



SKUTTLEBUTT

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



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 OCTOBER 2019
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Marines & Auxiliary Members:

October Meeting Notice

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday 3 October 2019 at 7:00 pm.(1900).

Where we will conduct the installation of officers for the detachment and auxiliary.

There will be a dinner following the installation.

Join us at the American Legion, Post 351, 46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica. The telephone number to the Post is (586) 731-9833.

2019 Election of Officers Results

Commandant	Norm Pfaff
Sr. Vice Commandant	Mike Hall
Jr. Vice Commandant	
Judge Advocate	Christine Tonegatto-Salo
Chaplain	James Dewey
Adjutant/Paymaster	Don Lyon
Sergeant at arms	Clement Buck

DETACHMENT BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

- Jeffrey E Draksler
- John L. Sych
- Robert T. Long
- Angelo Lema
- Benny A. Gaglio
- Gary L. Titus Jr.

if your birthday does not appear in the list it means that I do not have it in the records. Get the correct information to me.

4th Quarter 2019 Awards

Alan D. Opra	10 years	December
John L. Sych	10 years	December
John J. Bierkamp	25 years	November
Fred Bullis	25 years	December
Robert M. Westfall	25 years	November
Paul Glesen	40 years	December

50/50 ATTENDANCE DRAWING

September's 50/50 Drawing was won by Clement Buck

Robert Dybowski would have won the attendance drawing had he been present.

Calendar of Events

Oct. 3	1900	General Membership Meeting Installation of Officers
Nov. 7	1930	General Membership Meeting
Nov. 10		Marine Corps Birthday Party 1500-2000 hours
Dec. 6	1900	General Membership Meeting and Detachment/Auxiliary Christmas Party
Jan 2 2020	1930	General Membership meeting
Feb 6	1930	General Membership meeting

From the Commandant

Thanks Marines and auxiliary

Mike Hall went to work to collect baby clothes for a baby shower for Veterans at the John Dingell VA hospital only to find out that they only take new clothes. Not to be deterred, he delivered a pickup load of Clothes to Turning Point in Mount Clemens. Big OHRAH for Mike

Marines Corps league furnished a color guard for Veterans Suicide Prevention ceremony at the John Dingell Hospital on September 24th. Thanks to Marines Bruce Hartung, Gerry Mize and Don Lyon. OHRAH Marines

Today we are heading back to the John Dingell Hospital to deliver a load of diapers (furnished by MCL) and lots of new baby clothes

from Lorretta Balderson (MCL Auxiliary) and her "Quilting Friends". They also made many beautiful quilted baby blankets for the babies/moms. Thank you ladies for you kind and generous labor of love. Give auxiliary members Joan Pfaff and Loretta Balderson (The Quilt Lady) a big thank you for making many military families "baby shower" possible. Let's make next years shower even bigger. OHRAH Ladies

With the Marines Birthday party just around the corner, the Auxiliary got a big gift of 15 bottles of booze for their basket raffles. Donated by Marine Gary Titus (he must of lost his mind). Rumor has it that some low life Marine (a past commandant) took a few bottles of bourbon before they got to the auxiliary.

Respectfully Submitted
Norm Pfaff

Adjutant/Paymaster

Is your information correct? I have been getting a lot of mail returned, as unable to forward. If you wish to keep getting the newsletter and the Leatherneck magazine I need to have your correct address, email and phone numbers. Send it to me. Use the form on the last page of this newsletter.

I have also found out that some of our members have died, and their families did not know to inform the detachment of their passing. Did you know you are entitled to receive honors at your funeral? Does your family know?

Annual membership renewals due now

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Steven J. August | Jerome N. Nadolski |
| David J. Auwen | Ronald B. Parks |
| John H. Blackburn | James Rhodes |
| David M. Burin | John J. Spehar |
| Bryan Daffran | Raymond J. Tucci |
| Rick A. Kincaid | Dale Verhaeghe |
| Gordon Lowrie | Malcolm Whitehouse |
| Raymond Mrosewske | |



Historians Corner

Gregory Pawlik Historian

GERALD MIZE - his story (part one)

Gerald was kind enough to give in to my persistent requests to have me tell his story of his time in the Marine Corps.

Gerald was born in Detroit in 1940, and grew up in East Detroit on Rausch Street attending East Detroit High School.

Not too long after completing high school, he joins the Marines for four years.

He left for San Diego for out of Willow Run airport Friday August 28th 1959. (Metro Airport was still under construction at that time. He arrived on a foggy morning, picked up by bus and taken to a diner in town for breakfast. He then was taken to receiving barracks to be processed, but since he arrived on weekend he ended up staying there for two days. But then came Monday and the S*** hit the fan. (I asked if there were the famous "yellow footprints" and Gerald says there were none in 1959). He was assigned to recruit platoon 265. Like today, boot camp was 13 weeks long.



As we all remember, a recruit was forbidden to receive any packages from home, and Gerald recalled an incident where a recruit received a box of fudge. So the D.I. has this recruit get a canteen of warm water and eat this box of fudge and wash it down with the warm

water. The result of this was not pleasant at all for the recruit.

Another incident involved two recruits smoking cigarettes while hiding in a trash dumpster. Of course they were caught by the D.I., and then were told to fill their mouths with cigarettes, light them up, and then smoke them while having a bucket over their head.

