



**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
FALL STAFF RALLY
AMERICAN LEGION POST 106, GRAYLING-MICHIGAN
OCTOBER 12th, 2024**

Opening Ceremony at 10:00 hours by Sergeant At Arms Tracy Berg.

Opening Prayer by Fred Green.

ROLL CALL:

Members Absent or Excused:

Norman Root	William "Doc" Tetzlaff	Steve Kelley	Frank Rosinski
Mark Sutton	Emil Franz III	Michael Hornev	William Brown
Michael Dahm	Daniel Guerrero		

Detachments not Represented:

146 Belcher-Lane-Williams	151 Fred Cochran	157 Monroe County
159 Corporal Stanley Moore	162 Northwest	165 Yagle Brothers
550 Geore St. Martin	690 Northern Michigan	722 Wolverine
763 Branch Area	902 John C. Rock	1027 Shoreline
1182 Irish Hills	1327 Alpena	1337 S/Sgt Bryan K.Burgess
1423 Edson-Kline-Vanslyke	163 Sergeant GP Porta	414 Washtenaw County
570 North Oakland County	1401 St Joseph County	

Past National and Department Officers were recognized: PNC John Tuohy, PNC James Tuohy, PDC Gerald Alcorn, PDC Wendy Zamora/MODD Quarter Master, PDC Phil Zamora/Central Division Vice Chief Devil Dog, PDC Dave Masunas, Jr. Past Commandant PDC Art Menard, Central Division ADVC Jeff Krakow, and Richard Monroe Aide De Camp Central Division.

Also asked who were the first time attendees for Fall Staff.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Commandant's Report: Ray Rayl

Commandant feels that the Department is in good shape so far, out of 32 Detachments seven Detachments are below the 15 members and will be trying to work on this before Mid-Winter. Rayl has attended many events and many Detachment Meetings. August 3 participated in Zoom Meeting held by Central Division Commandant Dave Englert, and announced some of his staff: Wendy Zamora is Central Division Adjutant/Paymaster, Fred Green Division Chaplain, Phil Zamora MODD Vice Chief, and Richard Monroe Aide De Camp, and Dale Erion Division Historian. Attended the National Convention in Rancho Mirage that took place August 12-18th. September continued attending various Detachment meetings. Also looking into those Detachments that fall under a "clubhouse" to get licenses and insurances taken care of.

Southeast Zone 1: Randall Clemons

Will be attending Detachment 157 Monroe County meeting on Monday, Dearborn and Downriver are good to go. Taking care of a few 990's yet. Also tried having Detachment picnic and 4 Detachments participated and about 50 people showed up. That is all to report at this time.

Eastern Zone 2: Norman Root (absent)

Southern Zone 3: Forrest Secord

Secord stated he has attended five different Detachment meetings since Summer Convention. Has attended funeral services, participated in recruit table at an event and has given recruitment classes to Detachments. Finally attended the Capital Detachments Little Rollers Fund Raising event. That concludes report at this time.

(Commandant Rayl also had Dave Masunas bring up about receiving a MODD Past Chiefs Award and all of the Past Chief's challenge coins. Stated he was greatly surprised and honored.)

Southwest Zone 4: Michael Moross

Has not physically visited his few Detachments but has been in email contact with them. Detachment 763 is working on their filing status and waiting on the IRS for this. Also is working on the Zone mapping for the Department.

Western Zone 5: William "Doc" Tetzlaff (absent)

Central Zone 6: Steve Kelley (absent)

Northern Zone 7: Frank Rosinski (absent)

Upper Peninsula Zone 8: Tracey Tippet

The end of June Tippet and Menard attend Keweenaw Detachment 1016 meeting to present DD Tim Smigowski with his Pack Dog award from Summer Convention—stated they have a large

Detachment Membership and very few at meetings. All the Detachments participated in Memorial Day Services and numerous 4th of July events. Still working on the Compliance with Detachment 550. September 21 held UP Zone and Devil Dog meeting in Escanaba, decided at previous zone meeting to start rotating to where the Zone Meetings will be held. Stated attendance not the greatest but hoping more key members start getting more involved. Detachments are planning Birthday Celebrations—UP 444 will be having a big event at the Casino for the 249th Birthday Celebration on November 9th. Also the UP Honor Flight is planning on putting on an all Female Veteran Honor Flight.

Finally attended the National Training for Toys For Tots that took place September 12-15th in St. Louis Missouri—they took the show on the road. It went well, lots attended, over 878 toy campaigns throughout the US. The hotel was just across the street from the Arch. They are planning on holding the event there again next year. Also sent out a list of all the counties in Michigan that do not have toy campaigns, maybe some of your detachments are look into helping them out. That is the end of my report.

