

The Bonnyman Gazette

Monthly Detachment Newsletter

www.mclknox.org

October 2009

Commandant's Corner



-by Jeff Tegzes

Greetings, Marines!

Congratulations and thanks to all who worked at the Homeless Veteran's Stand Down last week. Support for this event from some other agencies has faltered, but the commitment from our Detachment, the Auxiliary, and the Young Marines carried the day. The Stand Down helped many more than expected and is a service to the community and our fellow veterans that we can be proud of.

As usual, November is a big month for Marines and all veterans. Our Detachment will participate in several highly visible events that will really give us a chance to show the colors. Be sure to check the schedule and be there so that

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Bonnyman Gazette items are due to Editor Virgil Young (call 675-4004 or e-mail to vlyoung@chartern.net) by the 15th of each month.

USMC Birthday/Veterans Day Events

Birthday Dinner - On 10 November, we'll celebrate the 234th Marine Corps birthday with a dinner starting at 1800 at Carrabba's Italian Grill, 324 N. Peters Rd. (Cedar Bluff Exit on I-40.) The dress is casual, with a Marine Corps flair. Order off the menu - we'll provide the cake.

Veterans Day Events - We'll have our float in the Knoxville Veterans Day Parade on Wed., 11 Nov. Come to the Knoxville Police Department parking lot at 0900 to help prepare the float. Wear your League cover and red satin jacket -dress warmly. We've reserved two tables for the ETMAC Veterans Day Luncheon at The Foundry that day, beginning at 1230. This year's honored service is the US Navy. The cost of the luncheon is \$25 per person. You can reserve a spot at one of our tables by giving a check or cash to Paymaster Laimon Godel.

Birthday Ball - The 2009 Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be on Saturday, 14 Nov., at the Crown Plaza Hotel downtown. Cocktails begin at 1700, followed at 1800 by the traditional birthday celebration and dinner. Tickets are available at the Reserve Center. Tickets for Marine Corps League members are only \$10 apiece for the first two tickets and \$20 after that. The Point of Contact at the Reserve Center is Marine Sgt Larkins (522-2414). Our Detachment is paying the way to the Ball for every Detachment member (and his/her spouse) who is a WWII veteran. If you are one of these qualified WWII veterans and have not already been contacted by Junior Vice Lloyd Morris, please call him at 717-9250 so that he can help you make arrangements to attend.

Detachment/Auxiliary Meeting on 10/27/09

The next monthly meeting will be at the Navy Operational Support Center/ Marine Corps Reserve Center, 2101 Alcoa Hwy., on Tuesday, 10/27/09, beginning at 1730.

During the business meeting starting at 1830, we'll get an up-date on the

pistol shoot and the effort to build a pavilion at the state veterans nursing home. We'll also discuss upcoming activities like the Marine Corps Birthday events and the Christmas Breakfast. Don't miss it!

Odds & Ends

Detachment Christmas Breakfast

- The annual Christmas Breakfast will be on Saturday, 5 Dec., at Middlebrook Gardens. The cost for the first 60 people is \$11 thanks to an anonymous donor - after that the cost goes up to \$12.25. You can sign up and pay at the 27 Oct. meeting. The deadline for payment is 24 Nov.

Camp Lejeune Water Contamination

- Two separate water distribution systems aboard Camp Lejeune were found to be contaminated with 70+ chemicals during 1957-1987: The Tarawa Terrace

2009-2010 Detachment Officers (with contact phone #)

Commandant

Jeff Tegzes (865-988-6247)

Junior Past Commandant

David Hatfield (865-577-7303)

Senior Vice Commandant

Lee Rhinemiller (865-458-2550)

Junior Vice Commandant

Lloyd Morris (865-717-9250)

Adjutant

Virgil Young (865-675-4004)

Paymaster

Laimon Godel (865-690-1272)

Chaplain

Leroy Brown (865-806-2837)

Judge Advocate

Bud Fitzgerald (865-966-5879)

Sergeant-at-Arms

Bill Ackerman (865-806-9868)

and Handnot Point water distribution systems. The contamination has caused increased likelihood of cancer, leukemia, non-hodgkins lymphoma, liver disease, and other maladies. If you lived/worked at Camp Lejeune during that time period, email the USMC at clwater@usmc.mil or go to the website of "The Few, the Proud, the Forgotten" at www.tftptf.com for lots of additional information. The organization was established by two Marines whose families have been affected by the toxic water.

