**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

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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

**SEMPER FIDELIS**

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

13 February, 2023

**OPENING CEREMONY**: The Sergeant-at-Arms secured the quarters at 1903 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. Fourteen regular members, six associate members and three guests were present.

**ROLL CALL OF DETACHMENT OFFICERS:**

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| **Detachment 141 Elected Officers (Board of Trustees)** | | |
| Commandant | Christopher B. Cekovsky | P |
| Senior Vice Commandant | Joseph R. Delaney | P |
| Junior Vice Commandant | Sophie F. Bartosik | P |
| Judge Advocate | Keith A. Buckhout | P |

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| **Appointed Staff Officers** | | |
| Junior Past Commandant | Keith A. Buckhout | P |
| Adjutant | William W. Federman | P |
| Paymaster | Roger Beer | P |
| Sergeant at Arms | Aldo Mancini | P |
| Chaplain | Dan Bishop | P |
| Historian | John S. Rutovich | P |
| Auditor | Sophie F. Bartosik | P |
| Public Relations | Michael Patnaude | P |
| Scuttlebutt Editors | Roger Beer, William Federman | P |
| Web Sergeant | Carrieann D. Bailey | P |
| Armorer | Christopher B. Cekovsky | P |
| Color Guard | Keith A. Buckhout | P |
| Quartermaster | William W. Federman | P |
| Flag Service | Vinny Sulewski, John S. Rutovich | P |

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| **Past commandants** | | | | | | | |
| Richard Greene 1977 |  | Joseph Mucha  1994 |  | Donald Wielgus 1999 |  | Joseph Willis 2004 |  |
| Fran Curnow 2005 | P | Brian Dupee | P | John Rutovich 2011 | P | Dan Bishop 2013 | P |
| Keith Buckhout 2017 | P |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:** Three applications were received, one for regular membership and two for associate membership. All were approved unanimously. Welcome to Christopher Dupont, Zachary Torrey and Brianna Torrey.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Nothing of note, just a few pieces of junk mail.

**SICK OR IN DISTRESS:** A get-well card was sent to Stan Lachtera. Bob Peloquin, now residing in Florida, had minor surgery and is doing well. Dan and Bev Bishop are each having surgical procedures, with Bev getting a new knee.

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

**Commandant:** An officers’ meeting focusing on the detachment’s finances was held last week; bottom line, we are spending more money than we take in; we need to redouble our efforts to raise funds; it was noted that the Young Marines are a big help in this regard. The detachment’s building at the Westfield Fair grounds is in need of repair and may no longer be useful. Reviving the detachment’s Saturday morning breakfasts was discussed, with the major issue being finding enough volunteers to do the work; it is also apparent that a minimum charge will need to be levied. Scholarships will again be awarded; volunteers and donations will be needed. The possibility of having a presence at an upcoming gun show was raised as a way of soliciting donations.

**Senior Vice Commandant:** Detachment members participated in the 4 Chaplains ceremony at the Leeds facility.

**Junior Vice Commandant:** Semper Fi magazine has details of the tainted water situation at Camp Lejeune and how to apply for assistance.

**Paymaster:** The report was accepted unanimously, subject to audit.

**Auditor:** No discrepancies were found in the October, November or December reports.

**Web Sergeant:** The detachment’s web page was recently updated and photos of detachment activities have been submitted to Semper Fi magazine. Donations of gently-used sneakers are still being sought. The detachment will receive a cut from shopping bags sold at the checkout counter at Stop & Shop in Westfield.

**Flag Service:** About thirty bags of used American flags are upstairs and will be disposed of according to protocol.

**Holyoke Soldiers’ Home:** The facility is still dealing with Covid issues and access is restricted.

**Color Guard:** Volunteers are needed for an April 17 ceremony at Parker Park and also for Memorial Day.

**Westfield Veterans Council:** Winter coats are available for veterans in need. Contact Julie Barnes, director of veterans services for Westfield. She is also the contact person for a free veterans’ lunch provided once a month by Westfield Technical Academy. In a related matter, the detachment voted unanimously to donate $50 to the academy’s culinary arts program.

**Scholarship Committee:** Applications for the coming year will be blasted out by Carrieann. New members are needed; contact Bill Federman.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A motion was made and passed, unanimously, to donate $50 to Backpacks for Life for personal care supplies for veterans.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:** Detachmentmembers – Fran Curnow, Carrieann Dymon-Bailey, Brian Dupee and Lynn Dupee – were recognized for their continuing contributions to the good of the league. A request was received, and granted, to use the barracks in August for the 100th birthday of the mother of a Marine. Vietnam Veterans Day will be observed at Parker Park on April 1. The Bataan Death March will be memorialized virtually from March 19-26; the in-person event will be held at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico on March 19.

**CLOSING CEREMONY**: The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors at 2046 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 March 13, 2023.

William W. Federman, Adjutant

Westfield River Valley Detachment 141

Marine Corps League