**February 10, 2025 MCL Minutes**

**7:05p – Special Presentation – Chris Sanchez**

Requested a donation for North Brookfield HS/JRHS DC trip to see the monuments. Total cost per student $1,099. There are 35 kids going and the fundraising is roughly $3,500 short, therefore, was requesting any donation to help close the remaining deficit. Deadline for the payment for the trip 02/26/2025.

**7:13 – Roll Call of Officers**

Only the Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant, Sgt at Arms, Chaplain, Historian, Photographer, Quarter Master, Scholarship Chair and Web Master were present; all other officers were excused.

* Previous commandants were recognized
* Pack leaders recognized
* Past MA Commandant’s recognized
* Other dignitaries – none
* Applications – 1 potential (given to Chris Sanchez)
* Previous minutes were granted approval.

**7:16 – Correspondence**

MCL received same letter twice, VAMC thank you letter for the food donations and also included their “ask/want list” for future donations

**7:19 – Reports of any Member/Family Member in Distress**

* Rainey’s mom has been ill
* Keith having surgery 02/11/2025
* Doc. Ron Rivet is at home but doing well. Needs help getting out and about/rides to MCL meetings
* Henry continues to take care of his wife
* Commandant’s daughter is doing well post-surgery

**7:21 – Report of the Officers**

Commandant

* Thank you given to Paul for the soup and sandwiches
* Paul & Chuck given recognition and thank you for the Saturday Breakfast
* Scholarships deadline to submit 03/01/2025. Award will be given at the June 1st meeting; there are 3 scholarships at $1k each.

Junior Vice/Building Committee

* Building committee meetings after Saturday breakfasts – looking for more members
* General contractors will be assessing the building on 02/11/2025; looking to get a 2nd and 3rd bid for the work
* The building is owned by the city but MCL is in charge of the upkeep and renovations

Pay Master

* Copies of the expenses had been shared with members (copies on table)
* Jan expenses reviewed by line items
* Still waiting on outstanding checks, roughly $3,674 vs what is reported
* Calendar cards cost of printing vs what’s made – 5k upfront, $50-500 calendar days $250 goes out in prizes
* Estimated/rough net $2,585 of all tickets sold
* 2 outstanding checks to winners
* $2,960 donated back to MCL from winners
* Propose to keep running them in November for the 2025 year, to give roughly 6 months for selling
* Unable to take a vote/no quorum, delayed vote until March

Sgt at Arms – nothing to report

Chaplain

* 4 Chaplains ceremony went well
  + Ernie helped organize and run the event, it was well attended
  + Awards were submitted but nothing in response
  + Told roughly 90 turn around time
  + Wants to give award at 40 & 8th
  + Next option would to give award would be closer to the USMC birthday
  + Award criterion: doing what others aren’t without being asked, above and beyond service.
  + Brian Willet took photos of the event or Ed M.
  + Young Marines were the color guard for the event
* National Salute to Veterans in VAMC - Wednesday bowling in Northampton
* Donations still needed at VAMC Leeds

Armorer –

* All rifles accounted for

Auditor – not present

Ceremony – Nothing to present

Flag Service Officer

* Flags are being sorted nylon to be recycled
* Cotton will have a ceremony and burning at later date

POW Report

* Provided a summary of the history of POW/MIA Day – this year it will be on 09/19/2025
* Provided a history of the POW/MIA flag’s creation, when/how/where it can be flown
* Count for each war’s POW/MIA were given – 172 people were brought home as of last year; another 128 listed are still waiting family/next of kin contact

Historian/American’s Report

* Copy of the report has been printed for the barracks
* 2 history books will be kept
* Record of all MCL efforts/actions/meetings etc, kept at barracks
* Second copy created to be submitted to convention

Photographer

* Requested pictures of events/activities of members to be printed and/or shared for MCL related posts/information sharing

Quarter Master

* MCL patches still for sale, $10/piece
* Donation of shirts was made and will be continued to be stored for anyone who is need/interested
* Store will be reopened soon – accepting recommendations for new items to be listed for purchase

Scholarship Committee

* Push out the scholarship, remember the upcoming deadline
* Scholarship application has been emailed to all members and available on website

Scuttlebutt – Not present

Website/Web Master

* Updating the layout of the website
* Scholarship application can be found on there

Belchertown Veteran Services – nothing to report

Easthampton –

* VSO has a big luncheon once a month at big congressional church for anyone who is interested

Holyoke Soldiers Home

* Masks still required
* 1/15 event, cornhole competition was successful roughly 25 veterans participated
* Would like to hold the event once per quarter, 2nd Wednesday following the MCL meeting
* Looking for prizes to give out
* 05/14/2025 next event 5:30-6:30p

Westover Young Marines

* Recently attended/did colors for 4 Chaplains event
* Haven’t been in attendance for MCL breakfasts

Westfield Vet Council – Nothing to report

Agawam Vet Council

* 06/13/2025 Bring a Veteran event at the colosseum at the Big E
* Contact Julie Barnes if anyone is interested in attending the Veteran’s breakfast at the local tech school

Chicopee – Nothing to report

Real Estate – done, reported under building Junior Vice earlier

Financial

* Money moved from CD to Building Fund, CD had 10k and moved 3k to building fund
* CD to become backup for building needs

Standing Committees – No reports

New Committees – No reports

**7:55 MCL Unfinished Business** – No reports

**8:00 - MCL New Business**

No quorum, unable to hold any votes on earlier proposed items

Donation to School Trip/Special Guest Speaker

* Discussion on whether a donation should be made and if so, what amount
* Proposed that MCL sponsor 1 student for the total cost of $1,099
* Quorum Proposal
* Local decisions allow associate members to vote
* Need to review by-laws and update them to cover the voting options for when associate members can vote

Motion on the floor to donate money to send 1 student to DC for total cost of $1,099 – Seconded – No further discussion – All in favor – None opposed – Approved donation 02/10/2025

Westfield State University Veteran’s Center

* Request a donation for the diploma frames for graduates
* Frames are ordered in March
* Request a donation of $300
* Motion on the floor for $300 donation – Seconded – No further discussion – All in favor – None opposed – Approved donation 02/10/2025

**8:10 Good of League**

* 4 Chaplain South Hadley Library on 02/20/2025
* Suffield Players putting on A Few Good Men 02/14/2025-03/16/2025 - Information for location, tickets etc on their website; tickets $22, seniors $19
* 02/22/2025 Northfield BBQ Chicken Night, Legion event $15/person
* First Sunday in April 40 & 8th next event; hoping awards will be announced
* Baskets of cheer were greatly appreciated

**No further business – 8:15p move to close, meeting closed at 8:17; next meeting 03/10/2025**