



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



Steve August, Detachment Commandant – (586) 823-4454 – email: wildone48038@yahoo.com
 Alice Lyon Auxiliary President – (586-216-0523) – email: alicelyon88@gmail.com

JANUARY 2024

Elaine Arnold, Newsletter Editor – (248) 606-2600 email: elaine48178@gmail.com
 Detachment WEB Site: www.macombmarines.com

Marines & Auxiliary Members:

DECEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday **January 4th at the usual meeting time of 7:30 pm**. 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



**Shirley Cichoski
Anthony Jablonowski
Lorraine Kozlowski**

**Garry Music
Samuel Thomas
John Szajna**

COMMANDANT’S MESSAGE

I want to say I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. It was great spending time with those of you that came to the Christmas Party. I am not sure on the count of the toys, but it looked like a record number that was brought to the party.

We are going to have an Axe throwing on Feb 10th at Total Axe throwing location on Groesbeck Hwy at 12pm. I am working on the new golf outing items for a gold course for this coming year. I am working on guest speakers to change things up. If you wish to see something different, please let me know.

Steve August, Commandant



Santa gets a hug from Joan Pfaff surrounded by Officers of the Detachment Auxiliary - Maureen Ailor, Loretta Balderson, Alice Lyon, Irene Spooner, Nancy Haase and Christine Tonegatto-Salo.



The youngest attendee at the Christmas party, adorable Hazel Blumenthal-Hopp with mom Amber.





This (silent) flag folding ceremony took place at the Detachment Christmas party honoring the memory of Frank Kowaleski who served 1967- 69 as a Fire Director Controlman with Sharpshooter Rifle Qualifications. Pictured is his son Jason, whose fiancé previously had requested this observance unbeknownst to him.

Allegedly there is no official flag folding ceremony or official meaning to each of the folds but there are several suggestions as for each fold, such as:

FLAG-FOLDING SCRIPT #1

As the flag is folded, these words are recited at each fold.

Fold 1: The 13 stripes represent the original 13 states: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island

Fold 2: The 50 stars represent our 50 United States of America

Fold 3: "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death", Patrick Henry

Fold 4: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman", Thomas Paine

Fold 5: "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal. They are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", Declaration of Independence

Fold 6: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America", United States Constitution

Fold 7: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances", First Amendment

Fold 8: "The basis of our political system is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government", George Washington

Fold 9: "My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!" Thomas Jefferson

Fold 10: "Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal", Abraham Lincoln

Fold 11: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door", Emma Lazarus, inscription on the Statue of Liberty

Fold 12: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country", John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Fold 13: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character", Martin Luther King, Jr.

AUXILIARY NEWS

I missed putting the December Auxiliary News in the Skuttlebutt last month. A big "mea culpa" to our Auxiliary and all who missed it. So, this month is a recap of November as well as December events.

Before I go into our November activities, I want to remind all Auxiliary members: **There is no Auxiliary meeting in January or February.**

Our celebration of the 248th birthday of our beloved Marine Corps was a resounding success! As

walked around the hall, it struck me how unique the conversation is. From table to table I heard the names of far-off places, names like Khe Sanh, Fallujah, Kandahar, Belleau Wood and more. These stories, some personally experienced by the teller, or historic tales of the Corps itself added to the wonderful tradition the Marines have in celebrating the birth of America's most unique and fearless fighting force. You could feel the pride in the room as this group of Marines gathered again to honor this legacy.

This event couldn't have been the success it was without the help of our Detachment and Auxiliary members and supporters.

Once again, the birthday cake was created by Amy Kane, so thank you for doing this important task. To those of you who attended this Birthday Party, thank you for helping us celebrate and honor the men and women who make up the United States Marine Corps. Semper Fidelis!

The day after the Marine Corps Birthday is Veterans Day. Many of us attended the wreath laying ceremony at Clinton Grove Cemetery and then after that, the ceremony in Mt. Clemens at the Veterans Memorial by the fire station. It was a beautiful day to be outside, no rain and plenty of sunshine. The wreaths were placed by Justin Kane, Detachment Jr. Vice Commandant and Alice Lyon, Auxiliary President. Commandant Steve August was the Master of Ceremonies. As Marines do, Steve rose to the occasion even though the sound equipment wasn't there. All and all it was a solemn and beautiful ceremony with Detachment Chaplain Jim Dewey leading all who attended in prayer.

Our December meeting was our Christmas Party. Thanks to all for bringing an unwrapped toy for the annual Toys for Tots collection. Since this was a party, we had a shortened meeting followed by a lovely dinner and an evening of socializing. Even though this was a shortened meeting for us, it's was a very important one. After a year of fundraising effort, we now make our annual donations to our favorite charities. All of us in the Auxiliary need to be proud of the thousands of dollars we've donated over the years to Marine, military, veteran and community charities. What each one of us do towards this effort is a positive reflection on all of us.

This year's Christmas Party was catered by American House. Roxanne and her crew did a wonderful meal again. We're so very grateful to American House for being so generous.