"Aid and Attendance" - This is an under-used special monthly

pension benefit offered by the VA for veterans and surviving spouses who require in-home care or live in nursing homes. To qualify, a veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which is during a period of war, and must be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. The benefit is \$18,234 annually (paid monthly) but can increase to over \$21,000 - a surviving spouse of a qualified vet gets \$11,715. For info, call 1-800-827-1000 or visit <http://www.va.gov> and type in "Aid and Attendance" in the search block.

2009 Annual Picnic

A good time was had by all at this year's MCL Picnic held at Lenoir City Park! We had almost 100 people participate this year. In addition to us "Leaguers", we enjoyed the attendance of many Young Marines and their parents. We were blessed with perfect weather and our cooks (Bud Fitzgerald and Jim Williams) served up some hot and tasty burgers and dogs! Their good work was appreciated by everyone.

Food, food, food...enough to feed a battalion of hungry Marines was provided and not a word of complaint could be

heard! In addition to a lot of eating, attendees participated in some horseshoes (no champion crowned) and soccer (the volleyball court was flooded). The "adults" generally amused themselves with meet and greet and conversation.

A special thanks to all of those who participated and assisted in making this year's picnic a great success!!!

- by Sgt.-at-Arms Bill Ackerman

Young Marine Report - by Unit Commander Virgil Young

I hope you all enjoyed the YM newsletter we sent out last month and got more information about the youngsters and Adult Leaders involved in our program. For more information, you can always go to our unit's website: www.ymknoxville.org.

On 26 September, specialists from Rural Metro provided Basic and Advanced First Aid Training to the junior Young Marines while Retired USMC GySgt Bob Cunningham gave the NCOs a class on effective classroom instruction.

A four-mile hike in the Smokies was scheduled for 10 October but it had to be cancelled when forecasts called for rain all day and temperatures in the mountains in the low 40s. A regular drill was held instead.

On 16 October, about a dozen YM and Adult Leaders helped with the 2009 Knoxville Stand Down for Homeless Veterans. (More would have been there but only the Knox County kids were out of school that Friday.) The Stand Down served a total of 143 homeless vets that day. Several of the YM/Adult Leaders worked

at the main Stand Down site, helping to register the homeless veterans and performing other tasks. Most of the YM worked at the National Guard Armory, sorting and stacking clothing for the clothing issue scheduled for mid-afternoon. As a result of their hard work, when the buses carrying the vets arrived at the Armory about 1430, the vets were able to quickly go through the clothing to find what they needed.

We are now planning for our YM Birthday Ball (7 Nov.) and other activities in connection with Veterans Day.

Commandant's Corner (Cont.)

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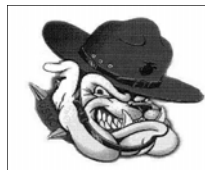
we can flood all of the Knoxville Veteran's celebrations with red covers and jackets!

November is also the time of year that a slate of new Detachment Officers is assembled for election. We are all part of this process! It is always a difficult process to pick the right Marine for the right job and any help would be greatly appreciated. If you want to serve as an Officer or know someone who would be a good choice, now is the time to step up.

Our Thanksgiving Safety Break is not far off. If you can't make the meeting to sign up, call the Junior Vice ASAP to get on a shift. See you at the next meet-

ing.

Semper Fidelis, Jeff



NEWS FLASH!

We served 143 vets during the 16 October Stand Down for Homeless Veterans. As usual, our Detachment/Auxiliary led the way, serving in all areas. In addition to the volunteers who just worked that day, we had numerous people heavily involved in the planning & preparation process.

Thanks to all of you for giving a helping hand up to some deserving veterans.

Membership

We swore in no new members at last month's meeting and have gotten in no new membership applications since that meeting.

According to figures from National MCL HQ, as of 30 Sept., our Detachment had 150 paid members (83 Permanent Life Members, 67 regular members/associate members) and 8 members who are behind in their dues payments.

The following are members due for renewal in the near future:

Nov. - Bob Evilsizer, Larry Henry, Patrick Hogan, Edgar McDonald, and Ted Scotese. **Dec.** - Brian Buckna, Bob Cunningham, Louis Eades, and Jim Ferrell.

