



**MINUTES**  
**2024 MID-WINTER RALLY**  
**DoubleTree Hilton Dearborn Hotel**  
**Detroit, MI 48228**  
**January 19-21, 2024**

**JOINT OPENING CEREMONY**

At 1345 hours.

Opening Ceremony commenced by John Tuohy.

Recognition of Guests:

Bill Bazzi--Mayor of Dearborn Heights  
Michael Harris--Mayor of Lincoln Park  
Issa Shahin—Chief of Police Dearborn  
PDC Gerry Alcorn—Foundation President  
PDD Ray Rowley—Worthy Pack Dog Leader  
Fred Durhall III—Member of Detroit City Council  
Maureen Ailor—Auxiliary President Michigan Marine Corps League  
Ray Rayl—Commandant Michigan Marine Corps League

Marching of the Colors.

Chaplain Opening Prayer.

Brief welcome from Bill Bazzi and appreciate us all coming to Dearborn, stated that Dearborn is a great city and thank you for being here.

Mayor of Lincoln Park said it was a great honor for him to be there, thanked us for what we have done and do currently. Presented a certificate thanking Marine Corps League. And if we needed anything to let him know.

Chief of Police for the City of Dearborn welcomed us to the area. Thank you to the Marine Corps League and Dearborn Detachment. Thanked all the Veterans and League for everything we do. Presented a citation to Marine Corps League from City of Dearborn.

Foundation President Gerry Alcorn thanked us all for being in attendance. Asked the question are we relevant today, we have to be relevant in what we are doing and who we are and in being here for our communities—we need to be relevant in all we do.

PDD Worthy Pack Leader Ray Rowley thanked Downriver and Montford Point Detachments for putting on this convention. Hopes to see everyone at the growl tonight.

Auxiliary President Maureen Ailor loves our organization and what we do, announced Peggy Tuohy current National Comptroller, National Jr. Vice- Mary Brief, Central Division Vice-Ann LeClair, and all her Auxiliary Staff. It is a pleasure to be here and that they are always looking for a few good women.

Fred Durhal member of the Detroit City Council sent greetings from the city of Detroit, that we are always welcome. Thanked us all for the great service we do in the community and for serving our country.

A round of applause and thank you for Randall Clemens and Greg Meyring co-chairs for putting this rally together.

Department Commandant Ray Rayl welcomed everybody to the area, thank you to Downriver and Montford Point for hosting this convention and thank you all for being here.

Session was adjourned til 1430 hours.

### **OPENING CEREMONY FOR DEPARTMENT**

At 1430 hours

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer by Department Chaplain, Fred Green

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

PNC/PDC John Tuohy

PDC Dave Masunas

PDC Jon VanTol

Central Division Aid De Camp Bruce Blackmer

Jr. Past Commandant Art Menard

PDC Gerry Alcorn

### **FAMILY MEMBERS SICK OR IN DISTRESS**

Sr.Vice for Dearborn has stage 4 cancer, and keep the family of Warren Tracey who passed away on Christmas Eve in our prayers.

### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

Appointed Department Staff Absent:

Judge Advocate—Scott Hellman (excused)  
Vice Commandant-Southwest Zone 4—Michael Moross (excused)  
Vice Commandant-Western Zone 5—William Tetzlaff (excused)  
Vice Commandant—Northern Zone 7—Frank Rosinski  
Aide De Camp—Richard Monroe (excused)  
VAVS Director – Steve Kelley (excused)  
Department E-mailer – Emil Franz III  
Great Lakes National Cemetery Liaison- William Brown  
1/24<sup>th</sup> Memorial Liaison – Angelo Lima Jr.  
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
Cpl. Jack A Davenport #684	Northern Michigan #690	Muskegon #703
Wolverine #722	Branch Area #763	Keweenaw #1016
Shoreline #1027	Irish Hills #1182	Alpena #1327
SSgt. Bryan Burgess #1337		

**REPORT OF OFFICERS**

**COMMANDANT’S REPORT –Ray Rayl**

Welcome to the 2024 Mid-Winter Rally, thank you to the Downriver/Montford Point for co-hosting this Mid-Winter Rally and thank you to the Hilton Double Tree for having us here. Since the Fall Staff, presented the Good Citizenship Certificates to two Eagle Scouts. In November and December participated in Operation Hand Shake which was hosted by the Patriot Guide Riders—event welcome’s active duty and veterans home for the Holidays. November 25<sup>th</sup> traveled to Muskegon and helped with the car raffle. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, attended Southern Zone meeting hosted by Butch Secord. January 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> attended Warren Tracey’s funeral.

Encourages everyone to get raffle tickets and sell them.

