



# Department of Illinois

## Marine Corps League

### 2dn Staff Meeting & Training

#### ***RON BURNS - COMMANDANT***

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**Type of Meeting:** 2nd Staff Meeting, Springfield IL, October 21, 2023  
Ramada Inn, 3281 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL.

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order by Department Commandant, 0900 @ VFW, Springfield, IL. With assistance of the Paymaster Mike Ruffner.

### **TRAINING, VFW 10302, Springfield, October 21, 2023**

**IDVA** presentation verbally by Kimberly Yantis, 217-836-6966, 217-836-6966, Kimberly.yantis@illinois.gov: Handouts from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. <https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans> 1-800-437-9842 to reach a Veterans Service Officer. Great discussions on PACT Act, and other benefits for multiple health concerns. All veterans should get enrolled with the VA.

**POLICE DETACHMENT SUCCESS** Paul Zogg, Commandant: Discussion about success getting and keeping a large membership. They have many activities that excite members and other patriots: shooting, hunting, fishing, etc. Think out-of-the-box for activities for members and all patriots in the area. It creates good will as well possible means for recruiting.  
(get the electronic version of PowerPoint)

**RETENTON AND RECRUITING** Hector Rivera, Former Recruiter, Detachment 74: Presented ways to recruit members and serve Marines, stress family, stress "Be a Marine again". Utilize Young Marines, utilize and recognize them. Serve the public, serve all Marines. Use social media especially Facebook as people will search for sites. Go to other event including Veterans' Day at schools and public communities; consider participating. Keep an application handy if needed; they are available at the MCL website. Try things out-of-the-box: bingo night, glo-bingo, trivia night, card night, board games. Do not underestimate people. Open to the public, welcomes them, let the see who we are and look for new members within the crowd. *More information at future training sessions.*  
(get the electronic version of PowerPoint)

**PAYMASTERS** Mike Ruffner, Department Paymaster:

Annual Report form was passed out. We will use electronic format; items should be sent as a PDF file. Funds will be sent electronically. All forms should be used electronically with forms available from National. Department will send funds to National electronically. Paper forms can be scanned, saved as PDF, and sent as attachment by email. If the paymaster gets editor rights of their membership, you can do changes of addresses, emails, phone numbers online and not needing a transmittal. National is sending funds electronically and needs the bank information including account number and routing number. Applications must go with transmittals must be completed properly and completely. Again, forms can be sent by PDF. New transmittal forms are a PDF fillable form, complete ALL required information. Department dues is \$8.00. *More information in the future with additional training.*

(get the electronic version of PowerPoint)

**TRAINING:** If provided, electronic training aids will be attached to the minutes.

- Recessed @ 1200, Scheduled to reconvene @ 1300.

**Re-convened by Department Commandant:**

Conducted by Sgt at Arms and Chaplain: Open at 1328

Honorary guests/officers and Dignitaries are recognized: PDC Mike Sturch, Division Vice Commandant, PDC Dave Englert, Division Assistant, PDC Bruce Blackmer, PDC Kelly Gillihan (Indiana)

Past PDC's and Department Marines of the Year stand and are recognized.

Judge Advocate read rules for Staff Conference who have voice and vote and those who have voice but no vote.

Attendance taken by the Adjutant; report attached. Quorum is established.

Minutes approved as presented by the Adjutant. Approved as corrected.

Correspondence: Thank you from Christie Parker.

Paymaster Report: Continues his report urging use of electronic media for submitting reports. Everything turning electronic including payments. CVA is Combined Veterans Association.

Sick and disabled: Joe Pollock is sick has a lump on his wrist, infected; infection traveled to his back. He is not well. Jeff Mikey cutting down a tree hurt his neck. Tom Miller fighting dialysis, William Olson hospitalized with cysts and now staff

infection. Christie Parker, Marine veteran, is now in Texas improving but still long way to go.

