



SKUTTLEBUTT

**NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY**



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JULY 2024
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Marines & Auxiliary Members:

JULY MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on the second Thursday of the month July 11 (due to the Independence Day Holiday on the 4th) at the usual meeting time of 7:30 pm. Join us at the American Legion Post 351, (46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica,) or now via Zoom! The telephone number to the Post is (586) 731-9833.

**DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY
BIRTHDAYS FOR JULY**



**Fred Gillick
Nancy Haase
Roger Hamilton
Alan Hartung
Joseph Kowalski
Don Lyon**

**Joseph Nerone
Edmond Page
Vince Pellerito
Dave Peltier
Tom Smith
John Tinsley**

COMMANDANT’S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is doing great. We will be going over the By Laws again before the August meeting. Please join us if you wish to contribute or learn.

If you wish to help with the golf outing we need golfers and sponsors. Please see me if need more info.

We will be starting ZOOM for the individuals that can't attend the meetings in person. You can still see what is going on and be able to be involved in real time. We are still sending out newsletters like this one and still meeting in real time. We just want to offer ways for all to be able to participate in the meetings and be informed. I have given some options below to join the

meeting via ZOOM just enter the URL or website link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73047577963?pwd=EcjKn1bbFpmLFeV5VTNrQtASdVj63a.1>

And you will see...

Steve August is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: My Meeting

Time: Jul 11, 2024 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73047577963?pwd=EcjKn1bbFpmLFeV5VTNrQtASdVj63a.1>

Meeting ID: 730 4757 7963

Passcode: 4Vtjyi

ZOOM

How to join a Zoom meeting from a web browser

1. Open the Chrome browser.
2. Go to join.zoom.us.
3. Enter your meeting ID provided by the host/organizer.
4. Click Join. If this is your first time joining from Google Chrome, you will be asked to open the Zoom desktop client to join the meeting.

How to join a meeting using the join link

1. Click the invite link or copy and paste the link into a web browser. The web browser will redirect you to the launch meeting page. ...

2. (Optional) Select the check box if you want to always allow Zoom to open links of this type in the associated app. ...
3. Click Open.

Do I need to install Zoom to join a meeting?

Note: You are not required to download Zoom on a desktop device before joining, but you will have access to limited functionality if you join from your browser. If you want to join a meeting from an Android or iOS device, you must download the Zoom mobile app.

How to join a Zoom meeting for the first time

1. Open the email invitation. Once you log in to your email that has the Zoom meeting invitation, you can access the email from the meeting's host. ...
2. Click on the meeting link. ...
3. Download the video call software. ...
4. Open the Zoom application. ...
5. Join the meeting.

How do I set up a Zoom link?

Web instructions

1. Open your web browser.
2. Navigate to zoom.us, and log in.
3. Go to the Meetings tab on the sidebar.
4. Click Schedule a Meeting.
5. Enter your meeting details.
6. Click Save.
7. Click the Copy Invitation button.
8. Copy the link under Join Zoom Meeting.

Look forward to seeing you at the next meeting, via Zoom or in-person.

Steve August, Commandant

JUNIOR VICE'S CORNER

Did you by chance read the National Jr. Vice Commandant's article in the Spring edition of Semper Fi magazine? He touches on the very important topic of member retention. While it is certainly in our best interest to recruit new members to our ranks, it is equally, if not more important, to ensure existing members feel welcome and have a place in the Marine Corps League.

In the software business we have a term called churn, which is when customers cancel subscriptions or stop paying maintenance on perpetual licenses. There is a lot of effort in reducing churn because of the amount

of revenue that existing customers can bring to the business. Think about the amount of work that goes into finding a new potential customer for a product and closing a sale versus keeping an existing customer satisfied to continue paying a recurring subscription. It's a no brainer that keeping an existing customer should be easier since they have already invested money and time with your product and company.

This should also be part of our detachment's long-term strategy. Let's think about making the Marine Corps League thrive and not just survive. How can we achieve this? By making every existing member, both new and old, feel like they are getting a lot of value out of their membership here, which would compel them to attend meetings and get involved in our extra activities. Let's set a goal to increase our average monthly meeting attendance by 10% by the year's end.

