

**Department of Washington Marine Corps League**  
Spring Staff Meeting Oxford Suites 1701 E. Yakima Ave., Yakima, WA 98801  
**DEPT MINUTES OF DEPT. MEETING 1 APRIL 2023**

**Joint Opening Ceremony:** 1000

**Recognition of Department 2022 Marine of the Year George Hilbish II**

**Recognition of National Officers:** NWDVC & M4L Rep John Moysiuk, VAVS Rep Rex Hopper, Nat'l. M4L rep Mark Gorman, NWD Vice Chief Devil Dog PDD Bonnie Holden.

**Recognition of Recipients of NW Division Marine of the Year:** *John Moysiuk, Dennis Dressler, Bonnie Holden & Mark Schildknecht*

**Recognition of Recipients of Department Marine of the Year:** 1998-John F. Stofiel, 2004-Dennis Dressler, 2010-Rex Hopper, 2014-Bonnie Holden, 2015-John L. Moysiuk, 2016-Mark Schildknecht, and 2020-Edwin Falter.

**Past Department Commandants:** Dennis Dressler, Ed Falter, John Stofiel, Rex Hopper, Bonnie Holden, & George Hilbish

**Recognition of "First Timers" to Department meeting:** Howard Butz & Glen Espersen Mt St Helens Det.

**Recognition of MCLA and Officers:** Department Commandant calls MCLA President Sena Moreland to allow her to present her staff.

**Commandant calls for 10 Minute Recess:** Chaplain closes the Bible. Sgt-at Arms will lead the membership in a hand salute to the Colors and declare the meeting in recess and excuse the Auxiliary members.

**Commandant reconvenes business meeting:** Sgt-at-Arms led the assembly in a hand salute to the Colors. Chaplain reopened the Bible. Sgt-at-Arms will declare the meeting duly reopened for the conduct of official business.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**CMNDN'T - CALLS FOR ADJUTANT REPORTS:**

- **Roll Call of Officers:** All present and accounted for.
- **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes were published and sent via email to all members of the Dept. and our detachments, and no adjustments were received. I will entertain a motion to accept the minutes as previously published. Dennis Dressler so moved. 2<sup>nd</sup>, carried.
- **WASHINGTON SECRETARY OF STATE FILING:** **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE 990:**  
**PAID LIFE MEMBER (PLM JULY 2022) TWO DETACHMENTS DID NOT FILE = LOSS OF INCOME EARNED by 44 Paid Life Members**

DETACHMENT	UBI #/INCORP	EXPIRES	EIN	TAX YR	EXPIRES	
Dept. of WA	601587317-051047	5/31/23	91-0533364	01/01-12/31	12/23	PLM-13
Puget Sound #336	602917923-042309	<b>4/30/24</b>	91-1435694	07/01-06/30	6/23	PLM
Tri-Cities #337	602119092-032601	3/31/23	91-6087173	09/01-08/31	8/23	PLM
Twin Harbors #442	601830219-102583	10/29/23	91-2053273	07/01-06/30	6/23	PLM
Olympia #482	602148515-082701	8/31/23	91-2143220	07/01-06/30	6/23	<b>PLM(32)</b>
Pierce County #504	604973847-092222	9/30/23	91-1824633	01/01-12/31	12/23	PLM
Olympic Peninsula #531	602992577-022810	1/3/23	91-1285018	07/01-06/30	6/23	PLM
Melvin M. Smith #586	601309349-032791	4/2/23	91-1890134	07/01-06/30	6/23	PLM
Columbia River #826	601492208-090393	9/30/23	91-1647649	07/01-06/30	8/23	PLM
Mt. St. Helen's #889	601589728-112194	10/30/23	91-1650015	01/01-12/31	12/23	<b>PLM(12)</b>
Mt. Olympus #897	601974685-081799	8/12/23	91-2058115	07/01-06/30	6/23	PLM
Skagit Valley #1043	602005244-011000	01/31/23	91-2016335	01/01-12/30	12/23	PLM
Yak-Kittitas Valley #1055	602072701-060100	6/30/23	91-2049201	07/01-06/30	6/23	PLM
Cpl Joseph P. Bier #1119	602240331-100702	10/31/23	47-0890445	07/01-06/30	6/23	PLM
Capt. D. B. Bartle Det #1335	602952869-090909	9/30/23	80-0463568	07/01-06/30	6/23	PLM
Col Richard Francisco #1451	604143319-062717	6/30/23	82-2027836	07/01-06/30	6/23	PLM

• **REPORT OF INSTALLATION: (BOLD INDICATES ROI'S RECEIVED AND ON FILE FOR CURRENT YEAR)**

<b>DETACHMENT</b>	<b>DATE OF ELECTION</b>	<b>DATE OF INSTALLATION</b>	<b>ANNUAL DUES</b>
Dept. of WA	5/10/1947	6/4/2022	\$5.00
<b>Puget Sound #336</b>	<b>12/8/22</b>	<b>1/12/23</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
Tri-Cities #337	8/2/22	8/2/22	\$40.00
Twin Harbors #442	7/23/22	7/23/22	\$30.00
Olympia #482	5/1/22	5/1/22	\$30.00
<b>Pierce County #504</b>	<b>12/23/22</b>	<b>1/10/23</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
Olympic Peninsula #531	11/2/22	12/7/22	\$40.00
Melvin M. Smith #586	5/12/22	6/9/22	\$30.00
Columbia River #826	4/15/22	5/21/22	\$30.00
Mt. St. Helen's #889	5/7/22	5/27/22	\$35.00
Mt. Olympus #897	4/26/22	4/26/22	\$40.00
Skagit Valley #1043	10/19/22	12/21/22	\$40.00
Yakima-Kittitas Valley #1055	5/8/22	5/9/22	\$34.00
<b>Cpl Joseph P. Bier #1119</b>	<b>12/19/22</b>	<b>1/30/23</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
Capt. Daniel B. Bartle Det #1335	4/6/22	4/6/22	\$30.00
Col Richard Francisco #1451	5/11/22	6/27/22	\$35.00

- **PAYMASTER/MBRSHIP REPORT:** Rick Flath – Account Balances as of date of this report Checking: \$2,100.53 (Pending check #1209 totaling \$50.00 to clear) Savings: \$16,310.65. Include in Saving: Travel Fund: \$569.50: Rock 32 Memorial \$100.00 Available Savings: \$15,641.15. Motion to approve Paymasters report Dennis Dressler, 2<sup>nd</sup> George Hilbish II, Carried.

