



The Pikes Peak Scuttlebutt
February 2026 Newsletter
Pikes Peak Detachment 29
Marine Corps League

P.O. Box 10536 Colorado Springs, CO 80932-1536
Newsletter Editor Terry Crum
<https://www.pikespeakmcl.org>



2026 Pikes Peak Detachment Officers

Commandant / Quartermaster
Senior Vice Commandant
Junior Vice Commandant
Judge Advocate
Junior Past Commandant
Adjutant

Osa Tuck
Paul Reifke
John Alban
Brandy Bejarano
Jennifer Luckett
Mark Shuster

Paymaster
Chaplain/Web Sgt
Sgt-at-Arms
MCL Aux Pikes Peak Unit
MODD Pound Keeper

Dan Wood
Terry Crum
Scott Douglass
Donna Rae Smith
PDD Russ Miller



Pikes Peaks Detachment
Monthly Meeting

Saturday, 21 February 2026



Special Guest Space Force Gen. Stephen N. Whiting
Breakfast \$10
Breakfast starts at 0800 Meeting Starts 0900
DAV Chapter 26 6800 Palmer Park Blvd

2026 Department of Colorado Convention

Friday May 8th to May 10th



Fort Collins Hilton
425 W Prospect Rd.
Fort Collins CO 80526

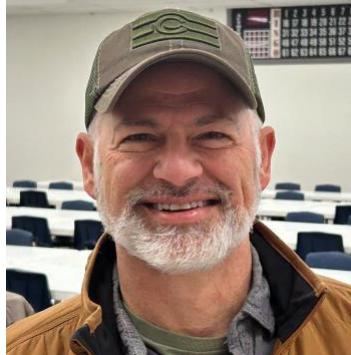
Visit this website for details:

<https://mclco.org/2026-co-dept-convention>

January Pikes Peak Detachment meeting



Bob O'Neale with Marine Mark Davis



TJ Henley



Susi Huntz receives awards



2025 Det 29 Associate of the Year
Kittrie Adams



2025 Det. 29 Marine of the Year
Vince Espinoza

Commandant Osa Tuck

Hello everyone, I hope this finds you all well and in good spirits. First off, thanks to everyone that attended the Department meeting last month. We had a great turnout and everyone appeared to have a good time. The food that was provided by the Auxiliary was fantastic! Great job. Cash sales was handled very nicely, thanks to everyone that helped set it up and keep it manned.

Reminder: Mid -Winter conference is coming up quick, it is on the books for this month. February 25 through March 1, 2026 – National MCL/MCLA Midwinter Conference w Sheraton Pentagon City – 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA. I will be attending and looking forward to having a good time.

Last but not least, since I am going to be at the Midwinter conference. If there is anything you might need from the ships store, let me know and I will pick it up while I am there. This has the advantage of saving us the cost of shipping. Feel free to drop me an email, phone call, text message, and make sure to give me sizes as well.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next general meeting.

Semper Fi
Commandant Osa

Paymaster Dan Wood

Here we are into early February and moving right along. As of this writing our Detachment only had 9 members that are still delinquent and now in danger of being dropped from our Membership Roster at National. I have already contacted all of you who have not yet paid your dues so I will NOT be calling you again. I'm not your mother, so please let's be responsible adults here and come to the meeting Saturday 21 Feb. and pay them, OR you can mail a check, or even cash, I know, NOT recommended but it's an option.

Hope you all are enjoying the nice weather so far, you know what they say about March: "In like a lamb, out like a lion" and vice versa.

Semper Fi
Dan

Quartermaster Osa Tuck

Hi all, we had a great turnout at the Department meeting and plenty of help setting up, manning the store, and the tear down as well. Great job! I am planning on having cash sales open at the next general meeting. As the Commandant said, if you need anything from Ship Store, let me know and I will pick it up while I am at Midwinter Conference. See you all in a couple of weeks.

Semper Fi,
Osa



WWII/Korean War/Vietnam Luncheon

Monday, February 9, 2026 (the 2nd Monday of every month)

Veterans start arriving at 1030 Guest speaker starts at 1115

Guest Speaker: Travis Williams — CEO & Pres of Springs Rescue Mission.



Stetson Hills I-HOP Private dining room; 5749 Stetson Hills Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80917

Chaplain Terry Crum

Marine Corps League family.

