



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



Nate Jolliff, Detachment Commandant – (248) 464-3258 – email: natejolliff@comcast.net
Alice Lyon Auxiliary President – (586-216-0523) – email: alicelyon88@gmail.com

JANUARY 2026

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



Group Photo with Toys for Tots donated 4 December

Marines & Auxiliary Members:

JANUARY MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will not be held on our usual first Thursday of the month (which happens to be New Years Day) but on **January 8th** at 7:30. Join us at the American Legion Post 351, (46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica,) The telephone number to the Post is (586) 731-9833.

DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY



Shirley Cichoski
Gary Music
Thomas Samuel
John Szajna
William Tudrick

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Marines, Associate Members, Auxiliary Members, and Devil Dogs!!

As I write this in December's snowy cold grip (wind gusts nearing 60MPH), I can't help but reflect in warmer weather on nearing the end of another great year for our MCL Detachment 154. But more importantly, the list of opportunities for our league to reach new heights as a team-centric organization achieving shared objectives. Ooh-rah!

I am really looking forward to attending for the first time the Marine Corps League Department of Michigan 2026 Midwinter Conference 22 - 25 January 2026. Great learning opportunity and networking event! Interested? Here is more detail. I encourage you to consider attending...

Department of Michigan 2026 Midwinter Packet co-hosted by Flint Detachment 155 & the Flint Auxiliary Unit 22-25 January 2026 at the Courtyard Mount Pleasant at Central Michigan University. The rate is \$105.26 (inclusive) and the room reservation deadline is 05 January 2026. The Strip Ticket cost is \$70 with a deadline of 15 January 2026.

So, on the day I was installed as detachment commandant, I was given the opportunity by Department of Michigan Marine Corps League to actively engage in an important 2026 Fund Raiser Raffle. This particular fundraiser appeals to our inner warrior...top prize being a Kimber .45 cal.

Kimber's .45 history began with its entry into the crowded 1911 market in the mid-1990s, quickly establishing a reputation for high-quality, feature-rich, American-made .45 ACP pistols, diverging from mass-market production to focus on precision with CNC machining, match-grade parts, and unique designs like the Raptor and Eclipse, eventually becoming favored by law enforcement (LAPD SWAT) and special forces (MARSOC), cementing their place as a premier 1911 manufacturer known for accuracy and craftsmanship.

Dept. of Michigan - Marine Corp League
4131 Maple St., Dearborn, MI 48126
2026 Fund Raiser RAFFLE

1st Prize: Kimber .45 cal or Cash Equivalent
2nd Prize: 50" TV or Cash Equivalent
3rd Prize: \$200.00

Donation: \$10 each or 6 for \$50 (5000 tickets printed) Winner need not be present to win
Drawing: May 25, 2026 at Dept MI. 2PM License: # R80218

1324

Please come see me if you'd like to actively support this raffle (drawing is May 25, 2026) fundraiser. Tickets/Donation is \$10 each, or 6 for \$50. My "ask" is for you to purchase tickets, and join our team of ticket "Sellers". Over the holidays, I have already sold more than \$420 in ticket sales!

Nate Jolliff, Commandant

SR VICE MESSAGE

What did your utility uniform look like? Did it have a single color like olive drab? Was it the woodland camouflage pattern of the 80's and 90's? Or are you a younger Marine that put on the digital camouflage pattern with the suede leather boots that no longer required polishing?

According to recent reports, it sounds like the digital camouflage uniforms may soon also be historical as the Marine Corps is looking to update the standard utility wear again. A news article from the Military.com website shows concept art of what the new uniforms may look like, which harkens back to an earlier time with a solid color instead of a camouflage pattern. Rather than the olive drab color of the Vietnam War era, however, the chosen color may be coyote brown.



Source: Military.com

The idea is to have a uniform that will be adaptable to most battle terrains and be applicable to all MOS categories while being more affordable to manufacture. This will likely apply to all branches of the military, not just the Marine Corps, as the Department of Defense is looking to find ways to cut costs.

For me, it is a bit disappointing to see the current uniform go away as that is what I wore during my last couple of years of service, and I found the digital pattern to be the most effective camouflage I have ever seen. Indeed, it will be strange to see new photos and video footage of current Marines wearing something different, and this will likely make me feel a bit older.

Despite how nostalgic we may feel about the uniforms we once wore, the Marine Corps must change with the times. "Adapt and overcome" is our unofficial motto, isn't it? In the same spirit, the Marine Corps League must also adapt with the times. For our detachment, this starts with a uniform change just like the Corps. We have a new polo shirt designed by the detachment commandant himself that replaces the old red polo shirts worn for so long. These are far more modern and should help us get the look we need to represent a veterans organization of the twenty-first century. Pick yours up at the next meeting for \$25 or order one online at clothinggraphics.com.

Justin Kane, Sr. Vice



HISTORIAN'S CORNER

The history of the Marine Corps Reserve, Part one

I chose to tell the story of our reserve marines because few of us know how it came to be, and America now counts on them to play a much more significant role in our country's defense than in the past. Once thought of a place to serve one's country but avoid the draft and fulfill and their military obligation.

The Act of 29 August 1916 authorized "A U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to be part of the Marine Corps, patterned in organization to the U.S. Naval Reserve, that was already in existence" At that time the Marine Corps authorized strength was 344 officers and 9,921 enlisted.

