

MINUTES

2016 MID-WINTER RALLY

Comfort Inn and Conference Center

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

January 28 – 31, 2016

OPENING CEREMONY

At 1510 hours, Colors were presented by the U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard from the Marine Reserve Unit in Lansing, Michigan

Opening Prayer by Flint Detachment Chaplain Fred Green standing in for Dept. Chaplain Jack Porn.

All National Officers and Past Department Commandants present were recognized by Commandant Wendy Zamora.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

The following officers were absent: Judge Advocate - David VanHoof,

1/24th Memorial Liason – Angelo Lema, Jr

The following officers were excused: Vice Commandant – Central Zone – Kevin Jones

Vice Commandant – Eastern Zone – Scott R. Neff, Sr.

Chaplain – John (Jack) Porn

VAVS Director/Dept Emailer – Emil A. Franz III

Resolutions & Bylaws – Tim McGee

Detachment Representatives absent: Greater Michigan #156 Monroe County #157

Northwest # 162 Sgt G.P. Porta # 163

Yagle Brothers # 165 Washtenaw County #414

George ‘Toogs’ St. Martin #550 Cpl. Jack A. Davenport #684

Northern Michigan #690 Wolverine # 722

Lake Superior #764 Keweenaw # 1016

Shoreline #1027 Irish Hills #1182

S/Sgt. Bryan K. Burgess #1337

REPORT OF OFFICERS

COMMANDANT'S REPORT – Wendy Zamora

Membership – Commandant Zamora reported that the department is currently setting at 2,043 paid members and 321 delinquent members. The Commandant has set a goal of 25% - 50% reduction in delinquencies by June. All Detachments need to work on the Former Member list that was distributed by the National Sr. Vice Commandant, Dennis Tobin. The Sr. Vice Commandant also put out a Recruiting incentive that runs until August. All new membership applications will be placed in a drawing bin for a drawing at the National Convention for prizes.

Fundraising – The Department Senior Vice has been working hard on fundraisers. If you have any ideas concerning fundraising, please contact Dave Masunas

Department – Thanks to Tom (Jerry) Burton from the Alpena Detachment #1327 for filling the vacancy in the position of Vice Commandant – Northern Zone. Congratulations Jerry and welcome aboard.

Commandant Zamora added that she would like to add one detachment in the Cadillac or Tawas area. If you want to assist with this, please contact Dave Masunas.

There is also a need for a Legislative Director. Someone who can spend time in the Lansing meeting with various Senators and Legislators. If interested, contact the Department Commandant.

If anyone wants to get involved in Department activities and responsibilities, please contact your Department Commandant. There are a lot of opportunities to be involved in within the Department.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT'S REPORT – David Masunas

The Little Rollers Raffle was held at the Senior Center in Charlotte following the Fall Staff Rally last October. The raffle took in \$2101,91. The Senior Center was donated to us for the event, therefore we saved \$800.00 that would've been spent on a motel to hold the event. The Fred Cochran Detachment won the raffle and their prize was \$1000.00. Dave said that it would be great to hold the event in the same location every year and also to receive prizes from around the state instead of one geographical area. That was the winner from the Metro area, for instance, wouldn't have to travel across the state to claim a prize from the Hart area, for example. Need more donations and hopefully big ticket items.

The tickets for the Money Raffle were sent out to all the detachments back in December. Presently we have raised \$900.00. Tickets are still coming in. Of all the tickets sent out only two came back due to improper address. The Drawing will take place on April 28 at the Capitol Detachment's meeting.

All Raffle monies go to support the VAVS. The funds are divided up to support the VA hospitals and homes. The membership needs to support the raffles and other programs held by the Department of Michigan to support the VAVS.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT'S REPORT – Jonathan VanTol

It is important to recruit and retain active members in order for our League to grow. Detachment Paymasters work hard processing transmittals in a timely manner and keeping accurate records. Accurate records help to track and then correct errors that may have been made.

Total membership numbers including associates and dual members are as follows:

Month	Total Paid	Total Unpaid
June 2015	2075	332
Nov 2015	1863	478
Jan 2016	1986	364

National identified those who have been inactive for a number of years. Focus on Marines or Associate Members that were added to the "Unpaid" list. Then identify why they have been inactive for so many years then and address their concerns. They may have relocated without a forwarding address and others may have passed away and the "Notice of Death" form may not have been processed. In that case, complete the "Notice of Death" form and send to the Department Chaplain so the roster can be updated.

VICE COMMANDANT'S REPORTS

NORTHERN ZONE – VACANT

CENTRAL ZONE – Kevin Jones (absent)

EASTERN ZONE – Scott Neff Sr. (excused)

UPPER PENINSULA ZONE – Art Menard

Currently there are five detachments, one Devil Dog Pound and one auxiliary unit in the Upper Peninsula Zone. A U.P. Zone meeting was held 26 Sept. 2015 in Marquette with all detachments in attendance. The next Zone Meeting will be scheduled for the spring of 2016. The Iron Mountain Detachment is doing a fine job servicing the U.P. veterans at the Iron Mountain Veterans Home in Marquette. They have recently stopped their 24 hr care. Marines Rod Aho and PDC Glen Bressette have many volunteer hours helping Veterans at the home. Most U.P. Detachments donate regularly to their activities, fund and their wish list.