I pray that everyone is doing well during this winter season. The recent cold snap has passed and we are looking at some nice weather for a while. Much of the nation is doing worse than we are. Areas in the south that are not used to snow are on a fast learning curve now.

During the last meeting I had intended to talk about our old friend Ken Sanguinetti. Well his name got left off my list of folks to talk about during the "sick and distress portion of the meeting. Ken is a Korean was a Veteran in his 90s. Ken and his wife, Jean, have been living at the Center at Centennial on and off for the last year. As of late, Ken has been bed ridden for a few weeks now and Jean is recovering from a bad fall. They are hanging in there and attempting to be hopeful, but say it is difficult. Please keep these good folks in your thoughts and prayers.

Paul Reifke is recovering from his recent stay at the hospital. He told me that he is doing better every day. That sure is good news. I look forward to seeing Paul at the February meeting.

Lynn Douglass went through 3 surgical procedures totaling 18 hours over two days recently. Theresa and I visited Lynn at Memorial Central Hospital on Sunday after church. Theresa promised Lynn a dessert with chocolate when she gets home. Theresa promised her peanut butter chocolate chip cookies. That got a smile out of her. Theresa and I are also planning to provide Scott and Lynn some meals in order to make their life a bit easier while Lynn recovers. Lynn is a tough gal. She and is now home and very happy to be there. Please pray for this wonderful lady. Scott is very relieved to have this chapter in the rear view mirror.

I saw Denise Wickersheim at the Toys for Tots warehouse recently. Denise was getting around using a walker after a recent surgical procedure on her knee. She is another tough gal that refuses to let a small problem hold her back.

Bill Bohn and his family are also in of prayers. Bill has cancer that appears to be spreading to another part of his body. His wife Rosslynne "Roz" also suffers from a retina becoming detached from her left eye repeatedly. Her most recent procedure was done a bit differently and all concerned appear hopeful that this time will be different. Lastly, Bill's adult son, Keith, is recovering from a bad reaction to medication from a procedure he underwent not long ago.

Unfinished business of prayer includes Vince Espinoza, Milt Whitaker, Terry Baty, and Fred Smith.

As mentioned last year, getting old is not for wimps. So many of our members are going through trials and tribulations and can use your thoughts and prayers.

Prayer has power and can change lives for the better. Fortify your faith through prayer. For the Grace of Jesus comes through faith.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

On a positive note, I reported during the January meeting the my wife, Theresa, had recently been diagnosed with possible cancer. Today she underwent additional testing that demonstrated that she did not have cancer. What she has is a benign. We are both very grateful for the prayers and support we have received. The first person Theresa called to tell the good news was Mary Shuster.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your family,
Terry



VSO Update by MCL VSO Dan Wood

Our National Certifying Officer has put out this information for additional help for our VSO's. His website is: VSO@MCLeague.org

Should any eligible member/associate member in good standing be interested in becoming a Detachment DSC please consider joining the ranks to help Accredited VSO's in working with Vets, assisting in the below bullet points.

The Detachment Service Coordinator (DSC) is a volunteer position in a Marine Corps League Detachment. A DSC is a vital link between the Veteran or Veteran's family member(s) and a representative holding Marine Corps League accreditation. An effective DSC understands the benefits afforded to Veterans and family members; however, a DSC does not hold legal standing to represent a claimant in their benefits claims before the VA.

The Detachment Service Coordinator (DSC):

- Has a fundamental understanding of benefits for Veterans, dependents, and survivors.
- Understands the basics of the VA claims process.
- Can provide information on the VA healthcare facilities and Vet Centers in their local areas.
- Can connect the client to an accredited Veteran Service Officer
- May assist claimants in obtaining a copy of military and other records, e.g., DD 214, service medical record, etc.
- Will provide services free of charge.

Semper Fi
Dan

Web Sergeant Terry Crum

Hopefully this newsletter is providing you with a good read and useful information about the finest detachment in the Marine Corps League. I pray that the contents of these pages inspire you to get a little more involved.

In my ongoing quest to get the Pikes Peak Detachment news out to the public, I recently started a detachment page on LinkedIn. If you are a user of LinkedIn you can visit us there at:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ppd29mcl/>. The detachment presence on LinkedIn was made to reach people that are not inclined to use social media. Much of the material posted on the detachment LinkedIn account it's the same as what I post on Facebook. I have had a LinkedIn account for over 20 years but never used it much. I am always open to suggestions on how best to use this service.