Recent Pictures of Interest



A few of the toys collected at the 2009 Marine Mud Run for Toys for Tots.



Marine Lloyd Morris serving food at the 2009 fall Stand Down for Homeless Veterans.



Marine Bud Fitzgerald slaving over a hot grill at the annual picnic.



Participants helping themselves to food at the annual picnic.

Auxiliary Report - by Connie Sexton

Greetings, all.

The picnic is over, it was great. There was wonderful weather and good food. The Homeless Veteran's Stand down is Oct 16 - I hope everyone available can help out. The Fall Staff Meeting in Lebanon is Saturday, October 17th.

Next month will be very busy, with Veterans Day and Marine Corps Birthday events. See the monthly schedule. Hope as many as possible can come to the Ball and the parade.

We had a nice visit with Eleanor Ekstrom at the nursing home. Great to see everyone.

Dorie is having more trouble with cancer. She says she would love cards and phone calls - but no food, please.

Cookies for this month's meeting will be provided by Connie Sexton and Betty Little.

Connie

Chaplain's Report - by Leroy Brown

Greeting, Marines.

The Detachment Picnic was a big success. Everyone enjoyed all the good food and drinks and the company of our Marine Brothers and their families. The retelling of old sea stories (they get better with age) and a lot of BS. It seems the older we get the tougher we were. We are blessed with good cooks, both men and women. A big thanks to the ladies who prepared the food and all who manned the grills turning out great hotdogs

and hamburgers. Bill Ackerman did a great job making all the arrangements. Thanks, Bill. It was good to see Marines Joe Williams, Ronnie Phillips and Gary Arney and their wives enjoying themselves.

Doris Ekstrom, a faithful member of the Auxiliary, is having some medical difficulties. A card or a phone call would be appreciated. 1st. Lt. Brigette McMillan continues to improve. Let us remember ailing Detachment members and their

families and our men and women who are serving in the armed forces in our prayers.

I would like to thank all the ladies of our Auxiliary for the job they do.

We have several functions coming up that need volunteers, so get on board.

If I can be of assistance call 865-806-2837.

Semper Fi, Leroy

Upcoming Activities

November 2009

5th - YM Adult Staff Mtg.
7th - YM USMC Birthday Ball
10th - 234th Marine Corps Birthday
11th - Veterans Day Parade/Luncheon
14th - "D" Co. Reserve Birthday Ball
17th - MCL Officers Meeting
21st - YM Drill
24th - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting
27th-29th - Thanksgiving Safety Break

December 2009

3rd - YM Adult Staff Mtg.
5th - MCL Annual Christmas Breakfast
- YM Toys for Tots Collection
7th - MODD Growl
8th - MCL Officers Meeting
19th - YM Swim Quals and Christmas Party
(NO DETACHMENT/AUX. MEETING THIS MONTH)

January 2010

7th - YM Adult Staff Mtg.
9th - YM Drill
12th - MCL Officers Meeting
23rd - YM Drill
26th - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting

Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Det. # 924
Marine Corps League
PO Box 145
Knoxville, TN 37901

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Learn more about us at www.mclknnox.org

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Application for Membership

**Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment # 924, Marine Corps League
Knoxville, TN**

Date: _____

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State ___ Zip Code _____ Home Ph.# _____

Business Ph.# _____ E-mail _____ Date of Birth ___ / ___ / ___

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ___ / ___ / ___ Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement ___ / ___ / ___

Type of Application: ()New()Renewal Type of Membership: ()Associate ()Regular

I hereby apply for membership in the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment, Marine Corps League, Department of Tennessee, and enclose \$35.00 for one year's membership, which includes a year's subscription to the Marine Corps League quarterly magazine. I certify that I have served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days, that the character of my service has been honorable, and if discharged, I am in receipt of an honorable discharge. I am attaching to this application proof of my honorable discharge/service (retired military ID, DD-214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, etc.).

(Sponsor's Name) _____

Applicant's Signature

Upon completion, return to your sponsor, or mail application to



**LT. ALEXANDER BONNYMAN DETACHMENT #924
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
PO BOX 145
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901**

(Include your \$35.00 dues payment - check or money order payable to "Marine Corps League" - plus proof of honorable service, which is required by our Detachment.)