



**The Pikes Peak Scuttlebutt
March 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 Det. 29 Monthly Meeting

Saturday, 21 March 2026

Breakfast \$10



Breakfast starts at 0800 Meeting Starts 0900

DAV Chapter 26 6800 Palmer Park Blvd

We meet the third Saturday of every month

2026 Department of Colorado Convention

Friday May 8th to May 10th



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

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

February Pikes Peak Detachment meeting



Guest General Whiting and detachment officers



Guest Justin Rothering



2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade
March 14, 2026 · NOON · staging at 1100



Downtown, Colo Spngs on Tejon St.
Staging # 25 · Willamette Ave & Tejon St.

Please consider being an ambassador for the Pikes Peak Det. and show the Springs that the most awesome and lucky folks around are the U.S. Marines!. We will need plenty of help in order to make it happen. **Wear green!**

Commandant Osa Tuck

Hi all,

Well we all made it home from DC. We had a good time. Lots of information passed, great guest speakers and reminders that we are all Marines!

A couple of reminders:

The Rocky Mountain Division Conference is coming up, April 10th thru 12th. It is being held At the Elks Lodge #1119, 3000 Elks Drive, Las Cruces NM. 88005. The recommended hotel for Las Cruces is Holiday Inn Express, 2635 S. Valley Drive, Las Cruces NM. Something that was brought to my attention. If there is a group of you that would like to go, but would rather not drive, you all could get together and rent a passenger van. I can hear you saying what about luggage? I will be driving down and the luggage could be carried in the back of my truck. Something to think about.

The MCL/MCLA Department of Colorado Convention is May 8th thru May 10th, it is being hosted by the Union Colony Marines Detachment 1093. Links for hotel reservations and meal RSVP forms are on the Department website. The hotel is Fort Collins Hilton, 425W. Prospect Rd, Fort Collins, CO. 80526. Delegate sheet is on the front table.

From the desk of the quartermaster. I will set up cash sales after the next general meeting. I picked some Items up for some of you members. Come see me after the meeting.

Don't forget to get your Dept. nominations for MOY and AOY turned in asap so they can be considered. MOY goes to Ron Carpenter, AOY goes to Donna Rae Smith

All take care and I look forward to seeing you at the next Detachment General Meeting.

Semper Fi
Commandant Osa

Paymaster Dan Wood

I think Spring has sprung, hopefully, and we're having some great weather. Let's hope that it stays that way with a few showers to help with the dry ground problem. Anyway, just a quick update on dues, at this point I'm happy to report that we've only got seven members that have yet to pay their yearly dues. FYI, YOU are in danger of being dropped from our Detachment, as well as the National Rosters.

The following are members that are in danger: Joshua Brewer-Chris Donahoue-Jennifer Espinoza-Chuck Jackson-Jim LeVasseur-Ralph Rodriguez-and Tom Snethen. If you're one of these please reach out to me with your \$36 dues. To help out those that may be having trouble getting to a meeting, be looking in your inbox as I'll be sending you an Invoice via our PayPal account for you to pay from.

FYI, just a quick note to anyone that may be needing to purchase, or be reimbursed, for items from the General account, PLEASE reach out to me to verify funds available FIRST.

Stay safe and Semper Fi,
Dan



2026 RMD Conference and NM Dept Convention

Las Cruces New Mexico 10 thru 12 April 2026
Elks Lodge #1119 3000 Elks Dr, Las Cruces, NM 88005



Information, including the schedule, are here: <https://rockymtndivmcl.org/rmd-2026-conference>

Chaplain Terry Crum

Marine Corps League family.

John Huntz recently successfully completed the first of two major operations. As Susi put it "John is holding his own". Having their son, Marine Veteran Johnny, readily available and at the house often is truly made a positive divergence and a blessing.

The bereavement team attended the funeral ceremony for four Marine Veterans this year so far. Most of the members of the honor guard members were originally members of the bereavement team. They are for all intents and purposes members of both teams. For a funeral ceremony for a Marine or FMF Corpsmen after the three round rifle volley and playing taps, the honor guard secure their rifles and attend the remainder of the ceremony as bereavement team. When the ceremony concludes bereavement team members often talk to family and friends of the deceased. This is always appreciated by the family and an outstanding way for us to share the families grief during this difficult time.