If you are not receiving the detachment emails, please let me know.

Semper Fi,
Terry

Honor Guard Commander Terry Crum

All honorably discharged Veterans and their spouses are eligible for burial at a national cemetery free of charge. Military honors are earned by the Veteran also. Please make sure your that your family knows your desires for your final honors. Preferably in writing. This honor ceremony is as much for the spouse and family, as it is for the Veteran.

Semper Fi,
Terry

Pikes Peak MCL Auxiliary President Donna Rae Smith



WOW!! You ladies did an amazing job with the lunch for The MCL/MCLA Department Quarterly Staff Meeting on the 24th!! Compliments and kudos from the Marines and ladies from everywhere could not say enough good things about your food!! My only complaint is my appetite was not big enough to eat more than I did.

Please come to the February meeting. We will be talking about the bowl-a-thon, St. Patrick's Day Parade, and more.

Calendar -

- * February 21, 2025 – Monthly meeting. Immediately following the Detachment meeting.
- * February 25 through March 1, 2026 – National MCL/MCLA Midwinter Conference
 - ♦ Sheraton Pentagon City – 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA

Thank you,
Donna Rae Smith
President

Lunch for the January department staff meeting at DAV26 was provided by the MCLA Pikes Peak Unit.



Donna Rae Smith



Kittrie Adams



Dottie Thomas



Pikes Peak Det. Ladies Luncheon Tuesday, February 17th at noon



The next MARINE CORPS LADIES LUNCHEON will be held on Tuesday, February 17th at 12:00 PM. We will meet at Shangri-La East, located at 6165 Barnes Rd.

Here is the menu: [Shangri-La Restaurant - Food Menu](#)

Please call Theresa to let her know if you can attend! 719-237-3034.
Thanks, Theresa Crum

Ladies of the Pikes Peak Detachment met at the LongHorn Steakhouse for a delicious lunch and even better conversation. All women of the detachment are welcome to join the fun. If you are interested in attending, contact Theresa at 719-237-3034.



Marine Corps History – February

1 February, 1967

Operation Prairie II was begun in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3d Marine Division. During the 46-day search-and-destroy operation which terminated 18 March, 93 Marines and 693 of the enemy were killed.

2 February, 1944

The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.

6 February, 1968

Two reduced Marine battalions, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies, and 2d Battalion, 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.

The Pikes Peak Detachment Honor Guard provided the three round rifle volley for Marine Vietnam Veteran Thomas Bickle at Pikes Peak National Cemetery on 16 January. At the end of the ceremony Marine Larry Hathaway switched from being a riflemen on the honor guard to being the Honor Bell ringer. Larry did this in order to pay tribute to another Vietnam artillery Marine. Jennifer Luckett attended the funeral as part of the bereavement team.



2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 14, 2026 · 12:00pm NOON · Downtown, Colorado Springs on Tejon St.
Staging begins at 1100



Please consider being an ambassador for the Pikes Peak Detachment and show the Springs that the most awesome and lucky folks around are the U.S. Marines! The Pikes Peak Detachment will be in the parade and show all the rest how it is done. We will need plenty of help in order to make it happen.

Pikes Peak Detachment Monthly Meeting Minutes



Adjutant's Report

TOPIC: Regular Meeting

Minutes

LOCATION: DAV 26

Date: 17 Jan 2026



Mark Shuster

Retired US Marine

Detachment Adjutant

Life Member 59784 / MODD 04-351

Sgt At Arms Scott Douglas secured the room ensuring all present were qualified to be at the regular meeting.

Sgt At Arms Scott Douglas posted the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Terry Crum led the opening prayer.

Commandant Osa Tuck opened the meeting at 0901.

Roll Call of Officers:

Pikes Peak MCL Det 29 Officers		
Commandant	Osa Tuck	Present
Sr. Vice Commandant	Paul Reifke	Excused
Jr. Vice Commandant	John Alban	Present
Judge Advocate	Brandy Bejarano	Present
Adjutant	Mark Shuster	Present
Paymaster	Dan Wood	Present
Chaplain	Terry Crum	Present
Sgt At Arms	Scott Douglas	Present
Jr. Past Commandant	Jennifer Luckett	Present
Quartermaster	Osa Tuck	Present
Web Sergeant	Terry Crum	Present

Recognition of Dignitaries:

- National Sr. Vice Commandant Russ Miller – Present
- MCL Rocky Mt. Division/Department of Colorado Chaplain Milt “Doc” Whitaker – Present
- MCL Department of Colorado Sr. Vice Commandant Terry Crum – Present
- Marine Corps League Auxiliary Department of Colorado Jr. Vice Donna Rae Smith - Present

Guests:

- TJ Henley
- Bob O’Neale

Applications for membership:

- TJ Henley
- Bob O’Neale
- Multiple guests were submitting applications for membership. The Commandant entertained a motion to accept all memberships submitted and paid for to the Detachment Paymaster following the meeting, with DD214 verification. A motion to accept was made by Russ Miller and the motion was seconded by Dan Wood. The motion carried and was passed.

Previous meeting minutes:

- The Commandant entertained a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes for Pikes Peak MCL Det 29 as posted in the newsletter. A motion to accept was made by Russ Miller and the motion was seconded by Dan Wood. The motion carried and was passed.

Correspondence:

- Dan Wood reported that the executive board approved paying \$972 for the detachment's firetruck insurance. The Detachment received a \$500 donation for the scholarship fund.

Report of the Paymaster:

- Copies of the Detachment financial accounts, membership roster and monthly newsletter were available.
- Membership cards are available for pickup at the meetings. These will not be mailed out due to costs of postage.
- The Commandant entertained a motion to accept the Paymaster report pending audit. A motion to accept was made by Jennifer Luckett and the motion was seconded by Steve Lucks. The motion carried and was passed.

Report of the Chaplain:

- Sick and in distress. Physical and mental needs of our members is important to share with others for support. If you are struggling, please communicate so we can provide you with help.
- Paul Reifke has been in the hospital for some time. He and Nancy need your thoughts and prayers.
- Denise Wickersheim had knee replacement surgery, so please send your thoughts and prayers her way.
- John Huntz has been in the hospital and is recovering from his illness. He and Susi need your thoughts and prayers
- Mary Shuster has been recovering well from her cancer surgery. Please send her and Shu your thoughts and prayers.
- Jennifer Luckett is getting ready for her cataract surgery so please send her your thoughts and prayers.
- Chaplain "Doc" Whitaker is battling medical conditions, so please send him your thoughts and prayers.
- Fred Smith is continuing to manage his medical conditions, so please send him your thought and prayers.
- Bill Bohn has been managing his cancer surgeries and recovery. His wife is also managing difficulties with her retina detaching, so please send them your thoughts and prayers.
- Theresa Crum has had recent tests that might be cancer, so please keep her and Terry in your thoughts and prayers. She is so grateful to have Mary Shuster support and guide her.
- Please be sure to send all of your thoughts, prayers and positive energy to everyone who needs our support!!

Report of Officers**Commandant Osa Tuck:**

- The CO Department staff meeting will be hosted by our detachment at the DAV 26 location. The social hour begins at 1100, followed by lunch at 1200 and the meeting kicks off at 1300. Everyone is welcome to attend. Cash sales will be set up for everyone.
- We have been registered for Territory Days in Old Colorado City from 23-25 May 2026. More information will be provided.

Sr. Vice Commandant Paul Reifke:

- Excused

Jr. Vice Commandant John Alban:

- Preparation for the St Patrick's Day parade, being held on Saturday, 14 March 2026, is underway with more information to follow next month.

Judge Advocate Brandy Bejarano:

- Nothing significant to report.

Jr. Past Commandant Jennifer Luckett:

- Nothing significant to report.

Sgt At Arms Scott Douglas:

- Nothing significant to report.

Adjutant Mark Shuster:

- 39 members were in attendance with 2 guests.

Quartermaster Osa Tuck:

- Tax license is set for all events in 2026.
- We purchased 50 more 250th Marine Corps Birthday ball coins which are now available for anybody who did not receive one at the ball or would like to purchase more.

Honor Guard Terry Crum:

- Two services have already been executed. The first service was for a WWII US Army Air Corps Veteran, and the second service was for a Vietnam Marine Corps Veteran. Rifle details were provided for both ceremonies.
- There will be a ceremony this spring for a Korean Veteran who fought at the Chosin Reservoir.
- There will be an upcoming annual rifle cleaning and maintenance party in the spring.

Webmaster Terry Crum:

- Our Detachment website has been updated and is now hosted by GoDaddy services.
- If you are not receiving emails, please check your spam or promotion folders to make sure the messages are there. If this is not happening, please contact Terry to fix this.

