

THE BONNYMAN GAZETTE

March 2020

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 9

The Bonnyman Gazette is the official newsletter of the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment #924 Marine Corps League, PO Box 53293, Knoxville, TN 37950. Articles and photos are due to the Editor no later than the 15th of each month. The Editor is Jeff Tegzes, ntegzes@gmail.com, (865) 809-1585.

Detachment & Auxiliary Meetings

We meet monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at the Karns Community Club Youth Center, 6616 Beaver Ridge Road, Knoxville, TN. Social hour begins at 1730 followed by a business meeting at 1830.

Detachment Officers

Commandant

Ken DeBoer (865) 771-8025

Junior Past Commandant

Jim Williams (865) 740-4155

Senior Vice Commandant

Carlos Reyes (865) 888-1613

Junior Vice Commandant

David Terwell (970) 531-8173

Adjutant

Eric Nash (865) 693-5711

Paymaster

Lee Rhinemiller (865) 414-3460

Chaplain

Ron Naugle (571) 565-6980

Judge Advocate

David Hatfield (865) 577-7303

Sergeant-at-Arms

Aaron Brown (910) 787-3897

Web Sergeant: mclknoxville.org

Tim Shea (865) 408-7900

Detachment Quartermaster

Larry George (865) 789-6535

Ladies Auxiliary President

Charlene Cotton ((865) 279-4652

MARCH DETACHMENT MEETING CANCELLED

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM COMMANDANT DEBOER:

TO COMPLY WITH REASONABLE CAUTION AND THE GENERAL CONSENSUS, I AM CANCELLING THE MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 31 MARCH 2020. THE PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT OUR PERSONAL HEALTH AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORT TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS. THE SOUTHEAST DIVISION CONFERENCE HAS ALSO BEEN CANCELLED

I ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU TO CONTINUE NECESSARY COMMUNICATIONS WHEN NECESSARY VIA EMAIL. BE SURE TO COPY (CC) THOSE INVOLVED OR EFFECTED BY YOUR COMMUNICATIONS. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED WHEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO START MEETING AGAIN. SEMPER FI AND STAY HEALTHY!

COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Those of you who were unable to attend Dine in, you were missed; it was a good one. Special thanks to North Knoxville Young Marines for an outstanding job on posting the colors. The food was delicious and the awards were many. You especially can't beat the price. Thank you, Lee, David and Carlos for all your work making it a special event.

I'm actively looking for a new location for our meetings, and any input or suggestions will be appreciated.

Heads up!!!!!! The SGTMAJ is thinking of running a tour bus to Norfolk, VA. for those of you brave enough to take the trip.

We are still waiting for word from Ingles (in Karns) for permission to give out roses on Memorial Day.

The Bonnyman Unit Young Marines will be hosting the Marine "Riding to the Wall" group on 20 May.

We are on hold for most everything else, but as things start getting better and the Corona goes away, we will get back on track. This is the Marine Corps League, a brotherhood of Men and Women who stepped forward when their country asked. We took care of each other then, and we will do it now. Don't let a brother down - pass the word, email, make a phone call - let the officers know, use the communication networks available. God Bless and be safe! Semper Fi!

Ken DeBoer, Commandant



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

“HE AIN’T HEAVY, HE’S MY BROTHER”

And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs (gray headed old dudes) will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.” “...he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted....” Isaiah 46:4, 61:1. Parentheses are my words!

In the late 60’s the troops in Vietnam were listening to Jimi Hendrix play, All Along the Watchtower, and Eric Burdon sing, We Gotta Get Out of this Place. By the time 1970 rolled around, the Hollies were singing, He Ain’t Heavy He’s My Brother.