New recruits for the reserve were trained locally in the districts where reserve companies were formed, using local armories to conduct drill. They were interviewed, recruited, and selected by Marine officers that were assigned to the post, and they too were reservists. They did gather with other reserve companies in their region for two-week summer camps. For this article I could only find one mention of a location for the summer camp, and that was for east coast reservists at Quantico Virginia.

Participation in World War I

The extent to which individual Marine Reserves were involved in World War I is not clearly documented. At that time, one could enlist for 4 years (you were deemed a Regular) or you could join "for the duration." Very few of the Regular establishment knew of a Reserve at that time. When war was declared all of the reservists reported and were absorbed into the 4th Marine Brigade. The exploits of the Brigade as part of the Army's 2nd Division of Regulars are well documented, identifying the Corps to the rest of the world as a formidable fighting force.

Source: The Marine Corps Reserve, A History

*Greg Pawlik
Detachment Historian*

AUXILIARY NEWS

As a reminder to all Auxiliary members: **we do not have meetings in January and February.** Our regular meetings restart on Thursday, March 5, 2026 as long as Mother Nature cooperates and we don't have a blizzard. Michigan weather is great!

Our Christmas party was a big success. It's such a pleasant evening. We attended to our business and decided which charity would be on our annual charity donation list. Here's this year's list of recipients:

American Legion Food Pantry

Vietnam Veterans of America #154 Food Pantry

Fallen & Wounded Soldiers Fund

Miracle Quilts

Michigan Veterans Home-Chesterfield

Wreaths Across America

After we took care of the donations, we closed our meeting. Once again American House catered our Christmas party dinner and it was wonderful. We enjoyed a delicious dinner of chicken and roast beef, roasted potatoes, green beans, rolls, salad and scrumptious desserts. Roxanne and Ron from American House do such a nice job for us, we can't thank them enough.

We will definitely plan to do something special for the veterans of American House in 2026. That will be #1 on our agenda. The rest of the evening we socialized, toasted the upcoming holiday season and viewed the Tots for Tots collection. As usual, everyone was so very generous with the toys. It's a good cause and we're glad to be part of it.



Auxiliary basket raffle, cake provided by Aimee Kane



Party attendees





Reading of the Commandant's 2025 Birthday message



Michigan State Representative Ron Robinson, oldest Marine Paul Glesen, Youngest Marine Justin Kane

With the New Year ahead of us, it always a good thing to look back and thank those who made this year such a success for our Auxiliary. I'm not listing any names so as not to overlook anyone, but you know who you are. I'm referring to the members of the Auxiliary and the Detachment who gave of their time to attend meetings, were part of the planning committees for events, and donated time and treasure to help make our fundraisers successful. Thank you to those who came a little earlier to set up chairs and arrange tables and stayed a little later to put them back. All our events, both for the Auxiliary and Detachment, wouldn't happen without your help. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Since we're not having meetings in January or February, the Auxiliary is planning to get together for

lunch during this time. Check your text messages and/or your email for updates. Please keep Christine Tonegatto-Salo in your prayers as she recovers from her recent successful surgery. Also keep Joan and Norm Pfaff in your prayers as well.

That's it for now. A Happy and Safe New Year to all and looking forward to an exciting and productive 2026!

Irene Spooner, Treasurer, Macomb County Unit, MCLA

Toys for Tots 2025



Roughly 1200 Toys for Tots were collected and distributed to the needy families in our area. Also, \$189.00 in cash and \$200.00 in gift cards were collected. Moreover, we had an event at English Gardens (Sip and Shop) on 20 Nov 25, that I attended along with Reps from USMCR. Donation amount still pending as of 29 Dec 25. Job Well Done, Marines!



John Myroniuk, Toys for Tots Liaison

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

Published monthly for members of the Macomb County Detachment and Auxiliary. SKUTTLEBUTT Newsletter is a non-profit monthly publication for the use of the Macomb County Detachment/Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League. Article deadline is the 15th of each month

Commandant	Nate Jolliff	(248) 464-3258	Auxiliary President	Alice Lyon	(586) 216-0523
Senior Vice Commandant	Justin Kane	(248) 750-7046	Senior Vice President	Loretta Balderson	(810) 392-2590
Junior Vice Commandant	vacant		Junior Vice President	Maureen Ailor	(810) 310-6081
Judge Advocate	Christine Tonegatto-Salo	(586) 801-0081	Judge Advocate	Nancy Haase	(586) 992-9961
Adjutant	Lisa Fountain	(810) 841-5472	Chaplain	Janice Meredith	(586) 872-8063
Paymaster	Don Lyon	(586) 925-5010	Secretary	Irene Spooner	(586) 466-5708
Chaplain	James Dewey	(910) 333-2224	Treasurer	Irene Spooner	(586) 466-5708
Sergeant at Arms	Gary Micu	(586) 899-6498			
Editor, Newsletter	Elaine Arnold	(248) 606-2600			
Honor Guard Commander	Don Lyon	(586) 925-5010			
Quartermaster	Steve August	(586) 823-4454			
Deputy Quartermaster	John Sternicki	(586) 468-1014			
Historian	Greg Pawlik	(586) 979-2986			
Web Sergeant	Don Lyon	(586) 925-5010			

Change of Address: Send to the Detachment Paymaster at:
 14656 Eastport Drive
 Sterling Heights, MI 48313
 Or email to Macomb.marines@gmail.com

New Address (please print):

Name _____
 Street _____
 City/Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email address _____