



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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APRIL 2022

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MARCH MEETING NOTICE

The next in person General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday **April 7th at our usual time 7:30 pm (1930.)** 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.

company that is willing to donate time and materials to assist with this project let me know. We are looking to get this done around the end of April or beginning of May. We would like some volunteers from our Detachment as well as Auxiliary to weed and plant these flowerbeds.

DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR APRIL



**Charles Bailey
Amber Blumenthal
Charles Elert
Paul Glesen
Foua Gonzales
Rick Kincaid
Alice Lyon
Jose Ramirez
Hazel Ruehle
Gerald Sargent
Nick Simon
Dennis Slattery
John Sneed
Irene Spooner
April Tilton**

The second is again at the Veterans Home and is for Memorial Day Observation either the Saturday or Sunday before Memorial Day. We would need the Color Guard and a rifle team. We will need some volunteers for both.

Third is at the airshow at Selfridge in July. There is a request for volunteers to work the airshow as needed. Volunteers will receive a free T-shirt. We also are going to set up an information and membership booth in partnership with the Port Huron Detachment to let the public know about us and our activities in the community.

The more volunteers we have at these events will make the task easier and more enjoyable for us all.

If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Semper Fi

Mike Hall, Commandant

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Good day all. We as a Detachment have been asked to assist with several different projects that we will need volunteers for.

First one is at the Michigan Veterans Home in Chesterfield. They have some flowerbeds in common areas that need attention and are asking for help from us. If anyone as a connection with a local landscaping

SENIOR VICE ON CAMARADERIE & FUNDRAISING

We will be doing another family oriented get together on April 16th at 3pm it will be at Dave and Busters in Utica . All members and their families are welcome. Also, we are going to have a fun shoot on April 23rd at Detroit Sportsman Congress to Honor Some of our Fallen. Bring your own Weapons and Ammo. \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for Juniors. We will be having a Golf meeting before our regular general meeting at 6pm to discuss the golf course we decide on.

*Steve August
Senior Vice*

ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER

I am still getting mail, and emails returned with bad addresses. If you move or change your email, please send me the information. Email or snail mail I don't care. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter and the Semper-Fi magazine from National I need this information.

You can also update your information on the National website,
<https://web.mcleaguelibrary.org/Portal/portallogin.aspx?ReturnURL=%2fportal>

You should also receive an email when I update your information on the site. As paymaster I have access to every member's profile, members on the other hand can only edit their personal profile. If you have issues with access, contact me and I'll help you out.

Currently we have 7 delinquent members, out of a membership of 133.

AUXILIARY NEWS

We met in March as planned. The weather cooperated and there was no blizzard, snowstorm or freezing rain the night of the meeting. We caught up on all our reports. I am pleased to say that a week or so prior to our March meeting, President Balderson and Sr. Vice Ailor met with me and audited our Unit's bank records and Treasurer's Reports. We haven't done that in a while, so I'm glad we're in compliance with that requirement.

We're starting to receive acknowledgements and thank-you letters from the recipients of our latest distribution of charitable funds. The checks were sent out a little later than usual, so I expect we'll be receiving more responses over the coming month. So far we've heard back from the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Vets Returning Home and the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 154. No matter how big or how small an organization is, we appreciate being recognized. I'll report back as I receive future thank-you's.

The 2022 State Convention is fast approaching. It takes place June 3-5, 2022, at the Island Resort & Casino which is 13 miles west of Escanaba in the Upper Peninsula. This is really a very nice venue. I had the pleasure of stopping there for a few hours and dinner during one of our trips to the UP. Room and convention registration must be done by May 18, 2022. For rooms, contact the Island Resort directly at 906-466-2941 or 800-682-6040 or visit their website at <islandresortandcasino.com>. There is a block of rooms reserved for convention participants, but you need to advise them you're there for the Marine Corps League

convention when making a reservation. For a convention package, visit the Department of Michigan Marine Corps League website at <michiganmarines.org>.

The new Membership Rosters for 2021-2022 were handed out at the March meeting. If you need one, there'll be copies at the upcoming April meeting. Keep in mind to let us know if you move, change your phone number or email address so our contact information can be updated. We do have a few members that we haven't heard from in a while. If you have current contact information for Gayle Brown, Lucille Demello, Jackie Dennis, Linda Huckle, Hazel Ruehle or Ardith Schwerin, please let me know. Call me at 586-466-5708 or email me at mispooner@wowway.com. We want to be sure mailings (both emails and snail mail) are reaching them.

One item we discussed at the March meeting was the feasibility of having a garage sale type of event as a fund raiser this September. We'll have further discussion at the April meeting, so bring your ideas and suggestions to add to the mix.

