



**DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**June 2024 Convention Opening Session**  
**Ballroom South Penn Harris Hotel**  
**Camp Hill, PA**

**0901 20 June, 2024-Commandant Henry opened the Department of Pennsylvania Opening Business Session Convention meeting, with assistance from Sgt at Arms Sundling and Chaplain Schreiber.**

**Commandant Henry-recognition of dignitaries .**

PNC/PDC Hastings, PDC Ziltz, PDC Brady

**National Officers and Staff**

National JR Vice Commandant Miller

NE Division Assistant National Vice Commandant and Budget Committee Chair -PDC Ziltz

NE Division Aide de Camp Bertin

NE Division Sergeant at Arms, National Sergeant at Arms, Protocol Director, Uniform Committee - Solarczyk

National Americanism (Sue) Irvin

Public Relations Committee Chair - (Victoria) McCoy

National Photographer Allison and Mario

Assistant Sergeant at Arms Irvin

2023 NE DIV Associate Member of the Year - Carol McIntosh

2023 NE DIV Marine of the Year - SVC McCoy

2023 Department Associate Member of the Year - Carol McIntosh

**Commandant Henry Acknowledged Past Department Marines of the Year**

PDC Brady

PDC Ziltz

PNC Hastings

SVC McCoy

Commandant Henry

Lisa Solarczyk

**Detachment Marine of the Years and Associate Members of the Year recognized**

**Roll Call of Officers-** Chief of Staff McIntosh

**Roll Call of Detachments-**Adjutant Cook

Detachments Present- 21 :

Bethlehem, Cpl. Brandon Hardy Chester County, Delaware County, Dutch Helwig, Lancaster County, Landis-McCleef, Lehigh Valley, Northampton County, P W Milano, GySgt Ronald E Baum, Northeastern, Susquehanna Valley, Valley Forge, Williamsport, Black Sheep, First Capitol, Lewis B Puller Jr, Central Bucks, Gettysburg Battlefield, South Hills Pittsburgh, Keystone Headquarters.

**Motion to Appoint Lisa Solarczyk as D4 VC representative.**

D2 VC Irvin made a motion, and second by D5 VC Anspach. Motion carried.

**Sick and in Distress**



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Bill Miller was visited by Marines of his Detachment, he is a dual member of Dutch Helwig and All Divisions.

PDC Brady of First Capital stated past Department Chaplain Phil Frigm had a successful surgery.

**Credentials Report - PDC Brady**

**Rules of Convention- Adjutant Cook**

Motion to approve rules of convention- Motion made by D3 VC Colyer James and Second by D1 VC Dennis Brown. Motion Approved.

**Convention Dedications**

D10 VC Popovich dedicated meeting to James Hughes, member of the Marine Corps League for over 30 years and a 2nd Recon Marine.

JRVC Diamond dedicated meeting to past Judge Advocate for Black Diamond Detachment Joe Cantalara who passed away.

Commandant Henry offered a dedication to Marine Barbara Vanner of Lewis B Puller Jr, passed away this spring, active member of the MODD.

Motion to approve Convention Dedications made by D2 VC Irvin and second by D10 VC Popovich. Motion carried.

Commandant Henry asked for Motion to approve minutes of the 2023 Convention (posted on Website). Motion by D5 VC Anspach and Second by D3 VC James. No Discussion-Motion Passed.

**Reports of Elected Officers**-All Elected Officers Reports were written, submitted, and posted. Nothing to add by any elected officers except one.

JRVC Diamond added - please read the reports that were written, submitted and posted.

Commandant Henry asked for Motion to receive all Elected Officer Reports-Motion made by D6 VC Assistant McQuain and Second by D2 VC Irvin -No Discussion-Motion Passed.

**Reports of Appointed Officers** - reports were written, submitted and/or posted.

Commandant Henry asked for motion to approve Appointed Officer reports. Motion by D3 VC James and second by D6 VC Assistant McQuain. Motion carried.

**Standing and Program Committee Reports**

**Convention Committee** - SVC McCoy - Please remember gratuities for breakfast. Clean up in the Convention meeting room. 2025 Convention - will be at the Penn Harris Hotel. Incoming Auxiliary President Tammy Rivera and Mike and Karen Mastriana have offered to step up and fill in for the Convention Committee responsibilities. Hospitality rooms and lunches - wants membership to get more involved in hosting hospitality room. Need bodies to execute, set up the food, monitor the food and participate in great fundraiser opportunity. Room rate given.