From September 2022 – March 31, the WA Department Paymaster has received 109 renewals/new membership from the Detachments in Washington. **Paymaster/Reminders:**

1. D214s are **not needed** at the National or Department levels (**do not send copies**).
2. When sending your transmittals to the Department Paymaster you need to send the **original plus two copies**. The Department keeps one copy and the original; the other copy goes to National.
3. New Members adjustment between March 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, which are: **National fees - \$15.00. Department fees - \$2.50.**
4. Paymasters, a reminder that you can email transmittals that have no fees directly WA Department Paymaster, no need to mail them just email them to [rflath1@comcast.net](mailto:rflath1@comcast.net)
5. Reminder that each Commandant and Paymaster have access to the database, with the ability to make limited changes to member records. If you need help, please contact me by email at [rflath1@comcast.net](mailto:rflath1@comcast.net).
6. **ROI (Report of Officer Installation):** As a reminder please be sure to send the Department Adjutant and Paymaster your updated [ROI form](#) for 2023.
7. **2023 SOS and IRS** filling for 2023 please be sure to complete them and notify Dept. Adjutant & Paymaster.
8. **PLM Audit:** We have two detachments still pending PLM audit to be submitted. ROI (Report of Officer Installation): As a reminder please be sure to send the Department Adjutant and Paymaster your updated ROI form for 2023. 2023 SOS and IRS filling for 2023 please be sure to complete them and notify Dept. Adjutant.

- **CHAPLAIN'S REPORT: (SICK AND/ OR IN DISTRESS):** Chaplain Dennis Dressler – Since Fall Staff Meeting, I have answered questions from Detachments. Additionally, I have served as Chaplain at military services. I have volunteered at Mann-Grandstaff VAMC. I have passed on information from the VA to my detachment Upon receiving NODs from the detachments I have processed and sent to the MCL National Chaplain and to JD Foster at the National Office. The members we have lost are David Hancock of the Columbia River Detachment, Larry Alcantara of the Puget Sound Detachment, Willard Johnston of the Skagit Valley Detachment, Irvin Stephens of the Twin Harbors Detachment, and Harold Westby of the Columbia River Detachment. On a side note, if the person who took my cover after the Grawl and left his would return it to me it would be appreciated. NOD YET TO BE SUBMITTED: James Sims-Olympia Det. and Nelson

**CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT: (Commandant/Adjutant)**

## REPORT OF OFFICERS:

- **Commandant John Moysiuk** – Let me start off by commenting on what we all should be doing in regard to reports. For all Detachment Commandants, I would like to see/hear what's happening within your Detachment. This information should reflect the following information: ToysforTots, Eagle Scout Awards, Honors/Color Guards/Burial Details, Assisting Transitioning Military Families, Community Service Hours by your membership, VAAC, Young Marines, Parades, Veteran Day Services, Fund Raising Activities, and Community Outreach in the variety of ways which can be achieved. I know this is not the complete list but it sure does help me to brag about you all and what you accomplish in our communities.
  1. ToysforTots: I want to first salute all those members which supported the campaign this past year. Of the reporting Detachments, the following totals were given: \*Toys Distributed: 201,236, \*Books Distributed: 4,106, \*Stocking Stuffers Distributed: 24,106, \*Number of Children Assisted: 120,811. If you are not sure if your efforts were counted or you supported an Reserve Unit, please reach out to me so I can amend these numbers to include your efforts. Should you have questions involving ToysForTots, please do not hesitate to ask for clarity, options and guidance. I would like a by Detachment list to see which Detachments are involved in supporting this program.
  2. Chapter Nine's: As the Department Judge Advocate has commented on, there are no current Chapter Nines within the Department. Please keep it this way. With all things Marine Corps League related, please check your attitudes and egos at the door since this seems to be the primary cause of the Chapter Nines happening in other parts of this Nation within our Marine Corps League.
  3. Eagle Scout Awards: Currently I have had minimal feedback (5) to provide back to the National Eagle Scout Awards Committee on number of Eagle Scout Awards submitted within our Department.
  4. Community Service Hours: These are hours that your membership accumulate while doing any of the variety of service efforts whether it is for TotsforTots, Spaghetti Dinner, BBQ, Rose Program, Coffee Stop, Parades, Honors/Color Guards/Burial Details. The service hours do not include just the time on location but the travel time as well. Since we are a Veterans Services Organization, it is nice to see the amount of service ours our membership accumulate at what we do so I am asking you all to start tracking this and reporting this as well.
  5. Young Marines: I want to personally thank those of you who are participating in some way with a Young Marines program in your area. I would like a list of which Detachments are participating with a Young Marine program in your area.
  6. TACOM Ceremonial Rifles: I need a list which Detachments currently have TACOM Ceremonial Rifles, the quantity and individualized serialized list.
  7. Awards: As the Department Commandant, I enjoy awarding our members by recognizing them with awards for their individual and collect achievements. If you would like an award to come from the Department Commandant, please yell as I have no problems of writing up the awards as long as I have some information to support those achievements.
  8. Training: If you or someone within your Detachment would like assistance in training through a process, please let me know so we can make this happen. The National Convention in Oklahoma City is happening this coming August at which Time I am stepping down as the National Vice Commandant, Northwest Division. My Assistant NVC Michael Flynn is expecting to be nominated by all of the Division Departments. Please support him as he tries to visit each of the Departments before the National Convention.
- **Sr Vice Commandant Ed Falter** – There is not much to report since the Fall Staff meeting. My activities have been centered around my detachment level responsibilities and there has not been a request for anything from anyone. All quiet on the Eastern front. Now that we are recovering from the pandemic garbage, I hope that things will pick up and the League can fire up some great activities across the department to get our numbers up and let the public know that we are still a viable, vital organization. From Toys for Tots to our veterans' support functions and all the other unsung things that we do, let us keep the Esprit de Corps alive and growing among our ranks. The VFW, American Legion and others are diminishing. They do not have what we have. We are MARINES! Our spirit, our traditions, our code keep us banded together in service. We have not given up a fight in 247 years. They are not going to stop us now. Keep moving forward, protecting each other, watch your 6 and continue to bring our fellow Marines on board. We are "The few, the proud, the Marines!"

