

THE BONNYMAN GAZETTE

August 2020

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 2

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

Mike Napierkowski (908) 910-4193

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



TOLLING OF THE BOATS

The Alexander Bonnyman Detachment Honor Guard Presented the Colors and provided military honors at the Submarine Veteran's Tolling of the Boats Ceremony at the Friendship Bell Memorial in Oak Ridge. This ceremony remembers the loss of every submarine and crew member lost since the beginning of the Submarine Service.

COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Hello Marines,

Fall will be on us soon and then 2021. I hope all the members and their families all doing well during the pandemic and health in general.

Picnic, Picnic, Picnic. During the month of September, we will be having our annual picnic. This year it will be held on the 27th of September starting at 11:30. It will be indoors at Country Kinfolk, 270 Hickman Street in Lenoir City. In the interest of the Detachment, the event will be indoors with A/C. We will have picnic tables and privacy. The food served will be Beef Brisket, Baked beans, and unending green salad and potato Salad, iced tea and water. We considered many outside venues, but with the present health restrictions.?? I feel this is our best bet. I will ask that you sign up to attend so we have ample food. Sign up can be done through the Honorable Senior Vice, Carlos Reyes. This event is for MCL members, Auxiliary, Associates and family. The cut-off date to reserve a spot is September 20th. Give Carlos your name and how many attending with you. Now don't sit at home and do nothing, this is a day out with a free meal by Chef Ken.

This has certainly been a tough year and one that will long be remembered. At the next meeting, we will be voting on the By-Laws and talking about the Marine Corps Birthday and Antique car show as well as the Rose project. The meeting is August 25th Please, Please, Please Attend. Pray for all who are ill and God Bless.

Semper Fi,

Ken DeBoer, Commandant



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

YO MAMBA!

Deliver me, O LORD... they gathered together for war. They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips. Selah. Psalm 140:1-3

Every former missionary ought to have at least one good snake story in his portfolio. One desperate missionary told about an alleged occurrence that took place in his village. It seems that he was in a hut visiting with a couple of men when things outside became strangely silent. The two villagers went out to investigate but never returned. After a considerable wait, the concerned missionary went outside and stood face-to-face with an enormous anaconda. He quickly climbed the nearest tree as the snake pursued fast on his heels. The suspense was building as the missionary horrified his listeners by saying that the snake took hold of his foot; then concluded his story by saying, "And that snake began to pull on my leg, just like I'm pulling on yours!" Well, you will not have to pull anybody's leg for a good snake story if you have lived in Southern Africa for any length of time! After spending thirty years in East Africa's Zululand, and Bophuthatswana under the Kalahari, we have seen plenty of characters for the plot; rinkhals (spitting cobra), puff adder, boomslang (tree snake), green mamba, and the greatly feared black mamba. Not only did we see a host of snakes in Africa, but memories took me back to my days of service in Vietnam. It has been reported that there are more than forty species of poisonous snakes over there. Once, during an operation in a mountainous region of the Ho Chi Minh Trail, our 'point man' severed the head of a Malayan Pit Viper with his machete. We took great care to point out the enormous head of the viper, that was still moving, to the Marine behind us, as each grunt maneuvered around this potential danger on the trail. Snakes are dangerous!

It is quite interesting to note that God often compares the potential dangers associated with the human tongue, to the poison that is found in these snakes. The tongue is perhaps the most dangerous of all. It can also kill, and we have ready access to this weapon that has the ability to assassinate someone's character or destroy someone's life! I am not for gun control, but I am for heart control which is necessary for tongue control. "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." "O generation of vipers... for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Only God can tame the human tongue. Have you ever said something in haste and wished you could take it back? While attending junior high school, I could out-cuss any sailor in the Seventh Fleet, and my verbal eloquence cost me a ride on the school bus for the remainder of the school year. Perhaps it was a bad choice of words that could have been misunderstood. After studying the Zulu language for several months at Pietermaritzburg University Language Lab, Natal, it was time to put into practice my new skills. Instead of saying to the women, "watch the children," it came out, "cook the children." Everyone freaked out, especially the kids! On another occasion, a warning was sounded that a cobra was among the rocks during a funeral. I shouted, "yo mamba!" One guy thought I said, "yo mama!" "...they gathered together for war." For a moment, it was stand and fight, or take my flight.