**Americanism** - to be given by Chris Shaw later.

**Awards and Citations** - SVC McCoy - will be later - all awards received. Came in under budget. Stressed recognizing members and putting them in for more Awards.

**Cemetery** - SAA Sundling submitted his report for Washington Crossing, posted on the website.



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**Scholarship Committee** - gave report. Commandant Henry asked for motion to approve awarding 58 scholarships, motion by D1 VC Brown and second by D5 VC Anspach. Motion carried.

PNC Hastings approached the microphone and asked Commandant Henry the amount of the scholarship, and made a comment regarding the qualifications for scholarships. 4 year time length, undergraduate only. Asked scholarship committee to reconsider qualifications for scholarship to include a 5 year time length and allow for a graduate degree if an individual has completed their undergraduate degree in less than 4 years. PDC Ziltz made comment - submitted in depth AP Change to be voted on tomorrow, in the existing rules it does not specify 4 years. JA Sofranko suggests adding verbiage to include the amount of years to complete a program. PNC Hastings made point of order and asked for the opinion of JA Sofranko. Verbiage currently states undergraduate degree but not a number of years to complete. Commandant Henry suggested changing the wording to allow for a graduate degree and also put a time limit length. PNC Hastings asked what the ruling is of Commandant Henry and she concurs with the opinion of the JA. Gene Irvin mentioned that according to the AP the student must be a full time student to receive the scholarship.

**Scouting** - to be given later by Greg Schlegel. Report given at 1056 - written and submitted, waiting for some reports to be sent to the Adjutant. Scouting book put together and able to be viewed by the membership.

**Voluntary Service** - Jacob Bertin - written and submitted - Commandant Henry turned the microphone over to VVS Chair to hand out the stipends. VVS Chair presenting checks to each Detachment. Jacob has done a great job as Chair and have seen an increase in VVS reports. Commandant Henry stressed and encouraged more detachment participation.

**Training/Schools** - Leadership training, Cpl Brandon Hardy Chester County hosted, maxed out participation. Will not host another one in the next fiscal year. Will be hosting in September moving forward to not coincide with all the other events happening in April timeframe. Encourage these classes in your Detachment.

Report from Samuel Nichols Committee by D1 VC Brown - Doug Forsythe Committee Chair sent the report - two events coming up in 4th of July and November 10th to celebrate Samuel Nichols, the first Commandant of the Marine Corps. Will post to the website and send out the dates to the membership.

Motion to approve reports of standing and program committees by D2 VC Irvin and second by D6 VC Assistant McQuain. Motion carried.

**Audit and Budget Committee Report** - JVC Diamond (after recess at 1030)

Signed copy of the audit passed to Commandant Henry.

Proposed Budget and Current Budget discussed.

PDC Ziltz asked question about some items that could be removed to improve the budget like the trailer, and cutting losses of using the building to which Commandant Henry addressed these questions and stated we still use the building for some storage but it is mostly empty. PNC Hastings approached the microphone and asked if items were removed from the building next door (YPF certificates and booklets were sent to the recycling center on post, aside from some moved to a board member's garage).

Motion made to table the discussion of the budget until copies can be provided to the membership for review made by D10 VC Popovich, second by D3 VC James. Motion carried.

Point of order made by Commandant Henry, asked for motion to receive the audit committee report, motion made by D2 VC Irvin and second by D5 VC Anspach. Motion carried.

