: Michigangov.com/lara and you can do business entity searches to find out who and when their last filings were. Menard explained the different items to be looking at. Continued about filing your 990's and what will happen if this is not done, losing non-profit filing, and the process of getting it reinstated. More information can be found on IRS.Gov charities and non-profits. Further discussion about a few topics prevailed.

DETACHMENT COMMANDANT'S COUNCIL –RICHARD MONROE

Senior Vice Monroe opened the session by stating that all Detachments should have turned in a written reports outlining what their Detachments have been doing. Copies can either be found in your emails, or on the back table. Raffle ticket sales are going ok, they need to be turned in around April. The questions the Senior Vice proposed was: What can the Department do for the Detachments? Discussions evolved and shared lots of good ideas, what needs to be done, and how to improve things. Senior Vice Monroe will take suggestions back to the Board of Trustees.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing Prayer was said by Department Chaplain Fred Green.

The 2022 Mid-Winter Rally was closed at 1715 hours on February 5th, 2022 by Department Commandant Art Menard until we reconvene at the 2022 Department Summer Convention near Escanaba.

Respectfully Submitted

Tracey A Tippett

Department Adjutant