Toys for Tots Russ Miller:

- The 2025 campaign was the most successful on record. The team supported over 60 agencies across the community. There were 46,720 toys distributed to 30,912 children. Last year there were 33,931 toys distributed to 25,448 children. The communities the program supports are: El Paso County, Teller County (Cripple Creek), Albert County Solida, Buena Vista, and the town of Guffy.
- Russ is waiting to see if there will be an audit this year but not actively requesting it.
- We received a partnership award from the Colorado Springs Police Department.

MODD Russ Miller:

- There will be a growl following the meeting for swearing in a new Mongrel who wants to be a pup.
- The Pack growl will follow the department meeting on 24 Jan 2026.
- All regular members in good standing, who have been a member of the MCL for at least a year are welcome to join the 'fun and honor society' of the Marine Corps League – WOOF WOOF!

Report of Standing Committees**Budget Donna Rae Smith:**

- Nothing significant to report.

Scholarship Kittrie Adams:

- Please refer to the website for more information and how you can support.

Unfinished Business:

- Nothing significant to report.

New Business:

- Lunch for the CO Department meeting is being hosted by the Auxiliary and there will be a soup and chili meal. We appreciate everyone who is providing food for the meeting.

- MCL / MCLA National Midwinter Conference will be held at the Sheraton Pentagon City (900 S Orme St) in Arlington, VA 22204 from 25 Feb to 1 March 2026.

Good of the League:

- Based on last year's success raising funds for the Marine Corps Ball, we are going to continue hosting family nights. Planning is underway for our first family night to be held on 29 March 2026. We are also already working with KRDO to support our annual program to tie Toys for Tots to our 251st Marine Corps Birthday Ball in November 2026.
- Mark Shuster reminded everyone General Stephen Whiting, USAF, Commanding General, US Space Command will be our guest speaker on 21 Feb 2026. Please plan on coming early so we can support Gen Whiting and his team at our meeting. He will be speaking about his Combatant Command in CO Springs and take questions. He will begin his discussion at 0830, so please be sure to show up a bit earlier than normal.
- Russ spoke with Jim Wear about the Salute to Veterans bike rally in Cripple Creek. This year, the event will not conflict with the National Convention (10-15 Aug 2026) and will be held 21-22 Aug 2026. Russ reminded everyone that Jim will be retiring and there is discussion about the Pikes Peak Veterans Council (42 organizations) taking over the event going forward. The event would be a fund raiser for the organizations involved in helping Veterans across our communities. The council will be shadowing Jim and his staff over the next two years to be prepared to take over on the 40th year. The combat biker's association is taking over the ride portion of the event from Woodland Park High School to Cripple Creek.
- Larry Hathaway reminded everyone that the Colorado Springs Honor Hell continues to support memorial ceremonies at the Pikes Peak Veterans Cemetery. Larry also mentioned the Cemetery will have a new director, Renaldo Rodriguez who is a retired USMC Master Gunnery Sergeant.
- Theresa Crum has taken over the MCL monthly ladies' luncheon for 2026. You do not have to be a member of the MCL or Auxiliary to join the lunch. Please contact her for future events.
- The Commandant presented Susi Huntz with her annual awards since she was not in attendance in December. She was awarded the community service award and meritorious commendation for all of her hard work. Congratulations to Susi!!
- The Commandant, along with Susi Huntz presented the MCL Associate of the Year Award to Kittrie Adams for her outstanding support of all activities for the MCL. Congratulations to Kittrie!!
- Dan Wood let everyone know the detachment scholarship fund is very low and would gladly accept donations.
- 50/50 – a total of \$174 was collected and \$87 was won by Mike Anthony! Congratulations Mike and thank you for donating your winnings to the scholarship fund. Thank you to everyone who supported the 50/50 raffle this month.

Closing Ceremony:

- Sgt At Arms Scott Douglas retired the Colors.
- Chaplain Terry Crum said the closing prayer.
- The Judge Advocate, Brandy Bejarano executed the closing actions.
- Commandant Osa Tuck closed the Pikes Peak Detachment 29 meeting at 1003.
- The next meeting will be held on Saturday, 21 Feb 2026, at 0900.

Another successful Detachment meeting.

Very Respectfully Submitted and Semper Fi,

Mark Shuster

Mark Shuster
Retired US Marine
Detachment Adjutant
Life Member 59784 / MODD 04-351