



# DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



## Minutes

Winter Quarterly Meeting  
Huntington, WV  
January 7, 2023

**The meeting was called to order** at 10:00 am by Sr. Vice Commandant Rick Shank

A motion was made by Sgt at Arms Miller and seconded by Marine George Gill to drape the Charter in honor of those MCL Members and loved ones we have lost in the past year. The motion was approved, and the Charter was draped by MED Chaplain Scott Kirby.

Sr. Vice Commandant Shank called attention to the original Det 340 Charter on display, explained the original Department of WV Charter could not be present, but he showed a photocopy of the Department Charter and asked if there were any objections to using it in accordance with Department Bylaws; seeing none, the meeting was continued.

### **Sr. Vice Commandant Shank welcomed our Dignitaries:**

Mideast Division Chaplain Scott Kirby  
Mideast Division Newsletter Editor Rick Shank  
  
National MODD Kennel Deputy Mad Dog Greg Irwin  
  
Past Department Commandant Rick Shank  
Past Department Commandant Scott Kirby  
Past Department Commandant Jim Doss  
  
Worthy Pack Leader of WV, not present

### **Roll Call of Department Officers:**

Commandant Mike McLain – Excused  
Sr Vice Commandant Rick Shank – Present  
Jr Vice Commandant Greg Irwin – Present  
Judge Advocate Jim McDade – Present  
Jr Past Department Commandant Scott Kirby – Present  
Adjutant-Paymaster Patti Leib – Present  
Chaplain Frank Armentrout – Excused  
Assistant Chaplain Roy Vanscoy - Excused  
Sgt at Arms Shaun Scott – Excused  
Assistant Sgt at Arms Allen Miller – Present  
Chief of Staff Roger Ware – Excused  
VAVS Roger Estep – Excused



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Historian Mike Lynon – Excused  
Public Relations Jean Lamb – Excused  
Aide-de-Camp Larry Goff – Present  
Aide-de-Camp Rich Sneigle – Present  
Web Sergeant Steve Swenton - Present

### Roll Call of Detachments                      Members Present

Hicks-Hamrick 339 – Absent	0
Hershel Woody Williams 340 – Present	8
Earl Anderson 342 – Present	4
Danny M Greene 577 – Present	3
Jones-Wolin-O’Brien 771 – Present	1
Herbert J Thomas 947 – Present	2
Leland D Crow Crawford 956 – Absent	1
Mountaineer Marine 957 – Present	0
Cpl Walter L Mann 1065 – Present	4
Com Archibald Henderson 1087 – Present	5
Eastern Panhandle 1143 – Absent	0
MGM Det 1180 Pt Pleasant – Present	6
Sgt Mecot Camara Det 1461 – Present	1
Cpl William B Fulks Det 1474 - Present	<u>1</u>
Total:	36

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting** Minutes from the Department Fall 2022 Quarterly Meeting have been posted on the Department website and distributed to the membership; a motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded; motion carried.

**Correspondence:** copies of all correspondence have been made available to the membership

**Paymaster Reports:** There were no corrections to the Paymaster Reports. A motion was made to accept the Paymaster’s Reports without correction. Motion carried

### Department of WV Checking Account

Beginning Balance:	\$21,166.60	September 17, 2022
Income:	\$ 2,162.00	
Expenses:	<u>\$ 1,019.28</u>	
Total Carry Forward:	<b>\$22,309.32</b>	January 7, 2023



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### Hershel Woody Williams Scholarship Account

Balance Forward:	\$30,918.32	September 17, 2022
Deposits:	\$ 250.00	
Interest Received:	\$ 56.79	
Expenses:	\$ 0.00	
Total Carry Forward:	<b>\$31,220.61</b>	January 7, 2023

### **Chaplain's Report**

MED Chaplain Kirby reported on the deceased members Death Notices submitted since September 17, 2022. 7 Members reported this quarter are: Jerry Lee Bain, Det 1180; Leland Murray, Det 342; Raymond Keener, Det 947; Theodore "Ted" Riley, Det 771 (formerly Det 981); David Coyne, Det 771; Cyril "Cy" Kammeier, Det 1143 (to be buried in Arlington this month); Keith Kammeier, Det 1143 (Cy's son).

