

**Once in Nam I had a Navy Psychologist explain it to me this way.**



**When a person enlists in the Air Force for 6 years and gets out it takes them about 6 to 5 hours to readjust back into civilian life. A sailor who enlists in the Navy for 6 years takes about 6 to 7 months to readjust back into civilian life. A person who enlists in the Army for 6 years takes them about 6 to 7 years to readjust back into civilian life.**

**You Marines after you graduate from Marine Corps Boot Camp you will never ever readjust back into civilian life.**

***You are a Marine forever.***

Marine Corps League Department meeting held on November 19, 2023, at the LCpl John J Van Gyzen detachment #1285, Somerset, MA. Meeting was in session for one hour and 14 minutes.

Department Commandant Jon Zwirblia recognized the attendance of both **N. E. Div. Vice Commandant Patrick Maguire**, and **Jr. Dept. Commandant Brian Brooks**.

Before the business of the meeting, Cmdt. Jon talked of a unique, one-time opportunity for any Marine to purchase a **personalized mug** (\$2,500. +/-) to be displayed-and-available to the purchaser at the *Tun Tavern Restaurant*– a structured reproduction and tribute to the original *Tavern*. This “Tun-Tavern-themed restaurant” is located within the Marine Corps Museum, Quantico, Va. And, *your mug* is to remain on their premises. Your name will be engraved and it entitles the owner to free refills while thereat as a patron. Again, to repeat, the mug will not leave the premises. It remains as a permanent part of the inventory. *FYI: The original Tun Tavern shown below had been in Philadelphia, Pa., but was lost in a fire of 1781–near the end of the Revolutionary War...* WHAT A GREAT GIFT! YOUR HEADSTONE IS PERMANENT AND FORGOTTEN OVER TIME; BUT, THIS MUG BEARING YOUR NAME WILL ALWAYS BE ON DISPLAY AT THIS HALLOWED-THEME RESTAURANT...



Original TUN TAVERN (Opened 1686, burned down 1781). Birthplace of the Marine Corps, November 10, 1775

### **Adjutant's Roll Call--PRESENT:**

**Department Officers**–Cmdt. Jon Zwirblia; Sr. Vice Cmdt. Mike Hines; **Jr. Vice Cmdt. Steve Cheney**; Judge Advocate Bruce Katz.

**All others**–Cmdt. 1285 Bruce Aldrich, Cmdt. 1399 Mark Pepin, Dept. Sgt-at-Arms Keith Buckhout, Paymaster 1399 Dan LaBlanc, Adjutant 124 Mark Connolly, Cmdt. 128 Dave Triplett, Dept. SaA in training Kyle Torpey, Dept. QM Steve Cheney Jr, Div. Photographer Peter King, Cmdt. 125 Ron Timm, Dept. Adj. Frank Serra,

Dept. Chaplain Roger Hoffman, Dept. Paymaster Bernie Heaney, Dept. Finance Chmn. Bill Maguire, and Cmdt. 141 Chris Cekovsky (Note: I have taken these names from the sign-in sheet and a couple that are not who I remembered knowing as being present.)

### **Paymaster's Report**

Paymaster Bernie Heaney passed out a listing of the *General Fund Account History* from 9/15-11/18, 2023. It was comprehensive and accepted. We have spent down approximately \$8,000.--39% of the FY 2024 budget. To date, we have received \$733. interest from our CDs. Bernie, also, did comment on the Burke a/c and said that it is up-to-date except for the most previous month, October. Apparently the Department's-official letter a year ago of threatening to take him back to court has made an impression on this embezzler. Another issue is the current status of a pending check made out to the Chelsea Veterans Home for \$750. which had been given to Paymaster Alex Panos who had been expected to have presented/delivered(?) same. The issue is that this outstanding check is better than 6-months-not cashed. Bernie will follow up on this and either replace the check as lost with a Stop Payment; or, remind the MIC, whoever, to cash it out if still in possession. His records also show an outstanding check for \$41. sent to the Plymouth detachment for their having billed the Department for mailings of documents.

*(Later in the meeting: AS A REMINDER, Bernie made the comment that all the duties of the detachments are listed in Section 300 H of the Administrative Procedures. Completing the requirements by the end of FY will qualify any detachment for \$150. check for their coffers. )*

### **Sick and Distressed**

Caring best wishes from all to Cheryl Griffin.

Best to "JR" undergoing knee surgery.

Vet in Baldwinville will be in life-long recovery after hit-and-run by a low life.

Beloved brother (1 Of 5) of Bill and Pat Maguire has passed away, 11/10/2023.

