



*Westfield River Valley Detachment 141 71 N. Elm Street Westfield, MA 01085-1619 Phone & FAX 413- 562-4850*

*Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month [www.mclwrv141.com](http://www.mclwrv141.com)*

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting 08 September 2025

**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. Ten regular members, eleven associate members were present, and one guest.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:** None at time. We will have two in the coming meetings.

**MINUTES:** July was a unofficial meeting as there were not enough members present and no minutes were taken. Minutes of the June meeting were accepted unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A Thank You card was received from Julia Sabat. One of the recipients of the scholarship fund this year. She wanted to thank the barracks for choosing her and giving a generous scholarship amount to help her with school this year.

**SICK OR IN DISTRESS:** Tom Purney is still having health issues but has been to Saturday breakfast. Fran Curnow is having surgery on September 9, 2025. Joanne Laberge fractured her ankle after a fall in the cemetery following a funeral. Don Rivet, 93, is at the Leeds VA now that his wife has died. He is having medical issues and misses everyone. Please visit if you can, especially if you are up at the VA for something. Joe Delaney and Keith Buckhout visited a marine member from New Jersey while he was having issues at Cooley Dickenson Hospital. Chris Cekovsky will follow up about this marines condition.

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

**Commandant:** June ideas for children programs in the area had us thinking about options for checks to help the community. Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, Southwick rec center are possibilities close by. Amelia Park has one sponsor space available. \$1700 for the year to have our logo and information on their ice rink wall. Our end of the year skate party (\$350) would be included in our sponsor donation for the year. It is a 29 foot section of wall that we provide the image and information and they do the art work. It could help advertise at Amelia Park. Troop 821 on September 20th from 8a-3p at Little River Plaza for the bottle drive. The Big E canopy is up during the day on September 12th from 7a-4p. We need help during the day as I will be available only when I am not driving the bus. Please volunteer. Parking can be paid back to you from the League and entrance is free. **We need a quorum (12 Regular Members) at the next meeting or we will not be able to vote for officers or our updated by laws that are dropping our quorum number down**



to allow us to vote at more meetings.

**Paymaster:** Paymaster breakdown are accepted unanimously subject to audit. Motion made by Charles Distefano, Second by Keith Buckhout. The golf tournament was successful. Total with all expenses paid out was \$22,280.77. Mulligans \$585, 50/50 \$265, raffle \$1480 Special raffle \$160, and Green fee \$415. 6 Young Marines and a chaperone came to help this year.

**Chaplain:** There were two funerals this summer. Please check in on Stanley's wife.

**Ceremonial:** September 11 ceremonies in Westfield at 10a (Fire Department), 11a (9/11 Memorial in center of town) and 6p (Sons of Erin). Easthampton has a ceremony at 11a.

**Historian/Americanism/POW/MIA:** POW/MIA ceremony September 21st at Leeds VA chapel during the usual mass time for the VA to ensure inclusion of veterans at the event. Please let me know if you would like to help build the table at the event. 9/11 there is an event in Palmer. Sally Nay invited anyone to help place roses in the ceremony.

**Web Sergeant:** updating the website and lots of Golf Tournament photos.

**Quartermaster:** Checking on 25 year pins and please let Chris Cekovsky know if you need anything.

**Scholarship:** Application will be out in December again. March is choices and June meeting is the dispersal of funds.

**Scuttlebutt:** Please send Roger Beer and Bill Federman anything you would like to have in the editions.

**VAVS:** VA needs food for the pantry. Please remember to bring items in. You can leave at the barracks for Henry/Brian to deliver. Baked beans, cereal and Chef Boyardee are ideas the veterans would prefer most. The car show was successful. The Christmas party and military holiday events are tough with no recreation center to host events.

**Soldier Home:** Everyone seems happy at this time with everything.

**Young Marines:** Keith dropped off a check for them and thanked them for the great job with the Golf Tournament. They agreed to help next year. Ball information should be coming soon.