Welcomed new members to staff, Gerry Alcorn-President Foundation, Christine Faymonville—Scholarship Committee, Jeff Salzeider—Foundation Treasurer, and thank you to Tim McGee-stepping down as Foundation President.

Upcoming events, April 4-7, 2024—Central Division Conference in Kalamazoo. June 7-9<sup>th</sup>, Summer Convention also in Kalamazoo.

## **SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT – Phil Smith**

Welcome, first time being Senior Vice, been helping out the Commandant, did a few installations, and a few investigations. Been running around trying to help Detachments, did Toys For Tots Campaign, was also nominated and chosen for Veteran of Game for U of M Game—great honor. And that is about it for now.

## **JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT’S REPORT—Stephen Fletcher**

First time being Jr. Vice in Department and filling in big shoes from past individuals having this position. Main goal is membership/membership. Membership is pretty strong could be better, We have 1583 paid members since last roster. Reminder August 31 everyone’s membership expires if you are not a life member. It is a good recruiting opportunity for everyone working on membership and Jr. Vice is responsible for member recruiting award—from April 30<sup>th</sup> 2023 to 1 May 2024 if you recruit more than 5 members you are eligible for this award. Paid Life Members went up in cost, make sure you do your paid life audits or else no funds from National. That is all at this time.

## **JUDGE ADVOCATE-Scott Hellman**

Report was submitted electronically also attached was raffle update.

## **JUNIOR PAST COMMANDANT—Art Menard**

Welcome to Dearborn—Menard submitted his report prior electronically to all. Stated main priority and objective is helping out our current Commandant. New adventure in co-chairing Central Division Conference Committee and also helping with Summer Convention to be held at the same place in Kalamazoo. Everything is almost in place for Conventions—still working on the Summer Convention Packet.

Tomorrow will also be giving an Awards Class which will be good for the membership.

## **PAYMASTER—Larry Sweerin**

The copy of the budget was handed out the membership present on the floor. As for income we are doing fine. Thing that is throwing budget off is the vehicle raffle which only received \$27000 plus and we budgeted for \$71000—kind of up in the air. Membership dues are down about \$1476.00, we have 246 unpaid members. Expenses are fine, some of the expenses have been used up, and expenses for vehicle raffle not used up. Can see the profit and losses on rest of the report. Investments have had tremendous growth since first started out. Will review next at Summer Convention.

The PLM reports are doing better since Sweerin has been reminding Detachments to get it done. Transmittals needs only two copies to paymaster. When you do a notice of Death on transmittal need notice of Death Form too.

## **ADJUTANT—Tracey Tippett**

Tippett thanked everyone who helped out when she was unable to attend previous events in 2023—it was greatly appreciated and all the thoughts and prayers helped out. Will be giving a class on ROI's tomorrow, and so in regards to the Officer Installation Reports—I keep a giant spreadsheet (which Rayl started previously—and I have expanded on it)—it has who filed Officer Installation Reports, and Bank and Charter forms—also look if you have updated forms being used. Make sure everything is filled out properly. Also need a point of contact for your Detachments. I am there to help and assist the membership any way I possibly can. Thank you.

### **WEBMASTER—Tracey Tippett**

Tippett tries to keep the website updated as much as possible. If you see something that needs updating please let me know whatever needs fixing. Things are not an instant fix and they take awhile to do and I am not a mind reader when things need changing. If you have any suggestions for things, I am always open to suggestions. Thank you.

### **VICE COMMANDANT'S REPORTS**

#### **SOUTHEAST ZONE 1 – Eugene Owens**

Been visiting the Detachments and keeping in touch with them. Attended birthday celebration at Montford Point. Otherwise things are going well. Report stands as stated.

#### **EASTERN ZONE 2 – Norman Root**

Did a installation at Cpl Stanley Moore, it is a fine detachment—also doing Toys For Tots. Keeping in touch with Detachments and they are doing fine and have one Detachment in distress. Otherwise nothing else to report.

#### **SOUTHERN ZONE 3 – Forest Secord**

Secord has attended 11 Detachment meetings, 6 Capital Detachment breakfasts, helped out at Fair Grounds for recruiting, attended National Convention, attended different recruiting events, Participated Fall Staff, attended Capital Detachments Marine Corps Ball, and held a Southern Zone meeting in December. Things are going well.

#### **SOUTHWEST ZONE 4 – Michael Moross (excused)**

No report submitted

#### **WESTERN ZONE 5 – William “Doc” Tetzlaff (excused)**

Report was emailed.

#### **CENTRAL ZONE 6 – Troy Stewart**

Has visited all Detachments in his zone. Attended a good Marine Corps Ball in Saginaw. Raffle ticket sales have been slow. Trying to get ideas out there for recruiting new members. Otherwise, things are going fine.

