

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS meeting held on Sunday, March 20, 2022 and hosted by our Pvt. Charles J. Shutt detachment #139, 215 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472.

Prior to the meeting, attending members were served a full breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausages/ham/bacon, home fries, pastries, and coffee. It was a nice presentation and well received. Thank you to Commandant Dominic Ricci for this welcomed serving prior to the meeting.

Commandant Brian Brooks called the business meeting to order at 1300 and asked the Sgt-at-Arms Keith Buckhout to lead the members in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the opening prayers by Chaplain Roger Hoffman.

ROLL CALL

Department Leaders present were as follows: National Senior Vice Commandant Warren Griffin; New England Division Vice Commandant Dave Porter, Past Commandants' Bernie Heaney and Fran Curnow.

Marines-of-the Year present were as follows: Warren Griffin, Bernie Heaney, Roger Hoffman, Fran Curnow, Dave Porter, and John "Mac" McEntegart.

Dept. Officers PRESENT: Cmdt. Brian Brooks, Sr. Vice Cmdt. Jon Zwirblia, Jr. Vice Cmdt. Mike Hines, Judge Advocate Steve Cheney, Finance Chmn. Fran Curnow, and Finance Committee members Dan Bishop and Frank Serra.

Detachment Commandants PRESENT: Ron Timm, Cape Cod 125; Dave Triplett, Captain William Glynn; John McEntegart, Metro West; Brian Brooks, Oakridge; Dominic Ricci, Pvt. Charles Shutt; Dave LaVallie, Ware; Tim Carroll, William R. Caddy; and Jon Zwirblia, Worcester (REPRESENTED: Metro South, Roger Hoffman; Pequoig, Bernie Heaney; Westfield River Valley, Keith Buckhout; New Bedford, Rick Seguin; Honorable Few, Mike Hines; Worcester, Sr. Vice Dave Ciolfi; and, The Executive Det., Dave Porter.)

Appointed Officers PRESENT: Bernie Heaney, Paymaster; Frank Serra, Adjutant; Roger Hoffman, Chaplain; Sgt-at-Arms, Keith Buckhout; Quartermaster, John McEntegart; New England Compliance Officer, Bernie Heaney; North Central District Jr. Vice Cmdt. Richard Broadnax; Western District Jr. Vice Cmdt. Tim McCrory; Photographer, Peter King; Division Paymaster, John Rutovich; Convention Chmn. Jon Zwirblia; Toys for Tots, Tim McCrory; Oper. Enduring/Operation Iraqui Freedom, Mike Hinds; Legislative Committee, Warren

Griffin; Scholarships, Dominic Ricci; Vietnam Marines, Jim Hastings (Excused); and Dept. Pack Leader/Det. 141 Sr. Vice Cmdt. Joe Delaney represented by Keith Buckhout.

OLD BUSINESS

Paymaster's Report: Paymaster Bernie passed out FY22 Budget (7/1/21-6/30/22) tracking copies showing expenses as of 3/19/2022 (one day prior to the Dept. meeting.) He pointed out that our total expenses *to date* were 18% of our budgeted FY figure and that the income amounted to 49% of our budgeted FY estimate. Paymaster Heaney also presented the members his *Paymaster Report* in which he had detailed our MA League's seven (7) account balances and all the activity of the accounts since 11/17/21 to the present, 3/19/2022. There was a suggestion by Bernie that we should be donating more to the VAs and hospitals, and he also noted that because of the covid pandemic over the past couple of years that we find that we have not been solicited for offerings that we had prior to 2020. Division Paymaster "RJ" commented that he would want to coordinate with Bernie concerning the Department and the Division are not "double donating" to the same organization in the same year. *Finance Chmn. Fran Curnow commented that we should be tracking our contributions, so this does not happen.* As a result, Bernie said that he will make a list of all "line item" contributions we do make and will count on the members to get back to him with the name of a contact person. He reminded the members that he cuts the checks and does not have the time to call and reach out *to whom* they are to be sent--"that research" is to be in the hands of the member(s) requesting a warranted contribution. Our Division Vice Cmdt. Dave Porter also pointed out that our state of Massachusetts is in a unique position because of our having an outside solicitor, unlike any other Department in the country. He also reminded the membership that a good deal of our expenses will be spent at the Division Mid-Winter conference in February and the Division Convention in August. And there also had been a discussion about the Burke" a/c. It was learned that "Burke now has paid back close to \$31,000.00 and that he (Burke) claims to have PTSD at which he is rated to have a 50% disability (originally was at 100%) and he had never been in a Theater or an Expedition. *FYI: The burglar was a bugler in the Corps.* There were many vocal comments with descriptive adjectives about this *Burke disability* revelation and most all are not suitable for print

Please Note: As stewards the Department's finances, there will not be any of our a/c balances showing in the minutes. If, however, a member is interested in knowing more of our financial accountability, etc., please contact Bernie.

