

Marine Corps League



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Greetings To All.

The minutes of the Donald Cook Detachment 01/19/2017 meeting are attached. Snail Mail versions, a total of 12, will be in the mail tomorrow.

Reminders:

- Next meeting of the Donald Cook Detachment of the Marine Corps League – Thursday, 16 February 2017, @ the VFW Post 6689, 73 Pearl Street, Essex Jct., VT. Dinner at 1800 Hours. Main course: Mac & Cheese. The meeting will follow at 1900 Hours.
- Membership – something we need to work at – always. *(This will bite if we ignore it.)*
- Marine John Kohler has brought to our attention the “Aubuchon Military Program.” Call me if you need an application form. What ever you offer them as proof of service, just remember to black out sensitive information - Social Security Number, Service Record Number, DD-214, etc. *I have been in touch with Lisa Gilbert who runs the program at Aubuchon and she has clarified that ALL Veterans have access to this program, not only those currently on active duty, in the reserves, or retirees.*
- “2017 Property Tax Exemption For Disabled Veterans and Their Survivors” new and improved application form is out. May 1st is the application deadline. Contact Ed Burkart, Veteran Services Coordinator of the Vermont Office Of Veterans Affairs (phone: 802-828-3379, e-mail: ed.burkart@vermont.gov, or call or send me an email. Note: This is also the place to contact if you want to get Vermont Veteran’s License Plates. They are also very good at helping Veterans navigate the VA bureaucracy.

Donald Cook Detachment #608
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Reminders, continued:

- Another important item of interest, courtesy of Marine John Kohler: “It may not be new news regarding the effect of chemical contamination on **those who served at Camp Lejune between August 1, 1953, to December 31, 1987**. Attached is an article from the VA on this topic that may be of interest to those in our MCL detachment.” *Note: If you would like, send me an email requesting that I send you a copy of John’s email with all the links. If you are a snail-mail newsletter recipient, you should be receiving a hardcopy printout of the article in addition to this month’s Newsletter and the minutes of the January meeting.*
- State of Vermont Green Mountain Passport – “Free admission to state-sponsored public events, exhibits, concerts, museums and state parks, historical sites and lands. Overnight camping, other park fees are excluded.” Available from your local Town Clerks. Last I knew, it was a one-time \$2.00 fee, and well worth it. Make the time to visit & enjoy your State Parks.
- Marine Corps Ball 2016 – After Action Report – please send your comments, feedback, constructive criticism(s) – to Marine Jim Chase (in person, by snail mail, email, UPS, Fed Ex, taxi, pack mule, drone, whatever). *If you didn’t go this past year, is there anything that might entice you to go next year...?*
- The Quad State Convention will be coming up soon and all members in good standing are welcome to attend. The Convention will be held at the Mainstay Inn (Best Western), 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road, Newport, Rhode Island, on Friday April 21, Saturday April 22 and Sunday April 23. Telephone number is: 1-401-849-9880 for reservations. Room rates are: Single or Dual at \$65 per night; \$85 for triple, and \$95 for quad (all rates plus tax). Refer to “MCL Convention” when you call in order to get these rates. Otherwise the cost is much more. Convention registration begins at noon on Friday and is \$25 which helps to defray the costs of materials to be handed out. A Buffet will be available Friday evening (\$ TBD) and a Super Growl for the Devil Dogs will be after the meal. On Saturday Morning after breakfast, there will be a “Fallen Comrades Ceremony” outside on the green (weather permitting, otherwise inside) and afterwards the main business meeting followed by the individual Department meetings. At noon lunch is on your own either at surrounding restaurants or at the Inn itself. The afternoon is “free time” to explore the area and the host Department usually has made arrangements for special interests if interested. Saturday night is the Grand Buffet (\$ TBD) and awards and installation of Officers. Sunday morning after breakfast, you’re free to return home. *Those interested can look on our MCL website. Under the link <Devil Dogs>, click <Rhode Island Quad State Photos> and you can see most of what is explained above when we went there four years ago.*
- The appointed position of Sergeant At Arms will need a replacement within the next few months. By nature it requires someone who is in a position to regularly and reliably attend our monthly meetings. Any who would consider being the Sergeant At Arms for our Detachment, please contact the Commandant directly.
- Marine Walter William Grant passed away on Thursday, 19 January 2017 at Respite House in Colchester. His obituary was published in the Burlington Free Press on 26 January 2017. A memorial is planned for 13 August 2017. Further details will be available from Ready Funeral Home, Shelburne Rd, Burlington, VT. 802-862-0991.

Reminders, continued:

~ Commandant's Scuttlebutt ~

- There [was] an Executive Board meeting on Thursday 02/09/2017 at [1100 hours] at the American Legion in Colchester. All Board Members [were] notified.
- There [was] a Marine Corps League "Eagle Scout" presentation at [1200 hours] on 02/10/2017 at the Capital Hotel in Montpelier, VT, to honor all (77) Boy Scouts from around Vermont who have now achieved the highest rank of "Eagle Scout."
- John Welsh, our Historian, has had his operation done on his shoulder on 02/03/2017 and is now home recuperating. I talked to him by phone and he said, "The operation went fine, except meds he was given for pain are not worth ><^@#\$\$[%&:(!!!" Otherwise, he is "OK" and will be back on his feet soon. He doesn't need anything and has help already in place on a daily basis. He prefers NOT to have visitors but will answer the phone if he's not doing something else.
- Uniform of the day for the Regular Meeting on Thursday 02/09/2017 will be standard civilian clothes along with the MCL red cover.
- Main topic for the meeting will be the "timeline and dates" needed for the MCL Ball program. The Ball has been shortened up by one week and is now set at 11/04/2017, which means that everything else has to back up accordingly.

Drive safely and we hope to see you all at the meeting. Thank You and "SEMPER FI."

H. F. Drew, Jr.
Commandant

It appears that winter has returned. Still, the days are getting longer, & seed catalogs are arriving in the mail.

Stay warm. If you haven't done so already, replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The life you save just might be your own.

Respectfully,

Bob Ware
Detachment Adjutant

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