



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

8 December 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. Thirteen regular members, and twelve associate members were present.

CORRESPONDENCE: 2 letters from Leeds VA thanking us for our breakfasts for the veterans and our donations to the food bank. Agawam Food Bank thanked us for the \$500.00 donation.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted unanimously. Rene Cote motions to accept minutes as sent out, Fran Curnow seconds.

SICK OR IN DISTRESS: Kinley Cekovsky's arm is in a short cast and she is back to playing instruments.

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

Commandant: Thank you to all for the community work, donations, volunteering on building and golf committee, Paul and Chuck for breakfast/dinner at meetings. It is the end of the year so please get hours to Chris for Department. Write out hours anyway and get them to Chris via email, text or leave on the glass case at the Barracks. The skate party at Amelia Park on December 30th from 11:30-1:30pm. There will be pizza with less treats instead of just treats. Southwick and Westfield Scouts, Boys and girls club, young marines and anyone who is in the Marine Corps League is welcome to come.

Jr Vice: Met with the plumber and waiting to get two more prices on the upgrades needed for the kitchen plumbing. Golf tournament meetings start in April. Please reach out to Dan Bishop if you are interested in Volunteering.

Paymaster: As of November 30 2025 there is \$45,384.06 in the checking after deposit on the roof and other checks not yet cashed. Motion made to accept subject to audit by Charles DiStefano and second by Dan Bishop. Unanimously approved.

Chaplain: Called Roger Beer called to check in. Everything seemed ok.

Scuttlebutt Editor: Getting together with Roger Beer for coffee once in a while. There will be a scuttlebutt out soon of the 250th birthday in Philadelphia with photos.

Photographer/Web Sergeant: EBs made \$384.82 on the day for the League. This will be done again



since it went so well. Photos are being sent to Ernie and Roger as needed. Stop n Shop bags went well. \$65 will be received in April from the bag sales. Please bring in sneakers to send out. A box was created for the VA food collections at the barracks. Please bring in items to add to the box for Brian Dupee to deliver to the VA in Leeds.

Historian/POW/MIA/Americanism: The book for nationalism is on the website as under development so the book is on hold until the regulations are finalized. The history book is almost finished and will be at the next meeting. POW/MIA will update totals in February. There were 20 WW2 and 6 Korean wars. The website does have search by name in case you are looking for someone in particular. There will be a new table will be set up in Easthampton soon. Brian, Lynn, Ernie and Joanne set up the Festival of Trees. Winners for the Festival will be out soon and relayed to everyone. Photos were posted of the Festival as well.

Building Committee: Met on 12/6 to discuss building items. \$8200 given to NexGen to start the roof process. They will be roofing as soon as the snow is gone. They will be using the parking lot for the day they need to complete the project. Looking into CPA funds since it is a historical building and reaching out to city hall for guidance. Having the DPW check the sewer lines connected since the plumbing is being fixed soon. Lighting on the second floor needs help so Aldo is looking into Big E lighting to see if we can have fixtures from them to update our lighting. Reaching out to the Electrician union programs to see if there is any apprentice help for little to no money. Strip heating will also need to be added upstairs at some point in the future. Reaching out to Westfield glass to see if glass can be added while leaving original fixtures in place or if we can only use plastic to help insulate the building. Looking into a spring car show somewhere with food and cars to try and help raise money for the work that needs to be done on the building.

Golf Tournament: At the first of the year tournament meetings will begin. Please let Dan Bishop know if you would like to volunteer. We need help on the day of the tournament.

VAVS: Please bring food items as often as possible to help the VA feed veterans in the area. December 22 at 1:30pm in the Learning Center for a veteran Christmas Party. Seems healthcare at the VA has gotten easier and more appointments are sent out faster to the surrounding area.

Holyoke Veterans Home: Busy with organizations with planned events. Active last few weeks. Mask mandate is in place every winter whether there is a problem or not. No health issues as of Friday. Donated the left over items from Agawam school event to the Veterans home. They will no longer be accepting applications from Thanksgiving to after New Years due to issues getting Vets used to the space at the holidays. September/October 2026 the new building will be open.

Easthampton VC: Pearl Harbor day was nice showing. All the flags were showing but no cameras like Westfield.

Ceremonial Officer: 8 Marine Corps League members showed for Westfield. It was nice and sunny. There were 6 Marine Corps League members at Easthampton. The Young Marines and Brian walked in the Veteran's Day Parade this year. Keith was in Easthampton for Veterans Day. Please make sure to add drive time to your hours on your volunteer sheet they count since you are headed to a place specifically for



the Marine Corps League so hours count.

Westfield VC: Ceremony after Veterans Day Parade will always be in the middle school not at Parker Park due to chilly weather. Next meeting is in March. Wreaths across America will be December 9 at 10am at the JB Hunt trucking in Westfield, December 13 at 10am at the Veterans Cemetery in Agawam (park at Six Flags and bus over. Be early for buses) and December 14th at noon for final local ceremony.

Chicopee VC: Veteran office has applications for Chicopee City Residents tax work off program. If you are a veteran and work 100 hours in the cemeteries you have \$1500 deducted from your property taxes. The public library has a showcase with a mannequin. A local veteran is to bring in their uniform with a bio of your time served to the library to show the public what local veterans have done. Please contact the VSO in Chicopee Stephanie Shaw if you are interested in displaying she will give you a time for your bio and uniform to be displayed.

Unfinished Business:

Motion to pay the difference for a Christmas tree and ornaments. The amount given was originally \$200 but the total cost was \$288.76. Joe Delaney would like to pay the other \$88.76 to Ernie Laberge for the Festival of Trees tree and ornaments. Fran Curnow motions to pay the difference second by Chris Dupont and unanimously approved.

New Business:

Idea was brought up to change the meetings in January and February to Saturday mornings following breakfast instead of meeting on the second Monday of the month to allow others to join that cannot in the darker months of the year. January 3rd and February 7th at 11am. March will be back to Mondays at 7pm as usual. Vote is needed for a trial run in January and then decide if February would be changed or not at the January meeting. Paul is not worried about flow from breakfast. Brian Dupee is concerned it is too much at once. Breakfast would still be at normal time and end at normal time with meeting to follow. At least 5 officers will not be able to attend these meetings. Motion to change January to January 3rd at 11am by JB Stern seconded by Bill Federman. 1 opposed to the approval. February will be decided at the January meeting.

Brianna Torrey motions for \$1000 to be moved from regular funds to the Scholarship fund making the Scholarship fund \$3,017.20 to ensure three can be awarded this coming spring. Second by Fran Curnow and unanimously approved.

Good of the League:

District won Ops section of FY25. Recruiting is way up +24 for the end of the year.

Hira was awarded young alumni of the year at Springfield College.

The first Sunday in February is 4 Chaplains. Young marines will be there to help. Please let Ernie Laberge know if you will be attending so you can help with the event. The more filled the Chapel the better to keep it from closing. It will be at the VA in Leeds starting at 1:30 or 2pm.

Announcements:

Marine of the Year needs to be decided because it will be handed out at the January meeting.

Associate of the year needs to be decided and will be handed out in February due to no previously



awarded Associate members being able to attend the January meeting due to the change of time and date.

CLOSING CEREMONY: The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors at 20:30 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 **January 3, 2025**.

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