**Awards** (1102)



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JA Sofranko awarded for recruiting.  
Det 389 Gen JH Pendleton - for membership, given to D10 VC Popovich.  
Distinguished Citizen Silver Medal presented to Victoria McCoy.  
Distinguished Citizen Silver Medal presented to JVC Diamond.  
Distinguished Citizen Silver Medal presented to James Schreiber.  
Distinguished Citizen Silver Medal presented to Carol McIntosh.  
Distinguished Citizen Silver Medal presented to John McQuain.  
Distinguished Citizen Bronze Medal presented to Joel Sofranko.  
Distinguished Citizen Bronze Medal presented to Stephen Smalley.  
Distinguished Citizen Bronze Medal presented to Dennis Brown.  
Distinguished Citizen Bronze Medal presented to Gene Irvin.  
Distinguished Citizen Bronze Medal presented to Colyer James.  
Distinguished Citizen Bronze Medal presented to VVS Chair Jacob Bertin.  
Distinguished Service Medal presented to Greg Schlegel.  
Distinguished Service Medal presented to Sue Irvin.  
Certificate of Appreciation presented to Gary Anspach.  
Certificate of Appreciation presented to Thomas Brown.  
Certificate of Appreciation presented to Robert Sundling.  
Certificate of Appreciation presented to Sarah Cook.

**Announcements - Adjutant Cook**

Addition by SVC McCoy - Commandant's Council is at 1300, will not be accepting Detachment reports at the microphone- only want to know what you are doing and where you need help.

**Friday 1300, Jun 21, 2024 - Business Session Continued**

**Dignitaries not already recognized- acknowledged**

PNC Tobin  
National JA Porter  
NE DVC Waluk  
PDC Sherriff

**Roll Call of Officers - Chief of Staff McIntosh**

**Roll Call of Detachments - Adjutant Cook**

Detachments present : 21 -  
Bethlehem, Cpl. Brandon Hardy Chester County, Conemaugh Valley, Delaware County, Dutch Helwig, Lancaster County, Landis-McCleaf, Lehigh Valley, Northampton County, PW Milano, GySgt. Ronald E Baum, Northeastern, PennDelphia, Susquehanna Valley, Three Rivers Leathernecks, Valley Forge, First Capitol, Central Bucks, Gettysburg Battlefield, Bob Smith, Upper Darby

**Credentials Report - PDC Brady**

**Commandant Henry stated to all the membership in attendance that this is their meeting and the membership can make a motion and not leave it up only to the Board of Trustees up front. When making a motion, approach the microphone, state your name and follow the rules of order.**



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**Bylaw Changes - JA Sofranko**

Change #1 - Scholarship Committee - submitted by PDC Ziltz.

JA Sofranko recommended to approve this change.

Victoria McCoy, delegate from Keystone Headquarters, made the motion to accept the bylaw change amendment, second by PDC Gordy Sheriff, delegate of First Capitol Detachment. Motion carried.

Change #2 - Americanism Program - submitted by Chris Shaw, Americanism Committee Chairman.

JA Sofranko recommended to approve this change.

Motion by Dennis Brown, DVC 1, delegate, Corporal Brandon Hardy Chester County and second by Gene Irvin, delegate, DVC 2. No discussion. Motion Carried. One nay, the aye's have it.

Change #3 - Armorer, submitted by Department Armorer Philip McCoy.

JA Recommends to approve this change and strike the verbiage as requested.

Dave Brady, delegate, First Capitol Detachment, made motion to approve the changes of the Armorer in the APs. Bill Foster, delegate, Landis-McCleef, made a second. Discussion on changes by Dave Brady, Frank Kelly, delegate - Three Rivers Detachment, Victoria McCoy, delegate Keystone Headquarters detachment, gave further clarification. Motion carried.

Change #4 - Redistricting, submitted by Commandant Henry.

JA made the recommendation to adopt this AP change.

Motion made by Dave Brady, delegate, First Capitol Detachment, second by Dean VanZanardi, delegate, First Capitol Detachment. Discussion by Dave Brady, specification for detachments moving from one district to another. Motion carried. This adoption of this change takes effect immediately which does affect elections tomorrow.

Change #5 - Subsidiaries and Subordinates Administrative Procedures Chapter 8, submitted by PDC Ziltz.

JA Sofranko recommended to adopt this change.

Motion by Dave Brady, delegate, First Capitol Detachment, to accept the adoption of the proposal.

Second by John McQuain, delegate, Commandant of First Capitol Detachment. PDC Ziltz to discuss this change. Commandant Henry explained this change to the membership. Discussion by Dave Brady. Motion carried.

**Nominations of Officers - 1400**

**PNC Tobin to conduct nomination of Officers**

Department of Pennsylvania Commandant - Gordon Sheriff, delegate, First Capitol Detachment, nominated Diana Henry. Recognized by PNC Tobin.

