



National Headquarters "www.mcNational.org"

Montana Department "www.montanamcl.org"

BITTERROOT VALLEY DETACHMENT NEWS & EVENT PLANNER

23 May 2017

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 in our communities, 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

Elected Officers

Commandant : Joseph Rogish
484-643-3982; Joseph.rogish@yahoo.com
Senior Vice Commandant: Wayne Mooney
406-381-0387; mooney.irish@gmail.com
Junior Vice Commandant: Luis Valdez
406-702-0264; Lmvdz@aol.com
Judge Advocate: Anthony Malley
406-360-0818; 2ndrecon@hughes.net
Junior Past Commandant : Meade Phillips
520-991-6386; USMCmeadeMCL@aol.com

Appointed Officers

Adjutant: Meade Phillips
520-991-6386; USMCmeadeMCL@aol.com
Paymaster: Marvin Parker
406-363-1458; Jagman_36@bitterroot.com
Sergeant-at-Arms: James Merritt
406-363-0296; sgtcrock@q.com
Chaplain: Chris Ferguson
406-375-5585 ; Crispy610@charter.net
Web Sergeant: Robert Graler
406-961-0130; bgraler@gmail.com

Committees/Projects

Honor Guard / Color Guard: Joseph Rogish
484-643-3982; Joseph.rogish@yahoo.com
Detachment Service Officer (DSO): Joseph Rogish
406-642-3246; Joseph.rogish@yahoo.com
Detachmt. Marine of the Year Society: Joseph Rogish
406-642-3246; Joseph.rogish@yahoo.com
Cemetery Decoration: Joe Bagnall
406-961-5410; Mmb.Montana@gmail.com
Detachment Shooting Team:
Marine Corps Birthday Ball:
Communications & Information:
Toys for Tots:
Historian/Americanism:
Detachment Social Events:

It's a Privilege to Serve

2017-18 OFFICERS SWORN IN AT ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER ON 27 APRIL

Montana Department Commandant Jim Benner was on board last month to install the newly elected and appointed officers of the Bitterroot Valley Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

The initiation ceremony was preceded by a pot luck dinner, in which detachment member culinary arts were on display with outstanding food at the First Presbyterian Church on west Main Street in Hamilton.

Accompanying Montana Commandant Benner was the Department Chaplain, Bob Hames. In addition to initiating the new officers, there was a brief update on events and activities within Montana, and at the National level. The Montana Department Convention, and the Montana Grand Growl of the Pack for the Military Order of the Devil Dogs will be held at the Fairmont Hotel in Anaconda on May 19-21, 2017.

All Detachment officers were present for the installation.

Thanks to all who provided food, and to Marvin Parker for securing the kitchen and dining room at the church for the ceremony.

Support the officer staff you have elected by participating and supporting the Bitterroot Valley Detachment activities, programs, events and meetings. Your attendance and participation, as you are able, assures our meeting commitments to our Marine, veteran, and community families.

You should feel free to contact any of our officers with questions, suggestions, comments, and ideas. We are one in carrying forward the principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League as



outlined by Major General John A. Lejuene, our founder.

PILOT PROGRAM FOR PERIODIC DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER

The Detachment will be evaluating the use of a Newsletter (this being the first issue in several years) to reach all of our members.

Currently information is sent via email for meeting minutes and event times and locations. We still have members who do not have, or have not provided, an email address, so in order to reach and serve all members we will provide a newsletter every two to three months. Our intent will be to update all members on news of the Detachment, program and event dates, and general information.

There is time and expense involved in each issue of the newsletter, so if you do have email accessibility, but have not been receiving emails from the Adjutant or Commandant, please forward your current email address to Meade Phillips at USMCmeadeMCL@aol.com.

- **TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING A MEMBER OF MCL DET.937, EVERY MEMBER HAS A ROLE IN:**
- Recruiting
- Mentoring new members
- Involving all members
- Checking on members/families who may need support
- Assisting Marines and families in need
- Effective communications
- Training and developing leadership potential in the Detachment
- "Taking Care of our Own" – Semper Fidelis.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May begins our season for action and planning. Here is our events calendar as it is known at this time:

- Thurs. 25 May 1930 General Meeting: Memorial Day Plans, Graves Decoration; Summer Activities, Other. Eagles Lodge
- Sat. 27 May 0700 Graves Decoration: Placing of Flags at Veteran Graves, Victor Cemetery
- Mon. 29 May Memorial Day Events

- Honor Guard, Doughboy Statue 0730 for 0800 Ceremony, Ravalli County Courthouse, Hamilton
- Honor Guard, Main Street Bridge, Hamilton, following Doughboy
- Honor Guard, Riverview Cemetery, Hamilton, following Main St. Bridge
- Breakfast at Corvallis High School, Corvallis, following Hamilton ceremonies
- Color Guard and Marchers, Corvallis Parade 1000, Form up south of High School.
- Note: Members and families not participating are encouraged to attend these events. Members who are not in the Color Guard may march behind the CG in the Corvallis Parade, helping to represent the Detachment #937.