- **Jr Vice Commandant Shane Inman** – There are many new things coming from National about rebuilding our fighting force here in the Department and throughout the Marine Corps League. Work with social media outlets, web pages, and meet and greets to continue the building of our Department and League Detachments with new members. If you do not regularly check the National Website [www.mclnational.org/](http://www.mclnational.org/) I strongly urge you to do so. There are continuous updates and information for all. If you need any assistance with recruiting ideas, or anything you need help with please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. The best asset we have as Marines is our ability to meet and share with others. Keep up the good work finding Marines and Sailors to assist us in our mission and continue to grow the Marine Corps League.
- **Judge Advocate Joel Cartwright** – Absent- I am happy to report that there are no Chapter 9s in the Department. I am pleased to also report that the updated Department Bylaws have been completed and are available for Detachment Commandants to bring to their Detachments for discussion. I would ask that Commandants please have all their discussions done with their Detachments as soon as they can and that any changes be submitted to me as soon as possible so I can make a final draft that can be voted on at the Department Convention in June. As soon as the Bylaws are voted on, I will submit them to the National Judge Advocate for his approval. As soon as that happens, I will send an electronic copy to all Detachment Judge Advocates and Detachment Commandants. When that happens, it will be the responsibility of all Detachment Judge Advocates to review their Detachment Bylaws to make sure they are in compliance. I will be contacting all Detachment Judge Advocates to ensure this is done, I hope before the Fall Staff Meeting of 2023. If any Member has a question on the Department Bylaws or National Bylaws, please do not hesitate to contact me at: 360-393-0625 or by email: [joel.cartwright30@gmail.com](mailto:joel.cartwright30@gmail.com)
- **Jr Past Commandant George Hilbish II** – No Report.

#### **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES/ADVISORY COUNCILS:**

- **CONVENTION BIDS: Commandant John Moysiuk** – 2024 Request for a detachment to step up for our 2024 Department Convention. No takers currently. Would appreciate some bids at convention time.
- **DEPARTMENT CONVENTION** – Host Olympic Peninsula #531 Cmndn't Ted Streete - June 8-10, 2023, Best Western Plus Silverdale Beach Hotel 3073 NW Bucklin Hill RD Silverdale, WA 98383 Phone: (360) 698-1000 Room Rates are \$134.00 plus tax Request for upgraded room are \$144.00 plus tax Reservations to be made by May 17, 2023. Registration forms will be out next week for all to register for the convention.
- **ROCK 32 CEREMONY – Mark Gorman** – Made a motion at the meeting for each detachment to send donation funds in support of this annual ceremony to remember our 32 fallen Marines on Mt Rainier to the department Paymaster Rick Flath [rflath1@comcast.net](mailto:rflath1@comcast.net) by 15 May so we will know the budget for the event in advance.
- **VETERANS LEGISLATIVE COALITION – Shane Inman** – The Legislature is still in the final stages of session. There are many bills awaiting final approval for the governor's signature. The VLC has supported numerous veterans' bills for military spouses and mental health issues. No official report currently. The Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) is a dues paying, membership based non-profit organization. The VLC is comprised of representatives from the 16 Veteran Service Organizations (VSO's) currently represented, members at large, and all Veterans of Washington State. The VLC during the legislative session organizes fire teams to facilitate the load of bills to either sign in to support or testify with a statement before the committees. I proudly serve as one of the fire team leaders.
- **AMERICANISM – Bonnie Holden** – Americanism Award is in the <https://www.mclnational.org> Website in the Library. We had one entry for the Americanism Award this year from the Melvin Smith Det. The next entries will be at the National Convention in 2023 in Oklahoma City Ok. This is a history of what your Detachments have done over the year. Now is the time to start collecting pictures of events as well as write up so that you can prepare for the Americanism Award for next year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Awards were given out at the Mid-Winter Conference for 2022. I will be happy to take any books ready for the National Convention and they can be given to me at the Department of Washington Convention in June 2023.
- **EAGLE SCOUTS – Bonnie Holden** – The Marine Corps League National Headquarters website has the form for the Eagle Scout to complete that you can print. I received 4 out of the 15 Detachments who responded. There are embossed awards that can be purchased at the Semper Fi store for this purpose. I would like each detachment to contact me at regular intervals which are listed for this purpose. Even if you have a negative report, please turn that in so that I know that I have reports from all detachments. If you do not participate in the Eagle Scout Award

Program please let me know and I will mark you down showing I will not receive a response. Period of July 1 each year to December each year should be reported by January 15 Period January 1 each year to June 30 each year should be reported by July 15. If it is easier for you to have a monthly list to send every 6 months, I can then tally each of the detachments for the period that I need to report. My email information, phone number and address are listed below. You can call me if you have questions. But a written report can either be mailed or emailed and is needed. My address, email, and phone number at the end of this report. To date I have received four reports. From the following detachments 336, 504, 1055 and 1119. There have been 3 awards given this year. I asked but did not receive negative reports or even reports that a detachment was not pursuing this award in their area. 360-339-3446 [bonnie.holden@hotmail.com](mailto:bonnie.holden@hotmail.com) 17823 Gilbert St SE Tenino WA 98589

- **NOMINATIONS – Jr Past George Hilbish II** – I have polled the current Holders of office and they have all indicated that if elected they will serve. Mark Gorman – Nominated Louann Harry for Jr Vice Commandant. The Nomination will be presented by the Jr Past Commandant George Hilbish at the Dept. Convention from the floor. Commandant Moysiuk received an email from Marine Harrey stating: “If nominated, I accept the nominations for the Junior Vice position for the Department of Washington. Or if nominated, I accept the nomination for the Judge Advocate position for the Department of Washington.
- **WEB SERGEANT – Bill Hauser** – Absent The Department website is located at <https://www.mcldeptwa.org/> In the period February 28 to March 29, 2023 we had 82 Unique Visitors with 215 page views. The average visitor time on the website was 3 minutes and 43 seconds. The website was up 20 Visitors, up 43 page views, down over 1 minute per visit over this period. Overall, the website is working well. If your Detachment has something going on and you have photos. Send them to me and I will post them on the website. Any activities are welcome. Parades, community service, detachment meetings or dinners. On the Department Website you can find information about Current Department Officers and their email addresses, Detachment meeting times, locations, and Officers. Also, a calendar of Upcoming events is available. Information is available on Devil Dogs, the Pack Officers, Pounds, and Pound Officers. Standing Committees, Recruitment and Retention, Fleas, and Auxiliary information is also available.
- **MARINE FOR LIFE – Mark Gorman** - Had a great training this year have a new representative in Washington state LtCol. Graham is a pilot for Delta. He has attended one network meeting so far, Ed Doyne from MCSG and I are trying to get him to use the systems in place, but he is so busy that we may need to make a change. Will update after April’s meeting.
- **VAAC REPRESENTATIVE –Ron Black** – The Governors VAAC has been in session monthly discussing and evaluating current programs VAAC is supporting and looking for ways the VAAC might better support and assist our veteran community in Washington State. The VAAC with the support of the WA. The Dept. of Veterans Affairs is always interested in what programs are working in the Cities and Towns across Washington, many home-grown programs have been found very beneficial to veterans. Sadly, The VAAC has recently lost one current member of the VAAC team (a marine veteran) Jim Sims. Also, the VAAC learned of the passing of former Dept. of WA. VAAC member Larry Alcantara who served on the VAAC for seven years. He represented the Dept. of WA. MCL faithfully and was a member of the Puget Sound Marine Corps League Detachment 336. The contribution made by both patriots to the VAAC and to veterans in Washington State has been far beyond what anyone might have expected of them, they will both be missed and our condolences to their family. The VAAC’s last Veterans Town Hall and Women Veterans Forum took place in Vancouver on February 1, 2023, Enclosed are the minutes for the Veterans Town Hall and Women Veterans Forum, it contains speakers information and subject matter which our MCL members may find useful as a reference.
- **MARINE OF THE YEAR – Pres. Ron Black/Secretary Mark Schildknecht** – Marine of the Year committee met at 1200 and selected our Marine of the Year which will be announced at the Dept Convention.
- **YOUNG MARINES’ LIAISON: Ed Falter** – No Report.

