



# SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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## FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

The next in-person General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday **February 2nd at 7:30** (our usual time.) Join us at the American Legion, Post 351, 46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica, always on the first Thursday of the month. The telephone number to the Post is (586) 731-9833.

## DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY



Robert Dybowski  
Eric Esau  
Michael Giffer  
Donald Moeller  
Stephen Patercsak

Joan Pfaff  
Catherine Samuel  
John Sternicki  
Gerald Susko  
Gary Titus

## NEW MEMBERS REPORTING IN



At the January General Membership Meeting, two new members were sworn in to the Detachment: Marine James Thiede and Marine Vince Pellevito.



*Welcome aboard Marines!*

*WE HOPE YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH THE DETACHMENT WILL BE  
A MEMORABLE ONE*

James Thiede  
Joined the Marines in 1979  
Boot camp MCRD San Diego  
1st MOS 6056 - Hydraulic Mechanic on C130's  
Cherry Point  
Transitioned to MSG embassy duty, Lisbon Portugal  
And Peking China  
While on duty in China he got to meet President  
Reagan, Alexander Haig - Secretary of State,  
George Schultz - Secretary of State,  
Jeanne Kilpatrick - Ambassador to the United Nations  
Left the Marines in 1986 as a sergeant

Vince Pellevito - WW2  
Joined the Marines in 1945  
Boot camp - Parris Island

MOS - Infantry  
Member of 1st Marine Brigade  
Camp Lejuene  
Cherry Point  
Guam  
Japan  
Saw duty as guard at Naval Prison Portsmouth NH  
Discharged from Marines 1949 with rank of Corporal.

### **COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE**

I would like to say it was great seeing two new members join last month in January. So, if we start breaking smaller tasks among more people it gets done and everyone contributes.

We will be distributing the magnets that I have mentioned in the previous meetings, to post onto your refrigerators. These are for family to contact the League, if need be, for support of a lost loved one so they can receive their honors. I want to personally thank Gary Titus Jr. for the suggestion.

Please keep your ideas coming in, no matter how off the wall they might seem, we can discuss them. Also, I'd appreciate if you would let me know the reason why each of you joined the Marine Corps League and what you wish to get out of it. I want to make it the best year ever for having events to benefit veterans and to have successful family events to learn about each other. This way we can use each other's expertise in our personal life. Think about it. I would rather give money to someone I know to do a task than to deal with a company I have no relationship with.

Everyone has my email or phone number (find it on the back page if not.) Please call me with any concerns. I am here to lead by example and make things even better than what we have in place currently.

In February we will be cleaning out the closet in the Post to get things better organized. I need all officers to please be at the meeting February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1830. Please contact me if you have a conflict.

*Steve August, Commandant*

### **SQUARED AWAY WITH THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

This month's lesson is a principle well known in the League and other veteran clubs, but is often violated, and that is using offensive language while the Bible is open during meetings. This rule extends to gestures that are also well known to be offensive.

My first Platoon Sergeant in the Fleet Marine Force was a hard-charging Gunny who formerly served as a DI and could curse with the best of them to get his point across. He was a smaller man in stature, but his

temperament could easily intimidate the biggest of us in his platoon. Nobody dared challenge the Gunny.

Despite his usual nature, there was one moment that remains in my memory concerning his respect for religious matters even though he was not a Christian. The Gunny was explaining some things to his platoon about the day's events when the battalion chaplain came by. Gunny was using his usual colorfully descriptive language, but then gave pause to apologize to the chaplain for saying such words in his presence. He later reprimanded another Marine for not being more respectful and quieter during the chaplain's prayer with us because of what these things mean to others.

Marines, we all need to take a note from the Gunny. Regardless of personal beliefs on religious matters, certain things are considered holy or sacred to others among us and we need to be respectful of this. Therefore, when the Bible is open during our meetings, let's be mindful of what we say.

*Justin Kane, Sergeant-at-Arms*

### **HONOR GUARD NEWS**

I am looking to expand the honor guard to provide a 4 Marine Color Guard, 3 to 7 Marine Rifle detail and numerous alternates to support both.

If interested, contact Frank Petricevich, [fpetricevich@gmail.com](mailto:fpetricevich@gmail.com) or (586) 531 5726.

### **AUXILIARY NEWS**

It's well into 2023, but I still find myself saying "Happy New Year" to friends and family whom I haven't seen since 2022. It's a nice greeting and always warmly welcomed, so on behalf of the Macomb County Marine Corps League Auxiliary, "Happy New Year" to one and all.