- Sat. 3 June 0900 SOS Breakfast for members, family, friends. Informal camaraderie at Hangar Café, Ravalli County Airport, Hamilton
- Wed.. June 14 Flag Day Proudly fly your Flag, today and every day
- Thurs. June 22 1930 General Meeting Summer and Fall Planning, Other Eagles Lodge, Hamilton
- Sat. July 1 0900 SOS Breakfast for members, family, friends. Informal camaraderie at Hangar Café, Ravalli County Airport, Hamilton
- Tues. July 4th To Be Determined Detachment Independence Day Party?
- Thurs. July 27 0900 General Meeting at the Eagles Lodge, Hamilton

Events to be planned and coordinated for the Fall include our annual celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday which includes the program advertisement campaign, and the annual Toys for Tots Drive for Ravalli County. We will also be participating in November's Veterans' Day events.

WIN \$25 BY ATTENDING A MEETING

At each General Meeting there is a drawing of member names for a prize. If you are a life member you win a cash prize of \$25.00. If you pay annual dues, your dues will be paid for next year.... **BUT**, you have to be present to win.



DETACHMENT HONOR GUARD

The Detachment Honor Guard has participated in eleven veteran funerals thus far in 2017 at six locations in the Bitterroot Valley, and one at the Montana Veterans Cemetery in Missoula. The Honor Guard serves in conjunction with the Color Guard from the American Legion, and two active or reserve Flag Folders from the deceased's branch of service.

This past weekend, the Honor Guard performed two services on the same day.

If you are interested in participating with the Honor Guard, here are the requirements:

- An interest to serve
- Acquiring a MCL uniform consisting of red MCL cover; white short sleeve MCL uniform shirt; Marine blue trousers w/red stripe; black shoes and socks; white duty belt; red "Marines" jacket and black gloves for winter duty
- You will be trained on moves and use of M-1's used in firing
- Contact Commandant Joe Rogish, or email Adjutant Meade Phillips

The more trained members we have, the better back-up we have for assuring we are there for our departed veterans.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

Knowledge of any member, or members' family, or any Marine, FMF Corpsman, FMF Chaplain in our community who is sick or in need of our support should be reported to Chaplain Chris Ferguson.

- Dick Kice has moved to an assisted living care facility in Whitefish, and continues to receive dialysis treatments three times per week in Kalispell. He was visited earlier in May by Tony and Marie Malley, and later by Joe Rogish and Meade Phillips. He is alert and sharp, in good spirits, and looking trim.
- Bob Donahue has been undergoing chemo and radiation treatments in Missoula. We do not have an up to date status, but his emails and postings while not undergoing treatment show a positive attitude.

- Wayne Mooney was just released from the hospital after suffering the impacts of a rare bacterial strain of pneumonia. He is on light duty for the time being.

In 2017, we have lost two member Marines. Rod Lawrence and Ken Smith have reported to the Supreme Commandant. Rest in Peace, Marines. Semper Fidelis.

DO YOU MEET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE A DEVIL DOG?

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs is the "Fun and Honor Society" of the Marine Corps League. An incorporated subsidiary organization of the MCL, The "Devil Dogs," as they are known, are selected based on a member's participation and contributions to the Marine Corps League and its many programs. Joining the Order is a privilege, and is based on the recommendation of the Detachment Commandant after 1+ years in the MCL. Referrals may also be made by current members of the Order.

The members of the Order are those who will help mentor Marines and members of the League. They will meet for fun and fund raising purposes as well. A new member is initiated as a "Pup" at the Detachment level (Pound Growl), and wears a black collar. After a year, he is qualified to be initiated as a "Devil Dog" (red collar) at a Department Convention (Grand Growl of the Pack). The highest level of achievement is to be initiated as a "Pedigreed Devil Dog" (gold collar) at a National Convention (Supreme Growl).

It's an honor to be a Devil Dog. Collectively, the organization contributes over \$25,000 annually to a childrens hospital in the National Convention city for that year. Locally, the pounds can raise money for other charities and programs

The Western Montana Pound #329 is local to Ravalli County. Currently, all members are also members of the Bitterroot Valley Detachment #937. Jim Merritt is the current Pound Keeper.

Interest, participation, being active in meetings and programs, and a desire to serve Marines, families, veterans, and community in some capacity are requisites for becoming a Devil Dog.

BUY and SELL OUR COMBAT TESTED LIP BALM
Support our wounded Marines and FMF Corpsmen
(Marines Helping Marines)

\$2.00/Tube \$90/50 Tubes \$175/100 Tubes



bitterroot valley detachment #937, marine corps leaguenews & events

FROM:

**BITTERROOT VALLEY DETACHMENT #937
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
P.O. Box 937
VICTOR, MT 59875**

TO:

**SEE INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON
YOUR MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
Bitterroot Valley Detachment #937**

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Detachment Meeting,

- Memorial Day final plans
- Officers installed
- Business & Camaraderie

SOS Breakfast, 3 June, Hangar Cafe

BUY MCL LIP BALM to support WOUNDED MARINES



SEMPER FIDELIS

Can you meet the challenges of LEADERSHIP?

The Bitterroot Valley Detachment #937, Marine Corps League

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

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

Once a Marine, Always a Marine