

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Westfield River Valley Detachment 141
71 N. Elm Street
Westfield, MA 01085-1619
Phone & FAX 413- 562-4850
Meetings 2nd Monday of every month
www.mclwrv141.com
SEMPER FIDELIS

Minutes of Monthly Meeting 11 March 2024

OPENING CEREMONY: The Sergeant-at-Arms secured the quarters at 1900 hours, posted the Colors and led the detachment in the Pledge of Allegiance; the Chaplain read the opening prayer after which the Sergeant-at-Arms declared the meeting open for official business. Sixteen regular members, and nine associate members were present.

ROLL CALL OF DETACHMENT OFFICERS:

Detachment 141 Elected Officers (Board of Trustees)		
Commandant	Christopher B. Cekovsky	P
Senior Vice Commandant	Rene Cote	P
Junior Vice Commandant	Dan Bishop	P
Judge Advocate	Keith A. Buckhout	P

Appointed Staff Officers		
Junior Past Commandant	Keith A. Buckhout	P
Adjutant	Brianna Torrey	P
Paymaster	Joseph Delaney	P
Sergeant at Arms	Aldo Mancini	P
Chaplain	John S. Rutovich	P
Historian	John S. Rutovich	P

Auditor	Sophie F. Bartosik	E
Public Relations	Michael Patnaude	P
Scuttlebutt Editors	Roger Beer, William Federman	P
Web Sergeant	Carriann D. Bailey	P
Armorer	Christopher B. Cekovsky	P
Color Guard	Keith A. Buckhout	P
Quartermaster	John S. Rutovich	P
Flag Service	Vinny Sulewski, John S. Rutovich	P

Past commandants							
Richard Greene 1977		Joseph Mucha 1994		Donald Wielgus 1999		Joseph Willis 2004	
Fran Curnow 2005	P	Brian Dupee	P	John Rutovich 2011	P	Dan Bishop 2013	P
Keith Buckhout 2017	P						

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS: None at this meeting.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you from Carriann Bailey for her 2023 Associate Member award.

Thank you from Westfield State University for our donation to their Veteran graduation.

Tickets for free admission to the event at the Big E March 23/24. Tickets are at the Barracks on the desk if you are interested.

SICK OR IN DISTRESS: None mentioned at this time.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS (those not listed had nothing to report or were absent or excused):

Commandant: Thank you to all who help with the Breakfasts. A \$500.00 donation was given to the detachment at a Game Supper at St. John Church. Thank you was sent for the donation. Brandon's Eagle Project was accepted by the Sportsman's club in Westfield. Nylon flags will now need to be separated from the rest and sent to Auburn for proper burning. All other flags can be incinerated in Westfield. A call for Chaplain was made since Brian Dupee was only interim. John S. Rutovich offered to be Chaplain for the detachment.

Jr Vice: Please recruit. Hand out business cards which can be found at the barracks.

Judge Advocate: Change made to the bylaws taking out a group of Young Marines that are no longer active.

Webmaster: Updates to the website have been made. If anyone goes to any of the events and takes photos please email or text to CarrieAnne to add to the website.

Scholarship: 5 applications have been sent in. The essay topic was changed to Marine Corps history so essays were very well written. There will be 3 \$1000 scholarships handed out at one of our coming meetings with food and dessert before the meeting.

Paymaster: Many outstanding checks leaving the checking account roughly \$26,938.39.

Ceremonial: April has a ceremony at the 104th monument on 202 in Westfield. Cans of ammo acquired for fire details. 2 cans were given to Agawam. We will need to donate to the incinerator soon now that Brandon's project has been approved by the Sportsmans club. We should have ¼ of time for flag retirements as we will be splitting the cost with the Veterans council, VFW, and American Legion.

Public Relations: Found our building to be on the historical registry. Building was built in 1870. This may help on some of the necessary upgrades it needs with grants. March 1984 was the last major alterations to the building when garage doors were added.

Scuttlebutt editors: New edition just went out. Looking for stories while in the military or Marine Corps League activities.

VAVS: The food bank needs food badly. Non perishables need to be brought to the barracks or sent to Brian and Lynn Dupee if you would like to order online. Brian can deliver the food next day to the food bank. Cereal and oatmeal of any kind are welcome as the VA can no longer buy these for the bank. Right now 110 veterans per week have requested help and there is a shortage of necessary foods to handle this request.

If you can make it to the Marine Corps League coffee Monday it is the 1st Monday of the month

8 to 10AM and the veterans love they are being thought of.

Holyoke Veterans Home: Masks and questions are still occurring. They would enjoy later day visits since the hospital has no activities later in the day. They are in the process of being audited as a nursing home. They will be offering adult daycare for any veteran family that needs some time for errands or rest. You will be able to bring the veteran or spouse there for the day and get whatever you need done while they are being looked after.

Chicopee Veterans Council: Vietnam Veteran Remembrance Day is March 27th. There will be a free event in Fall River MA on March 26th at Vietnam park for Vietnam Remembrance Day. There is an expansion of VA coverage (more information to follow). There is now a dental clinic in Ludlow every Wednesday you can make an appointment for care at this clinic. There will be 66 places on the Purple Heart Trail once Chicopee gets the signs. There is now a tax abatement going into effect in Chicopee for any veteran working 100 hours cleaning cemetery stones and helping replace stones they will get \$1,500 back on their property taxes.

Agawam: Memorial Day being discussed. April 7th Battleship Cove Bus Trip (more info should be on the website with poster). The trip is \$50.00 and covers all but meals.

Building Committee: Energy audit was done. We are waiting on the results and rebates before looking over the best starting place for upgrades. Looking for a plumber to get the backflow preventer in place. Will need a board meeting to discuss next steps once the audit has returned. Dishwasher bought on sale and worked very well.

Unfinished Business: Golf Tournament meeting is April 13th at 10AM at the Barracks.

New Business: Keith motioned for 2 donations of \$250.00 to be given to Agwam and Leeds VA food pantries so the pantries can continue to go out and buy food. Second made by Joe and unanimously accepted.

Keith motioned for the \$500.00 donation made at the Game supper to be added to the Scholarship fund that is about to be given out. Joe seconds motion and unanimously accepted.

May/June is the convention in Sturbridge MA. They request an ad annually to help support the Department of MA Marine Corps League. Normally we enter a full page ad before May 1, 2024. So we will need everyone coming to the next meeting to come by 6PM to the barracks for a photo to send in with the check. This motion to give \$125 for this ad made by Joe and second by Fran. Motion accepted.

April 29th at 9AM Hira will be visiting WNEU for a 45 minute class on reintegration. She would like to bring a veteran to class with her as they know better how reintegration works.

Good of the League:

Recruitment event happening on March 30, 2024 at the DCU center in Worcester MA. There will be 3 hockey games that day starting at 1pm. Worcester team will be playing at 7pm. Joe and Fran will be attending for a 15 minute block at the recruitment table. You will need to be in uniform for the event. You can bring a guest if you would like and tickets are free if you work the recruit table for 15 minutes.

June 30th is the Shriners car show.

40/8th birthday dinner on April 7th at 5pm at the American Legion Post 224 Easthampton. It is \$20.00 per person. Let Henry Scarborough or Brian Dupee know if you are interested.

CLOSING CEREMONY: The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors at 2032 hours and the Chaplain gave the closing prayer. The closing statement was read and the proceedings were declared adjourned until the next scheduled detachment meeting, on April 8, 2024.

Brianna Torrey, Adjutant
Westfield River Valley Detachment 141
Marine Corps League