

Marine Corps League



Robert B. Ware
PO Box 552
Milton VT 05468-0552
E-Mail: rbware@pshift.com
Cell: 802-343-1944

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Greetings To All.

The minutes of the Donald Cook Detachment 12/15/2016 meeting are attached. Snail Mail versions, a total of 12, will be in the mail later today. Brrrrr.

Reminders:

- Next meeting of the Donald Cook Detachment of the Marine Corps League – Thursday, 19 January 2017, @ the VFW Post 6689, 73 Pearl Street, Essex Jct., VT. Dinner at 1800 Hours. Main course: “If all goes right, the meal should be Pot Roast.” The meeting will follow at 1900 Hours.

T4K REPORT

by Marine John Welsh

We had a good year with toys. Money came up short to start for 2017. We supported 7 agencies hands on.

No Kid should have gone without a Christmas.

We now have a new storage warehouse for our year round barrel storage at the “Country Christmas Loft” in Shelburne. No one is to go near this place until November 2017. We don't want to lose this one, and I will work with the owner.

Coin Barrels could have done better if the Detachment had supported it better. We have **46** members and **9** put coin barrels out.

We bought \$15,000.00 in \$30.00 VISA and FYE Gift Cards. They were a big hit with all the agencies. Kevin [Hawley] will have more info on our money as all the coins are not counted at this time.

Donald Cook Detachment #608
P.O. Box 4092
Burlington. Vt. 05406-4092

Reminders, continued:

T4K Report, continued:

Working on a pamphlet to assist anyone who needs it to run T4K.

Need a volunteer to assist as a “Coordinator for Barrel Monitors.” Loney has Sec 1. Kohler has Sec 2. Section 3 ... ? It’s like a Platoon Leader on the phone.

Anyone who wants more info – stop by for free coffee, or call me at 872-0354.

Because of our money shortage – you know the rules – if you are ‘checking out,’ “In lieu of flowers, mail checks to T4K, [PO Box 4092, Burlington VT 05406-4092].”

If you noticed that our 2 page thank you ad in 7 Days pages 70-71 had Joe Gills and Abigale missing. That was not my fault. Joe chose to leave him and Harriete out. But I can tell you that no one contributed more to Toys For Kids than the Gills for 2016.

Some of you may have noticed the yellow posters [on the Toy barrels] were not all the same. Ch 5 – our partners ? had posters in storage from 2 years. So they only printed what we needed and made up with the others. So we had 3 years of posters on our barrels this year. No big deal, at least not to me. Toys still came in BIG TIME. Our trade mark the red barrels with the white snowflakes.

- Membership – something we need to work on – always. More about that at future meetings. *(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” 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.
- 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. Ever had breakfast up on Mount Philo?
- Marine Corps Ball – After Action Report – please send your comments, feedback, constructive criticism (see who’s paying attention to my spelling) – to Marine Jim Chase (in person, by snail mail, email, UPS, Fed Ex, pack mule, whatever).

Reminders, continued:

Messages from our Commandant ~

Marine Herbert F. Drew, Jr.

- 1) The uniform of the day for all officers and membership for the January meeting will be standard civilian clothing along with the MCL red cover.
- 2) A yearly menu for the meeting meals has been established and approved by the Executive Board and will be passed to each individual at the meeting for approval. Due to time and date reasons, I selected the meal for this meeting and notified the VFW of such. If all goes right the meal should be "Pot Roast."
- 3) Some members who are already in "Appointed" positions have requested to be relieved so as to attend personal obligations. This means we need to replace them. The membership should give this some serious thought and be prepared to volunteer for these positions if asked.
- 4) 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 and 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.

Thanks, and "SEMPER FI."

Days are getting longer now. Seed catalogs are in the mail. Spring is out there...

Semper Fidelis.

Bob Ware
Detachment Adjutant

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