### **Report of Officers**

Commandant Jon Zwirblia agenda, etc., is as follows:

1. Installed three detachments--Caddy, Worcester, and New Bedford
2. Chaired the BOT meeting 10/25/2023
3. Attended a recruiting event in Dedham between two-veteran Hockey Teams
4. Attended SemperFi luncheon
5. Attended cruise to do recruiting
6. Attended Division zoom meeting in October
7. National MCL ap'--last name plus alphabet number.Covered on how to access member library

8. Emphasis on physical fitness. Theme of the National Commandant. Expect much more to come on this in 2024
9. Updated Dept. roster?
10. EFT still exploring
11. Recruiting event/Fraternalization event (Worcester Railers Hockey Military Appreciation Night (TBD). We will have a table in the concourse
12. Wear appropriate uniform when collecting for T4T
13. Will be attending Mid-winter Conference
14. There was a discussion about House Bill #3880 regarding the annual fee for veterans' license plates. State H. R. Sponsors: *Presenter* Joe McKenna, 18th Worcester; David DeCoste, 5th Plymouth; Ryan Fattman, Worcester and Hampden; and Steve Xiarhos, 5th Barnstable. The Bill at this time is now going through legislation and the hearing is to be on the docket for a hearing tomorrow, 11/20, 1:00-5:00 PM

*Sr. Vice Commandant Mike Hines*

1. Attended Bradley Campus (4-years ago Beirut bombing)
2. Attended SemperFi luncheon with Cmdt. Zwirblia
3. Called on detachments to get their annual *Activity Reports* in as required. A form is available on the MCL website and it is to be forwarded to Sr. Vice
4. "Scuttlebutt-on-line" is a zoom meeting—month of October was on proper uniforms and this month (November) will be about T4T
5. Any photos taken from your detachment's Birthday Ball are appreciated. Please forward to Jr. Past Cmdt. Brian Brooks and he will show them on "*The Laskey Telegram*".

*Jr. Vice Commandant Steve Cheney*

1. Attended two Dept. Meetings
2. Attended SemperFi luncheon w/cmdt.
3. PLM's have to be completed from the detachment roster dtd. 6/30/2023

*Judge Advocate Bruce Katz*

1. Attended zoom calls
2. Attended Marine Corps ball, Newport, RI, 11/9

Bruce quote: "*No grievances or complaints, unless there are now.*"

*Chaplain Roger Hoffman's Report*

Listed are the activities of Chaplain Roger from the period 9/21-11/19/2023:

1. He either attended, performed the service escort, fired the rifle, or performed the duties of the chaplain for seven (7) vets—Marine Corps, Army, and Navy.
2. Attended September, October, November monthly meetings at Vet2Vet/Boston Vet2Vet Boston\_Alliance of Veterans working together to improve health services and emotional well being of veterans and their families.
3. 9/20/23, Chaplain “No Vet Forgotten Ceremony.”
4. 10/25/23, Chaplain at the 40th Anniversary of Beirut bombing and No Vet Forgotten ceremony.
5. Attended Veterans Day Ceremonies at Brockton High School.
6. 11/11/23, Chaplain at Veterans Day Ceremonies in Sharon, Easton, and Taunton.
7. Processed the Deceased Members’ Report for the period—10/03, Jesse Cole; 10/10, Ed Hudson; and 11/06, Ken Swift.

### Adjutant Report

*Frank* commented that an ROI is overdue for the Det. #127, Essex. By mentioning this, I predict that Jr. Commandant Brian will be firing up others in the field to see that they are up-to-date.

When asked if I had anything to say. In hindsight, I should have said that “for anyone speaking and they want what they’re saying to be documented *accurately*, then give me a copy of whatever it is you’re discussing, your activities, etc.” I have many mumbled comments which I pause, repeat, pause, repeat, pause, repeat, and still get it wrong. They’re simply inaudible, and unless I call and hope to get you on the phone, I will not put it in the minutes. But, to move along, I often 2d guess and type what I record is close to what is said, but not as accurate as it should be. With the normal activities and in-room noises of any meeting, i.e., the moving of chairs, the coughing, the whispering, the laughing, etc., makes it challenging and I find I procrastinate and avoid the frustration of getting to work on typing the minutes. I apologize for delays but please help me to get it right. Thanks!

### Sgt-at-Arms

*Keith Buckhout* had nothing to discuss. But, there will be a change as he is giving up his appointment to this position and is presently training a new replacement, Associate member Kyle Torpey (401-474-1995 *might want to take note of his contact tel.*)

### Scholarships

*Dominic Ricci* presently has no applications. And, ten recipients were awarded \$1,500. each.

