



SKUTTLEBUTT
NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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JANUARY 2023
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JANUARY MEETING NOTICE

The next in-person General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday **January 5th 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 JANUARY



- Steve August**
- David Cunningham**
- Pat Horton**
- Dean Miles**
- Vincent Peeper**
- Michael Suhy**
- Dale Verhaeghe**
- Joseph Wauldron**



Pictured above (surrounding the donated Toys for Tots) are most of the attendees at the Christmas party held Dec. 1st



COMMANDANT’S MESSAGE

I would like to say I hope all had and will have a great holiday season. I am looking for a great and productive New Year. We will continue to have the family events as we did last year, but we need more participation than we have had in the past. It is a great time to spend with your Marine Corps brother or sister. Please continue to bring great ideas to me to see if we can get them done. I want to make it the best year ever, but need all your help in doing so.

Please see this note from Department level about Camp Lejeune:
 I recently have been made aware of law firms and attorneys actively pursuing information for Marines that served at Camp Lejeune. As a Department, we have access to a lot of Marines’ names and addresses throughout the state such as our quarterly Department Roster. Keep in mind that any Detachment, Zone or Department Roster is an internal document and needs to be treated as such.

Remind your membership that a lot of Detachment information needs to stay in the Detachment even though some information is readily available from websites, social media platforms and other sources.

The Department recommends that any questions

concerning Camp Lejeune water be handled through the VA.

Also, on VA benefits: We want to notify you VA erroneously offset compensation and pension benefits for some medical copays due to a system error in November. VA is researching how many Veterans have been impacted and what caused the system problem. While VA believes the system problem in November was an isolated incident, we are conducting a thorough review to ensure the problem will not reoccur. Once we identify all Veterans impacted, we plan to immediately take corrective action. VA has contact information on our website (VA Debt Management | Veterans Affairs) should Veterans have any questions on their accounts. (Kimberly M. Mitchell, Senior Advisor)
Semper Fi,

Steve August, Commandant

SENIOR VICE MESSAGE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. As we look forward to 2023, it's time to start thinking, golf outing. This January we will hold our first meeting of the golf outing committee, time and place to be determined.

Although I did not have a hand in the outing this year, I understand that for our first year, we really didn't do that bad. That being said, we want bigger/better in 2023. It will be imperative that we all spread the word, when the word comes down of course. We plan on having the particulars hammered out next month. Stay tuned. See you all next year, carry on!!

Dean Miles, Senior Vice Commandant

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I pray this newsletter finds you and your families doing well after our white Christmas. As we enter a new year, I wanted to make you aware of an opportunity this spring to go to Marine Barracks Washington to see the famed Evening Parade.

I had the incredible experience of serving as the chaplain for 8th & I and would often see MCL detachments travel to DC for the parade. A barracks officer I served with is now the XO and I reached out to him about our detachment making the trip this coming parade season. Some of the itinerary ideas include visits to Arlington National Cemetery, the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, and various memorials along the Mall. We are in the initial planning stages and need to know who is interested in making the trip. If this is a trip you'd like to be a part of please let me know.

Jim Dewey, Detachment Chaplain

AUXILIARY NEWS

Big Reminder: NO AUXILIARY MEETINGS IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY!!!!!!!

I wanted to get that out of the way before providing any more Auxiliary News.

Our December meeting was a very productive one. It's always a short, abbreviated meeting, but we really pack in the work because that's when we decide which groups will receive our year end donations. In other words, just like Santa, we work all year raising funds and then we hand out the "gifts". Here's our 2022 list of recipients:

VVA #154: Food Pantry
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society
Fallen & Wounded Soldiers Fund
Michigan Veterans Foundation
Vets Returning Home
Southwest Solutions, Veteran Services & Housing
Wreaths Across America
Miracle Quilts
Chesterfield Veterans Home
Post 351, American Legion Food Pantry

We had a discussion about Miracle Quilts at our meeting. This charity delivers handmade quilts to hospitalized veterans around the county. Our check to them wasn't cashed from last year and we were concerned that Miracle Quilts dissolved. I called the head of the group, Carol Carroll, directly. I was happy to learn that they are going as strong as ever. Apparently, our check was lost in the mail. She was so thrilled to hear from me and so grateful for our support. Besides quilts, the group makes other types of bedding and pajamas for the children of hospitalized veterans, too. They are a great bunch of volunteers, truly dedicated to making a difference for our hospitalized vets.