SR. Vice: Phil Smith

Proposed to do a Department raffle to raise some funds, doing this raffle: 1st prize \$10,000, 2nd prize \$3000 and 3rd prize \$500, and will be selling tickets for \$10 a piece. Discussion took place about doing raffle, the how's and when's of it. Was suggested that this go under new business. Trying to help out Detachment 414 and points of contact are not there. This ended Smith's report.

JR. Vice: Stephen Fletcher

Currently we stand at 1,442 paid members (1284 regular + 138 Associate +20 multiple). We have 440 unpaid members (330 regular + 110 associate). Fletcher suggests to reach out to them and get them back into the fold. We need to connect with Members from 163, 414, 841, 570 and 1401 to get them moved to other Detachments in Michigan, otherwise they will turn into members at large and belong to the National Roster. Remember to start recruiting to grow the league and strengthen our numbers. Membership year runs September 1 thru August 31st.

Also stated coming up with be an internment at Great Lakes Cemetery for a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor from the Indian War Campaign. Headstone cleaning will also be taking place on 10/19. This concludes my report.

Paymaster: Larry Sweerin

Out of 32 Detachments, only 8 have turned in the PLM (paid life membership) audit reports and they are 154, 159,444,764, 1016, 1027, 1327 and 1423—the deadline to be turned in is by December 31st. Changed the budget slightly from last year a few items have risen. Changes to the Commandant's Discretionary Fund and Commandants Travel might have to be adjusted more down the line. Profit and Loss is just about the same as it was before. Assets and Liabilities they balance out. Fund reconciliations balance out and investments they are self explanatory and are continuing to do well.

Judge Advocate: Scott Hellman

Since the Summer Convention there was one By-Law Change and has been implemented in the By-Laws and Posted. Also adapting the By-Laws to read as he/she gender related. In the process of

going over changes that National implemented to make sure we are in compliance with them also. Any new By-Law changes need to be presented at Mid-Winter. And if you have a “clubhouse” make sure insurance and license needs to get sent to Adjutant and Judge Advocate to make sure you are in compliance.

Central Division ADVC: Jeff Krakow

Central Division National Vice Commandant Dave Englert encouraged all Central Division representatives to attend meetings to have representation. NVC Englert big push this year is on recruiting and membership. As of 3 October, Michigan is at 81.8 percent on its membership. Englert also is adding to his staff—A Youth Physical Fitness-Ben Mattson, Membership Chairman—Christopher Taylor, Compliance-Roger Smith, Veteran Service Officer—Tim Sherman, and Website—Dan Tolson. Also there are new Honor Guard procedures on National’s website—look them over. Finally stated we all need to start keeping track of our man hours—Color Guard/Honor Guard, VA visits, toys for tots, parades etc etc. anything you do to help your community or state as a Marine Corps League Member.

Webmaster: Tracey Tippet

Recently updated forms that National updated onto the website. Soon will be placing the Mid-Winter packet on there as well. On our website, if you see something that is incorrect, or something not opening up, or in an obscure place, please let me know to fix or update it. Please be patient, the website is always a work in progress, you think you fix it and discover oops the fix didn’t take—blame the Gremlins on it. If you want to see something put on the website, let me know. Finally please look at the S1 roster and let me know if changes need to be made.

Adjutant: Tracey Tippet

Sent out when Officer Installations Reports need to get done, and who can do them. Also, need to start using New updated forms—if not, I will reject them and send them back to you. Each individual should have their own emails and phone numbers and completely filled out on the ROI, and some of the information can be found on the last page on your Detachment rosters. There are a lot of delinquent members like the Jr. Vice stated—make sure your Jr Vice and Paymaster are working on them to get them updated. If you have a deceased member, and you know they were a Devil Dog, please reach out to that pound so they can do a death notification on them. Jon VanTol sent out a list of those Detachments that have not turned in their 990’s and Lara Corps need to get them taken care of ASAP to keep in compliance. Also those that are considered a “clubhouse” I need a copy of your insurance and liquor license for them. Finally most importantly, we need to keep the communication open, communication is the key to keep everything working properly.

Awards: Ray Rayl

The following were given the National Junior Vice Commandant’s Citation for membership: Downriver Detachment 153, Belcher-Lane-Williams Detachment 146, Alpena Detachment 1327, Wolverine Detachment 722, Capital Detachment 148, Jack A Davenport Detachment 684, Muskegon Detachment 703 and Oceana/Brett Witteveen 1337.

Tracy Berg was presented the Fischer Award.