### **Report of Officers:**

Commandant Burns thanks all for attending. Report filed. Went to Mount Vernon with Senior Vice Weber to present to the Young Marines a National Award.

Sr Vice Commandant Weber: Filed

Jr Vice Commandant Cobbett: Filed. Assisted with her first installation.

Judge Advocate: Filed. Has 18 bylaw changes for the next Convention. Copies to be sent to Detachments. Read one for changing staff conferences eliminating 4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Staff as they are attached to the Convention. Eliminate 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Staff having the other two staff meetings (Fall and Spring).

Paymaster Ruffner: Filed. Working with the Illinois Marine. Let him know if information is correct. There will be some changes. Soon we will have a new person to handle the website and Illinois Marine.

Sgt at Arms: Nothing

Junior Past Commandant: Filed. Emails is important to communicate to all Detachments and all Marines. Still good to have addresses for Detachments besides just a PO box. Need a real address and phone number for every Detachment. Use mcleague.org and/or use the new app. Do not use old links as it may take you to the old site and you will not see the new information and library.

Trustees: Audit completed Friday, October 20, 2023.

Chaplain: Nothing

Adjutant: Nothing

District Commandants Reports:

District 1: Filed

District 2: No report

District 3: No report

District 4: Filed

District 5: No report

District 6: Activities hindered by health issues including eye issues, back issues, malignant skin cancer. Cancer under control. I feel like sickbay commando.

District 7: Filed

District 8: Filed

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mike Malmstrom, Beer sales (State Fair) report, we have not received any information yet. There is some political in-fighting with the new leader and the CVA. Mike is working to get the checks to Detachments.

Vickie Corbett, Scholarship report on file.

Reported that Interstate Highway 80 renamed to the Marine Corps Semper Fi Memorial Highway in Illinois.

VAVS, PDC Blackmer, hospitals and VA homes starting Bingos again.

Tom Geise, Quincy VA Home needs a new Manager to replace one who left.

Harry Fanning, Boy Scout Good Citizenship Award does not have much activity outside of the Chicago area. This is also a Girl Scout Award. PDC Blackmer mentioned that the Girl Scout Awards gives this award to Girl Scouts. Girls who are Boy Scouts are also available. Harry will get some clarification of what the Auxiliary handles.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mike Malmstrom, 3<sup>rd</sup> Staff in Dekalb, IL., March 21-24, 2023, at Red Roof Inn

Mike Ruffner: February 17th Ft Sheridan

Presentation by Maj General James Lukeman from National Marine Museum on the Museum and upcoming 250th anniversary of USMC. Brief from Local Marine Units and a presentation of Honorary PNC for John Bigwood by National BOT MCL.

Four Chaplains, February 4, 2023, at Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

### **Good of the League:**

Senior Vice passed out ribbons for Detachments having members attending the Department Convention, June 2023.

Department Marine of the Year, Marty Lenzen, received his jacket from the Department Commandant. He also received the ribbon and medallion. Picture was taken with all the Marines of the Year.

Vickie Cobbett, National Teacher of the Year by Javier Martinez, nominated by Vickie.

### **Announcements:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Staff, 3<sup>rd</sup> Staff in Dekalb, IL., March 21-24, 2023 @ Red Roof Inn.

- More information pending.

4<sup>th</sup> Staff, Convention 80 and 1<sup>st</sup> Staff at Northfield Inn, June 12-16, 2024.

Commandant:

**CLOSING:** Closed by Sgt at Arms and Chaplain performing closing ceremony at 1440.

**TRAINING - Department Officers, OCTOBER 21, 2023**

		10/21
Commandant	Ron Burns, Sr.	X
Sr. Vice Commandant	Randy Weber	X
Jr. Vice Commandant	Victoria Cobbett	X
Judge Advocate	John Olejnicki	X
Paymaster	PDC Mike Ruffner	X
Sergeant at Arms	Bill Schultz	X
Jr. Past Commandant	PDC Mike Sturch	X
PDC Trustee #1	PDC Tom Geise	X
PDC Trustee#2	PDC Bruce Blackmer	X
Rank & File Trustee #3	Gary Hoeffken	X
Rank & File Trustee #4	Dale Miller	X
Adjutant	Gary Hoeffken	X
Chaplain	Brent Bacon	X
1 <sup>st</sup> District Commandant	Juan Martinez	X
2 <sup>nd</sup> District Commandant	Rick Prescott	X
3 <sup>rd</sup> District Commandant	PDC Joe Pollock	EX
4 <sup>th</sup> District Commandant	Dan Powers	X
5 <sup>th</sup> District Commandant	Dan Davis	X
6 <sup>th</sup> District Commandant	Phil Mette	X
7 <sup>th</sup> District Commandant	Chris Gutierrez	X
8 <sup>th</sup> District Commandant	Harry Fanning	X

**ROLL CALL OF DETACHMENTS**

DETACHMENT	10/21
#72 Burbank	Juan Martinez Bruce Blackmer
#73 Chicago #1	
#74 Collinsville	Mike Murphy Stacie Quimby not afternoon

	<b>Hector Rivera Gary Hoeffken</b>
<b>#75 Collier-Harrison</b>	<b>Dan Davis Sue Gibbons</b>
<b>#76 Dixon</b>	
<b>#77 Elgin</b>	
<b>#78 Illinois Valley</b>	
<b>#80 Northwest Suburban</b>	
<b>#81 Peoria Leathernecks</b>	<b>Dan Powers Dale Miller Harold Lundstrom Rob Wilson</b>
<b>#83 Rockford</b>	
<b>#85 Tobin-Nanninga</b>	
<b>#86 Tri-County</b>	
<b>#399 Dupage County</b>	<b>Victoria Cobbett John Olejnicki</b>
<b>#546 Thomas A. Jennings</b>	
<b>#553 Chicago Police Marines</b>	<b>Paul Zogg</b>
<b>#575 Randolph County</b>	
<b>#591 Effingham County</b>	<b>Phil Mette</b>
<b>#607 Lincoln</b>	<b>Michael W. Malmstrom</b>
<b>#790 Gem City</b>	<b>Tom A Geise</b>
<b>#799 Decatur</b>	
<b>#801 Lake County</b>	<b>Charles Walgreen</b>
<b>#812 Shawnee</b>	<b>Harry Fanning Larry Hickman Dakota Tolbert</b>
<b>#824 Maj Kenneth D. Bailey</b>	
<b>#847 DeKalb County</b>	<b>Brent Bacon Mike Sturch</b>
<b>#913 Sauk Valley</b>	
<b>#988 Central IL Leathernecks</b>	<b>Richard Parker left Jason Smith left</b>
<b>#1009 McHenry County</b>	<b>Marty Lenzen Rick Prescott</b>

	Tim Collins Mike Ruffner Mike Breslin
#1013 Southern IL Leathernecks	Dave Engelbert left
#1031 Robert Windle	
#1160 Alton Leathernecks	Mark Nelson Jim Freeman
#1174 Lincoln Land Leathernecks	O. Robert Neira Ron Burns Randy Weber
#1177 West Central IL Leathernecks	
#1217 Kevin-Clarke Tinley Park	Donald Tomich
#1231 Richard L. Pittman	William Schultz
#1233 Fox Valley Marines	
#1253 Kankakee	Skip Myers left Peg Myers left
#1336 Sgt Robert "Bob" E. Graue	Gene Hickey
#1372 Grundy County	Jeffrey Alexander
#1385 Prairieland Leathernecks	Chris Gutierrez
#1395 Tri-County Leathernecks	
#1408 Chapultepec	Alejandro Morales Roberto C. Heredia
<b>#960 Albert E. Shokey (Indiana)</b>	<b><i>The Honorable Kelly D. Gillihan, Jr. Past Department Commandant</i></b>

**22 Detachments, 43 Marines**  
1 Guest, Honorable Albert E. Shokey