



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



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FEBRUARY 2010
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Detachment WEB Site: www.macombmarines.org

Marines & Auxiliary Members:

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, 4 February 2010 at 2000 Hours. This is the same time and date for the Detachment and Auxiliary.

Both meetings will be held at the American Legion, Post 351, 46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica.

The telephone number to the Post is: (586) 731-9833.

MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL

December Renewals:

Jason E. Daniels
Donald E. Schwan

January Renewals:

Austin D. Sabin

February Renewals:

Jack W. Ketelhut
Donald R. Lyon, Jr.
David J. Auwen

Your annual membership dues of \$31.00 (checks payable to: Macomb County Detachment, MCL) should be mailed to the Adjutant/Paymaster at: 6388 Old Coach Trail, Washington, Michigan, 48094-2148 or in person at the General Membership Meeting.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

For those members that pay their membership on an annual basis, maybe you should think about Life Membership.

For the Life Membership Option: you pay one time and are a member for life. Life membership fees are based on age and are as follows:

Age Up to 35	\$500.00
Age 36 to 50	\$400.00
Age 51 to 60	\$300.00
Age 61 and up	\$150.00

With your Paid Life Membership, you will receive a metal Life Membership Card, Lapel Pin and a Certificate suitable for framing. You may select Life Membership at any time as long as you are a member in good standing (dues up-to-date).

The Detachment currently has 114 Paid Life Members. This represents 80% of our paid membership.

We have a payment plan for those that do not have the money available for a lump sum payment for Life Membership.

If you are interested in Life Membership under this plan, or have any questions, contact the Adjutant/Paymaster for details. The Detachment currently has 117 Paid Life Members. This represents 82% of our paid membership.

DETACHMENT & AUXILIARY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FEBRUARY



- Kevin L. Balfour**
Craig S. Brozowski
Jerome A. Buckman
Bill L. Carpenter
Robert V. Dybowski
Roger A. Field
Frederick E. Haustein
Douglas E. Newell
Richard W. Nummer
Stephen E. Patercsak
Joan Pfaff
Beverly Reilly
Jan Reiter
John F. Sternicki
Richard L. Succarde
Gerald A. Susko
Gary L. Titus

JANUARY MEETING

At the January General Membership Meeting, Marine Anthony Rusnak would have won the Attendance Raffle of \$5.75 if he had been at the meeting and paid his 25¢. The next attendance raffle will be approximately \$14.00 (depending on the number of members present). Another good reason to attend the meetings!

The Detachment also holds a 50/50 Raffle at each meeting. The amount of winnings depends on the number of tickets sold. Tickets are priced at \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Winning \$27.00 at the January meeting was Marine John Sych. This raffle supports the publication and mailing of this newsletter.

We had three new members accepted into the Detachment.

Marine James Szczesny, Detachment Fund Raising Officer has put together a fund raiser. It will be a Casino Trip to the Motor City Casino on the 27th of February. Also, a Military Rifle Shoot is planned for April.

Due to the snow fall, there were only twenty-three brave souls present at the meeting.

OFFICER VACANCY

Due to work constraints, Senior Vice Commandant Douglas Newell has resigned his position.

The Detachment thanks Marine Newell for his outstanding work as an Officer in the Detachment.

NEW MEMBERS REPORTING IN



At the January General Membership Meeting, the following were accepted as Members in our Detachment:

Charles E. Brown

Marine Brown was discharged from Active Duty in April of 1969 with the rank of Sergeant and served as an Assaultman. Marine Brown was awarded the Navy Cross for actions against the enemy in Vietnam.

He re-enlisted as an officer after college and served as a Judge Advocate.

Marine Brown was discharged as a Captain in June of 1977.

John C. Sneed

John was discharged from Active Duty in August of 1971 with the rank of Hospital Corpsman Third Class and served as a Field Medical Service Technician in the Fleet Marine Force.

Corey Salo

Corey was accepted as an Associate Member.

Welcome aboard!

We hope your association with the Detachment will be a memorable one.

This brings our total membership to 150 members

IN MEMORY



Marine Marco (Mike) Adragna was called by the Supreme Commandant on 10 January 2010. Marine Adragna was a member of the Detachment since August of 1991. He served as Detachment Adjutant, Editor of the SKUTTLEBUTT Newsletter and also formatted and printed a Detachment Membership Directory.

Marine Adragna was a Department Officer, serving as a member of the Awards Committee.

He was the Detachment Marine of the Year in 1994 and also Michigan State Fair Veteran of the Year.

On his own, he was instrumental in having Metropolitan Highway (16 Mile Road) re-named as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.