- **TOYS FOR TOTS – LouAnne Harrey – Absent report submitted electronically.**

Detachment #	County Reser. Cntr	LCA	#Families Served	# Kids Served	#Toys Collect	#Toys Filled	\$Don	#Vol	Events
Puget Sound 336	King	Yes,	NO REPORT						None
Tri-City 337	No					30,000			
Twin Harbor 442	Gray	(First time in 15 years served T4T program w/Thurston County)							
Olympia 482	Thurston		NO REPORT						
Pierce County 504	Pierce		No #s Reported						5
Olympia Peninsula 531	Kitsap	No	Jason Selby	2,763	11583	19,341		10+	Honored sup
Olympia Peninsula 531	Mason	No	Heather Kennedy	6,074		12,003		1	Honored sup
Melvin M Smith 586	Spokane		Jim Brown				25825.56		
Columbia River 826	Clark	6th ESB REPORT TO LEAGUE ON #S THROUGH OR MCL							
Mount St Helens 889	Cowlitz		NO REPORT						
Mt Olympus 897	Clallam			6,000					36,963.48
Skagit Valley 1043	Skagit		NO REPORT						
Yaki- Kittitas Valley 1055	Kittitas			8,000					
Cpl Joseph p Bier 1119	Lewis		363	869					1
Capt. D. B. Bartell 1335	Whatcom	NO REPORT							
Col. R Francisco 1451	Island			400		2525			

- **AWARDS: John Stofiel** – Delivered Awards Program documents to all on the Dept. Roster for any recommendations/nominations for an award from the Department Commandant. LATE ENTRY: IT WAS NOTED BY OUR SGT AT ARMS THAT THE BY DATE IN THE AWARDS PROGRAM BOOK HAD PASSED. I WILL NEED ALL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS DURING THE LAST WEEK IN MAY WHICH WILL PROVIDE TIME FOR ME TO HAVE CERTICATES COMPLETED FOR DELIVERY TO OUR DEPT. COMMANDANT.

#### **REPORT OF DETACHMENT COMMANDANTS:**

- **PUGET SOUND DET. #336:** (Roger Volk Abs) Jennifer Flath – \*21 Funeral Honors between January 1st and December 31<sup>st</sup>; \*215 Community Service Hours between January 1st and December 31st (examples: Toys 4 Tots- no numbers reported, Scouting, Young Marines, Funeral Honors, Parades, etc.); No report on Toys 4 Tots program. \*Transitioning Marines and their Family – We assisted one Veteran. We secured funding commitments to start a scholarship fund in Larry Alcantra’s name of \$2000.00 per year for 3 years.
- **TRI-CITIES DET. #337: Mike Ridgel/Sean Edler** – We held our regularly scheduled monthly meetings, held at the Pasco American Legion Post #34. We held an informal Birthday Ball celebration in November with approximately 30 attendees. Our detachment members were actively involved with the 2022 Tots for Tots Campaign, including involvement in a toy drive. Our detachment members were also actively involved in supporting the two local Young Marines Units, Tri City YM and Columbia River YM. We had 2 new members, and 2 new associate members joined the detachment. To increase our recruitment, we created a recruiting poster and have deployed the poster in locations to attract new joins. Current efforts include working on submitting applications for community grants, flapjack fundraiser events at Applebee’s in April and October in collaboration with both Young Marine Units, planning sponsorship/support of a Young Marine Field Day this summer for the 2 local Young Marine Units, planning for recruiting booth at Benton Franklin County fair in August, Birthday Ball event, rifle raffle fundraiser. Filed our Washington SOS report. Morale is high, we are building momentum to recruit new members and obtain our detachment financial goals.
- **TWIN HARBORS DET. #442: Ron Black – Absent** Twin Harbors Detachment 442 has suffered the loss of a much-loved Chosin Few Marine, Irvin” Irv” Stephens, Irv has been one of the strongest supporters of Twin Harbors Detachment 442 and the Marine Corps League, he loved his country, community and the Corps. Detachment 442 was in his eyes, family. Irv’s passing has left all of us who knew and loved him with a great feeling of loss and sadness. His graveside Mil. Honors are still being worked out by family. Hats off to Marine Korea War veteran, James Evans (age 95) who regularly attends detachment meetings, he is the detachment’s last surviving Chosin Few members. In December, Twin Harbors Det. 442 participated in Toys for Tots for the first time in nearly 15 years by supporting the Toys for Tots effort in Olympia, WA. bagging up and delivering toys to families. At the March Detachment meeting Dept. of WA. Commandant John Moysiuk visited the detachment and talked about