The Commandant asked for a motion to accept the paymaster's report. Dave Porter made the motion and it had been 2d by Warren Griffin.

Sick and Distressed: Tony Garro (Honorable Few) is back in the hospital and "RJ" had mentioned that Lou Robesch (Pittsfield) is not doing well. "RJ" said he had lunch with "Lou" and that he could use some help with the detachment. To parse "RJ's" words, he gave the impression that it would be helpful if we could get someone out to that detachment and partner with him. "RJ" even suggested he, himself. Commandant Brian said that we now have a District Vice, Tim McCrory, covering that detachment and that he, Brian himself, will also be looking to avail himself because it's within a reasonable distance for him to follow up.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS:

Sr. Vice Cmdt. Jon Zwirblia reported that (1.) He had acquired Lowell detachment rifles and had returned them to TACOM, (2.) Has had numerous conversations with both the Jennifer Harris and the Blackstone Valley detachments to get them in compliance with a final rehabilitation date and/or recommendation, (3.) Had held a Commandants' Council meeting back on 1/11/22 via zoom, (4.) Attended the military appreciation hockey game in Worcester, (5.) Informed a business of the proper solicitation of the Department, and (6.) Numerous calls and emails to both detachment Marines and fellow Department officers. *Pending: Installing the Van Gyzen and Caddy detachments, attending Quad State next month, and attending the Department convention.*

Jr. Vice Cmdt. Mike Hines offered up a summary of the Department's eligible voters.

(See next page)

PLM Paid Total Paid Unpaid

Regular	912	192	1,104	234
Associate	39	25	64	38
Multiple	12	1	13	2
TOTALS	963	218	1,181	274

VOTING----1,104

Judge Advocate Steve Cheney quoted,” found nothing in the Dept/National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures that dictates the day and time for opening the Dept. convention.” JA was also made aware of two proposed bylaws that will be brought up for a vote at the convention (Later in the meeting, Fran Curnow did comment on the need to review the Bylaws and it was duly noted by the commandant.) And, at the request of the commandant, Steve did verify the legal procedure for *revoking a detachment charter*.

“REVOKING A CHARTER” warranted a stimulating an important conversation among the members. It is not something to take lightly. It was learned from the meeting that both Blackstone Valley and Worcester have a neighborhood good rapport and could well open membership to the transfer of members who are still interested in continuing as a detachment member and not that of a member “at large.” Adj. Frank also reminded the members that there is the option of joining up with the Executive Det. 1443--the value of that being the benefit of receiving the Hq. -annual interest payment paid for the PLMs that would be credited to the detachment and not be 86’d. Our National Sr. Vice Warren Griffin made the point of his fine experience of having attended a Country-Western event hosted by Blackstone Valley, some time back, when PNC Richard Gore, now deceased, was a member at that detachment. Both he and his wife, Cheryl, who had shaved her head because of CA and had the tatoed wording, “thank you” on the back of her head. It was Cheryl’s way of supporting her and thanking the League for the large donation made to CA. Warren also emphasized the need for all of us to be cognizant of the need to allow the younger members to come forward and for them to make their changes, etc. It is time for the Iraqui Marines to take up the gavels and bring forward their contemporary changes which, too, are also for the *Good of the League*. We need the youth for our organization to prevail; and

without their taking a stand, we will not last as we continue to observe the demise of some of our detachments. This is an issue that affects all military organizations as well as other civilian-fraternal organizations. *It is not only unique to the Marine Corps League.* This commentary was also echoed by our N. E. Division Vice Commandant Dave Porter. *Frater Infinitas!*

Chaplain Roger Hoffman The activities for Roger are as follows: (1.) Attended 9 funerals and served as Chaplain for 8 of them; (2.) Chaplain at “Wreaths Across America,” Bourne National Cemetery, 12/18/21; (3.) Chaplain for the annual--now 24th “No Veteran Forgotten Committal Service,” Bourne National Cemetery, 10/29/21; (4.) Participant (Bike/USMC Flag) Taunton Christmas Parade, 12/2/21; (5.) Processed seventeen (17) death notices from eight of our detachments. This is a minimum list of his commitments to our Department. To know Roger is to know he does a lot more than what is written in his report. To know him is to know that he is/has been a valued confidant to many veterans having need for consul, etc., and his confidential reserve and willingness to make himself available whenever called upon in service.

