

**DEPART-
MENT OF MA
MARINE
CORPS
LEAGUE**

Quarterly meeting
of all 28 detach-
ments, May 7,
2017, hosted by



Det. # 1115, (1st Lt. Brian McPhillips) Metro South, Easton
VFW, 150 Allen Road, Easton 02356

Installation ceremony: Prior to the beginning of the business meeting, Commandant Curnow installed the new commandant, Commandant John McGrath, of this hosting detachment, Detachment # 1115, Metro South.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Opening: Commandant Fran Curnow called the meeting to order at 1330 hours (the 30-minute delay of time was due to the installation.) The total meeting time was for 1 hour, 38 minutes. All in attendance were asked to stand, salute the colors and Sgt-At-Arms Richard Broadnax lead the Marines in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Following, Chaplain Roger Hoffman was asked to read the opening prayers.

Roll Call, Elected Officers: There were a total of **24** members present

SPECIAL NOTE: *In addition to the 24 COUNT, there were also non-members present.*

Commandant Fran Curnow----**Present**
Sr. Vice Commandant John Murray----**Present**
Jr. Vice Commandant Dave Porter----**Present**
Judge Advocate Carlos Vieira----**Present**
Financial Chairman Joe Messina----**Present**

Financial Officer Don Rivette----**Present**
Financial Officer Dan Bishop----Excused
Financial Officer Tony Garro----**Present**

Recognition of Dignitaries:

Commandant Curnow respectfully recognized VIPs, past Department Commandant Bernie Heaney; New England Division Vice Commandant Warren Griffin, and himself, Fran Curnow, Asst. to the New England Division Vice Commandant Warren G.; past Marines-of-the Year Roger Hoffman, Bernie Heaney, and himself, Fran Curnow.

Committee Officers:

All appointed officers present/ absent/excused with exceptions have been noted in the files of the Adjutant.

District Vice Commandants:

Present—Cape Cod District, North Central District, North Middlesex District, North Shore District, South Middlesex District, South Shore District, Western District;

Not Assigned—South Central District.

Detachment Commandants:

Present—Burlington, Cape & Islands, Capt. William Glynn, Leo Fortier, Greater New Bedford, Metro South, Metro West, Norfolk County, Pvt. Charles Shutt; **Excused**—Essex County, LCpl. Van Gyzen, Oak Ridge, Worcester; **Represented**—Cape Cod, Honorable Few, Pequoig, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Ware, Westfield River Valley, Wm. R. Caddy; **Absent**—Blackstone Valley, Boston Police, Capt. Jennifer Harris, Kelly/Sullivan, North Central, South Central, Woburn Leathernecks.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Commandant Curnow asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2017. The Adjutant had emailed those minutes to all members listed on the roll-call roster.

A motion to accept was made by John McEntegart, 2d by Roger and unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

Nothing to report from the Commandant nor the Adjutant at this time.

Paymaster's Report:

In the absence of Paymaster Jim Laskey, Finance Chairman Joe Messina briefly read what he referred to as the "Reader's Digest Review" of our accounts and reminded members that, although he did not have statements to hand out, Jim will handle at the next meeting/convention. And, as is always of interest, the question was brought up about the Burke Restitution a/c. Warren Griffin had commented that, when he receives mail at the State House in Boston, he forwards all mails pertaining to this issue on to Paymaster Laskey and that he, himself, also learns of the disposition and status of this delinquency at the same meeting that the rest of us do. *(By any other definition, this is a felony and is subject to the death penalty, but the military ruling had been lenient. Good thing "for him" the jury wasn't made up of Marines in the League.)* A motion was made by Roger to accept, 2d by Dave Porter and unanimously approved.

Sick and Distressed:

Dave Brooks had a heart transplant and is recovering; **Frank Gerardi** has recovered.