The Auxiliary Unit are very active and doing a fine job for the League and their community and the Iron Mountain VA facility

Upper Peninsula, Lake Superior, Keweenaw and Iron Mountain Detachments all conducted Toy Campaigns for the Foundation in their local areas.

SOUTHEAST ZONE – Stephan Fletcher

There are two VA hospitals in the Southeast Zone, Detroit and Ann Arbor. The Marines spend a lot of hours volunteering at both hospitals.

Visited two detachments recently and installed officers at the Down River Detachment. Was involved in the Toys for Tots Campaign.

Currently focused on the membership situation in my zone.

WESTERN ZONE – Al Pearson

The Zone Vice Commandant attended the Department Convention, Central Division Convention and the National Convention. He visited all his detachments in the Western Zone. Two of his detachments are in trouble with the IRS. Al was added to the Kennel Staff at the National Convention in Arizona

The Zone Vice Commandant attended three or four Eagle Scout Court of Honors.

The Western Zone was well represented at the Little Rollers Party in Charlotte. All Western Zone Detachments paid for three tickets each and some bought more.

The Grand Rapids Detachment donated \$500.00 and the Oceana/Brett Witteveen Detachment donated \$100.00 for the Christmas Party at the VA Home in Grand Rapids.

Assisted in the Toys for Tots Campaign

SOUTH ZONE – Raymond Rowley

Installed the Officers in the Irish Hills and Branch Area Detachments. Ray visited all of the Detachments in his Zone.

He represented the Marine Corps League at the Veterans Day Ceremony at Worthington Park in Jackson. As Co-Commander of the Jackson County Veterans Council, I officiated the ceremony.

Represented the Marine Corps League at the Civil War Muster in Jackson in August and the Freedom Festival in Thompkins Center in September.

Attended the Little Rollers Raffle that the Marine Corps League Foundation held in Charlotte.

Attended the Marine Corps League Birthday Celebration on November 10, 2015 at the Capitol Detachment in Lansing.

On December 17 – 22nd assisted the Salvation Army with the Toys for Tots distribution.

JUDGE ADVOCATE – David VanHoof (absent)

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT – Fred Green (standing in for Jack Porn)

Jack's wife was hospitalized with pneumonia.

Jack fell and re-injured his knee.

JUNIOR PAST COMMANDANT – Norm Pfaff

Norm volunteers at the John Dingel Veterans Hospital in the Detroit area.

He volunteers to play Bingo, run the Country Store and many other things. He takes the Young Marines to the VA Hospital to pass out various items to the vets.

Norm also serves on the Veteran's Advisory Committee to address the needs of the veterans.

ADJUTANT – Ray Rayl (No Report)

CHIEF OF STAFF – Warren Tracey PDC (No Report)

SERGEANT AT ARMS – Daniel Ashcraft (No Report)

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR - VACANT

HISTORIAN – Dale Erion (No Report)

VAVS DIRECTOR REPORT – Emil A. Franz (Report only)

Emil began his report by recognizing all the VAVS volunteers and VAVS Facilities Representatives and Deputies.

The following is an overview of the Department of Michigan's VAVS Program since the convention.

In FY 2015 the MCL Department of Michigan donated a total of \$7939.65 to all the Michigan VAMC's and Home for Veterans. This generous donation from the Department of Michigan can't happen without your support. These funds are generated from the Departments Fundraisers. Thanks to all of you.

Emil attended and served at the Department of Michigan sponsored Annual Christmas parties at the Saginaw Aleda E. Lutz VAMC and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Again this year they were huge successes. I would like to thank the Commandant of the Fred Cochran Detachment Wayne Luznicky who is also the VAVS Representative at the GRHV, along with many members of the Fred Cochran Detachment that helped make the Grand Rapids Christmas Party so successful. Also in attendance was our Department Commandant Wendy Zamora, Sr Vice Commandant Dave Masunas (Santa Claus again this year) Jr Vice Commandant Jonathon VanTol and our Western Zone Vice Commandant Al Pearson. Members from Macomb, Muskegon Oceana and John C. Rock Detachments helped serve over 130 Veteran Residents, refreshments, snacks and presents.

Saginaw's Aleda E. Lutz VAMC's Christmas Party was a success as well and thanks go to its VAVS Rep Fred Gibas and members of the John C. Rock Detachment for their help at this party.

MICHIGAN MARINE NEWS -Phil Zamora

Because of my work-load, the Michigan Marine News is delayed. It will be coming out soon. However, anyone who wishes to help out or take over the publication or website, please see Phil. The email address is michmarinenews@gmail.com.

DEPARTMENT EMAILER – Emil 'Dutch' Franz – No Report

PAYMASTER'S REPORT – Phil Zamora

The finances of the Department of Michigan was presented to the membership.