**Sick or Distressed:** We were given updates on Roger Ware, Det 956; Chuck Cooper, Det 1180; Roy Marcum, Det 340; David Bell, Det 957; Roy Vanscoy, Det 957; Dan Brewer, Det 957; Gary Carden, Det 957; Michael Francisco, Det 957; Michael Lynon, Det 947; Jean Lamb, Det 947; Jack Martin, Det 1087; Cheryl Wroblewski, Det 1180 & 340; Randall Ware, Det 1065; Larry Kammerer, Det 577; Bob Lang, Det 340; Jim Bolin, Det 340; John Hensley, Det 340; Brandy Hodgins, Det 340; and Irene Hudgens, Det 340. Please keep these members in your prayers, and be sure to pray for all Veterans, Marine Corps League members and families, and those serving in harm's way.

### **Report of Department Officers:**

Sr. Vice Commandant Shank dispensed with all verbal reports from Department Officers; all reports were to be submitted to the Adjutant. Reports from the following Officers have been received:

Adjutant – Printed Report and back up on the table

Chief of Staff – Submitted

Jr Vice Commandant – Submitted

Paymaster – Printed Reports for General Account and Scholarship Account on the table

Hershel Woody Williams Scholarship Foundation – Submitted

Judge Advocate, National MCL Policy on political activities in uniform, Section 103 Submitted

Public Relations – Submitted

**Detachments Reporting:** Sr. Vice Commandant Shank requested abbreviated verbal reports from Detachments and reminded us that all reports are to be submitted to the Adjutant. Reports have been received from 11 out of 14 Detachments:

Huntington 340

Morgantown 342

Danny M Greene 577

Jones-Wolin-O'Brien 771



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Herbert J Thomas 947  
Leland D Crow Crawford 956  
Cpl. Walter L Mann 1065  
Eastern Panhandle Marines Det 1143  
MGM Det 1180  
Sgt Mecot Camara Det 1461  
Cpl William B Fulks, 1474

As of 7 January 2023, no reports have been received yet from Hicks-Hamrick Det 339, Mountaineer Marines Det 957 or Commandant Archibald Henderson Det 1087; a follow-up email has been sent requesting they be submitted to Adjutant Leib.

### Standing Committees:

**Scholarship:** Chairman George Gill reported Scholarship Application packets have been mailed out to all Detachments and are available on the Department Website. He also expressed his thanks to the Committee and that they have agreed to sit on the committee again for 2023. The POSTMARK due date is March 15, 2023.

**Convention:** Chairman Scott Kirby reported on progress for the Department Convention, the hotel, banquet, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge Coins, Ribbons, Mini and Large Medals. He noted three entre options for the Grand Banquet (catered by Mary B's) and the lunch option of a sandwich, chips, and a bottle off water for \$5. There is a golf course nearby for those wishing to play before or after the Convention, as our special hotel rate applies for additional days. If you're not registered, do it ASAP!

**Rules/Bylaws:** Chairman Jim McDade no changes or amendments have been submitted.

**Budget and Finance:** Chairman Patti Leib reported there have been no changes to the budget during this quarter, and that the Paymaster Reports for both accounts are also on the back table.

**Audit:** Chairman George Gill reported that the bank statements and checking account registers he receives each month are in good order.

**Marine of the Year / Associate Member of the Year:** Stan Legge, President of the MOY Society passed out the Nomination forms to all Detachments present; the rest will be mailed to the Detachment Commandants by Adjutant Leib. President Legge reminded members of the POSTMARK due date of March 1, 2023 for all submissions for Department MOY and Department AMOY

**Department of WV Awards Nominations Chairman:** Jason Hunt passed out the nomination\_packets to all the Detachments present at this meeting and reminded everyone the POSTMARK deadline is March 30, 2023. Adjutant Leib will mail the remaining packets to the absent Detachments.



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**Web Sergeant Steve Swenton** reported the new QR Code for the Department of WV will take people directly to the Department Website. Also, he reported our prior web hosting company was bought by another company (Go Daddy) and whether we stay with them or use a different company, prices have increased significantly. A decision needs to be made by the renewal date of March 15, 2023.

### **Special Committees:**

**Boy Scouts:** Fred Brunner absent.

**Young Marines:** Steve Swenton reported on various events in Community Activities with this program

**Fire Team:** Scott Kirby reported we're trying to get a Detachment to sponsor starting another Detachment in Lewisburg or Clarksburg. Clarksburg has lots of Marines in the area with the VA Medical Center there... but also let him know if your Detachment needs assistance with recruiting new (and younger?) members. Our Department is aging, and we need to bring in younger Veterans – otherwise, when they get older and have failing health or other issues, there may not be an organization to lobby for them.