Peter King asked that we take a minute to honor the death of the Navy Seal who was killed on May 5th. Done! *(FYI: 38-year old, Chief Petty Officer Kyle Milliken was killed in a firefight against Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabaab forces while his team accompanied Somali army troops on a nighttime raid against an enemy compound.)*

NEW BUSINESS

Officers' Reports:

Commandant Fran Curnow reported 3/26—Pack Growl; 4/20-23—Quad State; 4/30 Caddy Day Memorial; 4/25—Pequoig installation; 5/1—Fitchburg installation; 5/7—Quarterly meeting and Metro West installation.

Senior Vice Commandant John Murray reported 1/29—MODD Growl in Worcester;
4/14—Blackstone Valley Detachment installation; 5/4—Shutt Detachment installation; 5/7—Department meeting Metro South.

Jr. Vice Commandant Dave Porter reported 4/1—Van Gyzen installation; 4/2—Honorable Few installation; 5/4--Shutt Detachment installation; and, 4/20-23—Quad State. Dave also has "hard copies" of the 89-page roster which he had

offered to those who would want one. He also discussed the need to know who is going to the National Convention in August. We are looking for strong support because our own Warren Griffin from Massachusetts is up for National Judge Advocate. Please consider attending. Dave also mentioned the 300-plus/minus late-dues' payments. There was much discussion on "the when" and "how much" for specific dates of members' joining, etc. It is important to remember that each detachment **will be** handling all their own dues' renewals as of the beginning of the new Fiscal Year 2018. *(FYI: The confusion of payments by members of "when and how much" will all be a wash by September 1st, this year of 2017--and, no longer an issue. This is the best reason to have it consistently the same for the entire country and eliminate the irregular dates of what we have had over the years.)*

Judge Advocate Carlos Viera reported that "no hearings, no issues. Any questions?" There were none.

Finance Officer/Convention Committee-member-in-charge MCL Raffle Tables/etc. Tony Garro—reported on attending Quad week in Rhode Island, 4/20-23; and, is concentrating on coordinating the auction tables at our June convention. He reminded members to bring a single bottle (or more) for the auction table—*preferably spirits, but wine is also good.*

District Vice Commandant Brad Hutchenrider reported he's back from the "tender box" in Florida and that he has been to the Van Gyzen detachment whereat they had 20 in attendance and the Commandant, Bruce, is having medical problems and the Sr. Vice Brian Brown ran the meeting, Cape detachment doing good, Cape & Islands is "hanging in there," and he is yet to visit with Plymouth and New Bedford next week.

District Vice Commandant Tom Pirnie had nothing to report at this time, and is excused. He has a medical issue which has restricted his mobility. **District Vice Commandant Richard Broadnax** reported he had an issue with the installation report for the Captain Wm. Glynn detachment whereat headquarters did not recognize the new commandant. It has, since, been corrected. He said all is well at the Leo Fortier detachment, and that the commandant from Burlington has returned from Florida. **District Vice Commandant Tony Garro** is involved with a number of convention commitments, installations, the Rhode Island Quad convention, etc. His District responsibilities were excused for the quarter. **District Vice Commandant John McEntegart** has sent emails off to two of his inactive detachments, Kelly/Sullivan and Boston Police—claims that they haven't re-

sponded for some time. The Shutt detachment is doing great as well as Metro West which brags of producing outstanding members such as Warren Griffin, now up for National Judge Advocate, to be voted on at the Convention, August 2017. **District Vice Commandant Don Rivette** said he already reported on his district a couple days ago to Commandant Curnow, but he wanted to mention that one of the smaller detachments in the League, #137 Pittsfield, is doing outstanding. That 35-member unit recently put out 8,300 flags at the cemeteries, and during this past December they had collected over 3,500 toys and delivered them.

Detachment Commandant, Greater New Bedford, Rick Seguin commented that he and 24 members of his detachment participated in a flag-raising ceremony to the Marine Corps monument. Although it was pouring rain, they were proud to do it.