#### **NORTHERN ZONE 7 – Frank Rosinski**

No report submitted

**UPPER PENINSULA ZONE 8 – Tracy Berg**

Visited Detachment 444, gave out two good citizens awards, also had the Vietnam moving wall in the area—event went very well (Community raised lots of money). Went to National Convention had a great time. Otherwise, things are going well.

**CHAPLAIN—Fred Green**

Currently on register we have 440 deceased members. Trying to find and make a list where these members are buried and what they did and a bit of history on them. Stepped down from Toys for Tots and now is part of Young Marines—enjoying helping out and such a worth while program.

**FORT CUSTER NATIONAL CEMETERY LIAISON—Larry Sweerin**

Memorial Day Service will be May 26<sup>th</sup> this year and services there will be at 1400. Burial as of to date this year is 114 total casket burial total 22,985. 140 cremations year to date, total 19387. Columbarium Internments 55 year to date, total 1,724. Scattered on grounds 1. Total burials at cemetery are 44,120.

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA—Lisa Fountain**

Did a presentation to the Macomb Detachment and did a raffle for them. Shared information at previous convention how to participate in Wreaths Across America. Made a few other presentations, and was recently appointed by National Commandant Warren Griffin to be the National Wreaths Across America Liaison.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN FOR THE DAY, JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE AT 0900 HOURS, AND BUSINESS WILL RESUME AT 0930 HOURS.**

**JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE (0900)**

Joint Memorial Service was conducted by the Chaplain and Auxiliary—honoring 31 Marine Corps League Members and 4 Auxiliary Members.

**0940 DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN BUSINESS MEETING RECONVENES**

**ROLL CALL OF MISSING STAFF OR DETACHMENTS**

**LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR – MARK SUTTON**

Legislative side of things, they introduced 49 bills and only 4 were signed into law by the Governor. Two of which-one was the Women’s Veterans Recognition Day on June 12<sup>th</sup> and Memorial Highway designated, the other two had to do with 100% total disabled Veterans. It is an election year, be mindful of voting and know what is going on. Encourage your membership to go out and vote.

## **MICHIGAN MARINE NEWS—MARK SUTTON**

It still continues to be a work in progress, items will be coming out shortly. Please email [mm12sutton@gmail.com](mailto:mm12sutton@gmail.com). Great way to keep communication up and going.

## **EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR—Dave Masunas**

For the Eagle Scout program have presented 49 certificates to Court of Honor Recipients. Encourages all to reach out to local Boy Scout Troops and let them know we have this program and applications are online. It is a great recruiting tool for the Marine Corps League. Masunas will send certificate and two letters that we can read during ceremony if we participate in them.

## **HISTORIAN –DALE ERION**

Still in the process of updating the History of the Marine Corps League for the state of Michigan. Looking in updating all the past Department Commandants. In the process of scanning all old Michigan Marine News Letters and National News concerning Department of Michigan into the computer so we will all have easier access to information.

## **VAVS DIRECTOR—JON VANTOL (FILLING IN FOR STEVE KELLEY)**

This report is by Steve Kelley who was not able to attend the Rally, 2023 Department Marine Corps League Convention he turned into Tim McGee \$951.43 for the Foundation to help the VAVS Program. Today he turned into the Foundation \$1,570.43 for VAVS Program. He does this from used motors and scrapping engines. There is a new VAVs Representative at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Mark Bower and eager to begin his new position. Steve Kelley due to health issues is stepping down from VAVS Director for the Marine Corps League. Also, John C. Rock made a donation for the VAV'S for \$165.00.

## **CREDENTIALS—LISA FOUNTAIN**

Getting organized and learning how it is supposed to go. Steve August will be the assistant. Will be an email coming out for Detachments to list delegates and alternates and to get that turned in in a timely manner for the Summer Convention.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS—CHRISTINE FAYMONVILLE**

Honored and brand new to the Scholarship Committee. Will be coordinating with Tim McGree for a smooth transition of job duties. Applications are online at the Michiganmarines.org website. Need to promote this to our membership for their families to help further their education. Also National does have scholarships applications too.

## **MICHIGAN MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT—MAUREEN AILOR**

The Auxiliary was formed as Affiliate of the Marine Corps League in promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps and to protect and advance the welfare of Marines and their dependents.

Auxiliary members participate in a wide variety of programs that benefit and preserves the fundamental rights of every person of this Nation. We educate the young, help Military, our Communities, and to help, aid and support our Veterans. If we didn't have our Veterans, we wouldn't be able to do any of this. Thank you.