SVC McCoy, delegate, Keystone HQ Detachment, seconds nomination and offered comment. Dave Brady, delegate, First Capitol offers a third nomination.

No other nominations for Department Commandant - nominations closed.

Department of Pennsylvania Senior Vice Commandant - Diana Henry, delegate, nominates G Victoria McCoy as Senior Vice Commandant. Bill Foster, delegate, Landis-McCleef, seconds the nomination.

Gordon Sheriff, delegate, First Capitol Detachment, third the nomination. NJRVC Russ Miller offered comments in support of Victoria McCoy to be the Senior Vice Commandant for the Department of PA.



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No other nominations for the position of SVC. Nominations closed.

Department of Pennsylvania Junior Vice Commandant. Bonnie Shaw, delegate, Corporal Brandon Hardy Chester County. Made a nomination for JRVC Jim Diamond to stay in his role.

Colyer James, Lehigh Valley, delegate, D3 VC, made a second for the nomination of Jim Diamond.

Diana Henry offered her third support for nominating Jim Diamond. Victoria McCoy, delegate, and Gordy Sheriff, delegate, made a fifth nomination.

No other nominations for the position of JRVC. Nominations closed.

Department of Pennsylvania Judge Advocate. Victoria McCoy, delegate, First Capitol Detachment, nominates JA Joel Sofranko. Diana Henry, delegate, Gettysburg Battlefield, seconds nomination for Joel Sofranko. Bonnie Shaw, Corporal Brandon Hardy Chester County, delegate, thirds nomination for Joel Sofranko. Dean VanZanardi, delegate of First Capitol Detachment, fourths the nomination for Joel Sofranko. John McQuain, delegate, First Capitol Detachment, also Assistant Judge Advocate, offers fifth support for nomination for Joel Sofranko.

No other nominations for the position of JA. Nominations closed.

Nominations for Junior Past Commandant.

Victoria McCoy, delegate, Keystone Headquarters, nominates Dave Brady. Diana Henry, delegate, Gettysburg Battlefield, seconds nomination for Dave Brady.

No other nominations for position of Junior Past Commandant. Nominations closed.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Morgan Stanley** - gave financial report

SVC McCoy - to fill in for Commandant Henry so she can meet with the Auxiliary.

**Marksmanship Report** - Jim Schreiber, Frank Kelly.

**MCL Foundation Report** - Bob Ziltz

**Budget Committee** - Jim Diamond - copies were made available on the back table. Any questions on the budget? Bob Ziltz, delegate, PDC, makes motion to take this issue and bring it back to the table to be able to discuss the budget, Second by Dave Brady, delegate, First Capitol Detachment. Motion carried and budget is back up for discussion.

PDC Bob Ziltz, delegate, makes motion to approve this budget. Bonnie Shaw, delegate, Corporal Brandon Hardy Chester County Detachments makes second for the motion. Motion carried and the budget is approved.

**Upcoming National Changes** - JA Joel Sofranko

25 documents to inform the membership of.

Dave Porter, National JA, informed membership that National AP Changes 16 and 23 will be pulled from the record for errors/duplicate etc. Questions discussed.

**Awards** - SVC McCoy

Recognize those with tenure in the League.

**Announcements - Adjutant Cook**

-SVC McCoy - Pajama Jammie Jam is open to all, no admission fee, monetary donations and stuffed animals welcome.





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- Gary Anspach, Susquehanna Valley, Host of hospitality room, announcing no room to take their stuff, please take a case of water from the hospitality room.

Recess until 0900 tomorrow morning

**Saturday 0901, Jun 22nd - Business session reopened**

**Roll Call of Officers** - Chief of Staff McIntosh

**Roll Call of Detachments** - Adjutant Cook

Detachments present : 25

Bethlehem, Cpl. Brandon Hardy Chester County, Conemaugh Valley, Delaware County, Dutch Helwig, Lancaster County, Landis-McCleaf, Lehigh Valley, Northampton County, PW Milano, GySgt Ronald E Baum, Northeastern, PennDelphia, Susquehanna Valley, Three Rivers Leathernecks, Valley Forge, Williamsport, Black Sheep, First Capitol, Central Bucks, Gettysburg Battlefield, South Hills Pittsburgh, Bob Smith, Upper Darby, Keystone Headquarters

**Commandant's Council Report** -SVC McCoy - updated members on donations from the Pajama Jammie Jam party, \$500 in donations received as well as stuffed animals for Ronald McDonald House in Hershey. Commandant's Council, format has changed from Detachments reporting on the great things they have been doing, to now Department wants to know what areas the Detachment needs help in. Format coming at the next quarterly meeting for Detachment Commandant's to fill in before each quarterly meeting.