As an initial tactic to reach this goal, I propose that we have a drive to directly reach out to existing members on our roster who have not been joining us for a while. It is preferable to call them on a phone to have a conversation, but we can at least write an email in cases that are hard to reach. One way or another, we should be able to get in touch with some people who may be glad to hear from somebody and are surprised we are thinking of them.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Summer is here and there are so many things that have our attention, but we're still getting things done in the Auxiliary. We skipped a couple of meetings because of Department functions. Since our President, Alice Lyon and our Jr. VP Maureen Ailor are officers at the Department level, they sometimes have conflicting schedules between our meetings and their commitment to the Department. However, we are all on board for the upcoming July Auxiliary meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 7:30 pm. REMINDER: Our July meeting is one week later than usual due to the Independence Day holiday on the 4th of July. I hope all our members, Auxiliary and Detachment will fly their American flags proudly and enjoy the holiday safely.

Going back to May, President Alice Lyon and Treasurer, Irene Spooner delivered all the items that we collected to the Detroit VA for the Women Veteran's Baby Shower held on May 17. As you can see from the pictures, we loaded up one of their big flatbeds with diapers, baby clothes, blankets, and all sorts of baby products. At the time of our delivery, 14 women veterans had registered to attend the shower. Our donation helped ensure that each one would receive a generous gift. What a great thing to do for those who served our country.



Alice Lyon with VA staff member



Alice Lyon, Irene Spooner

Attending the ceremony at Clinton Grove Cemetery and in Mt. Clemens for the annual Memorial Day wreath laying service on Sunday, May 26 was a solemn and inspiring event. Auxiliary President Alice Lyon and Detachment Commandant Steve August had the honor of laying the wreaths representing the Macomb County Marine Corps League and Auxiliary.

The keynote speaker was State Representative for District 61, Denise Mentzer. She mentioned two of our fallen heroes, one of them being 1st Lt. Aleda Lutz, who began her service as a general duty nurse at Selfridge Field after enlisting in the Army Nurse Corps in 1942. She rose to the task and volunteered for duty as an Air Evacuation Nurse, fully aware of the dangers and

knowing they were vulnerable to attacks. 1st Lt. Aleda Lutz died in a plane crash near St. Chamond, France on November 1, 1944. She was among the first three flight nurses ever to be sent into combat. 1st Lt. Aleda Lutz was the first woman to die in combat during WWII and remains the highest decorated woman in the history of the U.S. military. Another fallen hero with local ties was PFC Kenneth Likens from Mt. Clemens whose story didn't end until 2019. PFC Likens was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force. He was killed in action on the third and final day of the Battle of Tarawa in the Pacific Islands. Because of the intense fighting, his remains were finally identified only 5 years ago. He has now been laid to rest at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Stories like this are part of our history and it our special duty to remember and honor our brave and selfless fallen heroes.



Front and Center is Linda May, journalist at the Macomb Daily and dedicated Veteran supporter. Back row – Alice Lyon, keynote speaker District 61, State Rep. Denise Mentzer, Larry May, Maureen Ailor

We'll have lots to discuss at our July meeting, especially the upcoming picnic in August. Typically, our annual picnic is the first Saturday in August, but we'll firm up all the details at our meeting. We'll also discuss any raffles we can offer to raise some funds at the picnic. In light of that, if you have anything to donate, bring it to the meeting. If you have any questions about donating to our Auxiliary, please contact Auxiliary Treasurer Irene Spooner at 586-466-5708.

Keep Auxiliary members Nancy Haase, Loretta Balderson and Joan Pfaff in your thoughts and prayers as they recover from health issues.

See you at our next meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

Irene Spooner, Treasurer, Macomb County MCLA



HONOR GUARD

On Thursday, June 6, 2024 the Marine Corps League Honor Guard participated in the GM Packard Proving Grounds 80th D-Day Remembrance.