how our detachment can be even more involved with Toys for Tots in the future. The many detachment members appreciated to have him attend our meeting... In large part to Marine James "Jim" Daly, our detachment continues to grow, his recruiting effort has been outstanding to say the least, for this fiscal year (and mostly in just the past few months) he has recruited new members into our detachment, our detachment meetings now regularly have 20 or more members in attendance, we are quickly outgrowing our meeting place. The recruiting effort Marine Jim Daly has brought to our detachment has provided the detachment with new members eager to get involved with League programs and the detachment. Twin Harbors Detachment has had the ability to maintain increased membership each year. Much of our success for retention and participation can partly be contributed to our belief that family members should have opportunity to participate with the detachment regularly by attending our many outings, dinners /BBQ's during the year often held at a detachment members home. The Twin Harbors Commandant will be providing MCL Professional Development training to new members who have not participated in the course previously given. With the stimulation of new members, The Commandant is currently asking some members to form a committed Military Honors/Color guard team. Lastly, the detachment has voted to find ways to fund a local Student MCL Scholarship, more participation in the MCL Rose Program is one such program we will be supporting. Marine James "Jim" Daly, he has recruited 17 new members into our detachment and most certainly earned recognition as the detachment recruiter of the year 2023 and as appropriate I believe he deserves recognition by the Dept. of WA. MCL. In closing, I want to make the Dept. officers and members aware that I will not be able to attend the Dept. Annual Convention in June as my daughter will be getting married that Saturday. – I will plan for our MOY plaque to be delivered to our Dept. Commandant prior to the convention.

- **OLYMPIA DET. #482: Shane Inman** – Olympia Detachment lost a long-time member Retired Colonel Jim Sims. National Commander of the Order of the Purple Heart, Past Commandant, VACC Member, VLC Member, and pioneer for nonprofits in Washington. Olympia Detachment had a very successful Toys for Tots season for 2022. The Detachment is continuously working on changes to the By-Laws and updates. The Detachment has continued to outreach for new members and has added 2 to their rolls. Continue to work closely with the local Boy Scouts troop becoming Chartered Organization of Olympic District 11 Pacific Harbors Council Boy Scouts of America 612. Our detachment continues to grow and has new (Younger) members willing to step up and assist with the mission.

**PIERCE COUNTY DET. #504: Mike Edwards / James Golden**– The Pierce County Detachment submits for review and Department records the following report of our activities for October 2022 through March 2023 sense the Fall Staff Conference meeting. The detachment had Five (5) members that participated in the Pierce County Toys for Tots Campaign for 2022. Unfortunately, the Toys for Tots coordinator has not reported to the detachment on how the campaign did for 2023, and we were unable to submit an after-action report to the Marine Corps League on its results. Three (3) of our members participated in awarding "Good Citizen Award" certificates one in November and one in December to two (2) Scouts that attained the Rank of Eagle Scout. The detachment voted to completely redo our bylaws which were approved by the membership and submitted to the Department of Washington Judge Advocate and are now waiting for his approval. The detachment held a Marine Corps Birthday celebration on November 10th at Mama Stortini's in Federal Way, which there was a decent turnout by the membership and spouses. The detachment budget committee held its annual audit and budget meeting and presented the proposed budget to the detachment membership for approval. The detachment gained two (2) new members during this period as well. The detachment had one (1) Fallen Member the Month of March. The detachment has a total of 74 active members, 58 Life members, 13 annual members and 1 dual member, with 2 of our annual members currently delinquent.

We have 6 annual members that for age and health issues or have moved out of the area reported they are not going to continue their membership with the detachment.

**OLYMPIC PENINSULA DET. #531: Ted Streete** – Period: October 2022 through March 2023 October 2022 - Detachment 531's monthly Business Meeting was conducted on October 5, 2022, at VFW Post 2669 in Port Orchard, WA. \*The Leatherneck Honor Guard, comprised of Marines from Detachments 531 and 336, performed Honor Guard duties at Tahoma National Cemetery. \*The Detachment 531 Monthly Breakfast occurred on October 20, 2022, at All-Star Lanes in Silverdale, WA. \*Detachment 531 was selected to host the Department of Washington 2023 Convention in Silverdale, WA during the Department of Washington Fall Conference. \*Detachment 531 received a Meritorious Service Award from the National Junior Vice Commandant for having a membership that was 102.38% higher than the previous fiscal year. November 2022 - \*On November 1, 2022,

volunteer Detachment 531 Marines started distributing Toys for Tots donation boxes in Kitsap and Mason Counties. \*Detachment 531's monthly Business Meeting was conducted on November 2, 2022, at VFW Post 2669 in Port Orchard, WA. The slate of Detachment Officers for CY 2023 was elected at this meeting. \*Detachment 531 Marines joined Marines from Mount Olympus Detachment 897 for a joint celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday on November 5, 2022, at the Seven Cedars Casino in Sequim, WA. \*Detachment 531 Marines met on November 10, 2022, to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday at the Azteca Restaurant in Silverdale, WA. \*Detachment 531 Marines manned a booth at the Kitsap County Veterans Day Celebration at the at the Kitsap Sun Pavilion on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022. \*The Leatherneck Honor Guard, comprised of Marines from Detachments 531 and 336, performed Honor Guard duties at Tahoma National Cemetery. Detachment 531 Marines also rendered honors at two Veteran funerals in Kitsap County. \*The Detachment 531 Monthly Breakfast occurred on December 15, 2022, at All-Star Lanes in Silverdale, WA. \*Detachment 531 Marines participated in many volunteer activities on behalf of the Toys for Tots Campaigns for Kitsap and Mason Counties. December 2022 - \*Detachment 531's monthly Business Meeting was conducted on December 7, 2022, at President's Hall, Kitsap County Fairgrounds in Bremerton, WA. Detachment Officers were sworn in at this meeting. Detachment 531 voted to purchase 40 Toys for Tots Campaign appreciation plaques for businesses in Kitsap and Mason Counties that have consistently provided outstanding support for Toys for Tots. \*Detachment 531 Marines were engaged in picking up Toys for Tots donations throughout Kitsap and Mason Counties. They also participated in many volunteer activities on behalf of the Toys for Tots Campaigns. \*Detachment 531 Marines participated in Toys for Tots distribution events in Kitsap and Mason Counties. \*Marine Bob Schneider was honored to lay a memorial wreath on behalf of the Marine Corps at the Tomb of the Unknowns during the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Ivy Green Cemetery in Bremerton on December 17, 2022. \*The Leatherneck Honor Guard, comprised of Marines from Detachments 531 and 336, performed Honor Guard duties at Tahoma National Cemetery. \*The Detachment 531 Monthly Breakfast occurred on December 15, 2022, at All-Star Lanes in Silverdale, WA. January 2023 - +Detachment 531's monthly Business Meeting was conducted on January 4, 2023, at VFW Post 2669 in Port Orchard, WA. \*The Leatherneck Honor Guard, comprised of Marines from Detachments 531 and 336, performed Honor Guard duties at Tahoma National Cemetery. \*The Detachment 531 Monthly Breakfast occurred on January 19, 2023, at All-Star Lanes in Silverdale, WA. \*The Detachment 531 Annual Report for 2023 was filed with the Washington State Secretary of State's Office on January 3, 2023. February 2023 - \*Detachment 531's monthly Business Meeting was conducted on February 1, 2023, at VFW Post 2669 in Port Orchard, WA. \*The Leatherneck Honor Guard, comprised of Marines from Detachments 531 and 336, performed Honor Guard duties at Tahoma National Cemetery. \*The Detachment 531 Monthly Breakfast occurred on February 16, 2023, at All-Star Lanes in Silverdale, WA. \*Detachment 531 Officers met with Rhonda Sweis at the Silverdale Beach Best Western Plus Hotel on February 8, 2023, to plan for the Department of Washington 2023 Convention. March 2023 - \*Detachment 531's monthly Business Meeting was conducted on March 1, 2023, at VFW Post 2669 in Port Orchard, WA. \*Detachment 531 membership voted to contribute \$100.00 to the Larry Alcantara Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor Larry's support of Veterans over the years and his leadership of the Leatherneck Honor Guard, comprised of Marines from Detachments 531 and 336. \*The Leatherneck Honor Guard performed Honor Guard duties at Tahoma National Cemetery. \*The Detachment 531 Monthly Breakfast occurred on March 16, 2023, at All-Star Lanes in Silverdale, WA. \*Detachment 531 Officers met with Rhonda Sweis at the Silverdale Beach Best Western Plus Hotel on March 8, 2023, to plan for the Department of Washington 2023 Convention. \*Eagle Scout Negative Report. \*Kitsap County Toys for Tots Campaign: 2,763 children were served on December 17, 2022, 19,341 toys were distributed, with each child receiving seven toys, 11,583 toys were collected during this year's toy drive, 634 books were collected during this year's toy drive. \*Mason County Toys for Tots Campaign: Children Supported: 6074, and Toys Distributed: 12,003.

