



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



Steve August, Detachment Commandant – (586) 823-4454 – email: wildone48038@yahoo.com
Alice Lyon Auxiliary President – (586-216-0523) – email: alicelyon88@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2024

Elaine Arnold, Newsletter Editor – (248) 606-2600 email: elaine48178@gmail.com
Detachment WEB Site: www.macombmarines.com

Marines & Auxiliary Members:

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday **February 1st at the usual meeting time of 7:30 pm**. 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
Chad Haase
Donald Moeller
Tepen Paterscak

Joan Pfaff
Catherine Samuel
John Sternicki
Gerald Susko
James Thede
Gary Titus

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

I just got back from the Mid Winter Rally from the Department level. They commented on the great things we are doing as far as recruiting and having 10 new members for the year of 2023. I hope those who attended the January meeting got some great information from Diana Laskey, our Macomb County Veterans and Military Families Navigator. I have some information and pamphlets in the storage room if you were not able to attend. We will try to have future guest speakers as well on different topics. Please let me know if you would like a specific topic and we will see if we can accommodate it. For the upcoming February meeting we will have

have a Lieutenant Colonel (Army Retired) lawyer discussing how he assisted one of our members with the water issue from Camp Lejeune.

We are working on the golf outing details and hope to have them out as soon as we can. We are going to a fun shoot at DSC on April 20th as we have previously done. I will have flyers for this at the meeting. We still have raffle tickets for the Department vehicle raffle. It is a chance to win a vehicle up to \$50,000.00 or cash \$30,000.00. Please get with me on specifics. The tickets are \$20.00 each.

Steve August, Commandant

AUXILIARY NEWS

It seems we were just saying “Merry Christmas” and now the stores are stocked with candy for Valentines Day. Think of it this way, we’re already halfway through winter.

Reminder: There is no Auxiliary meeting in February. We'll resume meetings in March.

At our Christmas party we decided on the following charities to be the recipients of our annual donations. Our thanks to all members, Auxiliary and Detachment, friends and family and the community-at-large who supported us in 2023. Without you we would not be able to send checks to the following groups:

- Wreaths Across America
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 154 Food Pantry
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Fund
- Michigan Fall & Wounded Soldiers Fund
- Michigan Veterans Foundation
- Vets Returning Home
- Miracle Quilts
- American Legion Food Pantry
- Fisher House, Detroit
- Chesterfield Veterans Home

The best kind of thank-you is seeing how our hard work from the past year has benefited our military

and veteran community. Let's keep this tradition going for years to come.

As mentioned with no meeting this month, there's little to report. However, some of our members attended the Mid-Winter Rally which took place January 19-20. I haven't received a report about this event as of the writing of this article but will report on it in next month's article. The Mid-Winter is a fun time and a nice getaway to get a break from the January deep freeze, but it is a time commitment. Thank you for representing our Auxiliary. It is greatly appreciated.

Keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers for improved health and recovery: April Tilton, Joan Pfaff, Loretta Balderson and Shirley Cichoski.

That's it for now. Enjoy the break from our monthly meetings. See you in March,

Irene Spooner
Treasurer/Secretary, Macomb County MCLA

What are the younger veterans looking for? That's the question that every established VSO should be asking themselves in the interest of recruiting. Finding the answers may seem like a daunting task, but the initial research is easier than one may think. Indeed, just use a common internet search engine with the key words "young veterans" and "VSO" and numerous articles on this exact topic are found giving some ideas about the current relationship of post-9/11 veterans and mature veterans service organizations.

When reading such articles, the scale of the VSO recruiting problem becomes very clear, and it's worse than some may realize. We have all heard of individual cases of VFW and American Legion posts struggling to find and retain new members, but authors writing about this issue are citing some real statistics that may still surprise us. For example, six VFW posts are closed every year in the state of Minnesota alone (Shaw, 2008). This was reported back in 2008, so one must wonder what the updated numbers are now in that state.

Some may assume, then, that the younger vets simply aren't interested in any VSO's as they transition to civilian life, but that assumption is wrong. As has already happened long ago with VSO's that no longer exist, young vets are attracted to organizations of a newer type. Have you ever heard of Student Veterans of America or Team Red, White and Blue? How about the Wounded Warrior Project? These are just a few of what are commonly known as the post-9/11 organizations, which have growth that exceeds 15 percent per year (Steinhauer, 2019).