Easter approaches fast. The passion of Christ demonstrates that our suffering and pain are not meaningless or useless. We all have our crosses to bear. Do not be consumed by fear or despair. Sharing and helping in each other burdens makes us all better. You are your brother/sisters keeper.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your family,

Terry



Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

No matter what you're going through,
help is just a click away.

VSO Update by MCL VSO Dan Wood

I attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. where I met a number of "interesting" people, mostly from the east coast and also attended some VSO update trainings. We also had several interested people in becoming a VSO, and that was good news, as we could use hundreds of new VSO's just to stay up with the overwhelming work load. The trainings were interesting and even were treated to pizza and some Vietnamese chocolates.

We have added a third Fully Accredited VSO to the Rocky Mtn. Division, Leisel Hammond. She's retired Army and lives in the Canyon City area of Sadalia. Leisel has had several years of VSO experience with the Douglas county office before retiring. She also has an MBA that really helps her to understand situations that most veterans experience when trying to file their own claim. Her contact information will soon appear on the MCL NATIONAL web site, so if you're looking, scroll down to the bottom of the site to find the VSO portion that has the VSO Register. WELCOME ABOARD LEISEL!!

Semper Fi
Dan

Web Sergeant Terry Crum

Thank you for taking a bit of time out of your day to read this newsletter. I am also thankful for the motivators that contributed articles for this newsletters. A great way to educate and recruit others to join the Marine Corps League is to share the detachment website, newsletters, Semper Fi magazines with people that you know that might make good candidates for regular or associate membership. You can share hard copies or soft copies online.

Semper Fi,
Terry



Honor Guard Commander Terry Crum

By the time you read this newsletter will have performed the honors for seven honorably discharged Veterans. Seven rifle details for seven families of departed Veterans that greatly appreciated our efforts. In my opinion this service embodies the Marine Corps motto, Semper Fidelis. It does not hurt that detachment makes money from stipends that the honor guard receives for the ceremonies and donations that are often received from the families after a ceremony.

As always, I am most grateful and humbled by the dedication of the honor guard Marines.

On a different subject. I am very happy that members of the detachment honor guard and bereavement teams have been given the honor to toll the Honor Bell during funeral ceremonies recently. Larry Hathaway is a regular member of the Honor Bell team and he often tolls the Honor Bell. Guest Honor Bell tollers have been Pat Mesa and Russ Miller.

Semper Fi,
Terry



Honor Bell Toller Pat Mesa



Honor Bell Toller Russ Miller

Pikes Peak MCL Auxiliary President Donna Rae Smith



Crazy Colorado spring weather. Snow on Friday and warm

Spring temps on Sunday. Gotta Love it!!

Please come to the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14, 2026. Staging begins at 11:00 am.

We are #25 and staging on Willamette. We will be decorating the trailer in green. I hope to see you there!!

Calendar -

- * March 21, 2026 – Monthly meeting. Immediately following the Detachment meeting.
- * April 10 thru April 12, 2026 – Rocky Mountain Division Conference – Las Cruces, NM
 - ◆ Recommended Hotel Las Cruces, NM
Holiday Inn Express
2635 S. Valley Drive
- * May 8 thru May 10, 2026 – MCL/MCLA Department of Colorado Convention
Hosted by Union Colony Marines Detachment 1093
Links for hotel and meal RSVP form are on the Department website.

Thank you,

Donna Rae Smith, President



Members of the Pikes Peak Detachment 29 at the 2026 Marine Corps League National Mid-Winter Conference.



Pikes Peak Det. Ladies Luncheon Wednesday, March 18th at noon



The next Marine Corps League Ladies Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 18th at noon. It will be held at the Lazy Dog Restaurant 7605 Academy Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Please text, call or email me and let me know if you will be able to attend, so I can make reservations. Thanks!

I hope to see you there!

Theresa Crum
719-237-3034





Marine Corps Family Night

Sunday, 29 March 2026 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Dave & Buster's

9279 Highland Ridge Heights Colorado Springs, CO 80920

In the spirit of comradeship and family, please join us for our first "Marine Corps Family Night" of 2026, on Sunday, 29 March 2026. Hosted by Marine Corps League Detachment 29. Our goal is to bring together all of our Marines, Sailors and their families from across Colorado Springs to meet and greet, share a meal and celebrate 251 years of service to our Nation. Join us at Dave & Busters for fun, comradeship and a great time! The event is also to raise money for the 2026 Marine Corps Birthday Ball hosted by the Pikes Peak Detachment 29 of the Marine Corps League.