His quote: “Same speech year after year.”

### Special Committees

No special committees at this time. Recorded here for record only.

### **Comments from the New England commandant Patrick Maguire**

1. A reminder that detachment activity reports are reviewed by Hq.
2. Be sure to let Hq. have your banking information in order for your detachment to receive your annual *earned interest* payment. (*Due date 12/31 processed from your 6/30 detachment roster and submitted to Dept. Jr. Vice.*)
3. *The Marine Corps League Ship Store* still has an inventory issue. He, as many other League officials, are most aware and have addressed the problem. More to come on this...

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Van Gyzen was given a \$500 check for Wreaths Across America. Donated on behalf of Dept. of Massachusetts.

Civil Air Patrol also (*same offering as above.*)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. There is a national focus on physical fitness 2024. We can expect to hear more on this new League challenge from Hq. The League is embracing this National Youth Physical Fitness Program (YPF) that has been offered to schools throughout the country (kindergarten through High School). It is a sophisticated program to improve the moral, mental and physical needs of our youth. We can expect "How to" information involving all the detachments before the next Department meeting. Much more to come on this.....
2. We are also expecting to hear more on the *Worcester Railers Hockey Military Appreciation Night* expected to be sometime in March, 2024. I think I heard correctly that Jon Z. will be a coach—that would make it worth attending.

### **GOOD OF THE LEAGUE**

#### 1. Appointment

John "Mac" McEntegart has resigned from his position as our appointed Quartermaster. At this Dept. meeting, the commandant appointed young *Steve Cheney, Jr* (Dept. Jr. Vice Steve's son.) He accepted and the position is in good hands.

#### 2. MOY 2023 Award

*Adjutant Frank Serra* received his MOY 2023 "medal".

The satisfaction and emotion still/will be one of two of my best personal achievements. I will need nothing more. The *EGA* out of P. I. bootcamp 12/11/1957, and the Dept. of Massachusetts 2023 *MOY* award of June 3, 2023 can never be equal to anything I have ever personally accomplished. And, along with all others who have not lived a protected life, I have had a roller-coaster history of highs and lows. I earned both of these privileged merits and could not be more proud to be affiliated and recognized as a United States Marine. **Thank you for this honor.** My only regret is that during each day of my waking hours I cannot sport that “*MOY medal*” from morning to night.

*SemperFi...* (If I had a “heads up” of this impending honor, I would have prepared my comments of thanks and worked on controlling my emotions at that notable Saturday-night banquet. But, no apology—I’m an emotional Italian/Irish and we do choke-ups.)

### 3. Jr. Past Commandant Brian Brooks DEPARTMENT AWARD

The prestigious award of successfully completing two-years as Department commandant was presented to Jr. Commandant Brian by Commandant Jon, and well deserved. A couple-plus years past at the time of his accepting the Department commandant position, we all had observed the outstanding courage of Marine Brian and how he prevailed under difficult circumstances. *Circumstances* which had been regretful and dispiriting to all members (past, present, and future) in the Department of Massachusetts. Although it was an awkward period of time, he did have the best of-the-best support. As the adjutant, I sometimes know more than is spoken or ever will be. I/we couldn’t be more proud to know this man, this gung-ho Marine, and do know that he is one guy who genuinely is made of the right stuff. It is those special Marines we come to know like Jr. Cmdt. Brian that assures us we are worthy and are part of this unparalleled-elite organization. *Frater Infinitas...*

### 4. Polar Plunge

Commandant Ron Timm, Cape Cod det.125 invited all to the annual Cape Cod Polar Bear plunge. It is scheduled for February 10, 2024 (double check that date with me: 508-776-2720). This event has now been recognized as a Cape tradition and brings out the half-naked hotties/hearties. Many locals and out-of-towners turn out to applaud the courage of these exhibitionists. Bring hot coffee and admire these folks or loathe the thought.



## **ADJOURN**

Motion was made to close and 2d. Sgt-at-Arms Keith retired the colors, Chaplain Roger offered closing prayers and also read the names of three-reported Marines who had passed since our last meeting. The new Sr. Vice Mike H. performed the last duties of the detachment, followed by Commandant Jon Z. rapping the gavel. There had been no mention of the next Dept. meeting but expect it to be sometime in the middle of April—on a Sunday, the 7th or the 14th.

***An excellent lunch had been provided. Many thanks and appreciation to Commandant Bruce Aldrich and the members of the LCpl John J. Van Gyzen detachment.***

*SF, Frank Serra, Adj.*











