



National Headquarters "www.mcInational.org"

Montana Department "www.montanamcl.org"

BITTERROOT VALLEY DETACHMENT NEWS & EVENT PLANNER

19 August 2020

The Marine Corps League, a 501.C.4 Veterans Organization, is the only Marine organization that is chartered by Congress. The purposes and principles of the League and the Bitterroot Valley Detachment are to foster camaraderie amongst Marines, support Marine units and families, develop patriotism where we live, support our fellow veterans, and support related activities within our respective communities.

THE BITTERROOT VALLEY DETACHMENT MEETS EVERY 4TH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 1930, AT THE EAGLES LODGE, 125 N. 2ND St., HAMILTON, MONTANA

Members, families, and friends meet informally every 1ST Saturday of the month for an SOS Breakfast at the Hangar Café, Ravalli County Airport, Hamilton, Montana

BITTERROOT VALLEY DETACHMENT IN PROCESS OF RETURNING TO NORMAL AS COVID-19 CONDITIONS CHANGE

In late May, 2020, the Bitterroot Valley Detachment began initiating some steps away from total quarantine, while focusing on the safety and well-being of members. Under the direction of Joe Bagnall, a handful of members assisted in the decoration of Veteran graves at the Victor Cemetery. There were 345 Flags placed on the Saturday before Memorial Day.

On Memorial Day, the Honor Guard participated in commemorative events in Hamilton at the Doughboy Statue, the Main Street Bridge, and the Riverview Cemetery in conjunction with the Hamilton American Legion. In addition, the Honor Guard as re-initiated participation in Veteran Funerals.

Regular general meetings were re-initiated in June and July to check precautions and advisability of group assembly as well as conduct minimal business activities. The Eagles' Lodge requires masks for entry and our meeting area can handle personal distancing. After the initial meetings, it would appear that precautions can be maintained for meeting purposes.

On August 1ST, the first monthly SOS breakfast was held at the Hangar Café. Again, masks are required for entry, and adequate table spacing appears to qualify as precautionary.

We hope that our membership and guests will check out our meetings and activities as they feel comfortable in doing so, realizing that everyone's situation and concerns are different.

Our next general meeting is Thursday, 27 August 2020, 1930 (7:30 p.m.) at the Eagles' Lodge, 125 N. 2ND St., Hamilton. Special guest is Marine Corps League Montana Department Commandant Harry Armstrong (from Bozeman). SOS Breakfast is planned for Saturday, 5 September 2020, 0900 (9:00 a.m.) at the Hangar Café, Ravalli County Airport, Hamilton. It's an informal get together and family, friends, potential members are invited.

ANNUAL DUES DEADLINE IS 31 AUGUST 2020

If you are an annual member of the Marine Corps League (in otherwords, not a Life Member), annual dues of \$35.00 are due, and must be received by the Detachment Paymaster no later than 31 August 2020. The Marine Corps League initiated a one time per year for all dues payments in 2018 for all members (rather than on a members anniversary date in joining the League). That date is August 31ST every year.

In order to continue your status of "member in good standing," make your check payable to "MCL 937" for \$35.00 and bring to the August general meeting, or mail before the deadline to:



Marvin Parker, MCL937 Paymaster
426 Ricketts Rd., Hamilton, MT 59840

DETACHMENT OFFICERS 2020-2021

Elected Officers

Commandant :

JIM MERRITT



406-363-0296; sgtcrock@q.com

(MCL: #937 Marine of the Year; MODD: Past #329 Pound Keeper, Devil Dog, Pound Dog of the Year, PITA)

Senior Vice Commandant:

CHRIS FERGUSON



406-375-5585; crispy610@charter.net

(MODD: #329 Pound Keeper, Pedigreed Devil Dog)

Junior Vice Commandant:

BOB GRALER



406-381-4428; bgraler@gmail.com

(MCL: #937 Marine of the Year; MCL: Past Montana Commandant, Past #937 Commandant; MODD: Past #329 Pound Keeper, Pedigreed Devil Dog, Montana Pack Dog of the Year, #329 Pound Dog of the Year, PITA)

Judge Advocate:

JOE ROGISH



484-643-3982; joseph.rogish@yahoo.com

(MCL: #937 Marine of the Year; MCL: Past #937 Commandant; MODD: Devil Dog)

Junior Past Commandant:

WAYNE MOONEY



406-381-0387; mooney.irish@gmail.com

(MCL: Past #937 Commandant; MODD: Past Montana Pack Leader, Past #329 Pound Keeper, Pedigreed Devil Dog, Montana Pack Dog of the Year, #329 Dog of the Year)

Appointed Officers

Adjutant:

MEADE PHILLIPS



520-991-6386; USMCmeadeMCL@aol.com

(MCL: #597 Marine of the Year; MCL: Past SW Div. National Vice Commandant, Past California Commandant, Past #597, #930, #937 Commandant; MODD: Past Montana Pack Leader, Past #272 Pound Keeper, Pedigreed Devil Dog, 272 Dog of Year)

Paymaster:

