



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 January 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. Eleven regular members, and nine associate members were present.

Membership: none at this time.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted unanimously. Motion made by Keith Buckhout, seconded by Dan Bishop.

Correspondence: One card received with a not and voided check from the calendar card raffle. The recipient donated back the \$75.00 check they received so the Marine Corps League could use the money instead.

Sick or In Distress: Kinley Cekovsky has an injured forearm where the bone is growing incorrectly. She will be getting surgery at the Boston Children's Hospital. Henry Scarborough's wife is still very ill and he is taking care of her so he is not able to get out as much. A GCC veteran was lost to suicide. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

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

Commandant: December was a busy month. Thank you to the members who helped with the skate party. The skate party had a great turn out. Thank you to Dan Bishop for presenting Scouts their certificates. Go to the website for an updated scholarship application. March is the deadline for scholarship application and June is the handing out of the scholarship. This year there will also be \$1000 scholarships. Thank you to the breakfast crew for their hard work on those events. Still attempting to get Young Marines to help with the breakfasts. Thank you to Paul for the chili.

Paymaster: Copies passed out for December 2024. Totals of \$94,579.28. There will be a calendar card breakdown next month to see how much we make from this fundraiser. Dan motion, second by Brian Dupee and accepted unanimously.

Sergeant at Arms: Fran filling in for Aldo who was at the Agawam council meeting. Remember the scholarship at the department level as well. They can apply to both and no applicants applied to the department last year.

Armorer: 2 guns are out for cleaning and the rest are all set upstairs.



Ceremonial: 4 Chaplains is February 02, 2025 at the VA in Leeds and there will also be a new 4 Chaplains on February 06 2025 in South Hadley at the library. Memorial day is coming as well.

Flag Service: Trying to get the scouts to help sort through all of the flags separating Nylon and cotton. Need to set a time to go to the incinerator and hold a service to start working on getting rid of flags. Need to set a date with the sportsmans club.

Historian: The book is ready and at the barracks if you would like to see it. It can also be handed into department for possible awards. Send anything you would like in the 2025 book to Ernie and it will be added. 4 Chaplains at the VA was written by the Easthampton Legion this year. Trying to get the Young Marines involved. Easthampton senior center is small but wanted a POW/MIA table set up. A Poster was made in place of the table itself and those posters are now being offered to all public spaces in Easthampton to try and spread awareness of the POW/MIA. Commandant appointed Ernie Laberge POW/MIA representative for the detachment and was accepted by Ernie.

Quartermaster: Official patches are at the barracks. They are \$10.00 and can be added to any polo or hat you would like. Hats were an issue for the past order. You should have received your money back if you attempted to buy a hat from Mantis Graphics in the last order. Dan will check if there is a way to make the hats work in the next store opening. Uniforms upstairs at the barracks are free so please stop in and check to see if anything is your size. If you need items let Chris know. There is a box with JR mementos brought in by Sandy. It is at the barracks. Stop in and see if there is anything you would like to take with you from JR.

Scholarship: Donations from different places has made the scholarship account over \$4,000. 3 awards of \$1,000 will be handed out in June again.

Scuttlebutt: The next edition is almost ready to send out.

VAVS: Henry has been at the VA helping as often as he can. Please bring food for the VA food bank in Leeds. They need food terribly. If you leave food on the bench in the barracks during breakfast or any time Brian Dupee will deliver to the VA as soon as possible. Santa will visit on December 20th to deliver presents.

Easthampton VC: Working on plaques at the legion to be rebuilt and reinstalled into the new school.

Holyoke Veteran Home: Veterans excited for the new building. Electric wheelchairs will be an option in the new building. They have activities most days. Marine Corps League will be there Wednesday 1/15/2025 for bean bag toss night. Meeting at 5:30 to set up and the event starts at 6p. Bingo was swapped for bean bag toss and root beer floats. The event will be done around 7p. There is mandatory masking for visitors and employees. Appreciate any help given for the first Marine Corps event of 2025.

Chicopee Vet Council: Need a new home for Gosselin monument. A tractor trailer turned the corner too sharply and moved the monument. Hoping to get the monument added to the new school that is being built. Purple heart trail is being worked on. There are 66 or 88 signs and destinations that need to be on the trail. Also trying to raise funds for a digital purple heart trail so there would be information with each sign. The old Westover main entrance is where the new 9/11 park went in. There is a reflection area with dog tags hanging. Please hang anyones dog tags from the War on Terror era. Please get rid of SSN either by



visiting Sentry who will make tags without or etching off the SSN on the dog tag.

Building Committee: Need members to go over what Dan had gathered. Looking to start in February to have a meeting.

New Business:

There is a CD due January 29, 2025 with \$13,648.57 in it. Should we change the purpose of CD to building funds and keep the Building funds that are in savings as well in case we need emergency funds for something. Bev Bishop motioned for \$3,000 plus to be moved into the Building savings account to help bolster it and take the \$10,000 from the CD to stay a CD for the building fund but it would only be available every 6 months so that is why we need two funds for the building. Second by Keith and unanimously accepted.

Video of Tom Purney had an audio issue so they had to schedule a time to remake the video. If anyone else is interested in telling their story please let CarrieAnne know.

Dan can open the store any time we want. Looking to add summer items to the next opening. Can only have the store open 2-3 weeks at a time. Next meeting a time to open the store will be decided and he will let Mantis Graphics know. FYI: shirts run small. Please be sure to size up when ordering.

Good of the League:

Westfield State University had polo shirts donated to them. The shirts will be at the next meeting to be handed out if you are interested in getting some of these free shirts that our patch could be added to.

Joe brought in coats from Job Lots. They are in the corner of the barracks. Please add your name to the sheet on the table if you take one. Vets and families can take coats if they need them.

Joe donates \$200 quarterly to the Young Marines. He is paying them the amount of \$800 unless someone thinks the amount needs to change. Accepted as is and the check was written to the Young Marines.

Lights have been fixed and replaced smoke detectors to keep in compliance for the barracks.

Marine of the Year and Associate of the year plaques moved to the windows so they can be seen easily and are no longer behind the flags.

CLOSING CEREMONY: The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the colors at 20:20 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 February 10, 2025.

Brianna Torrey, Adjutant

Westfield River Valley Detachment 141
Marine Corps League