

# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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Westfield River Valley Detachment 141  
71 North 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)  
**SEMPER FIDELIS**

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting 10 February, 2020

**OPENING CEREMONY:** Sergeant-at-Arms Mancini secured the quarters at 1904 hours, posted the Colors, and led the detachment in the Pledge of Allegiance; the acting Chaplain then read the opening prayer after which the Sergeant-at-Arms declared the meeting open for official business. Sixteen regular members and nine associate members were present.

### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:**

<b>Board of Trustees</b>		
Commandant	Keith A. Buckhout	P
Senior Vice Commandant	Joseph R. Delaney	E
Junior Vice Commandant	Sophie Bartosik	P
Judge Advocate	Christopher Cekovsky	P

<b>Appointed Staff Officers</b>		
Junior Past Commandant	John S. Rutovich	P
Paymaster	Roger Beer	P
Adjutant	William Federman	P
Chaplain	Lawrence Holbrook	E
	Stanley Lachtara	E
Sergeant-at-Arms	Aldo Mancini	P
Historian/Photos	John S. Rutovich	P
Auditor	Sophie Bartosik	P
Public Relations	Trudy Tynan	P
Scuttlebutt Editor	Roger Beer	P
	William Federman	P
Web Sergeant	Carriann D. Bailey	P
Armorer	Chris Cekovsky	P
Color Guard	Keith Buckhout	P
Quartermaster	Chris Cekovsky	P

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Past commandants							
Brian P. Dupee	P	Francis J. Curnow	P	Joseph C. Willis		Steven Snow	
Donald E. Wielgus		Daniel Bishop	P	Joseph F. Mucha		John S. Rutovich	P

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without revision.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank-you notes for inviting residents to our Saturday breakfasts were received from the Holyoke Soldiers' Home and the Leeds VA facility. The Westfield Public School District sent a schedule of its Memorial Day ceremonies. The MCL Department of Massachusetts will hold a ceremony to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima, and to honor the survivors of that iconic fight, on 19 February at 1100 in Memorial Hall at the Statehouse; guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. George Smith. Besides the Iwo Jima veterans, Gen. Joseph Dunford (Ret.), past chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots, will be honored. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**REPORT OF THE PAYMASTER:** The report for January was accepted unanimously.

**SICK OR IN DISTRESS:** Stan Lachtara's serious health problems continue; he hopes to be able to attend the next meeting, when he will be recognized as the detachment's Marine of the Year for his outstanding fundraising efforts. Doc Rivette is in fragile health and is seeking help from the VA. Tom Pirnie's medical treatment has alleviated his neck pain, he says, and to compensate for loss of volume in his voice he now speaks through an amplifying microphone; he insists he is not available for DJ gigs.

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

**Commandant:** Commandant Buckhout reminded detachment members of the Westfield Republican Committee's Annual Lincoln Day Brunch, which will be held on February 15 at 10 a.m. at East Mountain Country Club. Plenty of tickets still need to be sold for the July drawing, and tickets for the scholarship dinner are now available at the barracks. Recent ceremonies memorializing the four chaplains who sacrificed their lives to save others in World War II were held at the Leeds VA center and at St. Patrick's church in Enfield; detachment members were present at both. The commandant, along with Senior Vice Commandant Delaney, will participate in the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico on February 15; the march is 26 miles

through the high desert and is held in memory of the service members who died defending the Philippines in World War II.

**Junior Past Commandant:** JR represented the detachment at the Four Chaplains mass at St. Patrick's church in Enfield. The Massachusetts Department meeting is scheduled for Feb. 16 in Worcester.

**Paymaster:** Paymaster Beer will be out of touch for the immediate future and Commandant Buckhout will handle money matters in his absence.

**Historian:** JR is beginning the monumental task of compiling the detachment's historical records.

**Armorer:** Ceremonial rifles have been cleaned and are accounted for.

**VAVS:** The Four Chaplains ceremony was well-attended and received. State league officers were at the Leeds Devil Dog party; the event cost less than anticipated and, as a consequence, money was returned to the detachment. Another party, this one to mark Hospitalized Veterans Appreciation Week, will be on Feb. 13. Blue Water Navy veterans were urged to apply for VA benefits for exposure to Agent Orange.

**Quartermaster:** An inventory of supplies is underway and is nearly complete.

**Scholarship Committee:** Tickets for the scholarship dinner need to be sold; in addition, raffle gifts are needed; changes in the award process are being finalized and will be implemented next year.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:** The cake for the Devil Dog party at Leeds somehow ended up at the detachment's barracks and was enjoyed by all.

**CLOSING CEREMONY:** The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors at 2024 hours and the acting Chaplain gave the closing prayer. The closing statement was read and the Sergeant-at-Arms declared the proceedings adjourned until the next scheduled detachment meeting, on March 9, 2020.

**Postscript:** Bob Peloquin, a stalwart member of Detachment 141, will take a leave of absence from league meetings and functions while he pursues efforts to upgrade his veteran status. Bob has been instrumental in the detachment's success, whether through fund-raising or his extensive volunteer work with veterans. All detachment members are encouraged to support Bob in any way they can. Bob has given selflessly. It is now the detachment's turn to help him.

William W. Federman  
Adjutant  
Westfield River Valley Detachment 141  
Marine Corps League