**VAVS Officer:** Steve Swenton reported Fred Brunner has logged 2500 volunteer hours since May 2022

**Department Convention:** Rick Shank reported it is time to consider nominations for Department Officers for next year; he encouraged members to check the Bylaws for rules and qualifications

**Department Membership:** Greg Irwin reported even with multiple deaths, our numbers have improved since the Fall Quarter: +1 PLM (total 397); +64 (275 Paid); +65 (672 Total Paid) -104 (75 Unpaid) compared to September numbers. Great Job, Detachments!!! Remember, Always carry an application or two, start up conversations with people wearing military ball caps, t-shirts or with Veteran license plates and offer them a Department trifold brochure with your Det information on it such as date and time of meetings, location, name, and phone number of someone to contact. MED Chaplain Scott Kirby stated that with 672 Paid Members, we only have 36 at this meeting and 37 at the Fall meeting; that's only 1/2 of a percent. We should be doing better than that on attendance.

**Department Public Relations:** Jean Lamb – report is on the back table; only two events and one Detachment (340) requested her assistance this quarter. This is a valuable resource – USE IT!!

### **Unfinished Business:**

Sr. Vice Commandant Shank advised members to be sure to pick up a copy of the Snapshot Report from the back table. Adjutant-Paymaster Leib can create a smaller version of this type of report for individual Detachments to help them keep track of their reporting obligations. \* He stated we look good on paper, but a few Adjutants-Paymasters need training to do their own reporting. Currently, nine





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Detachments do not have their own ceremonial rifles, but this is a great recruiting and retention tool, to encourage Marines to join us or participate and become part of a rifle squad. \* Sr Vice Commandant Shank reminded members the website has lots of forms and tools available to them; he also asked how many members know the password to the Member Library. Be sure to share the password with your members!

**Sr Vice Commandant Shank** advised that Property Inventory Reports should be done annually prior to Detachment elections, and that they show you care about your Detachment & equipment. Your Property Inventory includes your Charter, gavel, Bible, monthly minutes, Paymaster reports, Flags, - anything that belongs to the Detachment. You need to have three members conduct the inventory and sign off on it, then keep them in different locations. You can send a copy to the Department, but technically all you need to send is a statement that the inventory has been done, then sign and date by all three members. These reports and others are required, and should your Detachment surrender their Charter, all equipment title reverts to the Department of WV to be held for a period of one year, to give the Detachment an opportunity to re-start the Detachment and regain the Charter and equipment. The Property Inventory should also reference who has keys to the Detachment's PO Box, and these keys should be turned over the successors of these positions at the Installation of Officers. In addition, Monthly Minutes are required to be submitted to the Department Adjutant and Department Commandant, per Department of WV Bylaws and by Corporate Law. The Department Board of Trustees is responsible for Detachment's compliance, and the Dept Judge Advocate may be asked to send a letter of caution to any Detachment not in compliance. Your Minutes protect your Detachment and the Department from lawsuits if they show you voted on events, etc. in your meetings – the insurance provided by National needs these events to be voted on and appear in your Minutes to qualify for coverage should a reportable incident occur.

**TIME and PLACE:** No bids have been received yet for the Fall Quarterly Meeting in September 2023 or for the Winter/Spring Quarterly Meeting in January 2024. If your Detachment is interested in hosting one of these meetings, contact Rick Shank. Also, West Virginia is scheduled to host the 2024 Mideast Division Conference, so we need a Detachment to volunteer for this event. The Department will assist.

**Sr. Vice Commandant Shank** advised he needs a slate of Officer Nominations to present to the Members at the 2023 Department Convention; so far, no one has been nominated or submitted their name. Only Elected Officers are on this Slate (Commandant, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, and Judge Advocate) all other Officers are Appointed by the Commandant and his Board of Trustees. Professional Development tutorial are on the website to help train for Officer positions, and potential candidates are encouraged to start by reviewing the Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. Regular Members **MUST** be wearing their Convention name badges in order to vote.

**Sr. Vice Commandant Shank** reminded Detachments that their Elections and Officer Installations need to be completed and the signed ROI (Report of Officer Installation) turned in to Adjutant Leib no



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later than April 30, 2023. \* He also reminded us that the IRS has increased the annual limitation of income for 501-C-4 non-profit organizations from \$25,000 per year to \$50,000 per year.