Come and enjoy games, food, drinks and fellowship. Just ask "where are the Marines". No doubt you will be pointed in the correct direction.

The event is really simple. Order what you like and at the end of the evening, a portion of the night's profits that they earned from us will be donated to the Marine Corps Ball account. This does not include the purchase of alcoholic beverages.

We look forward to seeing all of you there for a night of fun, food and fellowship.



Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony

March 29, 2026 at 2 PM

Memorial Park, Colorado Springs

The Pikes Peak Veterans Council invites the community to join us for a Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony. Honoring all who served during the Vietnam War through ceremonies, Stories, and honor.



Honoring Our Veterans, Colorado Springs

Friday, March 27th

Doors open at 1000, Event is 1100 – 1400

The Meanwhile Block Barrel Building 114 W. Cimarron

The Pikes Peak Detachment will have an information table set up to enlighten the community of what the Marine Corps League is all about. Volunteers welcome.

Marine Corps History – March

Japanese Launch Final Counterattack on Iwo Jima

On March 25, 1945, the assault on the island of Iwo Jima appeared to have ended after 35 days of intense fighting. However, that night, 300 Japanese troops launched a final, last-ditch counterattack near Airfield Number 2. Army pilots, Seabees, and Marines from the 5th Pioneer Battalion and 28th Marines fought the Japanese forces until morning but suffered heavy casualties. More than 100 Americans were killed and a further 200 were wounded. Almost all of the Japanese troops were killed in the battle.

Pikes Peak Detachment Monthly Meeting Minutes



Adjutant's Report

TOPIC: Regular Meeting Minutes
LOCATION: DAV 26
Date: 21 Feb 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 0924.

Roll Call of Officers:

Pikes Peak MCL Det 29 Officers		
Commandant	Osa Tuck	Present
Sr. Vice Commandant	Paul Reifke	Present
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 – Excused
- MCL Department of Colorado Sr. Vice Commandant Terry Crum – Present
- Marine Corps League Auxiliary Department of Colorado Jr. Vice Donna Rae Smith - Excused

Guests:

- Justin Rothering was visiting from Wisconsin to support his buddy who passed away in a family vehicle accident.

Guest Speaker

- The detachment was honored to have the Commanding General of US Space Command, General Stephen Whiting, USSF, as our guest speaker. General Whiting met with many of our detachment members, the DAV 26 staff and guests. His presentation discussed how US Space Command is organized, what their combatant command mission is and how the US Space Command is integrated into the National Defense Strategy. General Whiting was pleased to share stories about his Grandfather who was a WWII Marine in the Pacific.
- Mark Shuster confirmed having guest speakers was something the detachment enjoyed. Collectively, we all agreed that having a guest speaker begin their presentation at 0830 and finishing between 0900-0915 was reasonable. In the future, Mark will ensure messages reminding the detachment about upcoming guest speaker will include the timeline.

Applications for membership:

- None

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 Paul Reifke. The motion carried and was passed.

Correspondence:

- Dan Wood reported that Toys for Tots messages were passed along to Russ Miller.

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.
- Dan mentioned that the scholarship account could use some donations to support upcoming distribution of awards.
- The Commandant entertained a motion to accept the Paymaster report pending audit. A motion to accept was made by Russ Miller and the motion was seconded by Dan Wood. 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.
- John Huntz will be having three separate surgeries in the near future.
- Lynn Douglas is recovering from her 18-hours back surgery. She might be two inches taller after surgery!!
- Two funerals will be taking place on Friday, 27 Feb 2026 at Pikes Peak National Cemetery for Marine Raymond Moreno and Marine Rich Reinhardt.
- Fred Smith is continuing to manage his medical conditions, so please send him your thoughts 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.
- Please pray for the family of Marine Chris Gwinner. He was involved in a car accident with his family. He and his wife were ejected from the car. Chris did not survive the accident. His wife is in Penrose Hospital and their two children are out of the hospital.
- 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:

- If you need anything from the National Ship Store, please let Osa know so he can pick it up for you at the mid-winter conference.
- Department Marine of the Year nominations need to be sent to Ron Carpenter soon as possible. Please email them to Ron at Rdelc1@outlook.com or you can call him at 719-539-3360 with questions. MOY guidelines may be found online on the Department website at MCLCO.org
- Department Associate of the Year nominations need to be sent to Donna Rae Smith no later than March 30, 2026. Please email them to donna.rae.mcl29@gmail.com. AOY guidelines may be found on the Department website at MCLCO.org.
- There will be short officers meeting right after the meeting.