John Phillips tells the following: "Backbiters murdered David Livingstone's wife... they were never brought into court for it, for where is the human court which could convict a person of murder on the ground of gossip? Mary Livingstone was never strong enough to be the constant companion of a pioneer. For years she struggled through the African bush, surrounded by hardships... with little children hanging on her skirt she could struggle on no more. She gave up and stayed home with her little ones to pray for her husband as he continued valiantly on. Then the gossips at the white settlements got busy. Why would a man want to leave his wife and plunge into the interior save the desire to be as far from her as possible? Hearing the scandal that was being bandied about, Livingstone sent for his wife. She came, but the unhealthy climate of the river country with its fevers and malaria proved too much for her, and she died after being reunited with her beloved David for only three months. 'Oh, my Mary, my Mary,' wept the brokenhearted man at her lonely graveside; but the gossips at the coast did not hear that. They had done their deadly work months before. God heard the desolate cry of His servant however, and He gathered up those tears and put them in His bottle to await the Judgment Day."

Remember the women! One of the toughest and least recognized jobs in the world is that of a Marine's wife! Many have deserved 'Purple Hearts' for wounds inflicted by hardships and careless words; and 'Medals of Honor' for their unwavering display of courage under fire, while their Marines are on deployment. The battles that have been fought on the home front are at times 'total assault' skirmishes on a family's emotional, financial, and parenting defenses. God bless them all and give to each an abundance of His wisdom, grace, strength, and courage. The men are a little different, we just say, "put up or shut up!"

Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful Chaplain Ron



LOCATION FOR AUGUST MEETING

The Detachment member's meeting scheduled for 28 July 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.

NEW DETACHMENT BYLAW VOTE

The new proposed Bylaws have been posted for review on the website, mclknnoxville.org, and 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. All members are encouraged to participate in finalizing the new Bylaws. **A vote by the Members will be required to accept or reject the new bylaws during the August Detachment meeting.** All proposed changes should be delivered to the Detachment Judge Advocate.

2020 MUD RUN CANCELLED

Due to current restrictions on public events and uncertainty about future events due to the Corona virus, the 2020 Mud Run has been cancelled. Anyone who has already registered will be given a full refund. It was necessary to make a decision on cancellation sooner rather than later in order to prevent major spending by the Detachment on Mud Run preparation that could not be recovered with a late cancellation. Several proposals have been put forward by Detachment members for fund raising events during 2020 and 2021. The first of which will be the Marine Rose Program scheduled for Veteran's Day in November.



MCL AUXILIARY

Hello, Ladies,

Patty Mullins was recognized as 2019 Member of the Year at the July meeting. During 2019, she assumed the duties of Treasurer when Ginger Huffman was taken from us. In addition to her duties as Bonnyman Senior Vice President and Treasurer, Patty is the credentialed representative for the Marine Corps League & Auxiliary at the Mountain Home VA Medical Center in Johnson City. She is the Senior Past President for the Department of Tennessee. Her attention to detail and documentation are combined with her sweet smile and gentle grace. Congratulations, Patty.

We offer Patty our deepest sympathy on the death of her mother, Marcella Clemons, after long illness with renal disease.

National MCLA announced a "Bakeless Bake Sale" as a national fundraiser, rather than a raffle. Our unit contributed \$50 to support the national fund campaign.

At the August 25th meeting, we will make plans for the fall without the September MudRun. The Detachment is planning other fundraising events and we will assist in whatever manner we are able.

The Auxiliary will no longer provide snacks for the Detachment meetings. The VFW has a full snack bar and grill. Beverages and hot snacks are available before and after the meeting.

Please join us at the VFA Post 5154 in our ample well-ventilated meeting space on Aug 25. Masks are encouraged but not mandated.

Charlene Cotton, President



AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Auxiliary Members!!

It's that time again! Time to renew your membership with the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Unit, MCLA. You have until August 31 to submit for renewal. Your Membership is the heart of our organization. Your commitment and involvement is extremely important to us and very much appreciated. If you have already renewed, thank you! Haven't yet....there's still time....by mailing your check in the amount of \$28.00 payable to MCLA. Mail to Patty Mullins, 7617 Konda Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920.