**Judge Advocate Jim McDade** reminded Members that proposed changes to the Bylaws must be submitted no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>. Refer to the guidelines in the Bylaws and AP for proper submission so that your proposed changes may be reviewed and voted on. Submissions not in compliance will be returned to the person submitting it, unreviewed. \* He also reviewed the Marine Corps League's policy on participation in political events while in uniform and advised copies of this policy are available on the back table with the other reports. Det 1065 Adjutant Paymaster George Gill reminded Members that anyone can submit a proposed Bylaws change; it does not require Detachment or Department approval prior to submission for consideration. Det 340 Marine John Roberts stated that Bylaws changes to the Uniform Code happen at the National level. Det 340 may try to change the code to wear collar pins (starbursts or MCL) with the red blazar and black tie. Another potential change would be the ability to submit forms to Detachments via email in addition to the option of sending or providing hardcopy paper forms (for MOY, AMOY, Awards, Scholarship applications, etc.)

Members were reminded that Detachments should bring 2-3 larger ticket items to the Convention for the Scholarship Auction, and all Detachments are encouraged to make an annual donation to the Scholarship Account. We don't want Woody's dream to vanish if we get more applicants than funding.

**Pistol Raffle Co-Chairmen Rich Sneigle and Scott Kirby** advised Members that the Pistol Raffle Tickets (distributed at this meeting) do not have a "sold by" line, so be sure you put that information on the back side of each ticket stub that you sell so you'll be credited and eligible for the \$100 award for selling the winning ticket. Also, ALL Detachments are required to sell 300 tickets at \$2 per ticket (\$600 total) to be eligible for the \$250 award to the Detachment of the person selling the winning ticket. In addition, if you have unsold tickets, DO NOT just give them to another Detachment or Member. Contact Rich or Scott to have the transfer made and recorded or you may still be liable for the value of the tickets if they go missing or are unaccounted for. This year's pistol is a Glock 43 valued at \$500. One last note: it had been a concern before that we could not sell tickets to ourselves or family members per IRS rules, but since we are an all-volunteer non-profit organization, this rule does not apply to us. If members or their families want to purchase all the tickets allotted to them, that's perfectly legal.

### **NEW BUSINESS:** Detachment Commandants Reporting:

- Stan Legge, Sr. Vice Commandant for MOH Hershel Woody Williams Detachment 340, Huntington
- Al Reitz, Commandant for Earl Anderson Detachment 342, Morgantown
- Michael Mounts, Commandant for Danny M. Greene Detachment 577, Logan/Henlawson
- Donald Grooms for Al Lipscomb, for Herbert J. Thomas Memorial Detachment 947, South Charleston
- Greg Irwin for Roger Ware, for Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956, Elkins



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- Gary Watkins, Commandant for Walter L. Mann Detachment 1065, Ripley
- Wayne Starcher, Commandant for Commandant Archibald Henderson Detachment 1087, Parkersburg
- Jim Doss, Commandant for MGM Detachment 1180, Point Pleasant
- Jason Hunt, Commandant for Sgt Mecot Camera Detachment 1461, Beckley
- Jim McDade reporting for Warren Bryant, for Cpl William B. Fulks Detachment 1474, Hurricane

(See all attached reports from each Detachment)

~ Break for Lunch from 12:00 pm until 1:00 pm ~

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS continued:**

Midwest Division Chaplain Scott Kirby went into more detail about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge Coins, Ribbons, Mini and Large Medals, and the collaboration with Brent Casey, our supplier. We received payment from one of the Detachments for their order today, adding to the other 4 Detachments that have paid (5 total so far). Payment for Detachment orders is due no later than April 1, 2023 (members pay their Detachments and the Detachments pay the Department)

Also received was a \$250 Donation to the Hershel Woody Williams Scholarship Account from Det 340 and one for \$250 from Det 1180. All Detachments are encouraged to donate!

**NEW BUSINESS:** Sr. Vice Commandant Rick Shank lead the conversation by asking about each of the following:

Marine Steve Swenton gave a brief history on the Young Marines Chapter in WV that began in 2000. Judge Advocate Jim McDade made a motion for the Department to donate \$500 to the Young Marines; seconded by Phillip Johnson; motion carried.

Det 771 Adjutant Steve Swenton was asked about Boys State in West Virginia; he advised it goes by county, and now costs \$350 to sponsor one boy. Det 1065 Adjutant-Paymaster George Gill made a motion to sponsor one boy for \$350 through Detachment 771 in Memory of John Nanny (who worked tirelessly with Boys State); seconded by Det 1180 Commandant Jim Doss; motion carried.

