



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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MARCH 2023

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MARCH MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday **March 2nd at 7:30** (our usual time.) 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.

Chad Haase (photo on the left)
MOS 2884 - ground radar repair
served 1988-1995
sergeant
boot camp - San Diego
Subic Bay
Okinawa
29 Palms
Broadhead Naval Armory Detroit

DETACHMENT AND AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH



Loretta Balderson
Charles Brown
David Burin
Kim Hadley
Bill Heise

Brett Jacokes
John Myroniuk
Gary Nummer
Jim Rhodes
Charles Tyson

John Blanzky (on the right)
MOS 0313 - LAV crewman
sergeant
boot camp - Parris Island
Camp Pendleton
Fort Dietrich MD

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Mid-Winter Rally Highlights:

- There are 3 possible open opportunities for us to host an event in 2024 like Mid-Winter, it's a great way to raise some money for the detachment
- Discussion to fix Gaps between Department and Detachment. Zone commandant to come to meeting hopefully twice a year
- Possible Car raffle for Department
- Scholarship Funds
- Dues are going to possibly be electronic soon
- How to attract younger membership

NEW MEMBERS REPORTING IN



At the February General Membership Meeting, two new members were sworn in to the Detachment: Marine Chad Haase and Marine John Blanzky.

Welcome aboard Marines!

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



The Golf Outing is underway to secure Timberwood Golf Course: 23700 31 Mile Rd, Ray, MI 48096 Sept 23rd.

Bowling - March 18th For the Family 1pm Shelby Lanes Bowling, 50721 Van Dyke Ave Shelby Twp Mi 48317

Please let me know of any other suggestions or ideas, - things where we can improve.

Steve August, Commandant

SQUARED AWAY WITH THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

In this month's lesson I feel compelled to explain my job as the Sergeant-at-Arms. Beyond conducting the flag ceremony and leading the Pledge of Allegiance each month, it is my duty to maintain the order of conduct and enforce the rules that have been given to us, regardless of how we feel about them.

Most any Marine who served for some time can tell stories of having to conform to some rule or ritual that just didn't make much sense back then or even perhaps today. One such instance happened to me while in combat on my second tour of duty in Iraq.

Our battalion was positioned in the industrial sector of the city of Fallujah and had now paused operations for a political ceasefire due to the political ramifications of the media reports not being favorable to our nation's government. Up to that time, we had experienced some intense fighting from insurgents who had traveled long distances to get their chance to shoot at the U.S. military with rifles, machine guns, rockets, and even mortars. Although the enemy did score some casualties, their efforts were in vain while we took the city and put the squeeze on them, until we were told to halt.

We sat camped in abandoned buildings while watching the enemy reinforce their positions and waiting for our top brass to figure out how to remove us from the city without making it look like we were retreating from the enemy under fire. My thanks to U.S. Army General Ricardo Sanchez for that courtesy.

During our time of waiting, we too improved our positions, but mostly suffered from boredom. On one such day, I was standing in the street in front of the buildings we were camped in when the Company First Sergeant came walking by. At a glance he saw that my hand opposite of him may be in my pocket, and indeed it was. After confirming that my hand's position was in violation of the Marine Corps' standards, he immediately reprimanded me and told me to remove it. I was stunned that he would care about such things in the current time and place, but I quietly obeyed without protest because there is never any sense in trying to argue with a First Sergeant.

Marines, just like the First Sergeant, I as the Sergeant-at-Arms have a duty to enforce and uphold some rules and bylaws that were handed to me regardless of how anyone feels about them. If you find yourself staring into a canteen cup and hearing me demand a quarter for some silly violation of our rules, please don't get angry with me. I don't make the rules, I just enforce them.

Justin Kane, Sergeant-at-Arms

AUXILIARY NEWS

January and February flew by and we're ready to get together for our March meeting. Winter is still hanging on, but the days are getting longer and slowly, but surely the temps are warming up. We surely don't want Mother Nature surprising us this week with a blizzard. Hopefully, that's a joke!

We had our second meeting with Women's Life about the Meat Raffle fundraiser. Once again, mark your calendars for Saturday, May 20, 2023. It's at the American Legion Post 351 where we have our monthly meetings. Doors open at 5pm, dinner at 5:30 pm and the raffle starts promptly at 6:45 pm. We made a few tweaks to the flyer, so we will have that available soon. It's only \$15 to get in and that gets you the chili dinner and 10 tickets for the raffle. What a deal! We'll be selling tickets very soon, so stay tuned for more information.