Patty Mullins, Treasurer

September Calendar

Officers Meeting	8
Pound Growl	14
Detachment Picnic	27
Detachment Meeting	29

October Calendar

Gene Collins Rifle Match	10
Officers Meeting	12
Jim Peacock Pistol Match	24
Detachment Meeting	27

November Calendar

Officers Meeting	9
Birthday Luncheon	10
Veteran's Day Parade	11
Bonnyman Memorial Ceremony	22
Detachment Meeting	24



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. 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.



MARINE ROSE PROGRAM

The Alexander Bonnyman Detachment will be participating in the Marine Rose Program during this coming Veterans Day in November. This program involves Detachment Members distributing artificial commemorative roses, like those pictured here, at selected sites throughout the area and accepting donations to support Marine Corps League projects. The hunt is on for several prime locations at high traffic businesses and shopping centers in and around Knoxville for rose distribution. The Commandant is actively soliciting recommendations from the membership on locations to distribute roses. If you have an idea about a good spot or if you have a connection with a local business, let him know. The Marine Rose Program will be a very important fundraiser and will help make up for the loss of revenue to the Detachment due to the cancellation of the 2020 Mud Run. Get involved with this and other vital fundraisers to get us through this budget year's activities, programs and support for other organizations.



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.

ALEXANDER BONNYMAN UNIT REPORT

The Lt Alexander Bonnyman Unit had a flexible schedule this month. Young Marine Leadership Schools, Recruit Graduation, late summer vacations, and Covid took a toll on our planning. And it continues.

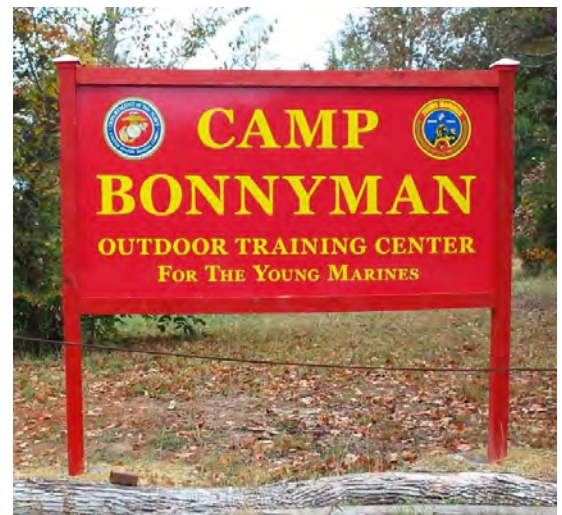
Three Young Marines went to Regimental Leadership Schools at Goodlettsville, TN. We usually are at the Volunteer Training Center in Smyrna, but that option has disappeared and we will no longer have access to that military facility. YM CPL Caitlin Lea graduated from JLS, YM Sgt Kelly Pursel graduated from SLS. We have one Young Marine who was exposed to Covid and we had to cancel just a few days before Schools. Sgt Brock Runyan was part of the JLS cadre.


That same day was a prep day for the Recruits to get ready for graduation. They had class discussions, lectures, and took their final exam. Several Young Marines came and helped out. Uniforms were delayed in arriving. Two day shipping turned into weeks of waiting. So the next Saturday, we had an extra uniform fitting time. They're ready.....except we had to postpone graduation until 22 August due to illness and last minute vacations.

Marine Dan Kelly has been approved by National Headquarters as an Adult Leader. We are so glad to have him officially onboard. He is a full-time student at UT. His hobby is military history, which is how he found us while studying the Battle of Tarawa and Lt Alexander Bonnyman.

The MCL Officers have made the decision to use the monies from memorial donations for Wreaths Across America. So far the League has donated 214 Wreaths through this Program. Each donation is added "in memoriam" on the Wreaths Across America virtual wall. The paperwork is handled by the Young Marines.

We have cancelled out Battalion Encampment scheduled in September. Covid strikes again!

**YOUNG MARINES STUDY FOR GRADUATION**

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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
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