- **MELVIN M SMITH DET. #586: Tim Kruse** – Our Detachment continues to hold monthly meetings at VFW #1435. We currently have 126 members, 73 PLM (70 regular members and 3 associate members). 53 due paying members are due, of which 3 are associate members. Our Honor Guard has been very busy with funerals and even a birthday parade for a 100-year-old Marine Donn Joseph Thompson in February. The birthday parade was featured by the local news. The detachment held our first Marine Birthday Ball dinner without the Reserve Unit. It was attended by many members and their friends and family. The Detachment Spaghetti dinner, fund raiser for Toys for Tots was held in December. Toys for Tots coordinator Jim Brown completed his first year as coordinator. We completed our 2022-2023 M1 raffle March 19 at the Spokane Big Horn show. Starting next raffle April 1, 2023. The fund raiser will add funds for us to support our continued mission of giving back to our community and

veterans in need. The detachment MOY 2023 was named Shauna Howey. Nominations for new officers for the upcoming term were taken to be voted on at our upcoming meeting.

- **COLUMBIA RIVER DET. #826: John Stofiel** – Membership: 79 Members 5 Unpaid, 26 Paid and 48 PLMs. We have retrieved YTD 5 new members, 1 during this reporting period Marine Jeffrey R Crowley. We publish a monthly newsletter ensuring that all our members know what we are doing in the community on their behalf. We lost PLM's Marine David Hancock & Harold G Westby. We were busy with T4T's program in Southwest WA volunteering with our local 6th ESB Reserve unit located in Portland, OR with excellent success. November: we held our annual Marine Corps Birthday celebration reaching a high of 46 attending that included our Dept Sgt at Arms Mark Schildknecht and his bride Diana. Participated in our annual Veterans Day Parade with our LCYM Unit and had recruiting table set up at open house gathering at Fort Vancouver following the Parade. December – Supporting "Wreaths Across America" with our YM program placing wreaths on Veterans Grave sites at local cemetery. No meeting in December. We were represented at our Woman Marine Association Christmas party which went well. January excellent dinner and meeting. February – excellent dinner and meeting (attendance still down) much discussion on how to get our current membership involved with each other and joining in camaraderie. Currently seeking volunteers for the annual wheelchair games being hosted by the VA in Portland, OR 4-9 July. March - Excellent dinner and meeting (attendance up) Our guest speaker was the Commanding officer of Recruiting Station Portland and the SNCOIC of substation Vancouver. Our MOY Committee met and selected our MOY. **ACTIVITIES:** • Meetings: 3rd Friday each month; Post 14 offers dinners 1700- and we follow with our mtgs. at 1800, • We continue to have representation on the Clark County Council Members Veterans Advisory Board (CCVAC) and our Community-Veterans Actions Committee. (CMAC) and the Marine Corps Coordination Council (MCCC) of Oregon and SW Washington. •We have 6MCL and 2 Auxiliary members serving our Veterans at the Portland VA Hospital Vancouver Division, providing 482 volunteer hours. The last couple years have been very restrictive for the Vet's Health Care VAVS members, in that the Covid restrictions on the health Center facilities have prevented most of the activities usually performed by those volunteers. Also, we have been prohibited to have 'Face to face' meetings which has been very aggravating to all. In November, the restrictions began to lift in certain areas for certain activities. Face to face meetings were once again allowed although masks are still required anywhere on all Health Center facilities. We are again receiving requests for financial assistance from the various Dept.'s. In Dec. 2022 VAVS along with a couple other Service Organizations has granted nearly \$2000 for requested assistance from the therapy and other ministries. In support of the Guest Shuttle program, in 2021 the Health Care System purchased two new Carts which were delivered in Jan of 2023. Some modification is required to make them safe to use in the Vancouver Facility traffic and is being addressed currently. I received an inquiry as to procedure for certification for Representative and Deputy Rep. from Det. #336 and was able to assist them with that information. R/s Rex Hopper; \*We are sponsoring a hole at a golf tournament for the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center where we will have Marines on site at our sponsored hole 18. • Our sponsored Lewis & Clark Young Marine Program going well, recent Color Guards for the Portland Trailblazers, recent community service for planting trees, supporting host detachment Corp Birthday ceremony, 17 March YM recruit graduation. YM's fundraising in process currently See's Candy sales. •On May 5, 2023, the OSU NROTC annual Pass in Review will be at the Quad in front of the Memorial Union at 1000. Following the Pass in Review, the Spring Awards Ceremony will be held at 1300 at the Memorial Union Ballroom. Midshipman (Marine Option) Carson P. Brosnan will be presented the Marine Officer's sword by our MCCC representative.
- **MT. ST. HELENS DET. #889: Glen Esperson** – We have been having our regular meetings every month. We have had our nominations for officers and will be voting on them at our April meeting and Installation in May.
- **MT. OLYMPUS DET. #897: Mark Schildknecht** – Detachment currently has 37 members-22 Marines-8 life members; 15 Associates. One Marine member passed away in November 2022. Four members helped with the **Stand Down** held in Port Angeles on October 6th. Quote from Commandant Mark Schildknecht- "There are not many Marks in the world but at one time at the sign in table there were three Marks seated. That is re-Mark able." **Toys for Tots:** A kick-off meeting was held on October 12<sup>th</sup> by the Detachment Toys for Tots coordinator, for the purpose of organizing this year's campaign. Preparation of 135 collection boxes, 150 Banners, posters, pens, and pencils was held in a member's shop on October 31st. A Successful campaign was held once again over the 4 weekends; 10,082; toys distributed to more than 6,000 children; \$36,963.48 in donations; of that, our Detachment Santa collected \$11,000 on his own. **Marine Corps Birthday Celebration:** Another successful MC Birthday celebration was held at 7 Cedars Casino on Saturday November 5th, with several 'out of town' guests in

