



The FireFighter

Gung-Ho Means Work Together!

Iredell County MCL Detachment 1097 June 2016 Edition

June 23 - Detachment Meeting - 1900 - Troutman American Legion

Detachment website: <http://www.iredellmcl.org>

Once a Marine always a Marine

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"We served our Country.....Now we serve our Community"



Marines,

During May we donated \$1,000 to the South Iredell High School Marine JROTC Unit during their Awards and Promotion Ceremony. We will be donating \$1,000 to the Mooresville Soup kitchen and adding \$5,000 to the Dale Wilson Scholarship Fund at Mitchell Community College later in the summer. Additionally, we are working on scheduling a time to provide a donation to the Charlotte International Airport USO and of course helping those Marines in need.

The Detachment was well represented at the annual Memorial Day Ceremonies at both the Exchange Club Field of Flags and the honoring of our deceased veterans at the cemeteries. After the Field of Flags ceremony, the Detachment Marines ensured we retrieved the flags that were donated by the Detachment in Memory of Buck Early, John King, Jim Davis, and James Armstrong and ensured they were presented to their next of kin. The next of kin were all very appreciative of the gesture. **Job well done.**

We need a few Marines, wives and friends to help decorate the Independence Day Parade float on July 1st (Friday) at the Fair Grounds at 1100. The parade will be on July 2d and we need Marines and families to ride on the float. Your help and attendance would be much appreciated. I would like to thank Richard Robinson for providing the trailer and his time to assist with this event.

We are ready to start distributing tickets for our annual fundraiser which will be at the Charles Mack Center in Mooresville on October 22nd. We should start distributing during June. Please make a concerted effort to sell as many tickets as possible – get your family and friends to help you sell tickets. You can even use the payment plan for some friends that can't afford \$100 at one time. If they start in June, they could pay you \$20 a month through October and have the ticket paid for by October. Additionally, please do all you can to purchase a ticket for yourself. Your assistance with this event is appreciated.

Rick Saltzgiver, Verlone Cherry and I attended the MCL Department of NC Convention Business Meeting and were provided a lot of information. Highlights of the information were:

- Failure to file the IRS 990-N form can result in loss of tax exempt status. There have been several detachment in NC that have lost their exemption and they are having to go through a very painful process that includes a \$400 fee to get the exemption back. Thankfully, we have an excellent Paymaster that is always on top of this.
- At the MCL National Convention, there will be several proposed By-Law changes. Rick Saltzgiver is going to put a link on our website for these changes and if you have any comments on the changes please contact our Judge Advocate or me.
- They discussed the Girl Scouts Golden Award that is the equivalent to the Boy Scouts Eagle Scout. Rick Saltzgiver is going to look into this to see if there is something we can do for the Girl Scouts.
- The following Marines were elected to as Officers for the MCL Department of NC 2016 – 2017 term:
 - Commandant: Charles Minton
 - Senior Vice Commandant: Jeffrey Jones
 - Junior Vice Commandant: Howard Boyd
 - Judge Advocate: Scott Schermey

Semper Fi,
Dick Camery, Commandant



DATE

MEETING/LOCATION/TIME

Jun 20	Iredell County Veterans Council – American Legion Post 217 – 1830
Jun 23	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Jul 2	Iredell County Independence Day Parade – come join us and ride on our float - 1000
Jul 18	Iredell County Veterans Council – TBD
Jul 22	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Aug 7 – 13	MCL National Convention – Tulsa Oklahoma
Aug 22	Iredell County Veterans Council – TBD
Aug 25	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Sep 19	Iredell County Veterans Council – TBD
Sep 22	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Sep 23 -24	MCL Department of NC Fall Quarterly Meeting – Boone, NC



Don't forget to pray for our sick, shut-ins, Marines and their Families.

- **Stan and Pat Thompson**
- **Buddy Hemric**
- **B.J. Thomas and wife, Sandy**
- **Ovella Turner, Frank's wife**
- **Larry Lackey**

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

There are hundreds of very good Veterans Service Officers (VSO) all over the country working hard for veterans. One of those very talented and special VSOs has recently presented an argument as to why all veterans should apply for benefits.

Filing a first claim for disability compensation can be a stressful experience. The stress can originate from one or more of the following factors:

- Physical or mental discomfort
- Financial need
- That transitional feeling when you are no longer in the military but not really a civilian
- Concern about the outcome
- Lack of knowledge of the process
- Unrealistic expectations
- Erroneous assumptions
- Things you have heard from other Veterans and the media and, just
- Dealing with a bureaucracy

During this discussion I'd like to use my experience as both a Veteran and a senior VA official to demystify the process and empower you with information you need and what you can expect.

Recommendations

Dealing with large organizations can be frustrating. Some things that appear clear and certain to you may not be to others. Additionally, legal requirements can sometimes be confusing and time consuming. To have the best experience possible I recommend the following:

- 1.** If you are still on active duty and thinking about getting out and filing a claim, go through the Benefit Delivery At Discharge or BDD program at your installation. To qualify you must have between 60 and 180 days left on active duty. We will take your claim and get you examined before you go home. Normally, decisions are available about two months after you separate or retire.

2. If you are still on active duty but have less than 60 days to go, you can still file a “Quick Start” claim. Quick Start claims are processed at dedicated facilities so decisions are quicker for most Veterans

3. If you are out of service for less than a year, think you might have a claim, but are unsure if you want to “go through the hassle” apply. The evidence is fresher and cleaner, there are unlikely to be what we refer to as “inter-current injuries” (i.e. you back hurts a little but when you get out you get a job as a long haul truck driver or a construction worker and don’t file a claim for years. In such cases even if there is some documentation of “something in service” without evidence of treatment for the condition within the first year, service connection is less certain).

Why All Veterans Should Apply for Benefits

Darlene McMartin is the director at the Pottawattamie County Veterans Affairs Office, located at 223 S 6th St #6, Council Bluffs, IA 51501. Ms. McMartin provides a brief narrative as to why it is in a veteran’s best interest to file a claim for benefits. Ms. McMartin advises veterans whose diseases aren’t on the list to file claims. Even though a claim may be rejected in the future, the disease and/or medical condition may be added to the presumptive list at some future time. The record of a claim now may entitle the veteran to months or years of retroactive benefits.

The same is true for Navy and Marine Corps veterans whose ships aren’t currently recognized by the VA as having been exposed to Agent Orange.

“They’re adding constantly,” McMartin said. “We don’t know when they’ll add that ship to the list.”

Ms. McMartin goes on to mention that many veterans are too humble to apply for disability benefits.

“They don’t think they deserve it,” McMartin said. “A lot of the vets are very proud. They’re not whining. They don’t want to be sick.”

Bottom line, Ms. McMartin maintains that all veterans should apply for benefits to provide an opportunity for their family to be eligible for monetary compensation in the event the veteran is not around. Many of the presumptive conditions currently on the list were not there just 10 short years ago. Apply now, because you never know what condition you might have now that will appear of the VAs list of presumptive disabilities in the future.

There is a link on our website that also includes this information.

MCL NATIONAL AND STATE CONVENTIONS

The MCL National Convention is in Tulsa, Oklahoma from August 7 – 13. If you are planning on attending, please advise the Adjutant or Commandant.