Sr. Vice Rick Shank advised the Membership that a Scholarship Account has been established in Jerry Bain's name; Det 1180 Commandant Jim Doss made a motion to donate \$250 to this Scholarship account; seconded by Det 1180 Jr Vice Roger Martin; motion carried.

Sr. Vice Rick Shank told us of a final request (one of many) that Woody Williams asked for: to fund a Gold Star Family Memorial Monument in Huntington. This effort has been initiated by the Southside Alliance (they are managing the project); Det 340 Sr Vice Stan Legge made a motion to donate \$250; but he rescinded that motion at the request of Adjutant Paymaster Patti Leib; then he made a revised motion for \$500; seconded by Det 1065 Adjutant-Paymaster George Gill; motion carried.





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Det 1180 Commandant Jim Doss asked about another request from Woody Williams (actually, a Resolution approved by the State of WV) to enclose the shelter house and install climate control features, at the Donel C. Kinard State Veteran's Cemetery in Dunbar, WV – he had heard a rumor that this has been postponed indefinitely. Det 340 Associate member Terry Wright (he volunteers at the cemetery) stated that this is true but does not know the reason for the delay. The Department of WV MCL needs to follow up on this ASAP.

**For the Good of the League: Sr. Vice Commandant Shank** reminded all Detachments to participate in the Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week February 13-17, 2023 at their local VAMCs.

He also noted that Veterans Visibility Day at the State Legislature is scheduled for January 24, 2023 at 0900. The Department of Veterans Affairs Assist. Has several legislative efforts they have been working on with members of both houses that will, if introduced and passed, help Veterans throughout the State. The location for this event is the Upper Rotunda. UOD is Red Blazers. After the official part of the day, Veterans will have the opportunity to meet with their representatives in their offices to express their concerns. A recruiting table has been offered to us, and we hope to have several Detachments represented at that table.

Check the National Website for updates and information on the Camp Lejeune contaminated water lawsuit and go through the VA to submit your claim. Private attorneys will end up costing you money!

Department Marine of the Year and Associate Member of the Year qualifications: can be elected or appointed Officers or serve on a committee or chair a committee.

Mideast Division Chaplain Scott Kirby announced his bid to run for Assistant National Vice Commandant of the Mideast Division; election will be held at the MED Conference in June in Maryland. Come support Scott with your vote!

The Department of WV is scheduled to host the 2024 Mideast Division Conference; talk to your members and submit your bid to the Dept of WV to host this conference (should be June 2024).

Sr. Vice Commandant Shank presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion Post 16 for providing a great lunch for us today! Thank you, ladies!

Sr. Vice Commandant Shank also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the MOH Hershel Woody Williams Detachment 340 for hosting our Quarterly Meeting today. Semper Fi!

### **Announcements:**

\*Detachment Commandants and Paymasters need to update the National Database with current member information

\*Start preparing your Detachment nominations for Department Marine of the Year and Associate Member of the Year for 2023, and 2023 Department Awards.



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\*Midwinter Staff Conference February 23-25, 2023 Norfolk, VA

\*Pre-register for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dept of WV Convention May 19-21, 2023 hosted by Det 1087 at the Comfort Inn & Suites, 167 Elizabeth Pike, Mineral Wells, WV; Contact Don Dearth for hotel room reservations, pre-registration, and Grand Banquet.

\*Mideast Division 2023 Conference June 24-25, 2023 hosted by the Department of Maryland at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton, Baltimore North, 1726 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, MD 21208

\*2023 National Convention, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MCL, Oklahoma City, OK August 14-18, 2023

\*2024 National Convention, Denver CO August 12-16, 2024

**There being no Further Business;** The Meeting was adjourned per the Ritual at 1335 until it will be reopened for the transaction of official business at 1000 on May 19, 2023 at the 2024 Department of WV Convention and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Mineral Wells, WV.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patti Leib  
Adjutant-Paymaster  
Department of WV – MCL

Approved by:

Rick Shank  
Sr. Vice Commandant  
Department of WV – MCL

*50/50 Split the Pot total was \$128 total; \$64 won by Terry Wright and donated to the proposed Gold Star Family Memorial Monument fundraising effort being managed by The Southside Preservation and Enhancement Alliance, to be erected in Huntington, WV.*