attendance. The local US Coast Guard Commander was the guest speaker; the local Coast Guard also provided the Color Guard. Two Detachment members attended a second MC Birthday Celebration hosted by the Columbia River Detachment 826 in Vancouver, Wa., held the following Saturday, November 12th. **Veterans Day:** Detachment Honor Guard provided the rifle salute at the Veteran's Day event in Sequim, Wa. A local Marine Corps Col. Was the guest speaker. **Wreathes Across America:** Our Detachment donated \$1500 to pay for the remaining wreaths needed to be placed on Veterans graves at the 10 local cemeteries. The local DAR chapter in charge of this event was most grateful to our Detachment for its contribution and thanked us publicly with a Thank You in the local newspapers, highlighting that we were the 'Gold Sponsor' this year **Detachment Christmas Luncheon:** The annual Christmas luncheon held at a local Port Angeles restaurant had 28 members/spouses in attendance. Great camaraderie, good food and a raffle, made for a fun time in place of the December meeting. **Wreathes Across America Recycling:** Five members helped with the wreathes recycling held on January 14th at a local farm near Port Angeles. The local DAR group is the only group in the nation, who. recycle the wreaths after the event, instead of sending them to a landfill. **Surprise Birthday Celebration at Detachment meeting:** Detachment Marine Don Clayton's 88th birthday fell on our regular Detachment meeting day (February 18<sup>th</sup>), so we surprised him with a birthday cake. His wife was a guest. Don, a CWO4, spent 41 years and 9 months in the Corps. **The Honor Guard** was requested to provide Military Honors at Fort Warden in Port Townsend. Usually, the Honor Guard does not travel out of the county; however, they made an exception. The family was grateful. On the way home, the Honor Guard group of seven stopped at a restaurant in Discovery Bay for lunch, not knowing that credit cards were not accepted. When the bill was presented, only one member had enough cash to pay for it. Instead, the owner of the restaurant bought the members' lunches and made a \$100 donation to Toys for Tots. **Detachment purchases a 2013 Ford Explorer for donation** to the North Olympic Regional Veteran's Housing Network (NORVHN), located in Forks, Wa. 'NORVHN' covers both Clallam and Jefferson counties and offers homeless services to those who have served our country, whether in peacetime or at war. Commandant Mark Schildknecht selected the vehicle in Kent, WA. and drove to Kent to pick it up after the purchase was approved by our Detachment. On the back of the vehicle is the MCL emblem and the following quotation: "Donated by Mount Olympus Detachment 897 Marine Corps League".

- **SKAGIT VALLEY DET. #1043: Robert Olivarez** – We have between 12 and 18 Members attend each Monthly Business meetings; In November we partnered with Detachment 1335 and held a Marine Corps Birthday Celebration at the Skagit Hotel, with more than 75 people attending, including a Marine from Detachment 1451; In December we installed a new group of Officers, electing Marine JR Olivarez Commandant; Regrettably we weren't able to run a Toys for Tots campaign again this past year because there wasn't anyone certified to run the program. We did donate to the Skagit Valley Herald Christmas Fund and the American Legion Christmas Baskets program. We did receive donations for our Christmas fund from several local businesses. We look forward to upcoming events that are right around the corner, happening in our area: Memorial Day is our biggest event of the year-5 flag folding ceremonies; We will also be very active in the JROTC program this year and will be participating with 7 schools this year. Our current strength is: 47 Marines and 3 Associate members for a total of 47 members of our Detachment. We have 22 PLMs currently.
- **YAKIMA KITTITAS VALLEY DET. #1055: Nicholas Myers** – Current detachment strength is 20 regular members, 4 associate members, and 16 Permanent Life members. Information about the detachment can be found on our website: [www.mclyakima.com](http://www.mclyakima.com) or our Facebook page. The detachment held 4 monthly meetings since the Fall Staff meeting. There have been three funeral honor details performed and one Eagle Scout Court of Honor presentation. The detachment was represented at the annual Veterans Stand Down on October 22 for which the detachment donated \$100.00. This was an opportunity to meet many of the veterans in the Yakima area and to encourage Marines and Navy FMF personnel to come on board. The detachment sponsored and presented the annual Veterans Day services at Sarg Hubbard park. Unfortunately, the weather drove attendance way down, but a program was presented and appreciated by the few willing to brave the cold, wet weather. Poppa Battery presented the 247<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Ball on Nov. 4. The program was well done, and it was a great evening of camaraderie and Esprit de Corps. We were invited to participate in the Toys for Tots program this year and over 8000 children in the greater Yakima area were blessed by this program.
- **CPL JOSEPH P. BIER DET. #1119: Jonathan Akers** – Detachment continues monthly business meetings and monthly breakfasts. We have added one new member. We continue to support our community through the Toys for Tots and Young Marines programs. Our Honor Guard has done details at two funerals and Veterans Day since June 2022. We will do an Honor Guard Detail at the Grand Mound Cemetery in Rochester, WA on Memorial Day.