**Westfield VC:** 10am fire station, 11 am 9/11 memorial and 6p Sons of Erin September 11th ceremonies. September 20th at 7pm is POW/MIA ceremony at Parker Park. November 11th parade (info to follow) and there are dues for entities included in the veteran council again at \$25.

**Agawam VC:** Veteran Green is being brought to the school and they are hoping to have ready for next Veterans day. They are adding the names of all lost from 1990-present on a new stone.

**Building Committee:** 2 bids found for roof repair. NextGen will get the bid. They are local and gave a discount along with warranty above and beyond competitors. They took core samples from the roof as well. The backflow valve is finally accessible thanks to help from Navy veteran from Westfield State. A box will be added so no one has to dig for it again. Plumber will be installing the backflow preventor soon.

**Unfinished Business:**

Quorum in bylaws is 12 Regular members. We need to lower the quorum number. Planning to lower the number to 5. National says the quorum number is for regular members only with no associates so number needs to be lowered. This has to be tabled again until there is a quorum.



Recommendation made that all detachment members can vote. This needs to be reworded in our by laws. Also these should be written and ready for vote next meeting.

## **New Business:**

Thoughts needed on advertising for Amelia Park and other community options. Quorum needed for any decisions.

Roofing cost will be \$24,968 and motion was made to pay for the roof but tabled for a quorum vote.

Building committee meeting discussed an idea for the upstairs to be an entertainment area Arcade, pool tables etc for everyone to try and attract more members. The sewer is first, roof second then everything else comes after.

## **Good of the League:**

Marine Corps League has been participating in ceremonies even at the last minute. Zach and Brianna brought the trailer for veterans to ride on to the July 4th Hampton Ponds and Wyben parades. The Purple Heart and Agent Orange ceremonies. August 15th Flag Raising at the Westfield Fair and are invited to the Big E for September 12th (Military Day) and September 25th (Westfield Day) for the parades.

Fred Benda came by and left off plaques for the detachment about Agent Orange ribbon.

Soda can tabs is ready for the Shriners Hospital. Brian was given tons of them for delivery. He will coordinate with others to get the tabs there.

Remember the Lions Club at the Big E will pay you for your time working for whatever veteran organization you are there for.

New WW2 museum in East Hartford CT from the Legacy Foundation.

**Remember there are 135 Calendar cards to sell before November. Please help get these sold.**

Devil Dogs meeting at 10:30am at Nonotuck Park in Easthampton MA on September 14th.

Please let Fran or Keith know if you are interested in the Semper Fi Luncheon. It is November 7th in Boston. The tickets are \$125 per person and we need to know how many tickets to ask for.

VFW Picnic September 14th at Nonotuck Park in Easthampton following the Devil Dogs meeting.

Everyone is invited. Let Brian or Keith know the food numbers.

40/8th raffle tickets are available through Henry, Brian Dupee, Keith Buckhout, Ernie Laberge or Joe Delaney if interested. You do not need to be at the dinner to win. The winner will be picked the first Sunday in October at the installation dinner.

40/8th dinner is at the Westfield barracks on October 5th at 5pm. \$20 per person and will be steak, vegetable and potato. Let Brian Dupee know if you would like to attend.

The National Convention was well attended. About 700 attended this year. A general spoke and it was a good time. There were 25 from New England. Next year is Indianapolis and Buffalo is the year after.

Motion made to suspend the meeting for officer nominations by Joe Delaney and seconded by Rene Cote and unanimously accepted:

**Nomination of Officers:**

Joe Delaney nominates Chris Cekovsky for Commandant.

Keith Buckhout nominates Rene Cote for Senior Vice.

Joe Delaney nominates Dan Bishop for Junior Vice.

Rene Cote nominates Keith Buckhout for Judge Advocate.

Quorum is needed for anyone to be voted in.

**CLOSING CEREMONY:** The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors at 2045 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 October 13, 2025.

Brianna Torrey, Adjutant

Westfield River Valley Detachment 141

Marine Corps League