Compliance Officer Bernie Heaney was pleased to announce that, for the 1st time, all of our 24 detachments are 100% in compliance with their 990s. He received an applause for his work in following up to get this done.

Convention Chairman Jon Zwirblia thoroughly covered the details of the *Registration Packet* which will be going out to all the detachments by email. Jon “confidently” answered numerous questions and it was obvious he anticipated and was prepared to assure the members that this convention will be focused more on the “red hats” and their concerns. He also addressed the excess number of our ad’ books. Warren Griffin said that we cannot eliminate them because our solicitor has some five pages of 100-ads each that are/have been from perennial-standard contributors. However, it is a point well taken and we will consider decreasing the count as we usually do end up throwing out too many each year. Jon also brought up the need for a stenographer to take the minutes at the convention. It was determined that it would be too expensive (\$1,000. and up.) Adjutant Frank thanked Jon for the suggestion but said that it’s not worth it and “thanks, Jon” but negative--it’s my job and I will get it done. It was felt that Jon certainly had done his homework on this responsibility, and he basically is coordinating every detail necessary to make this a success. We are fortunate to

have this Marine-in-charge and, rightfully so, he received a well-deserved applause from the members present.

Scholarships' Chairman Dominic Ricci commented that he had received five (5) scholarship applications and is anticipating another two. He has a budget of \$10,000. The deadline for application will be the next day after this Dept. meeting, March 21. There should also be consideration to upgrade the qualifications from a borderline "C" average. It is, and should be, agreed that a "2.0 average" does not warrant special recognition "***for achievement(?)*** "

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No issue(s) pending ...

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Brian Brooks passed out commendations for Essex County Det.127. Nat. Sr. Vice Cmdt. Warren received all of them and will present to the detachment.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Contributions of \$200.00 to Rosie's Bounty (a food service pantry located in West Roxbury) and that of a 2d contribution of \$2,000. had been sent to the National Organization for Young Marines (Attn: Lt. Col. Davis.) Both recipients had forwarded letters of thanks and appreciation to Bernie.

Sock Drive had excellent results from Mac's (QM John McEntegart) recent experience. Mac had learned that if a customer purchased a pair of socks online from the Target Department Store, and from his personal experience it is their policy to offer a 2d pair *free* if it is for the military. Mac passed this charitable-courtesy promotion along to his buddy, Jim Hastings, and to both of his granddaughters at college who had followed up on this give-away and using his (Mac's) home address for delivery. Apparently, it also went viral. Mac mentioned that this is also something that could/is successful and available with sweatshirts

and tees. If interested, contact him. He did end this commentary of Target's atypical promotion by remarking, "If anyone needs socks, he has thousands at his house." (Good job Mac! Thanks, and it was even better hearing it from a guy with your wit of humor in telling it.)

Commandant Dominic Ricci announced "Supper With Steve" will take place on March 21st, there at the Shutt detachment. 1800. Menu: Baked Spiral Ham, Roasted potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls and [Dessert--@\\$8.50](#) . *FYI: This is an ongoing, every Monday night event for this Shutt detachment.* (Sounds great!)

Although not too audible for the **Sound Recorder**, it sounded like Dominic was saying that there are other opportunities that could be open to others that would be welcome to take place there.

N.E. Division Vice Cmdt. Dave Porter reminded the members of the upcoming Division Quad State meeting which will be held at Warwick, R.I, w/e of the 23rd of April, Fri., 4/22 to Sun. 4/24.

Web Master/Department Commandant BRIAN BROOKS deserves our recognition an appreciation for bringing the Department to renewed-and-improved communications through his many hours of his voluntary and dedicated Department time and effort by updating, correcting, communicating, etc., etc. etc. Please keep in mind, "that" is only the "administrative wing" of his tasks as the M.I.C. The man never sleeps... (PS: Rumor has it that he favors Jameson Irish Whiskey. Just saying!) ***SF and Thank you Sir Commandant...***

CLOSING

The commandant had asked the Sgt-at-Arms to retire the colors. S-a-A Keith asked all to stand and salute the flag. Following. Chaplain Roger was asked to read the closing prayers and to read off the names of the deceased members he has recorded since the last Department meeting. Succeeding the prayers, Sr. Vice Cmdt. Jon Zwirblia was asked to perform the last duties of his post. S-a-A Keith then officially closed the meeting till the convention which will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton, Hyannis, from June 3-June 5th.

SF, Frank Serra, Adj.