Again, on his own, he went on to have a Memorial erected at the Sterling Heights City Hall honoring all Macomb County

Veterans that gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Mike was an integral part of the Sterling Heights annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade, arranging for the laying of the wreaths and playing of taps during the ceremony, participation from veteran's groups and once serving as grand marshal for the parade.

He was honored by the City of Sterling Heights by Resolution honoring him for his efforts to recognize veterans in Sterling Heights and throughout Macomb County.

He served a tour of duty in the Korean War and was discharged from the Marine Corps on 11 February 1954 with the rank of Sergeant.

The Detachment performed a Memorial Service at the funeral home and also at the church the following day. Thanks go out to those members that participated.

"They will find the streets are guarded, by United States Marines."

DETACHMENT HONOR GUARD

There will be an Honor Guard practice on Thursday, 4 February 2010 at the American Legion, Post 351 at 1830 Hours. This will be prior to the Detachment General Membership Meeting.

Questions should be referred to Marine Scott Neff, Detachment Honor Guard Commander.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Just a reminder that the Auxiliary will meet in February as usual. This meeting will focus on fundraising. Some preliminary discussion took place at our December meeting, but nothing was set in stone. We discussed the Marine Corps Rose sale and the possibility of a garage sale. Joan Pfaff will bring us up to date any Texas Hold'um news. So bring your ideas to our meeting. Remember, the more funds we can bring in during the year, the more we can give out to our charities at year's end.

The Department of Michigan Marine Corps League and Auxiliary will be holding the 2010 Mid-Winter Rally January 29-30, 2010. It's always a fun event, so I encourage all to attend. We'll get a report on the Rally at our February meeting.

It's with heavy heart that we said good-bye to Mike Adragna who passed away January 10, 2010. He was a good friend and true supporter of our Auxiliary and will be deeply missed. Our prayers are with Grace during these difficult times. During Mike's funeral service I was reminded of the words of the last verse of the Marine Corps Hymn,

*"If the Army and the Navy ever look on heaven's scenes,
They will find the streets are guarded by
United States Marines".*

I know all of you will agree, Mike is there in heaven, guarding the streets, like the good and proud Marine he was. Semper Fidelis, Mike.

*Irene Spooner
Auxiliary President*

YOUNG MARINES

The Macomb Unit of the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League has been awarded the '2009 Unit of the Year for the Michigan Regiment. The Unit presently has 122 members.

MACOMB MONGRELS – POUND 345
MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS

At our last Growl of the Pound on 18 January 2010 one new PUP was accepted into the Order. Sworn in as a PUP was Marines Scott Neff from our Detachment. Welcome aboard PUP!

To fill a vacancy, Devil Dog Donald Teeples volunteered as the Sir Pound Barking Dog.



Our next Growl of the Pound is scheduled to meet at the American Legion, Post 351 on Monday, 15 March 2010 at 1930 Hours.

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs is the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League. We are interested in quality members, not quantity. It's purposes is to provide added strength to the League, to promote camaraderie among all members, and to help make the experience of being a member of the Marine Corps League memorable in every respect.

Membership qualifications are:

- You must be a regular member of the Marine Corps League in good standing (dues up to date).
- Must be of good character and reputation (we have a little wiggle room here).
- You must have at least one (1) year in the Marine Corps League.

For those that are members of a different Pound in the Order, this is an excellent opportunity for those of you that are members and do not attend Growls because of the travel distance involved to Dearborn, Detroit and Wyondotte.

Questions may be referred to the undersigned.

Semper Woofing!
PDD 96-011 George Wittstock
Sir Pound Keeper
Pound 345

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades... Such good men."

--Author Unknown--

REPORT TO THE CHAPLAIN

It is requested that all members contact the Detachment Chaplain if you or a family member are sick or in distress. We would also request that in the event of a member being called by the Supreme Commandant, that family members notify the Chaplain.

We have had – in the past – several Marines pass away and the Detachment was not aware of this. In some cases we found out about a members passing only because someone had noticed their name in the obituary.

The Detachment does perform a ritual at the expressed wishes of family for our deceased Marines at the funeral home and also upon request at the gravesite. However, we cannot do this without our knowledge. Marines, please inform your family of your wishes.

The Detachment Chaplain's telephone number is listed on the cover sheet of this newsletter each and every month along with all of our officers.

PROPER SIGHT ALIGNMENT

In the early sixties, an aviator was flying unmarked helicopters in Vietnam in support of the South Vietnamese Army. He had just led a flight of three H345's into a landing zone to pick up a South Vietnamese Army patrol. He sat there in his helicopter, vibrating with the gyrating blades. He saw the South Vietnamese Army patrol coming toward the aircraft from his right side.