While serving with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines, the accustomed routine was to spend one night on Hill 190, followed by two nights on a ‘kill team’ in the valley below. We seldom carried more than weaponry and medical gear, unless we were participating in an operation. The scenario would then change, and we would hump a tremendous amount of weight. Our squad had their picture taken by a Marine photographer, in a stream bed, 10 miles northeast of our basecamp. The photograph emphasized our ‘heavy load’ and was captioned as, “The Story is in Their Faces.” The photo was immediately clipped from the Stars and Stripes Paper and sent home to my family. My wife recognized the picture in a book entitled, The Battle History of the U. S. Marines, A Fellowship of Valor, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, USMC. The picture also appeared in a documentary, on the History Channel. During a two-day operation south of our basecamp, one of our Marines succumbed to malaria; his body temperature was extremely high and by nightfall, began to show signs of delirium. I carried him, with two riflemen escorts, to the only possible landing zone for a big CH-46, two hills over from the main body, with a battalion of NVA working in the valley below. At the time, he didn’t seem too heavy, thanks to an overproduction of cortisol, and the fact that he was one of my brothers.

Having surpassed the required four months combat experience, some of us were able to return to Vietnam and join up with all-volunteer units. We went to CAP School in Danang, followed by an assignment to a Marine rifle squad, living 24/7 with the Nghia Quan, in villages with a high enemy presence. We changed our location at least twice each day, while each man carried a heavy oversized pack. My load consisted of an M16, a Colt M1911 pistol, two Claymores, two M72 LAWs, two bandoliers of magazines, a starlight scope, and as many frags as one could carry. The Nghia Quan would hump ammo boxes, 60mm mortar rounds that were delicately balanced on bamboo poles for our two mortar tubes, and magazine cannisters for two automatic grenade launchers. Adding to the load, ole doc also carried two bandoliers of battle dressings and a demolition bag filled with medical gear, treating every combat wound in the books. Traumatic amputations, gunshot, sucking chest wounds, eviscerated bowels, and performed three tracheotomies in a combat setting. I’ve carried many Marines, through rice paddy sludge, to waiting Sea Knight, or Huey helicopters. The wounded Marines weren’t heavy, they were my brothers.

Experience soon taught me to travel light. You don’t need to carry several bottles of chemicals needed to treat ‘immersion foot’ and ‘jungle rot’ to a firefight. Can you imagine a Force Recon Unit being ordered to avoid contact and to observe enemy troop movements; but, after being discovered, running 20 clicks to a rendezvous point to avoid capture, with heavy and unnecessary gear in their packs? Life’s trek would be a lot easier if we would lighten the load and avoid being bogged down with an overloaded pack. There is no room in a Marine’s kit for glorified egoism (the self-life), a hypercritical spirit, or a passionless and indifferent apathy. You were never issued a pacifier, a bottle, or a change of nappies at boot camp! We’re leathernecks, not milk toasts! We attend the Marine Corps Ball, not the Marine Corps Bawl! Suck it up and be a Marine! We are to work together as a brotherhood, without moaning and complaining. We are in a firefight! Get rid of the baggage! The Marine Corps League provides all of us with a tremendous opportunity to get involved, serving Marines and their families, while carrying on the tradition.

What a joy, to be a “gray headed old dude” and still be taking care of Marines! Our Supreme Commandant said, “...my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” The Chaplain’s job is much like an FMF Corpsman’s. Instead of binding combat wounds and carrying Marines to safety, the Detachment Chaplain is to bind up the broken hearted, pick up our brothers, and carry them when they are down physically, emotionally, and spiritually. After all, He Ain’t Heavy He’s My Brother.

Semper Fidelis,

Ron Naugle, Detachment Chaplain



DISASTER RELIEF DONATION

The Alexander Bonnyman Detachment has delivered a donation of \$1000.00 to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. The Red Cross will use the money to provide emergency assistance to victims of the recent tornados in central Tennessee. This is the maximum amount available in the detachment budget for disaster relief.



Dennis Taylor presented Bill Henson with a hand-made quilt from the Quilts of Valor Foundation of Tennessee at the February meeting.