Please keep Delores Tonegatto, Auxiliary Life Member, and former President, in your thoughts and prayers. Her health is declining. We continue to hope for her full recovery.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 7:30 pm. See you there,

Irene Spooner
MCLA Treasurer

MEET THE DETACHMENT LEADERSHIP DEAN MILES, QUARTERMASTER

It happened in July of 1982, Fort Knox, KY, I was a brand-new Marine Corps Tanker, fresh out of bootcamp, learning the methods and madness that define the Marine Corps Tanker and for those of you taking notes, the tank was the M60A-1 also known as the dinosaur.

On this particular night, we were conducting live fire exercises on the gunnery range, night fire training. I was in the gunner seat (YEEHAW), ready to blow some shi-stuff up!! Now before I continue the story, it's important here that I explain a very important piece of equipment at the gunners disposal, I forget the actual name of the Item, but I remember all too well what its function is, you see, when the tank commander yells out a fire command, part of that command contains what type of round you are to use, armor piercing sabot, high explosive plastic, heat, or anti-personnel. The gunner's job once he hears the ammo to be used is to reach over

to his right and dial in the ammo to be used into this device and this device then will tell the brains of the tank to adjust the main gun elevation accordingly. Each round flies a different trajectory, for example, an anti-personnel round is a lobbing round that arches to its target, exploding in the air above the target, whereas an armor piercing sabot round is a straight shooter, with a pretty much straight line trajectory, directly to its target, thankfully for me on this particular evening, this round does not explode, it is solid and is designed to punch a hole through the side of a tank at an extremely high velocity creating an extreme vacuum within the tank, delivering devastating and usually deadly results to the crewmembers within. So, as you can see, there is quite a need for this nifty gun elevating device. Now, each round listed in this device is represented with abbreviations, for example, anti-personnel round is abbreviated as "APERS" and the armor piercing sabot round is "APSR", so, in my defense here, I will just say that in low light conditions and in a hurry to complete the fire sequence, these two abbreviations appear almost identical.

So, the command comes down from the TC, Gunner (that's me), Sabot (the round), tank (the target) 280 degrees (the azimuth) 2500 meters (distance to target), it sounded like this,

"Gunner, sabot, tank, 280 degrees, 2500 meters!!", now, a whole lot is going on simultaneously while the TC is issuing his command, the loader grabs the round and loads it into the breach and yells "UP" indicating the round is loaded and ready to fire. The gunner (in this case, me) selects the ammo type in the computer and then peers through the scope to locate the target, once located, I yell, "IDENTIFIED". Here is where I made a tragic error, when I selected the ammo type in the computer, I selected APERS (the lobbing round) instead of APSR (the straight shooter sabot round) elevating the main gun to a lobbing angle, this was bad. The TC yells "FIRE!!!" still peering through the scope I fired the round. Not seeing the usual tracer signature in my sight, I yelled "LOST!" meaning, I could not see where the round went, almost immediately I'm feeling the boot of my TC in the back of my head as he was screaming some very colorful, descriptive as well as hurtful drunken sailor style personal pronouns directed at me. It appeared that the sabot round I fired went well above the mountain elevated tree line downrange and disappeared somewhere towards Louisville way, never to be seen again, oops.

Luckily for me and as far as I know, the fine city of Louisville never tried to return the gift, I was never court martialled and no distilleries were damaged. Good learning experience.....

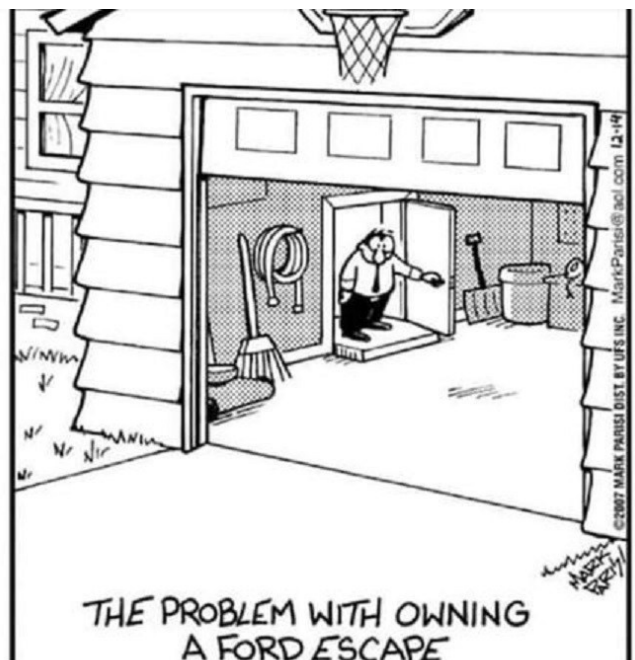
Lesson (attention to detail), learned.

Semper-Fi!!



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....



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