So, what's the difference? Why have these newer organizations suddenly sprung up and what do they have to offer that the established VSO's don't? The answer seems to be on focus. Whereas the older VSO's focus on veteran camaraderie and lobbying for legislation concerning veterans, the post-9/11 organizations focus on small community events and specific target issues (Steinhauer, 2019). Team RWB, for example, has an emphasis on fitness, and Student Veterans of America has an obvious emphasis on education. However, the mature VSO's focus on legislation should not be overlooked by younger veterans as this is what gives them health, education, and other benefits, but many of them are ignorant about this important fact due to a lack of proper marketing efforts.

Going forward, the mature VSO's, to include the Marine Corps League, must start to reconsider their areas of focus to remain relevant and attractive to potential new recruits while simultaneously keeping *some* of their traditions to retain the existing membership. This is not likely an easy balance to maintain, and there is no one size fits all solution. A lot of ideas must be generated, and small-scale experiments need to be attempted at the detachment level to find what works for each local community.

REFERENCES

- Shaw, B. (2008, January 26). *Fading away: As membership declines, VFW halls disappear*. Retrieved from Pioneer Press: <https://www.twincities.com/2008/01/26/fading-away-as-membership-declines-vfw-halls-disappear/>
- Steinhauer, J. (2019, January 4). *Veterans' Groups Compete With Each Other, and Struggle With the V.A.* Retrieved from The New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/04/us/politics/veterans-service-organizations.html>

Justin Kane, Junior Vice Commandant

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Pictured above is the parade ground of Marine Barracks Washington DC. Last year we floated the idea of going for a Friday Evening Parade and we just couldn't make it happen. This May, before we get busy during the summer, I am going and I am inviting you to join me.

The plan is to leave for DC on Thursday May 9th or 16th. Friday we'll do some site seeing in the nation's capital before the parade. Saturday we'll go to the National Museum of the Marine Corps before driving half way back to Michigan.

If you want to go with me I need to know by the end of February so we can lock in all necessary logistics.

Jim Dewey, Detachment Chaplain

RECIPIENTS OF SERVICE AWARDS TO THE LEAGUE



Past Detachment Commandant Greg Pawlik for Historian with Steve August



Ron Hudak with Steve August and Don Lyon



Honor Guard leader Frank Petricevich with Steve August

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

2024 Honor Guard Members:

William Barron, Frank Petricevich, Norm Pfaff, Victor Racosky

Alternate's: Donald Lyon, Bruce Hartung

I want to put together a 3 – 7 man firing detail. See me if interested.

The League will pay for part of your uniforms. See me for more information.

2024 Upcoming Events:

The Flag folding class for Richmond and Imlay City Schools has been postponed due to weather.

The Corps needs you to help support these worthwhile events. Sign Up Today!

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MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
 Department of Michigan
 Marine Corps League
 INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS
 Mailing Address:
 14656 Eastport Drive
 Sterling Heights, MI 48313-5325

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Commandant	Steve August	(586) 823-4454	Auxiliary President	Alice Lyon	(586) 216-0523
Senior Vice Commandant	Mark Spooner	(586) 466-5708	Senior Vice President	Loretta Balderson	(810) 392-2590
Junior Vice Commandant	Justin Kane	(248) 750-7046	Junior Vice President	Maureen Ailor	(810) 310-6081
Judge Advocate	Christine Tonegatto-Salo	(586) 801-0081	Judge Advocate	Joan Pfaff	(586) 263-3448
Adjutant/Paymaster	Don Lyon	(586) 532-8225	Chaplain	Nancy Haase	(586) 992-9961
Chaplain	James Dewey	(910) 333-2224	Secretary	Irene Spooner	(586) 466-5708
Sergeant at Arms	Victor Rocosky	(810) 282-1213	Treasurer	Irene Spooner	(586) 466-5708
Editor, Newsletter	Elaine Arnold	(248) 606-2600			
Honor Guard Commander	Frank Petricevich	(586) 531-5726			
Quartermaster	Available				
Deputy Quartermaster	John Sternicki	(586) 468-1014			
Historian	Greg Pawlik	(586) 979-2986			
Web Sergeant	Don Lyon	(586) 532-8225			

Change of Address: Send to the Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster at:

14656 Eastport Drive
 Sterling Heights, MI 48313
 Or email to Macomb.marines@gmail.com

New Address (please print):

Name _____

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