

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Westfield River Valley Detachment 141
71 North Elm Street
Westfield, MA 01085-1619
Phone & FAX 413- 562-4850
Meetings 2nd Monday of every month
www.mclwrv141.com
SEMPER FIDELIS

Minutes of Monthly Meeting 8 March, 2021

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 Acting Chaplain then read the opening prayer, after which the meeting was declared open for official business. Fifteen regular members and three associate members were present.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS :

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

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

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	E

The March meeting was relatively well attended, considering that the nation is still in the grip of the Coronavirus pandemic. Masks are mandated for detachment gatherings and social distancing guidelines are followed.

MINUTES: No minutes were taken in February because no meeting was held. A notice reflecting that rarity was placed in the detachment files.

CORRESPONDENCE: Bills were given to the paymaster for payment. Two scholarship applications were received and will be turned over to the scholarship committee.

SICK OR IN DISTRESS: Stan Lachtara's health is still fragile; the commandant has visited him and says he seems to be holding steady, neither improving nor declining.

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

Commandant: Keith reminded the membership that the lack of activity forced by the pandemic has cut deeply into the detachment's finances. No fundraising will be possible at Geisler's or Walmart, our traditional venues, until normal life resumes.

Paymaster: The paymaster's report was accepted unanimously. The bill for repairing the damage to the basement from the sewer backup --- nearly \$11,000 --- has been mostly paid off. Marine Beer reiterated the commandant's concerns about raising money.

Judge Advocate: The revised bylaws have been signed and submitted for approval, which is expected shortly.

Auditor: Accounts have been audited through December and all is shipshape.

VAVS: Construction at the Leeds facility continues, with old buildings and parking lots disappearing and a new campus rising; Covid vaccinations are being given but making an appointment requires patience and imagination.

Holyoke Soldiers Home: Access is still restricted but some visitors are being admitted, with strict safeguards in place.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: Large magnetic MCL signs with the Marine Corps logo, suitable for display on a vehicle, for example, are for sale. If the detachment orders enough of them, we will be entitled to a discount; see Vinny Sulewski for details. The commandant was cited and thanked for his continuing efforts to distribute food to the needy in Easthampton.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The annual scholarship dinner will be postponed until autumn; a date has not yet been set and the scholarship committee will be consulted; the fund has at present about \$3,000 and more money will be added as soon as fundraising can begin again.

NEW BUSINESS: Memorial Day parades may not be held this year because of the pandemic; detachment members will participate if possible. The Food for Vets program is up and running and anyone in need and eligible is encouraged to participate. Prior sign-up is mandatory to receive a 32-pound box of food. A ceremony is planned for 3 April at Parker Memorial Park to honor Vietnam veterans.

CLOSING CEREMONY: The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors at 1949 hours and the Acting Chaplain gave the closing prayer. The closing statement was read and the proceedings were adjourned until the next detachment meeting, tentatively scheduled for April 12.

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