

Marine Corps League



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11 March 2017

Greetings To All.

The minutes of the Donald Cook Detachment 02/16/2017 meeting are attached. Snail Mail versions, a total of 13, will be in the mail ... soon.

Reminders:

- Next meeting of the Donald Cook Detachment of the Marine Corps League – Thursday, 16 March 2017, @ the VFW Post 6689, 73 Pearl Street, Essex Jct., VT. Dinner at 1800 Hours. Main course: Corned Beef & Cabbage (*if all goes well...*). The meeting will follow at 1900 Hours.
- Membership – One idea that has been brought forth – is that we should focus our recruiting attention on the “40 and up” age group. Part of the reasoning behind this is that younger Marines just released from their first enlistment are so busy pulling their own lives together – transitioning into a new job, maybe back to school, often marriage/kids, that they simply don’t have any “extra” time to devote to another interest such as active membership in the Marine Corps League and all that that can involve (Birthday Ball celebrations, T4K, summer picnics, monthly meetings, etc.). The logical question is “who’s going to do the recruiting?” Then, of course, “the how,” and “the when.” The answer to the first one is easy: Us. All of us. If it’s too much of “let the others do it,” pretty soon “we” will no longer be “us.” Few are able to engage in an active all-out membership recruiting campaign. Most of “us” have lives, some very full lives, and aren’t able to commit to some of the extra effort required to engage in active recruiting, going to meetings, or participating in various mission functions. But you have to admit – sometimes it’s like boot camp (or life). Have you ever been to the point where you couldn’t just put one foot in front of the other – just one more time. Next month, I’d like to talk about the “how.” But between now and next month, I’d like to hear some of your ideas on “how.” What are some ways you think we could build our membership? What were the circumstances that caused you to join the MCL?

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Reminders, continued:

- 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. If you have been evaluated to be 50% or more disabled by the VA, 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.
- 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.
- The Quad State Convention is 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.*
- Daylight Savings Time goes into effect tonight (03/12/2017 0200 hours). Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour (or be prepared for a rash of static from those who thought you should have known).
- Thinking of running a yearly “calendar of events” in subsequent newsletters. Your thoughts?

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Reminders, continued:

~ H94 ~

(H 94 – Vermont 2017-2018 Regular Session – Open States) proposes to exempt from the “calculation of household income for the purpose of determining income sensitivity property tax adjustments” the Veteran benefits received for Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled, which we have been fighting to have added for years. Please contact your Vermont State legislators to support and vote for the passage of this important Veteran Bill. Not that we have seen far too many Veterans leave the State of Vermont due to high taxes on their limited income, especially if disabled and, therefore, unable to work to increase their income flow.

We need to support all our Veterans, some of whom are receiving compensation for permanent or total disability.

Perry Melvin
FMF Corpsman, & Detachment Service Officer

~ Commandant's Scuttlebutt ~

The uniform of the day will be standard civilian clothes with the “MCL Red Cover.”

Since the meal for the meeting is intended for “Saint Patrick's Day,” it is permissible to wear something “GREEN” even though you may not be Irish.

The financial audit of the books for 2016 has been completed. Paymaster's Report may reveal more at the meeting.

Still looking for a volunteer to work the phone for answers for the public and barrel monitors in Essex, Jericho, Underhill, and surrounding areas at Christmas time for the Toys for Kids program.

Marine Gene Courtright has stepped down as the “Sergeant At Arms” and Marine Andrew Richard has accepted the position.

Will see you all at the meeting. “Drive safely” and “SEMPER-FI.”

H. F. Drew, Jr.
Commandant

Winter in March – the end of the first third of March – MINUS 1°F, winds NNW @ 21, gusting to 32 – was the morning “hello.” Don't need to tell you to stay warm (or try). Snow tires off? Maybe another time. What happened to “Mud Season”?

Respectfully,

Bob Ware
Detachment Adjutant

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