Sr. Vice Commandant Paul Reifke:

- NSTR

Jr. Vice Commandant John Alban:

- The St Patrick's Day parade is on Saturday, 14 March 2026. We will start setting up at 1100 with the parade starting at 1200. More information to follow.

Judge Advocate Brandy Bejarano:

- The CO Department will be updating their bylaws. This will be distributed when available.

Jr. Past Commandant Jennifer Luckett:

- Nothing significant to report.

Sgt At Arms Scott Douglas:

- Nothing significant to report.

Adjutant Mark Shuster:

- 48 members were in attendance with 1 guest.

Quartermaster Osa Tuck:

- Territory days over Memorial Day weekend. Signup sheet will be distributed during the meeting in March.

Honor Guard Terry Crum:

- Two funerals will be taking place on Friday, 27 Feb 2026 at Pikes Peak National Cemetery for Marine Raymond Moreno and Marine Rich Reinhardt.
- When the weather warms up there will be a weapons cleaning party.

Web Sgt Terry Crum:

- 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.
- The detachment now has a profile on LinkedIn so please take a look if you are already there.

Toys for Tots Russ Miller:

- All of the toys have been moved out of the warehouse and into the storage trucks.
- Park County and Chafee County will be released to the Solida MCL Detachment.
- The 4th Infantry Division at Ft Carson sent a thank you for all of the support from T4T this year.
- Sheriff Roybal sent a thank you letter for their Christmas for Kids event and support of their 23 adopted families T4T supported.

MODD Russ Miller:

- There will be a growl in April prior to the CO Pack growl at the Department convention in May in Ft Collins.
- 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!

MCL Auxiliary

- Donna Rae Smith was excused. The Vice President, Carmella Miller, announced there would be a MCLA meeting following the regular meeting.

Report of Standing Committees

Budget Donna Rae Smith:

- Nothing significant to report.

Scholarship Kittrie Adams:

- Nothing significant to report.

Unfinished Business:

- Nothing significant to report.

New Business:

- Honoring Our Veterans is being hosted by Kristopher Thomas and is taking place on Friday, 27 March 2026. The event is free and will include food and live music. The Pikes Peak Veterans Council is the sponsoring organization for the event. “Veteran led and community powered” for connection across the well-being of the community.
 - The Commandant entertained a motion to set up an information booth at the upcoming Honoring Our Veterans event. A motion to accept was made by Russ Miller and the motion was seconded by Mark Shuster. The motion carried and was passed.
- Rocky Mountain Division Conference – April 10-12, 2026, will be held at the Elks Lodge #1119, 3000 Elks Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88005. Recommended hotel is the Hotel Las Cruces, NM, Holiday Inn Express, 2635 S. Valley Drive, Las Cruces, NM
- MCL/MCLA Department of Colorado Convention – May 8-10, 2026, hosted by Union Colony Marines Detachment 1093. Links for the hotel and meals is on the Department website. Ft Collins Hilton, 425 W Prospect Road, Ft Collins, CO 80526. The delegate sign up sheet is on the front table for you to sign if you are attending the conference.
- 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.
- Osa stated proposals for the Ball hotel were sent to Polaris, Antlers, Marriott and Broadmoor. Dates requested were 7 and 14 Nov 2026. The executive board will meet after the meeting to decide on which hotel will be selected.
- Dan Wood said his work as the VSO is moving along very fast and he is getting 2-8 calls per week requesting support with their claims.
- 50/50 – a total of \$164 was collected and \$82 was won by Kittrie Adams! Congratulations Kittrie!

Closing Ceremony:

- Sgt At Arms Scott Douglas retired the Colors.
- Chaplain Terry Crum said the closing prayer.
- The Senior Vice Commandant executed the closing actions.
- Commandant Osa Tuck closed the Pikes Peak Detachment 29 meeting at 1018.
- The next meeting will be held on Saturday, 21 March 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