**Commandant Henry invited Marine Corps League Auxiliary President Moyse up to speak to the membership.**

Presented President Citations to : Victoria McCoy, Lisa Solarczyk, NE DIV VC Mike Waluk, National JRVC Russ Miller, National JA Porter.

**MOY and AOY Report** - SVC McCoy

Society met yesterday, received and voted on nominations and will make award's announcement at the Banquet. Dave Brady stepped up as President of the Society. To be nominated for Department MOY or AOY, you don't need to have been a Detachment MOY or AOY.

**Convention Committee Report** - SVC McCoy

Recommendation to return to the Penn Harris Hotel, Commandant Henry asked the membership to vote on returning for next year's convention. Recommendation passed. Thank you to Susquehanna Valley and Auxiliary for their hospitality room.

**PDC Society Report** - PDC Brady

**Americanism Committee Report** - Chris Shaw

Received 4 books from the entire state. Thanks to Sue Irvin, co-chair. 3 volunteers helped judge the books. 3rd place - Northampton County. 2nd place - Cpl Brandon Hardy Chester County. 1st place - First Capitol.



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**Scouting Report Additions** - Greg Schlegel - 1 from Lehigh Valley Detachment and 8 from Three Rivers Leatherneck Detachment.

**Remarks from National Staff**

**National JrVC Miller** -upcoming elections, no negativity in meetings or in the League, retention and recruiting. Find out how to facilitate members staying involved and wanting to be involved. Past Detachment Commandant, South Hills Pittsburgh, brought up what happened in 2018. Only 250k Vietnam era Veterans left, is there a goal in place to enable younger generation Marines to join the League. PNC Hastings asked how many Marines are and are not able to have VA Benefits and encouraged all members to reach out to local politicians and consider allowing VA benefits to all Korean War and Vietnam era Veterans. Will be running for National Senior Vice Commandant in the upcoming election.

**National JA Porter** - Thanks to Commandant Henry and the Staff for putting on a great convention. Will be running for National Junior Vice Commandant in the upcoming election.

**National NEDIV VC Waluk** - discussed health of the Division. Still the largest Division in the Marine Corps League. Sitting at 92% in good standing currently. Pennsylvania represents the reporting of funeral honors well. Areas of improvement - PLM reporting, and compliance with 990's. ROI's are 100% in compliance. Awards presentation from NEDIV VC Mike Waluk.

**National Elections** - PDC Ziltz was asked to come up to speak about his upcoming election, he is running for National Judge Advocate.

PNC Hastings - clarified the National Commandant Warren Griffin's decision to not seek re-election.

PNC Tobin - remarked further on Commandant Griffin's decision as well.

Commandant Henry relayed a statement from Candidate Bruce Rakfeldt from North Carolina, as he is also running for National Judge Advocate.

**250 report** - Bonnie Shaw - asked by Rich Corbett to present the report. Met via zoom on June 12th. SecNav has committed the Blue Angels for all day flyovers. 5 Naval ships lined up including an assault ship plus 4 historical ships. Will be docked where Tun Tavern is being built. Expect over 300k visitors for the Birthday and 500k repeat visitors annually. [homecoming250.com](http://homecoming250.com) or [homecoming250.org](http://homecoming250.org) next advisory meeting to follow and another update at the next quarterly meeting.

Chaplain to close the bible and put us in "good of the order".

Commandant Henry presenting a check to Military Pet Share who were in the lobby outside of the room during our Convention. Their mission is to ensure Veterans can feed themselves who prioritize pet food over their own food. Department of Pennsylvania is presenting a \$250 check to Military Pet Share. Asked membership to share and send in stories of Veterans and their pets.

Chaplain re-opened the Bible.

SVC McCoy - presentation of awards.