Like many of the "old breed" Gerald went to Camp Matthews for the rifle range. In his case he took a bus there and then marched back after rifle qualification. While there they lived in tents. While at the range a rash of food poisoning occurred, and a number of recruits became seriously ill. Gerald was lucky and did not get sick. His previous experience working in a restaurant taught him what foods to avoid. Gerald qualified as marksman on the M-1 and sharpshooter on the .45 pistol.

After graduation he was given 10 days leave. The trouble was there was no travel time allotted for getting home. You had to use part of your 10 days to get home! The bad thing for Gerald was he had to take a train home. As he tells it, most of those 10 days were spent on trains coming and going. He recalls he might have spent 4-5 days at home at the most. When he got back to the west coast he reported to Camp Pendleton for ITR (Infantry training regiment).

Upon completing ITR, Gerald reported to weapons platoon, Company "A", 1st battalion 7th marines on January 8th 1960 at Camp Pendleton.



In March the battalion set sail for Westpac duty on the USS General Mitchell, stopping in Hawaii, crossing the International Date Line, stopping in Japan, and finally arriving in Okinawa. Once situated in Okinawa, the battalion was re-designated as 1st battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. Gerald's MOS was 0351 (anti-tank/assault).

During his time on Okinawa, his unit participated in many amphibious training exercises via landing craft or helicopter, doing all of the things typical of a Marine infantryman. This training was conducted throughout the western Pacific - the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, with R&R visits to Hong Kong and Hawaii. Their home base was Camp Hansen. His unit was stationed adjacent to elements of the 82nd Airborne Division and Gerald recalls participating in some of the training that the 82nd conducted, but he never did have to jump out of a plane!

Marine Corps League detachment 153 is asking for your help.

On December 16 the building next to ours caught fire and was a total loss. We sustained extensive smoke and water damage. We intend to rebuild so we can continue to support disabled, health challenged, the VA and underprivileged military veterans and their families in the downriver area. Unfortunately our insurance will not cover the cost to rebuild and replace all the damage. The members of MCL detachment 153 would surely appreciate it if you could support our campaign by making a donation or sharing our campaign with your friends. You can see the link here <https://www.gofundme.com/Marine-Corps-League-Chapter-153-fire-fund> any and all help and or donation are appreciated!



Auxiliary News

Our September meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:45 pm. We had a quorum so we could continue with an official meeting. The minutes from the August meeting were read as well as the current Treasurer's report and motions passed to accept them.

We discussed the upcoming Installation of Officers which will take place at our October 3rd meeting. As a reminder to all, October's meeting starts at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30 pm. Our current officers all volunteered to remain in their posts for another year. Our normal tradition is to open our meeting, have a very abbreviated order of business and then close the meeting in order to conduct the Installation. It's a joint ceremony with the Detachment which brings out the fact that we support each other in all our endeavors. This has always been part of the Auxiliary's purpose. At the beginning of our meetings, our Auxiliary President asks the Senior Vice President, "What is the purpose of this Auxiliary?" The Senior Vice answers in part, "to create a bond of comradeship between this Auxiliary and the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League." Our joint Installation is an annual reminder of this important and valuable tradition.

The uniform of the day for the Auxiliary is white shirt or blouse, black pants, Auxiliary pin and cover if you have one. After the ceremony, we have a light dinner provided by the Detachment. The Auxiliary brings either a dessert or an appetizer. It's a fun and social event we all enjoy.

The next order of business was reopening the discussion about getting new Auxiliary shirts. Calls are to be made this month for pricing and to at least one vendor to see about the cost of our logo. We all agree we want new shirts and the process is moving forward.

I want to remind all our Auxiliary members, if you change your contact information, cell phone, home phone, email or address, please let me know. Being able to remain in contact with each other is vital to our Auxiliary. If texting is the best way to contact you, please advise us.

We gave the Detachment a check in the amount of \$204.84 from the picnic basket raffle. This was our net after expenses. Our actual

expenses were minimal, less than \$30 because of the donated items we received. Donations are so important for these types of events. Thank you, one and all, for your help with the picnic basket raffle.

The Auxiliary is looking for donations for the basket raffle which takes place every year at our celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday. This is the Auxiliary's biggest fund raiser of the year and it's only possible with your help. All the funds we receive from the ticket sales at the party go to veteran charities and most of it goes right back into our own community. So, if you have Marine Corps items, Auxiliary or Detachment items, sports memorabilia, small appliances, non-perishable food items, liquor, wine or beer, we'll be happy to accept them for our baskets. We'll accept just about anything that's new or in "almost new condition" for our raffle baskets. There's only two more meetings before the Birthday Party, October and November, so time is short to donate. Did I mention, we'll take cash, too? If you have any questions, contact Irene Spooner at 586-466-5708.

There will be more information about our celebration of the 244th Birthday of the Marine Corps in the next Skuttlebutt and at our next meetings. While this is an honored Marine tradition, our party is open to all our friends and supporters. Our Detachment and Auxiliary is proud of the many Marine Corps Birthday parties we've held in the past and we're all looking forward to this year's as well.

See you at our next meeting on October 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Semper Fidelis,
Irene Spooner
Secretary/Treasurer
Macomb County MCLA



MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
 Department of Michigan
 Marine Corps League
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

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New Address (please print):

Name _____

Street _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____