We plan to be involved with Summerfest at Centralia's Borst Park and host an All-Marine Picnic there in August. Lewis County Young Marines - Since October 2022, our Young Marines have been continuing with Drill on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at the Winlock Community Center in Winlock WA. We have had a Young Marine from the Vancouver WA area move to our Unit and 2 new members have joined. We continue to need Adult Volunteers in our Unit. We currently have two that are applying to help as adult volunteers, one Marine and one parent of a Young Marine. Bonnie Holden Executive Officer/Training Officer

- **CAPT. DANIEL B. BARTLE DET #1335: – Bruce Barton – Absent and no report?**
- **COL RICHARD FRANCISCO #1451: – Robert “Bob” Gabelein** – Our detachment held a Birthday Ball on November 11th with a 100-year-old Marine from the Korean War. Also, on November 11th we held a service at our cemetery to honor our veterans with a speaker and rifle salute, taps. We also had a successful Toys for Tots drive starting in November to December. We served approximately 400 children, 2500 toys and 25 bicycles. We will continue to have monthly meetings with no extra duties until February 25th when we will be doing a flag folding for a fallen veteran from the Korean War.

**OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- John Moysiuk – Review of the Registration fee for the Dept. Convention. Motioned that the fee remain the same \$10.00 and a Late fee of \$20.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> George Hilbish, carried.
- Mark Gorman asked for support for the Larry Alcantara scholarship fund hosted by the Puget Sound Detachment. John Stofiel made a motion for the Dept. of WA to donate \$1,000.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> was made, carried.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:**

- **AUG 13<sup>TH</sup>-19<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CONVENTION - 100-YEARS.** Omni Hotel 100 West Oklahoma City Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK. **BOOKING FULL. ALTERNATE HOTEL - Fairfield Inn and Suites**, Oklahoma City Downtown is confirmed as the alternate hotel for the 100-year anniversary and annual convention of the Marine Corps League. Room Reservation Blocks: 8/10/23 – 8/21/23 Special Group Rate: Standard King, Standard Double Queen, or Executive King Suites for \$147/night. Book via link or call 405-604-5050 using special group rate code: MCL. Self-Parking is Off-Site adjacent to City Garage \$10/night.  
<https://www.marriott.com/reservation/rateListMenu.mi> For those of you planning to travel and stay in your RV for the 100th anniversary and annual convention of the Marine Corps League in Oklahoma City, this is a link to a campsite nearby. It is owned by a Marine and has a bar/grill, onsite, called *the Semper Fi Bar and Grill*.  
<https://twinfountainsrvresort.com/reservations/>
- **DEVIL DOGS DESIRING TO BECOME PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS (GOLD RIBBON) ONLY AT A NATIONAL CONVENTION CONTACT YOUR POUND DOG ROBBER EVEN IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE GOING TO GET YOUR PAPERWORK SUBMITTED.**

**CLOSING CEREMONY:** Appropriate. We will meet again at the Department of Washington Annual Convention • Marine Corps League. Department of Washington Annual Convention June 8-10, 2023, Best Western Plus Silverdale Beach Hotel 3073 NW Bucklin Hill RD Silverdale, WA 98383 Phone: (360) 698-1000 Room Rates are \$134.00 plus tax Request for upgraded room are \$144.00 plus tax Reservations to be made by May 17, 2023

**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 41150 Olympia, WA 98504-1150 800-562-2308  
VAC TOWN HALL and WOMEN VETERAN FORUM**

**February 1, 2023, Minutes**

**9:00 am – 10:00 am Women Veterans Forum    10:00 am – 12:30 pm VAAC Town Hall  
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER 15005 NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street Vancouver, WA 98682**

**Welcome, Introduction of VAAC Members**

**Paul Herrera, Chair of the VAAC, gave his welcome and Chuck Wharton did the invocation. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance**

**Introduction of Dignitaries: Councilmember Sarah Fox thank the VAAC for having their first Veterans Town Hall in Vancouver David Puente Jr, Director gave an update on WDVA Programs and Services as well as shared that our legislatures are in session and our agency have a few veterans' bills that are being heard.**

**Portland VA**

- David L. Holt, Director VA Portland Health Care System Director Holt gave a briefing on Portland VAMC – he encourages veterans and service providers who attended the meeting to reach out to veterans they know and encourage them to apply for their earned benefits.
- Rachel Scarpelli, Associate Chief Nurse Executive, Community Care Before and during the pandemic the demand for Community care went up. Veterans are frustrated as it takes a long time to get referrals for community care after their VA PCM submitted the referral. Veterans are also frustrated about the medical billing – often there is miscommunication between the community provider and the VA about reimbursement for the cost care from the community. VA is working around the clock to get this issue resolved but still ask veterans for their patience while this issue is being worked on. One thing to keep in mind is that if a Veteran is having a medical emergency, the veteran does not have to wait for a referral or authorization, but it is the veteran's responsibility to call the Community Care Office in the VA to notify them that they had a medical emergency. If unsure, veteran can go to this website to learn more about Community Care: <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/>
- Kari Stevens, LCSW, Caregiver Support Program Manager – below is the link to caregiver program – what is it about, who qualifies, what are the requirements, where to apply, etc. For a veteran to qualify for this program/benefit – please connect with your respective Caregiver Support Program manager from your VA Medical Center of Jurisdiction <https://www.caregiver.va.gov/>

**Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (Housing, financial assistance, food insecurity and claims.)**

Judy Russel, Chief Operations Officer, CCVAC below are the links to the Clark County Veterans Assistant Center as well as the link to veterans' resources that are available in Clark County. <https://clark.wa.gov/community-services/veterans-links>  
<https://clark.wa.gov/media/document/103646>

**WDVA Program Overview Rafael Lozano**

Below is copy of PPT presentations that outlines the different programs and services that WDVA offers for Veterans and Their Families

**WDVA Digital Navigator Program Jeff Powell, Program Manager-** WDVA received a grant from the Department of Commerce to implement Digital Navigator Program – this program is targeted to veterans and/or their families who live in rural areas. This program would provide chrome book, smart phone, and internet access as well as education on how to navigate the internet. This program is launching soon.

**Shellie Willis, Chair, Women Veterans Advisory Committee** - Shellie conducted a listening session an hour before the Veterans Town Hall. Women veterans who attended gave some feedback /suggestions/recommendations regarding issues and services gaps that women veterans encounter. WDVA Suicide Prevention & Awareness •Lack of Veterans Benefits Specialist to assist veterans and their families in filing claim (initial, increase, etc.). Due to PACT ACT the increase in benefits filing went up and Veterans Benefits Specialist are in need. WDVA Director will work with Clark County Veterans Center for a solution.