MARVIN PARKER



406-363-1458; Jagman_36@bitterroot.com

(MCL: Montana Dept. Marine of the Year, #937 Marine of the Year; Chapel of 4 Chaplains Merit Award; MCL: Past #937 Commandant; MODD: Past #329 Pound Keeper, Devil Dog, Montana Pack Dog of the Year, #329 Pound Dog of the Year)

Sergeant-at-Arms:

ERIK HOOVER





406-207-8039; hoover1911@gmail.com

Chaplain:

CHRIS FERGERSON

406-375-5585 ; Crispy610@charter.net

Info, Communications, Web Sergeant: <OPEN>

Committees/Projects

Marine4Life & Det. Service Officer: JOE ROGISH

Recruiting & Retention: BOB GRALER

Honor Guard / Color Guard: CHRIS FERGUSON

Marine of the Year/Awards Committee: JOE ROGISH

Cemetery Veteran Grave Decoration: JOE BAGNALL

406-961-5410; Mmb.Montana@gmail.com

Detachment Shooting Team: LUIS VALDEZ

406-702-0264; Lmvdz@aol.com

Toys for Tots: JOE ROGISH

Marine Corps Birthday Ball: <OPEN>

Historian/Americanism: <OPEN>

Detachment Social Events: <OPEN>

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS CHALLENGES

Bitterroot Valley Detachment: The recent precautions required for the Covid-19 virus have necessitated changes in how we accomplish our objectives and keep everyone informed. It has highlighted some short comings that we have in communicating effectively.

Our primary detachment communication vehicle has been by email for meeting and event notification and meeting minutes. Potential members were included, as well as newspaper meeting notifications. It was supplemented last year with postcard (when available from the USPS) mailings for those who do not have email, and a periodic newsletter such as this one. While mailings should cover 100% of our membership, the disadvantage is the time required for preparation, costs associated with preparation for mailing and postage, lack of time sensitivity for immediate information distribution, and inability to market the detachment and MCL on a widespread basis.

Commandant Merritt has initiated a rethinking of how we communicate for members of

the detachment, and how we communicate for marketing purposes in enhancing our member recruitment and retention capabilities. Email will continue to be a primary vehicle for communication, but we need member information on email addresses if you are email capable but not on our email distribution. One step recently taken is to set up a group on Facebook -- **Marine Corps League, Bitterroot Valley Detachment #937** – that will hopefully attract potential members, as well as provide information on activities and events to current members.

Under study will be a look at a detachment web site that can be linked to Marine Corps League and Devil Dog sites, and to other Marine and Veteran sites.

For internal detachment use, we will look at using group text and voice mail through mobile phones for notifications and information. This would require our having a mobile phone number for each member.

While we look to minimize ‘snail mail’ as much as possible, we will continue to use it as needed or where necessary.

We will continue to explore other communication venues to improve our capability to be in immediate touch with members and potential members. Send your email and phone information to USMCmeadeMCL@aol.com, or mail to MCL937 Adjutant, 120 Mountain View Dr., Victor, MT 59875-9418. If you have suggestions, or skills that would support our efforts, email or write or call Meade at 520-991-6386.

Marine Corps League Database & Links: National Headquarters of the Marine Corps League has been in development and testing mode for the current website and a new database system for an extended period of time.

The primary site is at www.mclnational.org. You can reach the “Semper Fi Store” retail shop and other venues including the member library. The MCL library is www.mcleaguelibrary.org and is a website containing information and forms used by members.



The 'Semper Fi' magazine is a tab in the mcleaguelibrary.org website. The password is: dd214.

The Member Library is a tab in the mcleaguelibrary.org website. The password is: dd4 .

The Member Portal is a tab in the mcleaguelibrary.org website. The user name will be the member's email. You can create and reset your own password in the site. This is the new database that Commandants and Paymasters have access to edit members of their detachment. Once the Detachment Commandant or Paymaster enters the member's email address into the National database, members will have access to edit their own information (address, email, and phone).

For information exchange between detachment and National, only transmittals are now required to go by 'snail mail.' Other documents such as 'Report of Installation,' 'Notice of Death,' and 'Life Member Audit' can now be emailed, which also creates an electronic audit record.

Future implications of the steps beginning to be implemented today are direct membership renewal by credit card with National, quicker access to information requests, and reduced processing errors and other enhanced capabilities.

The Semper Fi Store at:

<https://the-semper-fi-store.myshopify.com/>

is now receiving orders electronically.

Other National Headquarters News: The Marine Corps National Convention and the Military Order of Devil Dogs Supreme Growl have been cancelled for 9 August-15 August 2020 at Daytona Beach, Florida. At present, the annual Mid-Winter Conference is still scheduled for 2021.

National Headquarters has also advised that the Modern Day Marine Expo 2020 was cancelled for September at Quantico in September. There will be a virtual MDM. The Modern Day Marine Expo, sponsored by the Marine Corps League is the largest military Expo where defense contractors for socks to guns meet, exchange views, and vendors listen to Marines who use the equipment in the field. In 2021, the Expo will be held permanently in May instead of

September. It is also where the League sponsors enlisted personnel awards from throughout the Corps. Marine South will be held in October at Camp Lejuene, and Marine West will continue to be held in February at Camp Pendleton.

