

THE BONNYMAN GAZETTE

June 2020

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 12

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, (865) 809-1585.

Detachment & Auxiliary Meetings

We meet monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at the VFW Post 5154, 2561 Hobbs Road, Louisville, TN 37777. 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

Vacant at this time

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



NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN AT THE MAY MEETING: (left-to-right) Marine Jarrod Cooper, Corpsman Robert Bryson, Marine Tim Rudis and Navy Veteran, Alvin Wagner. WELCOME ABOARD!

COMMANDANT'S CORNER

My dear brothers and sisters. I hope all is well with you and your family and friends. We have moved to a new location, as you have probably read. The VFW has various food and drinks available. The meeting areas are ample for both the Membership and the Auxiliary. The building is closed on Tuesday but will be open to us. Come to the meeting. We are friends for life. When we're together, the years fall away. To have someone who cares, isn't that what matters? We care. Come to the meeting. When you attend, if you wish to wear gloves, face mask and practice a safe distance, we understand. If you have someone with you, there is an area for them to wait. We are building from the hardships of the past months. We are the MCL. Come to the meeting. The Officers of this Detachment, elected or appointed, are able. Please support them. Come to the meeting. We are going forward Marines, Chaplains, Corpsman, Associate members, Auxiliary members, and any Branch of service that wishes to join the Best Detachment of MCL in the State. You are all welcome. We Want You. Please come to the meeting. Whenever I find myself doubting how far I can go, I will remember everything I've faced, all the battles I've won, and all the fears I've overcome. We all have those fears, but we do have meetings to attend. Did I mention we have our next meeting on June 30, 2020; Social Hour at 5:00 PM. Let's move on together—all for one and one for all. God Bless you and God Bless America.

Semper Fi, Ken DeBoer, Commandant



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

INDEPENDENCE DAY

“And I will walk at liberty: for I seek Thy precepts.” Psalm 119:45

On July 4, 1776, our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence. We need to re-examine the vision and philosophy of those who fashioned a dream in Philadelphia. These compiled illustrations of sacred honor should suffice to remind each of us that the Fourth of July commemorates a costly freedom; one that documented the rhetoric of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. “When citizenship seems purchasable, politics puissant, and the image of America distorted, let us view our country with clearer hearts.”

Drama and Dedication: During the Continental Congress of 1776, the committee selected a tall, rangy, auburn haired Virginian named Thomas Jefferson to draft a proposition paper. He secluded himself and, with minimum help, within about seventeen days produced one of the most profound and beautiful political documents ever penned. British Prime Minister William Gladstone later said it was an “inspired instrument.” Congress debated the document, made a few changes, and then signed it with great fanfare, ringing of the Liberty Bell, the making of clever speeches, and costly commitments.

Caesar Rodney, ill with a malignant disease that covered part of his face, rode all day and all night from Dover, Delaware, in time to stride, booted and spurred, into the Assembly Hall in Philadelphia to bark: “I vote for independence.” John Hancock led off the formal signing with his bold signature, saying; “He wanted George III to be able to read it without his specs.” Benjamin Franklin quipped: “We shall have to hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.”

Among many magnificent statements in this eloquent and comprehensive document, that which most succinctly characterizes the American stance and spirit is this impeccable sentence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

Shared Purpose: Toward the end of the Declaration of Independence we find a summary sentence which places everything in perspective: “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor.” This is a unique creed. The signers believed something incredibly special was happening and that God would see them through. It was a new and courageous covenant, men mutually pledging their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor! This is breathtaking and inconceivable in the fermentation of today's world.

Tremendous Sacrifices: Have we forgotten the high price some of our founding Fathers paid for their freedom? Have we forgotten that nine signers of the Declaration of Independence did not survive the war? Many lost their homes and fortunes. Thomas Nelson of Virginia directed bombardment of his own mansion at Yorktown. It was occupied by Cornwallis. Nelson also undertook to raise two million dollars to repay the French fleet for its assistance. The war notes cost him his fortune. He died in poverty. This was his sacred honor. Francis Lewis, a wealthy New York trader, lost everything he had. His wife was thrown into prison and died shortly after her release. Richard Stockton of New Jersey, a Princeton graduate, lost his wealth, property, and magnificent library. He was imprisoned and died following the war.”

Observation: When anarchy and rebellion burn our flags and cities, we need to rekindle the fires of patriotism and awaken the Liberty Bell from her silent slumber. Our freedoms are not to be taken for granted; they were secured with a tremendous price on the field of blood, valor, and honor. Socialism has mobilized to make government their god, while radical extremists work to destroy the Republic's foundational freedoms. The world is busy humanizing God and deifying man, while ‘political correctness’ sits on the throne of common sense. **“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”** Isaiah 5:20. We must “...seek Thy precepts,” to preserve our “...walk at liberty....”

Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful.

Chaplain Ron



NEW LOCATION FOR JUNE MEETING

The Detachment member's meeting scheduled for 30 June will be held at the **VFW Post 5154**, 2561 Hobbs Road, Louisville, TN 37777. Follow Airbase/Callahan Road to find Hobbs Road, go passed the Air National Guard Main Gate. Food and drinks will be available to purchase. Do not hesitate to wear face masks if you like.



Marine Eric Nash reads the names of Tennessee Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial in downtown Knoxville on Memorial Day.