We're still looking for sponsors and volunteers for the meat raffle. If you know of a business that would like to help out, we're offering \$100 sponsorships. This will get the company name added to the flyer, posted on social media as a sponsor and listed as a sponsor for one of the raffle rounds. Also, by making out the sponsorship check to the Macomb County Marine Corps League Auxiliary, the business gets a tax deduction.

As you know, all the funds raised by the Auxiliary are given back to Veteran and community charities throughout the year. If you have any questions concerning this or volunteer opportunities, please contact Irene Spooner at 586-466-5708.

We'll be discussing other events at our next meeting including the Women's Baby shower at the Detroit VA. COVID is still causing problems at area hospitals. It's understandable why health care professionals are very cautious when it comes to exposing the most vulnerable of our population to outside visitors. We'll just have to work around these obstacles as we have in the past.

I want to remind Auxiliary members that we'll be discussing the activity reports that President Ailor will need for the upcoming spring convention. These are the civic, volunteer and patriotic activities you've done over the past year outside of the Auxiliary meetings. These are activities from flying American flag at your home, to helping a veteran neighbor with grocery shopping or volunteering at the voting polls. We'll work on these reports together over the next month so we can show how involved we are as an Auxiliary.

Lost & Found: did anyone see or pick up a black handled chef's knife from the Birthday party in November? I brought it to the party to use serving food and had my name on it (an address label). I've looked around the Post with no luck. It's not an expensive knife,

but it serves a purpose, so if anyone sees it or picked it up by mistake, I'd appreciate any help in finding it.

That's it for now. See you Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 7:30pm for our first Auxiliary meeting of the year. Semper Fidelis,

Irene Spooner
Treasurer, Macomb County MCLA

MEET YOUR DETACHMENT LEADERSHIP

"Constant as a northern star".....you ought to have noticed our Deputy Quartermaster manning the ships' store since the 1990's, John Sternicki.

John took over the role as Deputy back then as Quartermaster Roger Field was unable to attend meetings due to his work schedule. The role stuck and John has been consistently serving ever since.

Initially John attended meetings accompanying his dad (WWII veteran Marine, former detachment Commandant 1990-91, who passed away in 2002.) In November of 1995 John became an MCL Associate member.

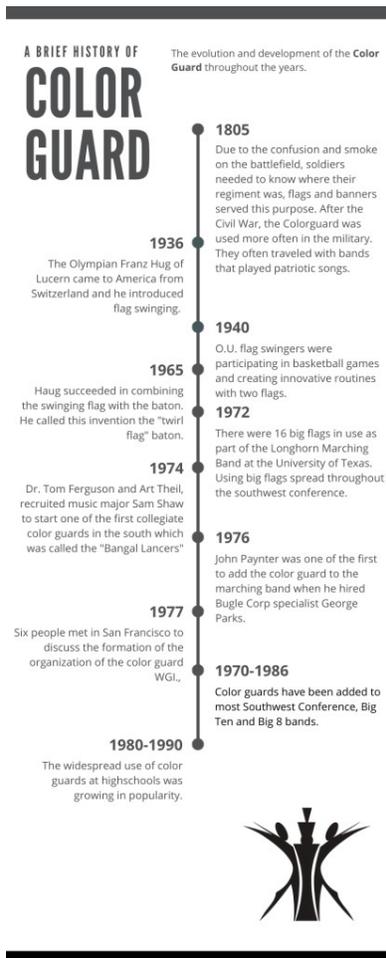
Since then, he has been manning the store and managing the 50/50 and Attendance drawings at every meeting and event. The current Quartermaster, Dean Miles, does the ordering and sourcing of items. During working hours you'll find John at Macomb Community College, Printing and Duplication (since 1984.) In his leisure time, John enjoys bowling and golf.



HONOR GUARD NEWS

To understand the color guard, you have to understand the meaning behind the equipment they use. The rifle or sabre guards provide a ceremonial guard for each of the flags, this is a representation that they are safe and protected. The flags themselves and the colors have their own meanings. The white flag represents innocence and purity, the red flag represents hardiness and valor, and the blue flag represents vigilance and perseverance as well as justice and everything our country has overcome. Within every color guard performance, there is love and support for our Corps, Community, and Nation shown. Being a part of the color guard is such an honor. It is a representation of support

for the country, the men and women serving the country as well as the nation itself. If you have more questions about the history of the color guard then please refer to the infographic below.



Source: <https://bandmans.com/color-guard-their-role-importance/>

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.



MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
 Department of Michigan
 Marine Corps League
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 Sterling Heights, MI 48313-5325

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City/Zip _____

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