



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

Minutes of Monthly Meeting 13 October 2025

OPENING CEREMONY: The Sergeant-at-Arms secured the quarters at 1905 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. Twelve regular members, eleven associate members and one guest were present.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS: Three membership forms are in place. One was present for swearing in. Jacquelyn Wolf who is a friend of Associate Member Robert Vigneault; she is a veteran of the Army and Air Force and works with veterans to get them their GI Bill benefits. Joe Delaney made a motion to accept, second by Dan Bishop and her membership as an Associate Member of the detachment was unanimously approved.

Joe Delaney made a motion to accept the application of Steven Weatherbee who was in the Marine Corps in 1978 and honorably discharged. He was a career planner while he was in the Marine Corps. He will not be available to come to a meeting for a while but the DD214 and application have been submitted. Brian Dupee seconded Joe's motion to approve the application with swearing in at a later time. The motion was unanimously approved to have Steven sworn in at a later time but is officially a member of the detachment in the meantime.

Joe Delaney made a motion to accept the application for Walter Lamon III membership to the detachment. Fran Curnow knows him and would like him to join. He was a Marine and helicopter pilot serving his time in Arizona just after the war. He helped with the golf tournament this year as well. We are missing his DD214 but would like to accept his application with a swearing in at a different time. Joe motioned, JB Stern seconded and unanimously voted to approve membership for Walter.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted unanimously. Dan Bishop motions to accept minutes as sent out, Joe Delaney seconds.

CORRESPONDENCE: None for this meeting.

SICK OR IN DISTRESS: Kinley Cekovsky had a plate taken out of one arm and is going in for surgery in November to have the other arm shortened but so far doing well. Colleen Cekovsky had chemo meds changed and it has been tough. She was very sick and placed back on the old chemo drugs so she can start to feel better. Henry Scarborough's brother had to retire due to Crohn's and blood poisoning issues.

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

Commandant: Sunday October 19 2025 will be the flag retirement ceremony at 9am. There are



numerous bags upstairs to cremate. Help on Sunday would be appreciated to dispose of the bags upstairs. The nylon will be taken to Worcester for recycling by Colleen on her way to Boston for treatment. Brian Dupee and Ernie Laberge will be going to the Department meeting on Sunday in Worcester at 11:30am to take notes for the detachment since there is also a Flag cremation ceremony that day. December 30th is the Amelia Park skate party. All members' kids/grandkids welcome along with the boy scouts and boys and girls club members. More to follow on this event. Help will be needed for the party if anyone is available to help that day. Ernie Laberge and Brian Dupee were asked to change the detachments layout of the room and the end result is better. The new layout should allow for better business and is more official. Thanks to Ernie Laberge and Brian Dupee for that. Ernie and Joanne Laberge created a shadowbox for the members passed on memorial and the wreath for the detachment is also on display now. Thanks to Ernie and Joanne for their hard work on these tasks. Thank you to Chuck and Paul for the breakfasts and meeting meals.

Junior Vice: Met with the plumber and the backflow valve was ordered. It should be fixed next week along with the sinks pipes that need to be updated.

Judge Advocate: The Bylaws were updated in 2020 and need to be updated to reflect the accuracy of attendees to ensure each meeting has a successful quorum for voting. The regular members quorum was twelve members but it should be changed to five regular members to ensure there are enough to vote each meeting. There are 80-90 members on the books but they don't show up to the meetings. Page 10 Section 1 Article 6 needs to be reduced to a smaller quorum. Section 4 is about Associate Members voting rights. This needs language to change giving Associate Members the right to vote on anything other than membership and officers at the local detachment level. They will have a say in any fundraiser or dissemination of funds to the community. The language needed to be updated so there is explicit voting authority allowed to Associate Members at detachment level.

Paymaster: There are lots of checks still open from the Golf Tournament. Two were returned from last year's tournament to our checking account. Paul Bushey motioned for the financial report for the month of September to be accepted subject to audit, seconded by Fran Curnow and unanimously accepted.

Sgt at Arms: there is a 250th birthday dinner at Westwood in Westfield for Marines and Corpsmen only for \$45/person. Reach out to Chris Sanchez if interested. There is a poster at the barracks with all the information if interested. Bring a veteran to school day in Agawam is themed as 250th birthday for the Marines on November 10th at 8:30 am to noon. There will be a POW/MIA ceremony, cake, and flag folding. This year is about the Marine Corps so please attend if you can.

Chaplain: Please visit Don Rivet if you can at Leeds VA. He is the last room on the last side in Liberty building (Building 1). Masks are required but he needs company so please stop in if you can. There is the Marine Corps Birthday in Greenfield at the Moose Lodge off of Federal Street starting at 6pm on November 8th. It is \$35/person and you can bring anyone with you. They will let you pay at the door. Let Brian Dupee know if you would like to go so he can let Oak Ridge detachment know. The Young Marine Birthday is November 9th at noon and is \$35/person. Let the Sergeant Major know if you want to go.