ABBREVIATED MONTANA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND PACK GROWL HELD ON 27 JUNE 2020 AT GREAT FALLS

Because of Covid-19 precautions and mandates, the Montana Department Convention was delayed until June. The meetings and activities were limited to one day instead of three, and attendance was limited to 3-4 representatives from each detachment. Business and elections for both the MCL Department meeting and the MODD Pack Growl were also limited to 3 hours each, with a one hour pizza lunch break.

Department Commandant Harry Armstrong from Bozeman was elected to another term as Commandant. He will be a special guest at the August 27th general meeting of the Bitterroot Valley Detachment #937. Also elected to another term as Montana Department Junior Vice Commandant was Joe Rogish, Past Commandant of the Bitterroot Valley Detachment. Ron Peterson, from Butte, will remain the MODD Montana Pack Leader for the coming year.

DETACHMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Based on current conditions, the following represents what we believe will be the events and activities of the Detachment for the next 6 months. We are advising all members to have masks available for entry or wearing at the various locations until further notice. There may be changes, additions/deletions as we move forward.

1. The Honor Guard will participate in veteran funerals when called upon.
2. The Color Guard and Honor Guard will participate in holiday and patriotic events when called upon.

The following is the Detachment Calendar as of August 2020. General meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month (January through October),



7:30 pm at the Eagles' Lodge, 125 N. 2nd Street, Hamilton; and, **SOS Breakfasts** are held on the **1st Saturday of every month**, 9:00 am at the Hangar Café, Ravalli County Airport, Hamilton. These breakfasts are informal, and spouses and friends are invited.

8-27-20 General Meeting, 1930. Meet the Montana Department Commandant Harry Armstrong.

9-5-20 SOS Breakfast, 0900

9-24-20 General Meeting, 1930

10-3-20 SOS Breakfast, 0900

10-27-20 General Meeting, 1930

11-7-20 SOS Breakfast, 0900

TBD Marine Birthday Dinner

TBD Toys for Tots Collections for Ravalli County

TBD 11-11-20 Veterans Day Events, Ravalli County

Note: No General Meeting in November

12-5-20 SOS Breakfast, 0900

TBD Toys for Tots Distribution for Ravalli County

Note: No General Meeting in December

1-2-21 SOS Breakfast, 0900

1-28-21 General Meeting, 1930

2-6-21 SOS Breakfast, 0900

2-25-21 General Meeting, 1930. Officer Nominations FY 2021-2022.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

At the July General Meeting of the Bitterroot Valley Detachment, it was voted to plan on holding a celebration of the 245th Marine Birthday with a dinner at the Victor Steak House. Further information will be forthcoming in the next 30-45 days regarding date, cost and time.

MARINE & MARINE FAMILY SUPPORT

Are you aware of any member of our Detachment in sickness or distress, any family member, or any Marine, FMF Corpsman or Chaplain in our community? Please advise Detachment Chaplain Chris Ferguson (who is also Senior Vice Commandant) of any situation that may require assistance on the part of our Detachment, or the Marine Corps League. That's part of our charter in "taking care of our own."

MISSION & PURPOSES OF THE M.C.L.....

Mission Statement

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps.

This is accomplished by:

- Banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps, and those who have been honorably discharged from that service;
- Voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, Marine Veterans, and to their widows and orphans;
- And, by perpetuating the history of the United States Marine Corps through fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

Purposes & Principles

- To preserve the traditions, promote the interest and perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of the historical occasions of particular interest to Marines;
- To band those who are now serving the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from the U. S. Marine Corps together in fellowship from that service, that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy;
- To fit its members for the duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve ably as citizens as they have served our Nation under arms;
- To hold sacred the memory and history of the men and women who have given their lives to the Nation;
- To foster a love for the principles which they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic
- To maintain true allegiance to American institutions.

BITTERROOT VALLEY DETACHMENT #937



bitterroot valley detachment #937, marine corps leaguenews & events

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
120 MOUNTAIN VIEW DRIVE
VICTOR, MT 59875-9418

TO:



ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

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CHECK INSIDE FOR INFORMATION & EVENTS:

- **Calendar**
Next Meeting is 27 August 2020
Next SOS Breakfast is 5 Sept. 2020
 - ✓ Marine Birthday Dinner
 - ✓ Veterans' Day
 - ✓ Toys for Tots in Ravalli County
- Support Marines, FMF Corpsmen & Chaplains
- Camaraderie & *Esprit de Corps*
- Veteran & Community Support



SEMPER FIDELIS

❖ Annual Member Dues deadline is 31 August 2020. Don't be late!

The Bitterroot Valley Detachment #937, Marine Corps League

The Western Montana Pound #329, Military Order of the Devil Dogs

JOIN and PARTICIPATE IN YOUR MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, BITTERROOT VALLEY DETACHMENT

Once a Marine, Always a Marine