Announcements:

- Lunch is on your own, or in the hospitality room
- Election of Dept. Officers at 1400 today





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- JRVC Diamond - thanked Susquehanna Valley Detachment members that did the hospitality room
- PNC Hastings, asked Northeastern Detachment to come front and center. Donated his cover to Northeastern Detachment for use in their museum.
- Lewis B Puller Jr member at our last quarterly meeting, donated a ritual book from 1947 and was presented to Northeastern for their museum.

**1301 - Joint Session - for raffles**

**1325 - Commandant Henry opened the floor to the Chaplain for an announcement -**

3 cards for sick and in distress : Phil Frigm from First Capitol, Vinessa Sipe from Keystone HQ, and Bill Miller from Dutch Helwig.

**Floor open for donations to present:**

President Moyse presents a check to the Foundation for \$1500, one of the scholarships is in memory of Past Department President Joan Devlin; \$300 for the Mary Cody scholarship to the Foundation; \$100 from the Keystone Hide to the Foundation.

PW Milano Detachment in memory of John Kisbaugh \$600 to the Foundation.

Lancaster County Pound 22 donating \$250 big bones to the Foundation.

1330 - Recess for Ladies to exit and continue Department session

1338 - SVC McCoy to finish her Awards presentations.

Commandant Henry and SVC McCoy presenting a special presentation to Matthew Corwin, Department Recruiter Award.

Distinguished Citizen Silver Award - Lisa Solarczyk

Distinguished Citizen Silver Award - Philip McCoy

Certificates of Appreciation Awards

PAO Taylor

Bonnie Shaw

Chris Shaw

Mike Mastriana - Distinguished Service

Dave Brady - Distinguished Citizen Bronze

Dean VanZanardi - Distinguished Citizen Bronze

**1402 - Credentials Committee Report**

**Committee Report - Quartermaster Mastriana**

Ships store brought in over \$1000, Devil Dog side did around \$500 big bones.

Motion to accept all committee reports submitted by Dave Brady of First Capitol and second by Bill Foster of Landis-McCleef. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business - none**

**New Business**



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**-Official Election of Officers**

PNC Tobin

Adjutant Cook cast one unanimous vote to elect the Officers of the Department of PA.

**1416 - 15 minute Caucus**

**District Vice Commandant Elections**

District 1 - elected candidate is Dennis Brown, John Taylor as Assistant, Aide De Camp is Joanne Brown

District 2 - elected candidate is Gene Irvin, Sue Irvin as Assistant

District 3 - elected candidate is Colyer James, Doug Graves as Assistant

District 4 - elected candidate is Scot Hartman

District 5 - elected candidate is Gary Anspach, Assistant is Jacob Bertin

District 6 - elected candidate is Richard Sylvia, other positions to be filled

District 7 - elected candidate is Thomas Brown

District 8 - elected candidate is Matt Popovich, Assistant is Joe Spinnenweber

**Installation of newly Elected Officers**

Charter is in its proper place. Dues for officers have been paid and properly forwarded. Sergeant at Arms reported as ordered. Commandant Diana Henry, SVC G Victoria McCoy, JRVC James P Diamond, JA Joel Sofranko, Adjutant Sarah Cook, Chaplain James Schreiber, Sergeant at Arms Robert Sundling.

District Vice Commandants to form behind the newly elected officers

Commandant remained after all other Officers were dismissed.

Sergeant at Arms escorted the Commandant to her post.

Commandant Henry made remarks.

**Announcements:**

-Joel Sofranko asked Jacob Bertin to be the Assistant Judge Advocate and he accepted.

-PDC Brady offered membership to attend the York Revolution Ball Game tomorrow as member Anthony Stabile is honored.

-Keystone Headquarters Detachment will meet early today

-Need help loading the trailer at COB and at 0730 tomorrow

-Greg Schlegel - mentioned Beirut memorial, was invited to attend the anniversary of the bombing event, Editor Doug Graves to attend and give a report, and anyone in the Department is invited to attend. 20th of October, 2024. All Divisions Detachment can be contacted.

**Closing Ceremony: Meeting was adjourned before 1600 by Commandant Henry assisted by SAA Sundling and Chaplain Schreiber.**

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Cook, Adjutant, MCLPA