



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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FEBRUARY 2022

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Alan Opra, Detachment 154 Quartermaster 2011-2014

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

The next in person General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday **February 3rd** 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.

DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY



- Robert Dybowski
- Eric Esau
- Michael Giffer
- Don Moeller
- Stephen Patercsak
- Joan Pfaff
- John Sternicki
- Richard Succarde
- Gerald Susko
- Gary Titus

NEW MEMBER REPORTING IN



At the January General Membership Meeting, the following Marine was accepted as a member in our Detachment:
Marine Frank Petricevich served from January 1982 to Feb 2003
MOS 0691 Operational Communication Chief
Frank retired as a Master Sergeant.



Welcome aboard Marine!

WE HOPE YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH THE DETACHMENT WILL BE A MEMORABLE ONE

OUR TOTAL MEMBERSHIP IS 135 MEMBERS

More about Frank Petricevich
Married 35 years to Mary (Valpredo) Petricevich
3 sons, Joseph (33), Scott (29) (Amanda (Post)) and Daniel (23)
2 granddaughters Mary 8 and another on the way
Wednesday (1/26)
Frank was a Private Police Officer at the Renaissance Center from 2003 until 2014 and now works for Consumers Energy as a Gas Lines Worker (since 2014)

COMMANDANT’S MESSAGE

I hope this finds everyone well and happy and recovered from the holidays. We as a Detachment ended 2021 very strong, and with our membership growing we can get stronger.

Huge THANK YOU to Steve August for organizing the bowling night at Shelby Lanes. It seemed like everyone had a great time as a group. I am looking forward to other events that are coming up. STAY TUNED.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting.
Semper Fi,

Mike Hall, Commandant

AUXILIARY NEWS

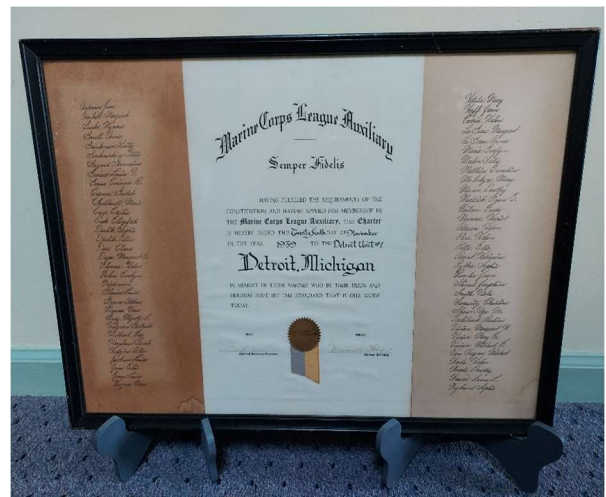
The harsh winter weather arrived on cue. As we have done in past years, we will not have a meeting in February. This was decided a number of years ago and it worked well for us. Question for us to consider, is this something that should be incorporated into our Unit's by-laws.? Our current Judge Advocate Christine Tonegatto-Salo wants to do a review of our by-laws and see what needs to be updated or added. This is something that needs to be addressed and we commend Christine for being proactive on this matter.

The Mid-Winter Rally takes place the first week in February, February 3rd through 6th at the Dearborn Double Tree by Hilton. The Auxiliary always contributes \$50 towards the Detachment/Auxiliary ad which appears in the ad book published by the hosting entity. We passed a motion several years ago to contribute, but it was never added to our by-laws. This would be an opportune time to do it.

The Mid-Winter Rally is a good time for us to meet with Auxiliary members from other parts of the state to exchange ideas and learn more ways to enhance our own Unit. We'll look forward to the report from our attending members.

A few years back, shortly after we moved to our present location from the house where we were meeting, on N. Rose, I was asked to store a most remarkable framed document that was found during the move. It was the original Charter for our Auxiliary that was signed on November 26th, 1939. At that time there were 64 Charter members. The signing National President was Marian L. Harper and the National Secretary-Treasurer was Helen L. Young. As I looked over the 64 names listed on each side of the Charter, I didn't recognize any of them. Nor do I recognize the names of Marian and Helen, National Officers in 1939. Not surprising since this was well before I was born. As I read the 64 names, I saw that there were several members that shared the same last name. Mothers and daughters? Sisters? Sisters-in law? I'll never know. But what I do know is that our Unit shares a bond with these women, women we'll never meet, many of whom if not all, who have passed on.

The bond we share with them is the dedication we have to the Marine Corps and to our Marines. So many things have changed since November 26th, 1939, but our mission is still the same. At some point, well before I joined the Auxiliary, the Charter from 1939 was given back and the Auxiliary was disbanded. But, I'm proud to say that a new Charter was signed in 1999 and our Auxiliary was formed. The 1939 Auxiliary was called the Detroit Unit #1. We're the Macomb County Unit. Different names, same purpose. I believe that looking back gives us a better understanding of what we need to do to move forward. Thank you to the 64 dedicated women of the Detroit Unit #1 and thank you to our present members of the Macomb County Unit who carry on this tradition. Semper Fidelis.



Our members Shirley Cichoski and Delores Tonegatto are under the weather. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

We're planning our next meeting in March on Thursday, March 3rd, 2022. Weather permitting, we'll see you at 7:30 pm. Until then, stay safe and stay healthy.

Irene Spooner
MCLA Treasurer

IN MEMORY

Marine Alan Opra answered the Supreme Commandant's call Jan. 5, 2022. Marine Opra served in the Marine Corps from 1981 to 1986 as an infantry rifleman, including a tour in Beirut, Lebanon during the bombing, attaining the rank of corporal.

He was also a long-time employee of Chrysler and a very active member of the UAW and several veteran organizations including the American Legion and VFW.

"Big Al" belonged to the Macomb County Marine Corps League Detachment and would be there with his silver trumpet to play Taps when needed. He was a member of the Metro Detroit Veterans Council that spearheaded the revival of the Detroit Veterans Day Parade.

Al was also a Pedigree Devil Dog in the Pack of North Carolina Military Order of the Devil Dogs. He took part in many Beirut-era Marine groups as mentor and facilitator throughout the United States.

Al became an iconic symbol of veteran activism as he rode his motorcycle with his inseparable service dog, Boss, in his sidecar.



Funeral services were conducted at Great Lakes National Cemetery Friday, Jan. 21 following viewing at A. H. Peters in Warren and a church service at St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Church in Detroit.

He leaves a large hole in the local veterans' network and will be missed sorely.

"Fair winds and Following Seas Marine!"



SENIOR VICE ON CAMARADERIE & FUNDRAISING

We had a great bowling outing last Friday. It was great to have fun with no agenda. We are going to have more fun events like this going forward in this coming year.

We start the golf fundraiser committee on Friday, January 28 at the Legion at 6:00pm. If you would like to be part of it let me know. Any other suggestions for fundraising items let me know.

Steve August
Senior Vice



Remember your Valentine on February 14th.



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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