NEW DETACHMENT BYLAW VOTE

The new proposed Bylaws will incorporate years worth of changes at the Detachment, Department, Division and National levels of the Marine Corps League. Simply stated, the Detachment Bylaws are our "Constitution" and provide the legal structure for everything that we do. The draft bylaws have been made available and all members are encouraged to participate in the process of finalizing them. **A vote by the Members will be required to accept or reject the new bylaws during the April Detachment meeting.** All proposed changes should be delivered to David Hatfield, Detachment Judge Advocate.

DAVE TERWELL 2019 MARINE OF THE YEAR



Marine Dave Terwell received the SGTMAJ David Hatfield Marine of the Year Award at the Detachment Dine-In on 14 March. The award recognizes a years worth of outstanding leadership and hard work as Junior Vice Commandant and in many different Detachment activities. Congratulations Dave!



MCL AUXILIARY

Hello, Ladies,

Please send congratulations to Patty Mullins, Auxiliary Member of the Year for 2019-2020. Patty's devotion to the Auxiliary is an inspiration to us all. She has served as

Senior Vice President for two years and was appointed Treasurer in 2019. She maintains our status on the VA Volunteer Service Council at Mountain Home VA Medical Center. We love her and pray for her health.

The Detachment will not meet in March as announced by Commandant Ken DeBoer. Likewise, the Auxiliary will suspend meetings until public health restrictions are lifted.

The Dine In was a delightful evening. The Commandant entertained us with his sense of humor and elegant hospitality. Auxiliary membership applications were available at every table. Several ladies expressed their interest in joining us. Although we cannot meet, I will reach out to them so we can welcome them at our next meeting.



Until we meet again,

Charlene Cotton, President

NEW MEMBER SWORN IN



The Detachment's newest member is Marine Mike Napierkowski. Mike recently moved to Knoxville and transferred from his Florida detachment. He served from 1973-1979. Welcome aboard Mike!

2020 DETACHMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The deadline for submission of the application and required documents is 2 April, 2020. Don't miss this opportunity for you and your family!

April Calendar

Department Staff Meeting	4
Officers Meeting	13
Special Olympics	16
Pistol Match	18
Detachment Meeting	28

May Calendar

Medal of Honor Evening	4
Officers Meeting	11
Rifle Match	9
Memorial Day Ceremony	25
Detachment Meeting	26

June Calendar

Pound Growl	1
Officers Meeting	8
Department Convention	11-13
Detachment Meeting	30



SCRATCHES FROM THE CLAWS OF THE BARKING DOG

Smokey Mountain Pound 271 Growls are currently being held at Shoney's in Alcoa (Rt 129 at the airport). Growls will be at 1800 on 1 June, 14 September and 7 December. Don't miss the Tennessee Pack Growl in Jackson, TN during the Department Convention in June. Woof Woof!



Your Editor, Marine Jeff Tegzes, received the Past Commandants Semper Fidelis Award at the Detachment Dine-In on 14 March. I am very honored and humbled to be included with the long list of men and women who have received this award for faithful service to our great Detachment since its beginning. By following the example of the others named on this award, I will continue to be "Semper Fidelis".



Deputy Jason Smith of the Lenoir City Police Department and his wife Becky were the honored guests at the Detachment Dine-In on 14 March at the Bearden Banquet Hall. Deputy Smith spoke about the importance of awareness of the various types and methods of online fraud particularly aimed at seniors.

RIDING TO THE WALL

Lt Alexander Bonnyman Young Marines and local Marines will be hosting fifteen to twenty Marines "riding to the wall" for Memorial Day celebrations. They are starting on the West coast. The group will arrive around 1400 on 20 May 2020 and spend the night at Camp Bonnyman. They want to use the range. We have promised them a big barbecue cook out for dinner and many of you are needed to help. We will also have breakfast on the 21st before they head on out on their motorcycles. The "leader of the pack" is Sergeant Major Gene Overstreet, 12th SgtMaj of the Marine Corps. Come support the effort to give these Marines a good time.

