



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.mclwrvr141.com](http://www.mclwrvr141.com)

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting 11 May 2026

**OPENING CEREMONY:** The Sergeant-at-Arms secured the quarters at 1901 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. Nine regular members, and nine associate members were present.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted unanimously. Motion made by Brian Dupee, seconded by Keith Buckhout.

**Correspondence:** Thank you from Southwick Animal Shelter for our donation to their shelter. We have two thank yous from the VA food pantry in Leeds for our food donations. Baystate NICU also sent a thank you for \$500 to their unit.

**Sick or In Distress:** Roger Beer's wife is very sick. Bill Federman is meeting with Roger Friday and will check in. Kinely starts pain management at Boston Children's for 4 to 6 weeks. Thanks to the Ronald McDonald house the stay is much more affordable. Kinley is doing well and playing trumpet when she can.

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

**Commandant:** Thank you to attendees of Geisslers sales. Please take calendar raffle cards so we can sell out before November. They are in a box at the barracks by the flags. New England Division conference is in Springfield June 11-14. It would be great to have a large presence at the conference being so close to home. We can use help at the event as well. National will be in Indiana this year. Saturday June 13 will be the bulk of the event.

**Jr. Vice:** The chimney was blocked causing the boiler to turn off and keep the heat from running. All radiators are all working except one at this point so heat is back at the barracks. The roof is done and fully paid for.

**Paymaster:** JB Stern motioned to accept subject to audit and Keith Buckhout seconds. Accepted. Geisslers flag pin total sales came to \$1,371.85, Calendar Card sales total \$320 and all was deposited today.

**Chaplain:** Tom visited and is up a few hours a day. The chaplain needs an updated membership roster to call people and check in to make a better report.

**Armorer:** rifles are accounted for and cleaned upstairs.

**Quartermaster:** Many items are brought in and out. Will be ordering double stars. See Chris for all uniform items.



**Ceremonial:** Will be going to WYM meeting to discuss their help for the breakfasts, marching in Memorial Day Parade and for the Golf Tournament. There will be a truck and trailer for Memorial Day Parade this year.

**Web Sgt:** Thank you for the photos. Creating a new website and will transfer to the new when it is finished. Please let Carrienne know if email has changed or if you are not receiving the emails. Sneakers just mailed out for a check again. Please keep bringing sneakers for recycling.

**Flag Service:** If you need flags please visit upstairs. There are many that can be used and we need to find homes for them.

**Scholarship:** Recipients were notified and know when to be at the barracks. There will be four scholarships given out next month. We will need to dress up for the June meeting since scholarships are being handed out. Nancy Butler will be coming to this meeting and a reminder will be sent to everyone.

**CDCE (VAVS):** There will be a meeting Thursday. Thank you for the food bank food. Please bring as often as you can. The food bank is empty every Wednesday and they cannot keep up. Please let Brian know if you need help with VA appointments. He will help connect you to the proper parties.

**Veteran's home:** Looking to open in September. If you want to get in be sure to call and get on the list and say yes when they call. There is a long waiting list if you miss your first time on the list. They will be opening the new portion slowly because staffing will be an issue and they will only be opening little at a time. June 18th at 5:30pm we will be having Cornhole and painting there. Please come and help if you can.

**Westfield Veterans Council:** Meeting is Thursday.

**Golf Tournament:** Meeting will be June 4 at 6pm at the Barracks. Mestek gave a huge donation this year and is trying to get more major donors to help make a successful tournament this year. We will be calling everyone about tee sponsors this year.

**POW/MIA:** No new numbers to report since they are only changed quarterly. POW tables and posters will be added to different places this year. The history book will need to be changed. Rules have changed to more of a scrapbook so will be changed up soon. The Westhampton Senior center flag pole had issues so Ernie and Brian Dupee fixed the flag pole and gave them a new flag.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Non veteran organization rentals need to have a member from open to clean up and secure. There is no standard cash amount because there is no contract. We ask for a donation for the use of the building instead. Looking into fairground rentals of the building at the fairgrounds going forward.

Keith Buckhout motions to make a standard \$100 donation for outside organizations to use the building. Second by Joe Delaney. A contract would be needed for a standardized donation and IRS exemption would be in jeopardy with contracts for the building. Members can suggest a donation size but making it mandatory causes insurance changes and fees. Keeping open ended is better for everyone and a member has to be present at all times for outside organization to be in the building. One in Favor all others voted No. Motion not accepted.

Flag Pin sign ups for Fathers Day weekend. Walmart is set for one table. Please sign up and help get the



tent up and down. Perhaps change the weekend from Mothers and Fathers day to make these more open to more members. Too many commitments on these weekends. So next year we should change to before or after to help find volunteers for the weekends.

## **New Business:**

Now that the roof is done the upstairs needs to move forward for lighting. Aldo is donating his sons labor to change the lighting and remove the insulation. We will need volunteers to help take panels and fiberglass down from upstairs. Estimate \$1,000 in equipment. An email will be sent to ask for help with the updating of upstairs. Rob Vigneault motions for \$1,000 for this new project. Any left over equipment will be kept for future needs. Fran Curnow seconds. All approved.

Ernie spoke to Danny Eaton of Majestic Theater in West Springfield. You can advertise in their playbill. Perhaps look into advertising for one year to see how it goes. More information to follow.

Business cards needed for membership help. Dan and Ernie will look into it so we can share information with others we meet.

Brianna Torrey motions for \$1,300 to scholarship from the general fund since Flag pins did so well and we will need scholarship money for next year. If you know how to ask for scholarship money to help trump up the scholarship funds please do but most of the scholarship money needs to come from the general fund at this point. Amended to be asked to come from general funds no mention of the Flag pins. Seconded by Dan Bishop. All Approved.

## **Good of the League:**

New photos and shadow boxes on the wall. Took photos of those who served from Easthampton Legion added to the walls at the barracks. When the building was cleaned out Brian brought to the Marine Corps League. Thank you for adding them to the walls so quickly.

Ernie is currently working on Sophie's uniform to add to the walls.

Charters are now behind the Commandant stand which we need to know if the department comes to the barracks.

Appreciate the upgrades to the building and hard work. Award given to Rob Vigneault for help with the building committee.

Department convention unit awards meritorious convention meritorious award for most volunteer hours (2,025). Also Americanism honorable mention in appreciation to Ernie and Joanne Laberge awarded.

There are no 20 year pins yet.

Ernie bought a narrow breakfast table now at the barracks.

Thanks to Paul and Chuck for all the food at the meeting and breakfasts.

**CLOSING CEREMONY:** The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors at 20:23 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 Monday, June 8, 2026.

Brianna Torrey, Adjutant

Westfield River Valley Detachment 141  
Marine Corps League