Historian/POW/MIA/Americanism: 1,843 soldiers have been identified from WW2, The Patriot Guard has a veteran coming home with no family and will need veterans to welcome (more to follow) 762



Korean war remains identified, 1,067 Vietnam and 2 Cold war remains identified. 6 are still missing from the Gulf war. Leeds POW/MIA ceremony-Thank you for coming. Next year is already being planned and please remember the first Sunday in February at the Leeds VA is the 4 Chaplain ceremony which always needs help. Visit the DPAA website if you are interested in remains being found. You can look by branch of service or name to see if remains have been found for a certain person.

Photographer/Web Sergeant: Thank you for emails and photos. November 5th at EBs in Agawam there is 10% to the League if you eat there. Westfield Stop and Shop has chosen the League for their reusable bag donation program for the month of November. \$1 to the League for each bag sold.

Quartermaster: If you need ribbons or ribbon racks please let Chris know and can get them for you.

Scholarship: Application will be out in December. It should be on the website soon.

Scuttlebutt: Emailed out for the month of October. Please send interesting stories to Roger Beer and Bill Federman.

Building Committee: Back flow valve is being fixed. After it is placed there will be a box put over it so it will be accessible from this point forward. We will be moving forward with NexGen roofing company for the roof. Motion will come up in new business.

Westfield Veterans Council: The parade will be November 11th at 10am starting at City Hall to Parker Park. Step off is 10:30am and Parker Park ceremony is at 11am. Please try and make it to the ceremony and let Chris Cekovsky know if you can be there to help with the color guard since Keith will be in Easthampton for the VFW. Pearl Harbor December 7th 10:30 am at Kane Park. Car show volunteers made lots of money. Julie Barnes was given a check for \$1600 to disperse among the organizations.

VAVS: Please bring in food for the VA food pantry. November 10th at 2:30pm there will be a cake cutting and birthday celebration for the Marines. The Commandant will order cake.

Holyoke Veterans Home: Cake cutting ceremony information will follow soon. An email will be sent to CarrieAnne to let everyone know when it will be.

Agawam VC: November 11th parade will be at Parker Park since the park in Agawam is under construction.

Chicopee VC: The member that used to come to every meeting now needs a ride to get to meetings. Guests are ok to come to meetings so anyone who needs a ride can bring a guest if needed.

New Business:

Bylaw change motion by Joe Delaney to change quorum from twelve members to five members. Second by Roger Beer. Amendment made by Matthew Paulin for quorum to be seven members not five to ensure more than officers present make decisions. Amendment second by Aldo Mancini. Unanimously approved to change quorum number in bylaws to seven regular members.

Joe Delaney motioned for Section 4 Associate Members voting to be allowed with exception of national level bylaw items (officer, membership and department items). Second by Rene Cote. Unanimous acceptance for updated verbiage of what Associate Members can vote on. Sophie Bartosik will update bylaws accordingly.



Matthew Paulin motions for approval of \$24,968 for roofing. Core samples taken so unsure contingency necessary. Brian Dupee amended to add +/- 10% contingency and Joe Delaney amended to \$30,000 for roof and contingency. Seconded by Fran Curnow. Unanimously accepted \$30,000 for roof repairs including contingency.

Aldo brought up the dentist in Agawam, has candy ready and would like to donate to local veterans. Please let Aldo know if there is anyone local instead of USO.

Dan Bishop reported the Golf Tournament went well and money needs to be donated so a list was created with some ideas. Please make a list with amounts to bring to vote in December. So far the list is \$500 to the 3 local food pantries, \$500 to Baystate NICU, \$500 to Toys for Tots with Westfield Police Department, Westfield animal shelters \$250 each, \$500 to Boys Scouts for Campership, \$250 to Cub Scouts, \$300 to Boys and Girls Club, \$1700 to Amelia Park for the boards previously discussed in September. Amelia Park sponsorship is from September to September so this will have to wait until next year. The price includes our skate party. We can continue to discuss year round giving to help the community so please make lists and amounts to bring up at future meetings. We have signs that state we give money to other local charities so we need to start donating the money brought in by our fundraising efforts.

Brian Dupee would like us to invest in a swivel for the Marine Corps League flag banners to help separate the banners on the flag along with a flag spreader to keep the flag open in our barracks.

Good of the League:

Happy Birthday to the Navy and all of its active and veteran members.

Thank you to Paul for dinner.

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of Russell thanked the League for playing taps for a 20 year Air National Guardsman. Ernie Laberge went to the funeral to help them out and play taps.

Nomination of officers:

Regular business suspended to nominate officers. Motion Joe Delaney, Second Dan Bishop; Unanimous accepted to suspend regular business.

Chris Cekovsky for Commandant.

Rene Cote for Senior Vice.

Dan Bishop for Junior Vice.

Keith Buckhout for Judge Advocate.

Voting of Officers:

The Adjutant cast one unanimous vote for each officer as they were all running unopposed. Motion made by Joe Delaney and second by JB Stern and unanimously voted to allow the Adjutant to cast one vote for each officer.

The officers will stay the same as last year.



Chris Cekovsky for Commandant.
Rene Cote for Senior Vice.
Dan Bishop for Junior Vice.
Keith Buckhout for Judge Advocate.

Please remember the installation is next meeting on November 10, 2025 and we need to be dressed in red jackets or uniforms. If you do not have a uniform a polo and cover is preferred. We will have dinner and cake to celebrate the Marine Corps birthday as well.

CLOSING CEREMONY: The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors at 20:35 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 November 10, 2025.

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