Chaplain Roger Hoffman reported that he attended the 25th POW/MIA Spring Remembrance Ceremony along with the Metro South detachment. This ceremony is held each spring and fall, and this Metro South detachment has been participating in it for years; 4/12—He participated in the Blackstone Valley installation, and also did a walk through for a dedicated community member, Bob Kane (not a vet, but a worthy friend to vets.) His funeral service, over the years, has been a fine service for veterans and their bereaved families. Roger said that on one occurrence, Bob Kane had been waiting to receive a DD214 on a deceased vet but had problems obtaining it. Nevertheless, he told Roger to send the remains to the parlor and that he would take care of it regardless of whether he received the required documentation or not. On 5/1—North Central installation; and throughout the quarter he has completed the following: 4 Rituals, 7 Interments, 5 Motorcycle Escorts, Chaplain of one (1) service, sent out 4 Certificates of Remembrance, and attended the quarterly meeting today, 5/7. He didn't mention it but I'm confident he had many hours of volunteer services with VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service.) *Next meeting, I'll be sure to pick up a copy of his activity sheet(s). He usually has four to five.*

Legislative Chairman/New England Vice Commandant Warren C. Griffin reported that the new legislative session for Veterans and Veterans Committee began on 1/1/2017. This coming Tuesday, 5/9, he will be attending at 1300 hours. He will report at our next meeting.

Photographer Peter King reported that we only have but 9 or 10 ads in for the convention book. Deadline will be 5/18 and he will be sending a follow-up email.

Scholarships, Dominic Ricci mentioned that we have only 2 applicants and the cut off is passed (???) There were 3 available. Aps are on line.

Quartermaster John McEntegart said that he always has “stuff” for uniforms and will be available for sales in with Tony and his tables. Claims that Tony’s “stuff” is good and that his is good, too, but cheap. Also spoke about C-rations. If interested, talk to him about them. *The pound cake was the best. It was the reward at the end of the day (end-of-the-day that never was.)*

Webmaster Marc Dunne has just had a 2d-knee surgery and is recuperating. The minutes for the last meeting have been posted. However, we’d appreciate the pictures from the 2016 convention. *Hopefully, he’ll do a side-by-side for both conventions 2016/2017. What do you think, Marc? Thanks!*

Young Marines award will be given out at Westfield, 5/25, and not at the banquet on June 10. This change is because the State’s Young Marine-of-the-Year, Benjamin Michalek, is to be graduating that day and his mother is most thankful but prefers he be at graduation. Commandant Colonel Fran Curnow will be the presenter.

Eagle Scouts

Tony Garro, representative, commented that there had been a total of 364 Eagle Scout Awards given out from April 2016-April 2017. Tony did remind the commandants that he still needs bottles for the auction. We have three baskets to fill (6 bottles each). To repeat as read earlier: Spirits preferred, but wine is good!

STANDING COMMITTEE

Convention 2017

Chairman Joe Messina commented that there is much information that is not getting out to the membership. He suggests that the commandants get there jr. vice commandants (membership chairs) to come to the quarterly meetings. Too many members are uninformed. To date, we have 40 delegates registered and 19 freebees. He also reminded members to get their money in for the banquet, the clambake, etc. Golf applications are weak and could be cancelled. SPECIAL-and

-NEW this convention will be an *all-you-can-eat pizza* offering on *Thursday (6/8) and on Friday (6/9)*, between the hours of 1130-1500. For a minor charge of *only \$5.* per person, we are providing excellent hand-tossed pizzas from a famous Cape Cod pizza shop (*Paradise Pizza Shop--42 years in business.*) We also have *free drinks* available—soda, spirits, wine and beer. We offer this because we understand that, when arriving, guests usually are trying to settle in and might not know the area and where to find a decent place to eat. This will be it!