The Christmas party was a fun, fun evening. The dinner was catered by American House and as usual it was delicious. And the desserts were just super! We are ever so grateful for their continued support. The American house crew that delivers it does such a wonderful job of setting it up for us. God bless them all. Besides eating our fill and socializing, the Detachment and the Auxiliary gathered a bunch of toys for Toys for Tots. Everyone was really, really generous. No one wants to see any child go without some fun gifts this time of year. I can truthfully say our toys will bring plenty of smiles to many children's faces this year. Thank you to everyone who brought in a donation.

Another reminder to Auxiliary members: after the holidays is a great time to work on your Americanism, Child Welfare, Civics, and VAVS reports for President Maureen Ailor. If you have any questions about what activities of yours can be included as Americanism,

VAVS, etc., contact Maureen. She would be more than happy to answer any questions. The forms can be found on the National MCLA website.

The Mid-Winter Rally takes place in Jackson, Michigan this year from January 20-21, 2023 at the Jackson Holiday Inn. There is more information about registration on the Department of MI, MCLA website. This is always a fun event with many opportunities to meet other MCLA members from Auxiliaries across the state. Our Auxiliary will be making their donation to Operation Little Angel. This fund aids children who have been traumatized by violence.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. Be careful as you travel. Keep in touch with other members during our winter break and we'll see everyone back in March. (weather permitting)

Semper Fidelis,
Irene Spooner
Treasurer, Macomb County MCLA

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

You may or may not have noticed from this year's video birthday message from the Commandant of the Marine Corps some video clips of Chinese and North Korean troops. This is the first time I can recall the Corps specifically spelling out a potential foe. It made me a call a conversation I had with a Marine Officer of an amtrac unit who told me who the Marines were focusing their training for, the same characters in our birthday video. We all hope and pray that this does not come to fruition, and if so, that be quick and the US victorious. But what if it does not?

A prolonged conflict will exhaust our active and reserve forces. What do we have to draw from?
Read on.

Traditionally, 95% or more of enlistees are high school graduates. The DOD allows 4% of recruits to come from the lowest tier, category 4 (not the sharpest pencil in the box!). Studies show that 71% of the 34 million seventeen to twenty-four-year-olds in the United States could not meet the military's entry requirements, most often due to

- Drugs
- Obesity
- Physical problems
- Mental health problems
- Misconduct
- Aptitude

Of those that could qualify, less than 1% have any interest in serving. That translates to all four of our Armed Services competing for the same three hundred to four hundred thousand young Americans. Studies by the military find that 80% of current enlistees have one or more persons in their family tree that have served,

suggesting that military service has become somewhat of a family business.

For the Marine Corps, which had to reduce its recruitment goal this year, moving to more online recruitment strategies and increasing access to high schools may help improve the service's recruitment numbers, said Michael Strobl, USMC acting deputy commandant for manpower and reserve affairs.

"The reality is the Marine Corps is facing significant recruiting challenges," Strobl said. "Residuals from COVID, a very tight labor market, historic lows in qualification rates, propensity and the public perception of the military and a fragmented advertising environment have made it increasingly difficult to recruit." Pray for Peace.

Greg Pawlik
Detachment Historian

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2 1930 General Membership mtg

The Department of Michigan will convene the Mid-Winter Rally at the Holiday Inn, Jackson Michigan on January 20-22. The Cascades Detachment #149 is hosting.

American Red Cross blood drive. December 29, 12:00-6:00 at the American Legion 351, upstairs hall.



MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
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 Marine Corps League
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