



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 13 May 2024

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 eight associate members and one guest were present.

ROLL CALL OF DETACHMENT OFFICERS:

Detachment 141 Elected Officers (Board of Trustees)		
Commandant	Christopher B. Cekovsky	P
Senior Vice Commandant	Rene Cote	E
Junior Vice Commandant	Dan Bishop	P
Judge Advocate	Keith A. Buckhout	P

Appointed Staff Officers		
Junior Past Commandant	Keith A. Buckhout	P
Adjutant	Brianna Torrey	E
Paymaster	Joseph R. Delaney	P
Sergeant at Arms	Aldo Mancini	P
Chaplain		
Historian		
Auditor	Sophie F. Bartosik	E
Public Relations	Michael Patnaude	P



Scuttlebutt Editors	Roger Beer, William Federman	E
Web Sergeant	Carriann D. Bailey	P
Armorer	Christopher B. Cekovsky	P
Color Guard	Keith A. Buckhout	P
Quartermaster	Christopher B. Cekovsky	E
Flag Service	Vinny Sulewski, Zachary Torrey	P

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS: One New Associate Member application. Ernie Laberge supported by Brian Dupee. He has been working in National and Easthampton American Legion Son's positions. Unanimously voted to accept new membership.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Sandy Rutovich with a photo of a "house" mouse to Thank everyone for help with the funeral for JR.

SICK OR IN DISTRESS: Roger Beer's wife is making progress through chemotherapy.

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

Commandant: Services for JR was well done. Thank you to everyone who helped out. Thank you to Keith for color guard and firing detail arrangements. Flag pin sales need help with shifts. More help is needed for Father's day weekend. Sign up sheets at the Barracks. Breakfast was also the Saturday of pin sales but still need help with pins. Eagle Scout project for the incinerator meeting is tomorrow night. The



incinerator should be completed at the Sportsmans Club in September. Scholarships will be handed out at the June meeting. There were 3 recipients \$1,000 each. Light food and beverages will be served at the June meeting, Please wear uniforms for this meeting. With JR passing there are big shoes to fill. Chaplain is needed desperately and in need of someone who would like to take it for a long time to keep reaching out and checking in on members. Historian is also open. Please step up to help as it is greatly needed. Zach Torrey has taken Flag Service Officer. Our Flag service will be in September.

Junior Vice Commandant: There was a director meeting to try and see what is next for the building. We would like to stay so many updates need to happen. Looking into what Westfield might be able to pay for since we are renters. One contractor has been through and two more will be coming. Will take months to get estimates back. We will be filling out a CPA grant for help with the upgrades as well.

Paymaster: Total for the past month with multiple checks outstanding \$79,539.41. Fran motioned to accept; subject to audit and Dan seconded.

Ceremonial officer: May 27th there will be no color guard as no one can make the distance but there will be a vehicle for the ride. Parade kicks off at 10am please be there by 9:30. The Young Marines will follow. Ceremony will be 11am at Parker Park. There will be buses from the middle school at 9am and 9:30 am to bring you to the start of the parade route so your car can be at the ceremony end of the route.

Public Relations: The webpage is 27% up in traffic. Most have been looking for directions.

Web Sergeant: Photos of JR service, pin sales and any photos sent to CarrieAnne have gone up on instagram and facebook. Invites are being sent through facebook to try and remind everyone about breakfast and things.

Quartermaster: Purchased covers and certificates. Anyone who would like to recognize someone we can make certificates.

Scuttlebutt: Send Roger and Bill stories of the League or your time in the service for them to add to the Scuttlebutt.

Scholarship Committee: The quest for more funds will begin after next meeting.

VAVS- Quarterly meeting happened and was 2.5 hours long. Brian Ryan of Leeds VA Volunteer services has moved into public relations and VA is on hiring freeze so no one will be taking his position. A marine started a Horticulture program at the VA and they are growing hydroponic plants in the greenhouse. The



food they grow is going to the food pantry. Building 11 is closed and will be reopened at some point in the future, Fingerprinting and badges will be necessary for all volunteers at the VA. The chapel is closing for the remainder of renovations. It is planning to reopen in the future. The 100 year anniversary went well, had plenty of volunteers. The VA is working on rural wave program to get care out to rural areas with less access to the VA benefit. You can visit without masks. CNS in Hatfield is calling the VA when trucks come in with goods they cannot accept and allowing the VA food pantry to take whatever they can to help stock up. They are looking for a new bingo machine. In the future they may ask for a donation to help buy a new one. June 27th at the Elks in Florence will be a Veterans car show. Drawing and prizes for veterans who attend. Please remember to bring non perishables to the meetings for Brian to bring to the VA food pantry.

Soldiers Home: The majority are happy there. Please think of after dinner activity ideas for the June meeting that might be accepted by the Soldier's home so the veterans have something to do. Monday through Thursdays after 5pm they would like an activity. One suggestion was a painting night. Masks are still required.

Agawam: June 22nd Agawam High School has a car show.

Chicopee: June 1st is the ribbon cutting at 10am for the Dog memorial park.

NEW BUSINESS: Joe made motion to pay for the reception for JR's funeral. We will pay \$780.00 for the food after the funeral. Second by Brian and unanimously accepted.

Good of the League: Commandant handed out a recognition award to Barbara Dymon. Keith thanked all of the associate members for their help with color guard for JR's funeral. Almost all of the firing detail was the detachment for the services and he wanted to thank so many for attending.

CLOSING CEREMONY: The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors at 2032 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 June 10, 2024.

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