

Marine Corps League



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Greetings To All:

Minutes of the Donald Cook Detachment 12/21/2017 meeting are attached. Snail Mail versions, will be in the mail by tomorrow.

Reminders:

- Next meeting of the Donald Cook Detachment of the Marine Corps League – Thursday, 18 January 2018, @ the American Legion Post 91, 3650 Roosevelt Hwy, Colchester, VT at 1900. Dinner precedes the meeting and will be served – starting at 1730. Main course: We've been wrong (mis-guided?) on the last several meals. Given the variability of the information in the recent past, the best guess of the meal for this month is "Spaghetti and Meat Balls." Hope you are able to join us.
Note: It is strongly recommended that you arrive early, not only to secure a parking place, but to also be able to sit with the Detachment. On-going road reconstruction in the immediate vicinity has shut down for the Winter. Though the days are getting longer, it is still DARK EARLY). If you wind up having to parking across the road it would be a great idea to bring a flashlight with you. Street lighting remains minimal in the immediate area.
- Reminder from Marine John Kohler that the American Legion Post 91 web site may be found at <http://www.vtpost91.org>.
- The January/February issue of the American Legion Calendar (and menu) is included with this month's newsletter.
- Survival: We are at a critical point in sustaining our Detachment. Maybe even beyond it. Harsh words? The declining membership numbers of the past five years and more are pretty clear. Unless we actively pursue growing our active participating membership, it's just a matter of time. We either intentionally make the decision (to survive and to grow), or we make the decision by default (do nothing about finding new members) and watch us continue to our inevitable organizational demise. This is a discussion we all need to have – now – before it's too late. Then we need to act on what we want.

Donald Cook Detachment #608
P.O. Box 4092
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Reminders, continued:

~ TOYS FOR KIDS OF VERMONT 2017 ~

Thank you to all who helped!!

Those who picked up the Toy Barrels on December 22 earned their money this year. Heavy traffic, barrels full of toys, snow, ice – some were in their trucks 8 hours, and one had no heater.

Two of the ladies brought lunches and would not share. Hmmm. One was making such a mess that the driver put a toy barrel in the cab to help catch her mess.

Toy donations were a little soft, but we had enough. Good news is we didn't have to store as much. May effect next year's start.

Money: It takes about \$20-22,000 to run the program each year. Most goes for \$30. gift VISA cards for the 15-16-17 year olds not covered in the barrels. Those \$30 VISA's can be worth \$60-\$100 + after Christmas with sales. We had problems with the cards and the bank. Cards were ordered and a rush requested and paid for. Somehow got lost. Took a week for bank to find them. They came in day after the agencies started to distribute. Many phone calls, and I think I might have threatened bank Mgr (not sure). For other expenses see financial report. Still may have money in the pipeline (I hope). We did good at the Flynn one weekend. Hope we are invited back next year.

Coin Cans did not do as well this year. Not all are in or counted as of this report. Many damaged by not handling more gently. Bottoms need to be replaced, don't fit. Security screws put in yet most leak change. Some used tape to seal problem. Will need work before next November. Project anyone?

You may have noticed Yellow Posters (on the toy barrels) - were made on the cheap by Ch 5 and would not stay up, or wrinkled. Will fix for next year.

Hope you saw our Full Page Ad thanking ALL - in Seven Days (Impressive!).

Thanks to the Gills – Joe & Harriette – who not only worked with Seven Days – but did all the Post Cards and Certificates. You may not know, but every dollar donated gets a Post Card or a Certificate depending on dollar amount. All hand-signed. Who do I see about that tunnel thing?

Any other questions, comments, or bitching – call me at 802-872-0354, or come in for the \$5 K-Cup.

John Welsh (Town Cobbler, Etc.)

Respectfully,

Bob Ware
Detachment Adjutant

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~ Donald G. Cook Detachment Calendar ~
by Marine Herb Drew, Jr.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Meal</u>	<u>NCOIC</u>
01/18/18	1730	Memb. Meeting	Colch Am L	Spaghetti w/MB	Commandant
02/11/18	Noon	Capital Hotel Boy Scouts Awards	Montpelier VT		B. Kaufmann
02/15/18	1730	Memb. Meeting	Colch Am L	Meatloaf	Commandant
03/15/18	1730	Memb. Meeting	Colch Am L	TBD	Commandant
04/14/18	Noon	Remove Parade Float from storage	Charlotte, VT		Commandant
04/19/18	1730	Memb. Meeting	Colch Am L	TBD	Commandant
04/20/18	Noon	Quad State and New England Div Convention	Holiday Inn Burlington, VT		Div Commandant
04/21/18	"	"	"		"
04/22/18	"	"	"		"
04/29/18	1000	Maple Fest. Parade	Saint Albans VT		CANCELLED
NOTE: By vote of the Detachment, we will NOT be participating in the Saint Albans Maple Festival Parade this year.					
05/17/18	1730	Memb. Meeting	Colch Am L	TBD	Commandant
05/26/18	1000	Mem. Day Parade	Essex Fair/Gnd		T. Fortenberry
05/28/18	1000	Mem. Day Parade	Vergennes, VT		T. Fortenberry
06/21/18	1730	Memb. Meeting	Colch Am L	TBD	Commandant
07/04/18	1000	July 4 th Parade	Williston, VT		
07/15/18	1200	Return float to Winter storage	Charlotte, VT		Commandant
07/19/18	1730	Memb. Meeting	Colch Am L	TBD	Commandant
08/16/18	1730	Memb. Meeting	Colch Am L	TBD	Commandant
08/25/18	1000	Detach. Picnic	Sandbar St. Park	TBD	T. Fortenberry

(always subject to additions/changes/modifications/corrections/improvements)