He glanced nervously out the left window of his cockpit and saw a Viet Cong in black pajamas rise up out of the tall grass and aim dead on the window from which he was watching. He said he damned near voided! He had no weapons on his unmarked and technically illegal aircraft, so all he could do was watch what he knew was approaching death.

Then the Viet Cong did a strange thing. He took the rifle out of his shoulder, looked at the left side of the rifle stock, placed it back in his shoulder and aimed again, but this time about fifteen degrees forward of the helicopter. He then fired one round. The South Vietnamese patrol saw him, ran over and killed him and took his rifle.

The South Vietnamese Army patrol then boarded the helicopter and returned to their base. After landing, one of the South Vietnamese Army patrol members showed the pilot the Viet Cong's rifle. On the stock of the rifle was a crude drawing showing the various helicopters and how much the shooter should lead them.

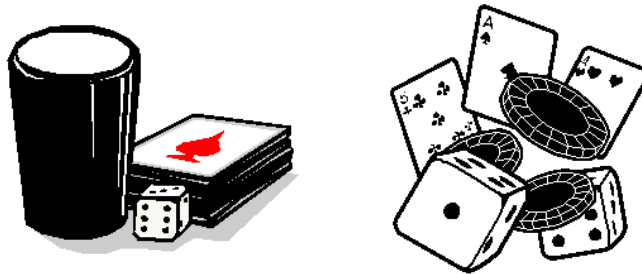
*A Marine may leave the Corps...
...but the Corps will NEVER
leave the Marine!
Semper Fi!*



Macomb County Detachment Marine Corps League



1st Inaugural Casino Trip Fundraiser



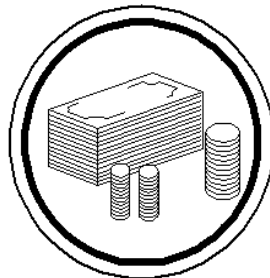
**COME ENJOY A DAY OF GAMING AND FUN
Saturday February 27th, 2010**

**Bus leaves for Motor City Casino out of the American
Legion Post #351**

46146 Cass Ave Utica, MI 48317

Bus departs at 10:15 AM and arrives back at 4:45 PM

**Cost is \$30.00 per person which includes bus ride to casino
and \$25.00 voucher for gaming.**



**Contact Jim Szczesny at 586-949-9678 or szyme04@att.net for more information
or mail your \$30.00 per person to reserve your spot to: 52826 Turnberry Chesterfield MI
48051. Make checks payable to MCL Macomb. Deadline for event is February 17th.**

Profit to help support Marine Corps League Charities

MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
 Department of Michigan
 Marine Corps League
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS
 Mailing Address:
 6388 Old Coach Trail
 Washington, Michigan, 48094-2148

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Detachment Officers 2009 - 2010

Commandant	Christine Tonegatto-Salo	(586) 997-0081
Senior Vice Commandant		
Junior Vice Commandant	Scott Neff	(248) 798-5776
Judge Advocate	Anthony Jablonowski, PC	(586) 558-8777
Adjutant/Paymaster	George Wittstock, PDC	(586) 781-5414
Chaplain	John Sottrel	(586) 247-7785
Sergeant at Arms	Jerry Allen	(586) 731-4651
Editor, Newsletter	George Wittstock, PDC	(586) 781-5414
Fund Raising Officer	James Szczesny	(586) 949-9678
Honor Guard Commander	Scott Neff	(248) 798-5776
Historian	Guy Serafino	(586) 468-0307
Highway Cleanup Officer	Michael Panin	(586) 778-4665
Quartermaster	Gregory Pawlik, PC	(586) 979-2986
Service Officer	Kenneth Aune, PC	(586) 463-8890

Auxiliary Officers 2009 - 2010

President	Irene Spooner	(586) 466-5708
Senior Vice President	Loretta Balderson	(810) 392-2590
Junior Vice President	Angela Wozniak	(586) 843-6093
Judge Advocate	Joan Pfaff	(586) 263-3448
Chaplain	Dolores Tonegatto	(586) 781-6839
Treasurer	Carol Dysarczyk	(248) 681-7098
Secretary	Karen Aune	(586) 463-8890
Trustee	Grace Adragna	(586) 979-3535
Trustee	April Brozowski	(586) 413-4556

Change of Address: Send to the Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster at:
 6388 Old Coach Trail, Washington, Michigan, 48094-2148

New Address (please print):

Name _____

Street _____

City/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ email address _____