Toys for Tots

An ongoing issue that will be further discussed at the convention, the T4T changes have presented “more” questions. We can appreciate the USMC reigning in their copyright slogan “Toys for Tots” and their concerns for its misuse; however, the threat of their restricting and preventing the Marine Corps League members from the use of the EGA would severely affect the good-will attitude of some Marines that do go out in the communities and collect. To collect “gifts” for kids around the holidays, and to NOT be able to represent the Marine Corps, is akin to simply distributing gifts at a church site, for example. It is a failure to recognize the military patriotism of inactive Marine vets who proudly still feel that self-worth of belonging to the Corps. Marines are men and women of character, pride, achievement, etc., etc. To threaten to diminish that self-worth by preventing them from being a representative of the Marine Corps with the removal of the EGA emblem would be bordering on challenging them for all that they know about “who they are, had always hoped to be, and especially have ‘earned to become.’” It has been, and always will be, their mindset that the Marine Corps League is doing good in the communities. And, to shake that confidence could well discourage that positive spirit. There are community considerations that need to be voiced. For some of us, this should not be a settled issue and we look forward to further discussion at the convention.

Pack Dog of the Year

There was a request for names to be submitted to the Pack Dog Leader for “Pack Dog of the Year.” The award is to be given out at the banquet. Names will be considered first for the officers before suggesting someone from the pound. Please submit your name choices to Paul Manna (tel. 508-596-4416. Paul is with the Worcester Detachment, 181 Lake Ave., Worcester, MA 01604.)

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Shelter for Women and Children

Beginning with this Cape Cod convention, the MCL will be offering \$1,000. to a local "Shelter for Women and Children" (4-years and younger) as a gesture of our good will visiting their community. **Our point person *coordinator* for the Cape will be Cheryl Griffin.** She will be authorized to contact a shelter and mutually agree with that organization's staff to purchase specific sundry items suitable for their cause. A motion was made by Warren to approve, 2d by Bernie and unani- mously approved.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Jr. Vice Commandant Patrick Ballinger, Metro South detachment, is in- volved with the Young Marines that have begun a tradition of retiring damaged and soiled American flags. They began this last year with the assistance of the fire department. It was successful enough to repeat it and schedule it to be a local and an annual event. According to Patrick; the fanfare of the community, the fire department and the police department all favor this ceremony and many turn out for this patriotic- American convening. Chaplain Roger was impressed and said that this is commendable. It might well be an idea for other detachments to con- sider. The members applauded with appreciation on hearing the success of this.

Annual J.J. Harris Ride

Sponsored by **The Honorable Few MCL Det. 1302**, this 10th anniversary motorcycle event will be between the hours of 0900-1700, August 12. Captain Jennifer J. Harris was shot down in Anbar Province and died 02/07/2007 on a rescue mission in the helicopter crash in which she was flying. It is said that her sorrowful fiancé will be in attendance. More to come on this.

PFC Alvin Richard Gale Memorial Bridge

On May 25th, 1030, a bridge will be dedicated to honor the Viet Nam service of Navy Cross recipient PFC Alvin Richard Gale. This will take place at Hyde Park.

HELP WANTED

There are two Department openings for the positions of Jr. Vice Comman- dant and Sr. Vice Commandant, (or Commandant?) We need your help! These are positions that do require travelling. We welcome anyone confident to speak in public, attend ceremonies, etc. It can be most rewarding and your broth- er Marines will always be supportive and welcoming. Ask yourself, "Where do I sign up?"

ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, a motion to close was made by Roger, 2d by "Mac". Commandant Curnow did comment on the excellent meal provided by the detachment and then asked the SaA Richard to retire the colors, followed by the closing prayers. Sr. Vice Commandant John Murray thanked the members for coming and to secure new members. The meeting was closed for official business and will reconvene at the convention, June 8-11.

SemperFi

Frank Serra,
Department Adjutant

FYI--You might want to take the time to view the Department website:



www.deptofmassmcleague.org