Junior Past Commandant Jim Williams was recognized at the Dine-In for a **third** successful year as Detachment Commandant during 2019. Thanks Jim for taking on a tough job and leading us through another great year.



ALEXANDER BONNYMAN UNIT REPORT

Lt Alexander Bonnyman Young Marines are proud to have started our new recruit class on 22 February 2020. Gunny McCarter, a former Young Marine, has his recruit instructors well prepared. They are doing a great job. We have had a few tears but no one has dropped out. Quitters don't win, and winners don't quit. We also added a transfer to our Unit.

Due to vacations and pre-planned trips we made the decision to cancel class on March 7th. The Boys and Girls Club was also unavailable. That puts the recruit class one week behind. Consequently, our overnight at Camp Bonnyman will be on 28 March and Recruit graduation will be on 4 April 2020. The Unit and the Recruit Class were all be there on 14 March 2020.

A new Adult Leader two year rotation started March 1st. Larry Winters will continue as the Unit Commander. Joe McCarter, after eighteen years is stepping down. He will continue to be an Adult Leader. Marine Mark Pursel, Retired LAPD officer, is the new Executive Officer. We cannot say enough about Joe McCarter and are so thankful he will be staying with the Unit. Mark is a great addition. He is a member of the Tri-County Marine Corps League.

Our Unit trip is tentatively going to Washington, DC to march in the National Memorial Day Parade and tour Washington. We will just have to see what else is cancelled in the meantime. We can always camp out as we did last year. Everyone had a great time.

NORTH KNOXVILLE YOUNG MARINES

The North Knoxville Young Marines have had a busy month. We are almost finished with a recruit training class that is set for graduation on 4 April. These recruits on top of the strenuous training, filled the local blessing box with various items the Unit collected.

On 14 March we enjoyed providing the Color Guard for the Alexander Bonnyman Detachment of the Marine Corps League's Dine-In.

We are planning a unit trip in June to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

(Pictured in Color Guard from left to right: PFC BROWN, PFC TAYLOR, PVT NICHOLAS, PFC BARNETT)



IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

1. Due to rule changes by TDOT, all holiday weekend Detachment Safety Breaks have been cancelled.
2. Please inform the Detachment Paymaster, Lee Rhinemiller, of any member address change. An increasing number of Bonnyman Gazettes are being returned because members have moved to a new address.
3. 31 August is the due date for all annual member dues. Don't wait until the last minute to renew!
4. Commandant Ken DeBoer will provide his famous sub sandwiches at the April meeting. Don't miss the great chow!
5. Only 5 of 7 rifle shooters were available for the Honor Guard to provide final honors for a League member who passed away in February. We need more League members to be trained and equipped to provide this important service to our Fallen Marines and their families.



Detachment and Auxiliary members helped the Wilson family move into their new home in east Knoxville. Steve Wilson is a retired Master Sergeant. Welcome to Knoxville Steve and Debbie!

Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Det. # 924
Marine Corps League
Post Office Box 53293
Knoxville, TN 37950-3293

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment 924, Marine Corps League, Application for Membership

PLEASE PRINT IN PEN

Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____+_____

E-Mail _____ Service/Social Security No ____/____/____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ____/____/____ Date of Discharge/Retirement ____/____/____

Type of Application- New () Renewal () Type of Membership- Regular Member () Associate () Dual ()

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? () YES () NO *If yes is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of my felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.*

I hereby apply for membership in the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment, Marine Corps League, Department of Tennessee, and enclose \$28.00 **for one year's membership that includes a year's subscription to the Marine Corps League quarterly magazine.**

I certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the U. S. Marine Corps, on active duty, for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor,* or have served or am currently serving in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Points or that I have served or am currently serving as a U. S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device or Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon authorized for FMF Corpsman. **If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable service." ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last Form DD 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). General discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable.** By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

*(Korean War Era Marines See National Bylaws, Article 6, Section 600)

Sponsor (where applicable)

Applicant's Signature