**As a reminder to our Auxiliary members, there is no February meeting.**

We resume our normal meeting schedule in March. There is a slight caveat to that: as long as the weather permits. It seems to me that we get a pesky blizzard at the beginning of March. It's like winter just doesn't want to give up. We'll see what happens, but as of now, see you on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Though we haven't had a meeting, the Auxiliary is already making fundraising plans. Our next event will be a Meat Raffle. We are doing this along with another group, Women's Life, Chapter 911. Women's Life, Chapter 911 uses their fundraising ability to support veteran issues, the homeless, programs for abused and neglected kids and more. Their mission and ours coincide in many ways, so it's a good collaboration.

What is a Meat Raffle? Obviously, it's a raffle where the prizes are meat. Here are a few more explanatory details about this fundraiser. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 20, 2023. Doors open at 5:00 pm, dinner is at 6:00 pm and the raffle starts promptly at 6:45 pm. Tickets for the event are \$15 per person which includes a chili dinner and 10 tickets for the raffle, one for each round in the raffle.

There are 10 rounds in the raffle with each round having 10 prizes. Each prize is one pound of meat. The meat is either chicken, ground beef, steaks, ribs, pork chops and the like. In the pack of tickets received at the door with your \$15 entrance fee, are 10 tickets, one for each round of the raffle. You can buy more tickets for each round throughout the evening at \$1 per ticket. All meat is packaged and frozen and given out at the end of the evening, so don't worry about keeping defrosting meat at your table. The meat is provided by Nitsche's Meat Market at 23 Mile and Van Dyke. Nitsche's provides a very high-quality product.

As with any fundraiser, there are costs. It's up to our Auxiliary to find 6 sponsors that are willing to donate \$100 each for the purchase of the meat. Woman's Life will find 6 sponsors as well for a total of 12 \$100 sponsors. This will cover the cost of the meat. It's great advertising for each sponsor. The sponsor will be acknowledged at the beginning of the round and will be posted on the raffle's social media's platform. Women's Life, Chapter 911 is very good at this and will handle the social media for us. So, if you do business with a store, restaurant, local shop, or the like, think of them as a potential sponsor. We'll have a flyer soon to use as we contact these businesses. Between now and May we have a lot of work to do. More info will follow. Our next Meat Raffle meeting is on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 4 pm at our American Legion Post.

For the sick & distressed in our Auxiliary: Please keep April Tilton in your prayers during her recovery from her illness. We're thinking of you, April. Get well soon, we miss you. That's it for now. Stay warm, drive carefully and stay safe.

Semper Fidelis,  
*Irene Spooner*  
*Treasurer, Macomb County MCLA*

### **FISHER HOUSE, DETROIT**

We all know what a Ronald McDonald House is and how it serves the families of kids undergoing treatment in Children's Hospital in downtown Detroit and other children's hospitals around the country. Fisher House serves the same purpose for veteran families. Linda May wrote an article in the January 22, 2023 Macomb Daily giving more details from an interview with Mark Spooner, member of the Vietnam Veterans of

America, Detroit Chapter 9 and Macomb County Detachment member.

The Fisher house is a free place to stay for the families of active-duty military members while they are being treated in a VA Medical Center hospital. The Detroit VA recently acquired property at 7618 Woodward Ave. for the site of a new VA Detroit Fisher House, less than two miles from the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center.



Mark Spooner, public information officer of the Vietnam Veterans of America, #9 Detroit, organized a meeting at the Detroit Masonic Temple on January 28, 2023 featuring keynote speaker, Kate Melcher, executive director of Fisher House Michigan. "We've been looking forward to this announcement since 2018, and we are grateful for financial support from Detroiters and Michiganders from every county in our state. Their support will be life-changing for the thousands of veteran families who will stay in the 20 suite VA Detroit Fisher house for years to come," said Melcher.

Kate Melcher worked for the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Senate until 9/11 when she enlisted in the U.S. Army. She was an Apache helicopter pilot, and a Legislative Liaison Officer for the U.S. Army National Guard. She and the FHM board of directors raise funds and awareness for Fisher Houses. She was 2018 Michigan Veteran of the Year, and, the Daughters of the American Revolution named her an Outstanding Woman in American History.

Veterans' groups throughout the state have supported the Detroit Fisher House project with their donations. There is a Fisher House in Ann Arbor, but now the Detroit VA will have one of their own.



**MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT**  
 Department of Michigan  
 Marine Corps League  
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