On Saturday, December 14, 2023 we participated in Wreaths Across America at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township. Our Auxiliary was

represented by our President, Alice Lyon, Jr. Vice, Maureen Ailor and Treasurer, Irene Spooner. Our donation purchased 10 wreaths for the veteran grave sites this year. The Veteran Monument at Resurrection is well worth visiting with each service represented by a large granite slab with the engraved service emblem on it and the service flag flying behind it. The guest speakers all gave inspiring speeches commemorating the men and women who served our country whose graves would be marked with a beautiful Christmas wreath. Even though it was a pleasant day weather-wise for December, no snow, I'm glad the speeches weren't any longer. There were hundreds of people there including several Scout troops to place the wreaths. It was truly heartwarming to see such a wonderful turn-out.



Alice, Maureen, Irene

It's been a busy year for the Auxiliary and a good one, too. So, it's time to take a break over the next couple of months. There are no Auxiliary meetings in January or February. We will resume our meeting schedule in March. That is weather permitting, as long as Mother Nature doesn't send a massive blizzard just when we're looking forward to spring.

To all Auxiliary and Detachment Members, a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Have a peaceful and safe holiday season filled with goodwill and joy.

Irene Spooner
Treasurer/Secretary, Macomb County MCLA

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

The History of Embassy Duty

Since the formal creation of the MSG program in December 1948, its unique partnership with the State Department has developed into one of the strongest in the history of U.S. civilian-military relations.

The State Department's relationship with the U.S. Marine Corps dates back to 1798, and for more than 200 years, Marines have been engaged in some way with U.S. diplomacy. U.S. Marines have escorted diplomatic personnel, rescued and defended U.S. embassies and consulates, and provided notable support to U.S. diplomatic efforts throughout our nation's history.

World Wars I and II: U.S. Marine Corps noncommissioned officers acted as diplomatic couriers safeguarding the delivery of diplomatic and confidential mail for the State Department throughout World War I, operating in hazardous locations, often with little protection other than their sidearms.

The origins of the present-day MSG program are rooted in World War II, when a 60-man Marine detachment was assigned to guard the U.S. embassy in war-torn London.

Post World War II: In December 1948, the U.S. Marine Corps agreed to provide a force to protect U.S. embassies and consulates throughout the world. The U.S. Marine Corps identified volunteers to fill these assignments, and the MSG program was formed in 1949. When the MSG program became operational in 1949 with the deployment of 83 Marines. Since then, the MSG program has become a prestigious assignment in the U.S. Marine Corps.

2013: President Barack Obama authorized the addition of 1,000 MSGs as part of the 2013 Defense Authorization Act, which increased the number of MSGs to approximately 2,450 at more than 150 diplomatic posts worldwide.

SOURCE; US Department of State

Greg Pawlik, Detachment Historian



Marines and Family,

Last year I challenged my kids to ride a bike (stationary or road) from New York City to San Francisco, 2750 miles. I finished the ride! I started on January 1st and finished on November 10, 2023, which by the way, is my birthday.

Is anyone up to doing an instate challenge? Plan a ride from Utica to Traverse City, or Detroit to Los Angeles.

Need any help, don't be afraid to give me a call 586-263-3448.

Norm Pfaff, Detachment and Dept of MI Past Commandant

HONOR GUARD



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 or (586) 531 5726

2024 Honor Guard Members:

William Barron, Frank Petricevich,

Norm Pfaff, Victor Rocosky

Alternates: Donald Lyon, Bruce Hartung

I want to put together a 3 – 7 man firing detail. See me if interested.

The League will pay for part of your uniforms. See me for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 19-20, 2024 Department of Michigan, Midwinter Conference, hosted by Montford Point Detachment 158 and Downriver Detachment 153. Detroit/Dearborn Doubletree by Hilton Dearborn, Michigan

The League needs you to help support these worthwhile events. Sign Up Today!



MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
 Department of Michigan
 Marine Corps League
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 Mailing Address:
 14656 Eastport Drive
 Sterling Heights, MI 48313-5325

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Commandant	Steve August	(586) 823-4454	Auxiliary President	Alice Lyon	(586) 216-0523
Senior Vice Commandant	Mark Spooner	(586) 466-5708	Senior Vice President	Loretta Balderson	(810) 392-2590
Junior Vice Commandant	Justin Kane	(248) 750-7046	Junior Vice President	Maureen Ailor	(810) 310-6081
Judge Advocate	Christine Tonegatto-Salo	(586) 801-0081	Judge Advocate	Joan Pfaff	(586) 263-3448
Adjutant/Paymaster	Don Lyon	(586) 532-8225	Chaplain	Nancy Haase	(586) 992-9961
Chaplain	James Dewey	(910) 333-2224	Secretary	Irene Spooner	(586) 466-5708
Sergeant at Arms	Victor Rocosky	(810) 282-1213	Treasurer	Irene Spooner	(586) 466-5708
Editor, Newsletter	Elaine Arnold	(248) 606-2600			
Honor Guard Commander	Frank Petricevich	(586) 531-5726			
Quartermaster	Available				
Deputy Quartermaster	John Sternicki	(586) 468-1014			
Historian	Greg Pawlik	(586) 979-2986			
Web Sergeant	Don Lyon	(586) 532-8225			

Change of Address: Send to the Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster at:

14656 Eastport Drive
 Sterling Heights, MI 48313
 Or email to Macomb.marines@gmail.com

New Address (please print):

Name _____

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