2020 MUD RUN PLANNING

In spite of the disruption caused by the Anti-Corona measures, the 2020 Mud Run is still on for 12 September. Marine Elisabeth Carr, will be the Volunteer Coordinator this year. All members should be thinking about what their Mud Run job will be this year. Get your name and job preferences to Elisabeth beginning at the June Meeting.

MCL AUXILIARY



Hello, Ladies,

A big Oorah to Commandant DeBoer and Detachment Trustees on the new location for our meetings, VFW 5154 Blount County Memorial Post, 2561 Hobbs Road,

Louisville TN 37777-3903, easily accessible from Alcoa Highway. The Auxiliary will meet in the smaller meeting room, with separate access and ventilation. Patty gave it a "thumbs up" after we attended the June Officer meeting. We will have plenty of room for physical distancing.

At the June 30 meeting, we will collect our annual donations for St Jude Hospital in memory of Doris Ekstrom, loyal member, officer and group dynamo.

Remember, \$28 dues must be paid by Aug 31 for 2020-2021 annual membership.

Susan Jones is in charge of snacks for June meeting.

See you on June 30,

Charlene Cotton, President



MCL CONVENTIONS CANCELLED

The 2020 Marine Corps League National Convention, scheduled during August in Daytona Beach, Florida has been cancelled. The 2020 Department of Tennessee Convention scheduled during July in Jackson, Tennessee has also been cancelled. No reason was given for cancelling the National Convention. The Department of Tennessee Convention was clearly cancelled in an effort to mitigate the spread of the Corona Virus. Hotel and banquet payments will be refunded for the National Convention. Hotel reservations and banquet payments for the Department Convention will be held over for next year's convention unless a refund is preferred.

July Calendar

Department Convention

CANCELLED

Officers Meeting 13

Detachment Meeting 28

August Calendar

National Convention

CANCELLED

Officers Meeting 10

Detachment Meeting 25

September Calendar

Mud Run 12

Pound Growl 14

Officers Meeting 8

Detachment Meeting 29

**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 14 September and 7 December. The Tennessee Pack Growl in Jackson, TN has been cancelled along with the Department Convention. Woof Woof!

mclknoxville.org

The Detachment Webmaster is Marine Tim Shea. **mclknoxville.org** is up and will be updated to post events or news. The Bonnyman Gazette will continue to be posted in color on the website.

**MEMBERS NEEDED FOR THE HONOR GUARD**

The Detachment Honor Guard/Firing Detail is looking for new members to provide honors and salutes at memorial events and funerals. Members must be able to handle the M1 Rifle (9.5 pounds) and will need the League undress uniform (white SS shirt and Dress Blue trousers). The "U.S. Marines" Red Satin jacket is also worn in cold weather. Expert training will be provided and no experience (other than Boot Camp) is necessary. Contact Marine Larry George for details.

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

1. Meeting minutes will be posted on the website under "Documents". Members will need to enter a password to read the minutes from the last meeting.
2. Marine Pearl Rich will be compiling volunteer service hours for members at the meetings. If you are not at the meetings, let her know what you have been doing for your community.
3. The ETVMA Medal of Honor Evening has been rescheduled for Tuesday, 29 September. This is an unavoidable conflict with the September Detachment meeting.
4. Marine Travis Bryan has volunteered to serve as the Detachment Media/Public Affairs representative. He will be the point man to get the word out about what we do.
5. 31 August is the due date for all annual member dues. Don't wait until the last minute to renew!



ALEXANDER BONNYMAN UNIT REPORT

The Lt Alexander Bonnyman Unit had a great meeting on 16 May 2020 at Camp Bonnyman. All of our Young Marines were there. We were so afraid we would lose some of our kids, especially the recruits, after a long COVID break. But we actually had two new recruits join the Unit. We used the rifle range, after a safety class by Marine Mark Pursel. We even managed to get in a DDR (Drug Demand Reduction) class by Mrs. Cotton. DDR is mandated by our program.

Memorial Day weekend was busy. Yea! Flags were placed at John Sevier Veterans Cemetery. We had the Rose Campaign on Monday. What a beautiful sight to see 2000 roses on the headstones. And then we headed off to Virtue Cemetery, with plenty of time to spare. The time factor was on our 'worry' list, not knowing how long it would take to place the roses. But the Young Marines had time to practice. The color guard did a great job even though they had not been together since the beginning of March.

We had three television spots and one press article on that weekend. Great news and great publicity for our program. Tim Shea has downloaded them to the website if you missed them.

Last Saturday was our first Drill back at the Boys and Girls Club. Getting back to business is hard. We ran our regular drill simultaneously with our recruit class. All the Young Marines were surprised to run PFTs (Physical Fitness Test). One Young Marine had emailed and asked when we would be doing PFTs so they could be prepared. They were told they should 'always' be prepared. Yep, back to normal.

Young Marine Jesse Winger was promoted to YM PFC. His grandfather Marine James Coogin was present to pin on his chevrons.

Our Unit Encampment starts on June 22nd, for five days at Whispering River Resort on the Little River in Walland. Thanks to generous donations, all of our Young Marines will be able to attend. Welcome to summer!



MEMORIAL DAY 2020. MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS WITH THE BONNYMAN UNIT OF THE YOUNG MARINES AT THE EAST TENNESSEE STATE VETERAN'S CEMETERY AND THE MITCHELL STOUT MEMORIAL IN FARRAGUT.



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