Frank Petricevich, Lisa Fountain, Don Lyon



"13 Folds of a flag" as Presented by the VFW Honor Guard and featuring Bruce Hartung



Chaplain Jim Dewey

For this occasion, Chaplain Jim Dewey delivered this prayer for the attendees...

We give you thanks O Lord for this day as we gather to remember the largest amphibious landing operation ever conducted 80 years ago. Operation Overlord was a result of the tireless efforts of so many dedicated men and women, many of whom worked on these very grounds testing and building the engines that would power the machines that brought tyranny to an end.

We thank you O Lord for all the "Rosy the Riveters" who built the Merlin engines for various aircraft and PT Boats. We thank you for the WASPs that ferried those aircraft to the war front, 38 of whom gave their lives. And we give great thanks for the almost 200,000 naval personnel that transported the 160,000 American, British, French, and other allies that landed on those terrible beaches.

We pray O God that you would help us live lives honoring all those that bled for their country, especially the 419 Michiganders buried at the Normandy American Cemetery, buried at sea, or missing in action. The world is a better place because of the sacrifice of these men and women.

We pray all of this in your Holy Name. Amen.

2024 Honor Guard Members:

William Barron, Frank Petricevich, Norm Pfaff, Victor Racosky. Alternates: Donald Lyon, Bruce Hartung, Lisa Fountain

I want to put together a 3 – 7 man firing detail. Red Shirt, Black trousers. See me if interested. The League will pay for part of your uniforms. See me for more information.



2024 Upcoming Events:

No events currently scheduled for the Honor Guard.

I am looking to expand the honor guard to provide a 4 Marine Color Guard, 3 to 7 Marine Rifle detail and numerous alternates to support both. If interested, contact Frank Petricevich, fpetricevich@gmail.com or (586) 531 5726

OUR NATIONAL CEMETERIES: PLANNING AHEAD

Many of us have attended funerals at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Some of us have visited Arlington National Cemetery. Like all the national cemeteries across the U.S. these are beautiful, restful and well-cared for sites. Many of us plan to be interred in one of these cemeteries. Do you know how to go about making these arrangements? Thanks to a pre-need application, veterans and spouses no longer need to wait until the time of death to find out if they are eligible for burial in a national cemetery, or for memorial benefits such as a headstone, flat marker, or bronze medallion for use in private cemeteries.

Pre-need applications require the vet's Social Security number, date and place of birth, military status and service history (dates, discharge character, rank – information commonly found on a DD 214 or other separation documents). If you do not have discharge documents, NCA (National Cemetery Administration) staff will help you obtain the info needed to determine eligibility.

Applicants can apply online at va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility. You can apply by mail or fax using the form found at va.gov/find-forms/about-

form-40-10007. You can also search the web using the words "NCA Pre Need".

If you have questions or need help, call **(800) 535-1117** and press option **4**. NCA's offices are open 8 am to 7:30 pm, Monday to Friday and 9 am to 5:30 pm on Saturday, holidays excepted. Learn more online at va.gov/burials-memorials.

Source: American Legion Magazine, May 2024

SERVICE AWARD

Your Newsletter editor, Elaine Arnold (Associate Member) was surprised and pleased to receive a certificate of appreciation from the Detachment for service as editor for the Skuttlebutt, Detachment 154 monthly newsletter. Presented by Commandant Steve August, June 6th.



Meritorious Commendation (Individual)

 We are still selling T-Shirts with the Macomb County Detachment Logo Black or White letterings Short Sleeve or Long. Get with Steve August at the meetings

COMING EVENTS

Joint American Legion / MCL Picnic. August 3rd.
 Mark your calendars, more info to come.
 the American Legion Post 351, 46146 Cass Avenue, Utica

Iron Mike 5K, August 10 in Armada

Golf Fundraiser for Veterans, September 7, Bee Tee Golf Course

MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
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 Marine Corps League
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Change of Address: Send to the Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster at:

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 Sterling Heights, MI 48313
 Or email to Macomb.marines@gmail.com

New Address (please print):

Name _____

Street _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____