Presentation: Tim McGee

Two years ago we transferred the budget from VAVS to the Foundation, and realized the \$5000 wasn't going to be sufficient enough budgeted, and then added a new Veteran's Home in Chesterfield and the \$500 wasn't going to be enough. So, as a member and trustee of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 9, petitioned for a grant, and was successful in receiving a grant \$2500 that will go towards VAVS services this year. Hopefully this will go further and bigger in the future. Additionally six years ago we were given a grant for \$1000 for scholarships from the Chapter. That was so successful they extended that and gave us a check for \$10,000 for five years and this is the last year of those funds. They are so happy for what we have done, that we were assigned for the Foundation a continuation of the memorandum of understanding and have given a check for \$25,000. Great work.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Time and Place: Art Menard

There are some members in attendance today, Wendy Zamora, Richard Monroe, Art Menard, PNC Jim Tuohy and PNP Gerri Tuohy. Jim is the chairman of the committee and reached out to Helms Brisco to seek out places throughout the state for Mid-Winter and Summer Convention. Took a look at six or seven places all over the State...decided on one in Bay City, the Doubletree by Hilton Bay City. Lots taken into consideration in determining a place to hold Conventions. Room reservations are done by phone-in only, and cut off December 26th. Strip ticket is \$70--\$5 registration, \$15 hospitality and \$50 banquet. Please consider taking out an Ad to help defray the costs. Also going to try to do Ad book by a thumb drive.

Jr. Past Commandant: Art Menard

Menard's primary roll is advising and helping the Commandant but Rayl is doing an outstanding job and needs little assistance in matters. Also noted that Upper Peninsula 444 took over the Iwo Jima Float from Keweenaw Detachment and in getting it out there more.

Zone Commandant Updates: Michael Moross

The map of Zones started when Menard was Commandant, and recently it needed to be updated. The Detachments that turned in Charters are colored in purple. Also there was a list of the different Zones, which Detachment belongs to which zone and the Zone Commandants. Finally a list of Zones and who is their point of contact, and where and when they meet.

Budget and Finance: Christine A Tonegatto-Salo

Will be having a having a Mid-year review on January 5 at 1400—still looking at a place to hold it, and an email will go out, all are welcome to attend. Anyone having concerns with the budget, please let the committee know before the meeting.

Unfinished Business:

An overview of the Scholarships were given, 15 will be receiving scholarships, 4 were not accepted due to incomplete paperwork or not turning them in on time. Each recipient will receive a \$500

scholarship, and if they came from your Detachment please encourage them to send a thank-you the league.

Eagle Scout: Dave Masunas

The program we have, we present a nice certificate to the Eagle Scout recipient and there are a couple of cover letters to read provided. It doesn't matter when the individual received an Eagle Scout award can always present certificate. So reach out to your local Scout troops and let them know this certificate exists to present. Also good advertising for the league.

Chaplain: Fred Green

Currently we have 465 logged deceased member, 18 since Summer Convention. There is a list of individuals for the prayer list. Green attended the Department of Indiana Convention and presented to Central Division Commandant Mike Sturch a Chaplain of 4 Chaplains award.

Young Marines: Fred Green

Isabell Benson part of the Lapeer Unit went to Boot Camp at Parris Island. There are eight regiments in the State of Michigan. Lapeer County Young Marines will be having their Ball on November 2nd, and this is there 30th Ball partaking in.

Historian: Dale Erion

He is still in need of a few Detachments getting a copy of their Charters. And that is all to report at this time.

Foundation: Jeff Salzeider/Gerald Alcorn

Tried to have a meeting to get a few things taken care of: Department \$5500 needs to get transferred to the Foundation account to replace that was spent on the VAVS donations to the Foundation since it has taken it over. \$5500 going out this year to 7 facilities and a specific dollar amount is earmarked for each home, plus an additional \$2500 will be divided out between them. Salzeider will get with the VAVS reps to write them a check to give to these facilities. Lara Corp has been filed, and the summary for the 990 has been turned over to the accountant for a review and proceed from there. Donation made today of \$25,000, the next five years for \$5000 each year for scholarships. In the account is \$36,904 and \$1687 in savings account. In the operating fund there is \$20,473 separated into accounts.

Alcorn wanted to say Thank You for being here. Spoke about the Legacy Program, free account, www.tango3.org, Military Legacy Project to go on there and tell your story. Encourages everyone to let them know what we are doing. Tell them to take advantage of this, share whatever about your history.

Question was asked what we are doing to raise funds for the Foundation. Nothing at the moment, trying to fix previous issues and moving forward from there and getting ducks in a row.

Good of the League:

Marine of the Year is coming up again, we are going to follow what National is doing and

Central Division and having previous members voting but we have to change the By-Laws on how it is run. In the end going to try to do it all electronically. Finally if you know of an older Detachment Marine or Veteran celebrating a milestone birthday, make sure you are doing a big to do event and helping out.

Closing: Meeting adjourned at 14:25

Respectfully Submitted

Tracey A. Tippett

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Department Adjutant

