



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 16 September 2026

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. Ten regular members, eleven associate members were present.

No breakfast in October due to scheduling issues. Back to normal for November.

Brian Dupee motioned nominations stay the same as last year. Motion second by JB Stern. Nominations closed until next month. The meeting was opened after nominations closed.

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

MINUTES: Brian Dupee motions to accept minutes as emailed out to everyone. Keith Buckhout seconds and minutes unanimously accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE: 3 thank you letters received from the Leeds VA for the food donations.

2026 Annual meeting for the Boys and Girls Club on Wednesday September 16 2026 at Tekoa Country Club. 6pm dinner at \$50/person.

Thank you received from Brandon Cekovsky for scholarship this year.

Thank you received for the donations given to Westfield Animal Shelter.

Thank you received from Matthew Sabat for receiving a scholarship this year.

The City of Westfield is having a Veteran Town Hall meeting. November 14 10a-12p at the senior center.

The Marine Corps League is invited to attend. A table can be provided at the event. You can speak to the group and let Julie Barnes know. Call Julie Barnes to register.

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

Commandant: Lots of wonderful things happened this summer. Golf tournament, scholarships, updates to the building. Thank you to everyone for all the hard work over the summer.

Junior Vice: \$21,533.41. July 24 and August 14 are the dates for next year's tournament. Need a date to hold for Wednesday. Everyone agreed to stick to the August time frame. August 14th will be next year's tournament date. Someone needs to step up and run this year's fundraising tournament. A new point person is needed for the tournament event.

Judge Advocate: American Legion National is pushing for a bill to pass that would take benefits from



veterans to afford benefits for veterans coming into the programs. Please call your senators and ask them to remove section 108. Notify veterans to call about this bill.

Paymaster: Paymaster breakdown is accepted unanimously subject to audit. Motion made by Dan Bishop, Second by Keith Buckhout. There will be a breakdown next month of Golf Tournaments yearly amounts.

Sgt at Arms: Semper fi dinner at Westwood is TBD for time but the date is November 7. Boomer fell down and is not feeling well. Please call to say hello if you can.

Chaplain: Not many funerals to attend this summer.

Quartermaster: ribbons and 20 year membership pins are on order.

Ceremonial: November 11th will have a parade at Westfield at 11am. Easthampton will meet at the library at 11am. Private cemeteries will give headstones, medallions etc if you have a DD214. Young Marine Birthday is TBD.

Web Sergeant: Updates made to website. Thank you for sharing photos..

CDCE: Meeting a week ago. The car show was not well advertised this year. November 9th is the scheduled cake cutting and pizza for the veterans. The time is TBD. Please wear the uniform to the cake cutting. Total volunteer hours for VA were 8,560. The donation of food makes a huge difference as well. 3,423 veterans get food from the VA or have it delivered. 68,780 lbs of food went through the pantry last year. The pantry is open once a week 48 times a year (Wednesdays 9-3) with deliveries to rural areas. Helping Project New Hope as well keeping everyone fed. They may move CDCE back to the recreation center at the end of next year. There are four chapels left at the VAs and Northampton has locked their chapel up. Please call to speak to senators or representatives about reopening the chapel. There is once a month Mass services held at the VA now.

Veterans Home: Moving to the new building one floor at a time starting at the end of October. It will take 3 months to move everyone. Most will be individual but few roommates who asked kept their roommate. Everyone has 55inch TVs. The birthday is scheduled for November 12 at 6pm. An open house is on November 10 to check out the new building. They look forward to breakfasts thanks to Paul and Chuck for breakfast..

Westfield VC: There is going to be a Westfield veteran of the year award this year. Requirements are living in Westfield and entered on the website. Call Julie Barnes to help get award information. Fri 9/18 POW/MIA ceremony will be held at the senior center for breakfast hoping to get more people interested in the ceremony so it will be held at 8:30am. The breakfast is full but please stop by and check out the ceremony. 9/26 burial ground at Mechanic street 2pm there will be a joint color guard for the ceremony. Please let Keith or Joe know if you can go and help. 9/18 Veterans Big E day. Can march with Post 124 at 6pm. There will be 12-13 motorcycles, 4 Legionnaires and Joe can meet you at Gate 1 at 5pm to march. It is a 1 mile walk and 1 spot is left on the trolley. 10/1 Westfield Day there will be 2-3 Legionnaires marching and three slots are open on the trolley right now. Let Joe know if you are interested in marching. Veteran lunch 10/14, 11/4 and 12/2 veteran and a guest are welcome. Call Julie Barnes to get on the list for lunch. Call by the middle of the month for the list.



Chicopee VC: Advisory board and veteran office created purple heart trail for ½ mile north and south on 33. Signs will be every ½ mile. If you live in Chicopee and want to add your name let them know. n

Building Committee: waiting on electricians schedules. Easthampton will take the insulation and stuff without purchasing bags and things like Westfield needs. Moving forward to get new insulation up.

Historian/POWMIA/Americanism: history record book received an honorable mention. Will pick up from Mike Heinze at the next meeting. The rules are changing for the history book and are getting changed to electronic with dates January to December. A table was donated to Easthampton Knights of Columbus and a poster was donated to Southampton VSO for the Senior Center. Leeds VA 2p (chapel if allowed or outside). The Young marines will be helping with color guard for the POW/MIA ceremony.

New Business:

\$650 needed for April Westfield Tech Veteran's lunch. Motion made by Dan Bishop second by Brian Dupee and accepted unanimously.

With DD214 contact Julie Barnes about annuities for veterans. She can help with the paperwork.

Good of the League:

Thank you to Paul and Chuck for breakfasts and dinners.

Thank you to Dan Bishop for chairing the golf tournaments these past few years.

Thank you for all the hard work. Lots of gold covers around making Westfield relevant at MA level.

The Greenfield Marine Corps Birthday dinner and cake cutting is on November 14th.

October 4th 5p Brian Dupee is being installed at the 40/8th ceremony and dinner. It will be held at the barracks. \$20/ticket. Please let Brian Dupee know if you can go to the dinner.

American Legion 452 in Chicopee is having a birthday cake cutting 11/10 with pizza if interested.

Calendar cards need to be sold ASAP. We have a stack left and cannot afford to pull without having sold all of the cards.

CLOSING CEREMONY: The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors at 2015 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 12, 2026.

Brianna Torrey, Adjutant

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Marine Corps League