### **TIME & PLACE—WENDY ZAMORA**

Central Division will be April 4-7<sup>th</sup> at the Delta Hotels Kalamazoo Conference Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Deadlines for rooms is March 4<sup>th</sup>, strip tickets 15 March, book ad's is also deadline 15 March, strip ticket cost is \$80. Choice of beef or chicken for banquet. Central Division Conference packet will be handed out to those on the floor. Anyone can attend this.

Summer Convention will be held June 7-9<sup>th</sup> at the Delta Marriott Hotel in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Helmes Brisco was used to negotiate the prices for us. Cut off for room reservation is May 7<sup>th</sup>, strip tickets and ads is May 20<sup>th</sup>. Summer packets will be coming out shortly.

Also looking for bids for next Mid-Winters Convention for 2025.

In order for these events to make any money, WE all need to sell Ad's.

### **RESOLUTIONS & BYLAWS—CHRISTINE A TONEGATTO-SALO**

No report at this time.

### **BREAK FOR LUNCH RETURN AT 1300 FOR CLASSES.**

### **REPORT OF INSTALLATION CLASS—TRACEY TIPPETT**

New updated forms can be found on Nationals website or on our michiganmarine.org websites. A copy of the report was being handed out by the Sgt-At-Arms with step by step instructions what needs to be filled out, and where to find the information at. Tippett went over where to find the information and what needs to be filled out. Adding that you might or might not be able to fill this in online—there have been issues. But please be legible in filling this out. Please make sure before you turn in the Office Installation Report that everything is filled in correctly, and all signatures are intact. Also to turn in the bank and charter form so National has an updated account of the information. Any questions to please let her know. Forms need to be done between September and May. Make sure forms are going to the correct individuals. This is an requirement that the Officer Installation Report and Bank and Charter forms are filed or else you could loose your charter.

### **DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN—DALE ERION**

Erion stated that he has been at the position of Department Historian for over 23 years and he knows pretty much what has taken place in the Department. The reason for this class is to make sure we have a historian for our Detachments and if we don't—why not? It is an appointed position from National on down and try to keep track of the history of your Detachments or Departments. It comes down to the



history of our Detachments, and in trying to get documents and pictures of the history of it. Also Erion is making sure he has copies of all of our Detachment Charters. You can start by writing history of Detachment, then find out who has been Detachment Commandants and go from there. Need to find someone who wants to take on this responsibility, and if you have pictures—list who is in them. Make sure the storage of documents are safe and secure or scan them to the computer. If anyone needs help please reach out to Erion.

### **AWARDS—ART MENARD AND JONATHON VANTOL**

Menard handed out pamphlets on the Marine Corps League Awards Order of Precedence and instructions on who can get them for doing what and who can give them to you. Menard explained that certain ribbons go a certain way. The ribbon and award information can be found in Enclosure Four of the National Bylaws. It is located in the back of the bylaws after the Articles. Your Judge Advocate and Commandant should have a copy. You can also find them on the National or Department websites. Reminder MCL and DOD ribbons don't mix. You either wear MCL or DOD—never mix the two together. Make sure you are “rewarding” you Detachment Marines for their good service in what they are doing.

### **MIAP—MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT—PHIL SMITH AND STEPHEN FLETCHER**

This project was launched in 2007 for unclaimed cremains of American Veterans Missing in Action Project. The program is nationwide. It is possible to go and ask funeral homes if they have any remains left behind by family members of veterans or their spouses and to give them a proper burial. There is a process to go through with National Registry to get approval to be buried in a Veterans or National Cemetery. There is also legislation that backs all of these procedures up. Eventually services are conducted to honor these Veterans and are given a proper burial. See Phil Smith or Stephen Fletcher for questions or how to do check into this program.

### **DETACHMENT COMMANDANT'S COUNCIL –PHIL SMITH**

Senior Vice Smith 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. Stated Zone Commandants are there to help the Detachments and should be visiting everyone. Recruiting is very important for all of us. Department Commandant wanted to bring up about being in Compliance and filing the 990's and Lara Corporates, also filing Officer Installation Reports and Bank/Charter Forms. If your Detachment is not doing this yearly—you are out of Compliance and your charter can be taken away. The Compliance Officer emailed everyone the list who has not filed. Senior Vice stressed to keep on top of filings, we do not like getting rid of Detachments. Every Detachment should have a SOP for Officers to go by. There are manuals on National's website telling Officers what their job duties are (password for Library is dd4). Some Detachments then spoke about what they were doing and a few things for fund raising and charities they support. What can the Department do for the Detachments? Senior Vice Smith will take suggestions back to the Board of Trustees.

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**

Closing Prayer was said by Department Chaplain Fred Green.

The 2024 Mid-Winter Rally was closed at 1645 by Department Commandant Ray Rayl until we reconvene at the 2024 Department Summer Convention in Kalamazoo.

Respectfully Submitted

*Tracey A Tippett*

Department Adjutant