Total Cash on Hand & Assets at January 29, 2016 = \$194,573.94

Total General Fund Balance at January 29, 2016 = \$37,360 ,67

Total Veterans & Youth Services Fund Balance at January 29, 2016 = \$47,329.68

Senior Vice Dave Masunas made a motion to accept the Paymaster's Report.

Seconded Phil Smith, subject to audit. Motion carried.

FORT CUSTER NATIONAL CEMETERY – Robert L. Cook

The new Director is Peter Sardo who comes to us from Puerto Rico. There were 1391 committals from Oct 2014 – Oct 2015 for a total of 32,575.

Received word from Washington that in order to fly the state flags on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, we must put up 5 more flag poles with flags from Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

The cemetery was started in 1943 as Fort Custer Post Cemetery and changed to Fort Custer National Cemetery in 1982 on 770 acres.

GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY – Roy Leura – No Report

1/24TH MEMORIAL LIAISON (Absent)

EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR – Dave Masunas

I would like to thank all the Marines that have been able to present the Good Citizenship Awards at the Eagle Court of Honors and promote the program for the Marine Corps League.

For the period July – December 2015 – 24 Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Awards were presented

For the same period last year – 26 Awards were presented

A Power-point presentation has been created by Dave to help spread the word about the Marine Corps League Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Award. If interested in the presentation, it's on a CD, contact Al Pearson or Dave Masunas

Al and Dave will continue to promote the Eagle Scout program and keep in mind this program is a great way to recruit new members.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDANT (Central Division) – Raymond Dailey

Congratulations to the Department of Michigan Officers for a fine Mid-Winter, Also to the Auxiliary for a fine Hospitality Room.

Be aware of your surroundings when gathering at a Veterans function. It would be a feather in the hat of a "copy-cat" ISIS members to disrupt a veteran's function.

The Central Division Vice Commandant commented on the status of the membership in his zone. The Department Officers will be receiving an updated roster on a monthly basis.

Semper Fi magazine is cutting back on their publishing and paying more attention to MCL information and advertising.

A discussion took place on the paper trail to and from National MCL Headquarters. Manpower seems to be the main problem.

Ray announced that he will be running for the Central Division Vice Commandant position again at the National Convention.

TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE – Phil Zamora

Phil reported that the 2016 Department Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Muskegon, Michigan on June 2, 3, & 4th. It will be hosted by the Muskegon Detachment # 703.

The 2017 Mid-Winter Rally will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Bay City, Michigan on Jan. 19, 20, 21 & 22nd. It will be hosted by the Edson-Kline-Vanslyke Detachment #1423. Motion made by Jim Tuohy, Supported by (unknown) to accept bid from the Edson Kline Van Slyke Detachment to host the 2017 Mid-Winter. Voted and motion carried.

2017 Department Convention at the Island Casino & Resort in Harris, Michigan on June 8 – 11 2017 . This will be voted on at the Department Convention in June 2016.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – Gil Dysarczyk for Timothy McGee

Article sent to Michigan Marine News requesting more funds for the Scholarship Fund. A challenge was made by Gil Dysarczyk to all detachments that his detachment will write a check for \$500.00 to the Scholarship Fund if other detachments will make similar donations to the Scholarship program.

AWARDS & CITATIONS – Phil Smith

During the period of July 2015 through January 2016 no awards were presented from the Department through the Awards Chair. Two awards citations were given, one to the Dept Auxiliary and the other to the Hotel.

Status of the Department Anniversary Award is unknown.

All detachments and Department Staff are reminded if you submit a recommendation, that you use the 5 W's when writing the report, Who, What, When, Why and What for. All Detachments are reminded that any award for the Department or National should go through the proper channels, ie; the Awards Committee prior to reaching the Department Commandant or National Headquarters.

Any award to be presented by the National Headquarter, should be signed off for approval/disapproval by the Department Awards Committee and or the Department Commandant prior to being sent to the National Headquarters.

Questions or criteria of the award to be submitted, please review the National Administrative procedures under Awards

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS None

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE – Jonathon VanTol

Jonathon Van Tol presented the Americanism Award to Raymond Rowley Southern Zone Vice Commandant and Jerry Havens from the Cascades Detachment #149 in Jackson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In June, Commandant Zamora will be seeking re-election as Department Commandant.

David Masunas will be seeking re-election to the office of Dept. Senior Vice Commandant.

Jonathon VanTol will also be seeking re-election to the office Dept. Junior Vice Commandant.

Commandant Zamora recognized Calvin Moore from the Montford Point Detachment as being the original member of the Montford Point Detachment. In addition, Detachment Commandant Eugene Owens announced that the detachment will be traveling to Camp LeJeune to be awarded a World War II Memorial

Jim J. Touhy PNC, PDC noted that a Marine is in need

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing Prayer was said by Flint Chaplain Fred Green.

The 2016 Mid-Winter Rally was brought to a close at 11:30 hrs.by Department Commandant Wendy Zamora.

Respectfully Submitted

Raymond Rayl

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Department Adjutant