

Marine Corps League



Southwest Montana Det. 724
525 Garden Avenue
Butte, Montana 59701



The "OoH RaH" Newsletter

April, 2017

Commandant Mike Lawson's Report

Spring is here so the calendar says. The days are longer and with all the snow up high we should have a good summer. A lot has happening and a lot has happened which I'll touch upon as this letter progresses. March saw a number of funerals with Marge Nye's being most notable for us. It was different than most in that after talking to Marge's daughter Barbra I picked a religious service out of our Marine Corp League Ritual Manual and with our MCL Dept. Chaplain Bob Hames conducted her graveside service. Two Marines from the Marine Detachment in Billings folded the flag and presented it to Barbra. Our Honor Guard had over 20 members participating which was a wonderful tribute to Marge. A reception was held afterwards at the "Hooch". I thank all of you who were there at the graveside and the reception and I especially thank those who cleaned up afterwards. I had to leave early to testify at a hearing in Helena.

The "Politics" happening in Helena concerning the SW MT Veteran's Home has been frustrating, interesting and challenging to say the least. The hard part in some ways was to have it be part of the infrastructure Bill put together initially by the Governor which included two other projects. This House Bill survived until the third reading where it lost by two votes. We, many of you, fought hard for this by going to testify at a committee concerning it, which helped it pass out of there unto the floor to be voted on. It passed the first and second reading but needed to pass by a 2/3 majority which was 11 votes shy. I got a list of all those who voted against it on the second reading, sent an e-mail with their names, e-mail, phone numbers and sent it to veterans, many of you, all over the state asking them to get ahold of these Representatives and ask them to reconsider. It worked pretty well in that we were 2 votes shy but this isn't the end of the story. I mentioned earlier I had to leave Margie's reception early to testify which was at

a Senate Infrastructure Bill Hearing. This was a 98 million dollar Bill and it passed out of committee, was voted on by the Senate and passed. It was given to the House on April 3rd where they have to take it into committee. The intrigue goes on in that on April 1st the House resurrected the Infrastructure bill they killed which was for 78 million dollars. Sen Sesso thinks they, the House, will hopefully pass their 78 million dollar Bill because it is 20 million less than the Senate Bill. If this happens they will send it to the Senate where it will pass at which time it will go to the Governor who will sign it and construction will begin. I'm being optimistic for sure but I have to be. Let's all hope and pray.

Our Gun Raffle sales are going well so far as we're past the break even point. If you have tickets your selling let me know what you have sold and what you left to sell. The other thing I would remind you to do is get your registration for the MCL Dept.. of Mt. Convention sent in. This is going to be in our backyard at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort and will be one of the better ones we've had. Being so close makes it very doable to participate and support our sister Detachment in Anaconda who are hosting it. This concludes my report for now.

Senior Vice Commandant Bob Chansler's Report:

Hello Devil Dogs, well March is in the past, April is looking like it's going to be a busy one. I'm still working on the "Display Cabinet", it's a slow go but it will be completed. A lot is coming up with the State Convention, the motorcycle riders staying at the "Hooch" which a security detail needs to be discussed while their staying with us that night. Lots more to talk about but I'll save it for the next meeting. Semper Fi, Bob

Jr. Vice Billy Robbin's Report:

Billy has been working in Helena but will be cooking at our SOS Breakfast Saturday, May6th.

Adjutant John Thompson's Report:

John took great pictures of Margie Nye's funeral and is busy with functions of both the MCL, UVC and efforts to get our SW Veteran's Home become a reality.

Paymaster Bart Wackerbarth's Report:

At the writing of this Newsletter Bart is out of town. The Financial Report was presented at the EXE Board meeting. We're in good shape and good accounting/business practices are continuing to be developed and put into practice for the betterment of our detachment. Thank-you Bart!!

Building and Ground Officer James Long's Report:

Hello all. I just have a few things I'm thinking about. We need to organize and plan the summertime and in expressing that, we need your ideas and planning for the projects we need to work on. Need to do our grounds clean-up in the next few months or so. Need to sell the the rest of our gun raffle tickets. Sent

thank-you cards to the Margie Nye family for the Memorial money sent in her honor. Take care and God Bless, James

Chaplain/Web Sgt. Janet Wagner's Report:

What a beautiful time of the year here in Montana! The trees are budding, the flowers are starting to bloom and the Big Hole River is flowing.

Each Spring is a rebirth of our beautiful planet earth and a reminder how we can be born again, and again and again, because Christ died on the cross. I've become more comfortable with my faults and humanness knowing that I'll never be perfect but will always be loved.

Spring is the perfect time to renew our zeal for living, loving our neighbors and reaching out to help our fellow Veterans. The suicide rate of returning Veterans is out of control. We need to find ways to reach out to our young Veterans, connect with them heart to heart. They need to feel comfortable coming to us to talk about their struggles. We the Marine Corps League can be THE difference in their lives.

I'm almost ready to post some new pages on the web site and I have created a FaceBook page for us to promote our Detachment

<HTTPS://www.facebook.com/Detachment724/>

God Bless
Semper Fi

Janet Wagner
Sportsman Motel (406) 835-2141/cell 831-682-5677
Find the Good

Executive Council Report:

The board discussed basically 5 topics.

- (1) Concerned the Newsletter challenges encountered and so Mike, Bart and Janet dealt with them. Both Bart and Janet came up with solutions but we ran with Janet's and have Bart's for a back-up if necessary. We also found that sending by snail mail the cost of sending in large Manila envelopes versus regular size envelopes was \$1.40 versus \$.40. We only have 20 members without e-mail.
- (2) The next thing on the agenda was Raffles. (A) The Gun Raffle as of that meeting had \$1,361.00 turned in with a refund from Sportsman Warehouse after cost of Posters returned. (Note; We're well near \$3,000 at the writing of this letter) Drawing will be June 10th in Melrose Town Garage Sale. (B) 50/50 Raffle. After the Gun Raffle it was discussed to do a money raffle with the drawing done at the Marine Corps Ball on Nov.10th. Getting started early would give us plenty of time to sell tickets and a good way to build up our "Hooch" Operating Fund. An example is the Dept Money Raffle.
- (3) Finances: (a) Bart provided copies of the Finance Report, discussed discussed

new form 1-request for funds 2-reimbursement form (Just good business practice) (B) Projects like the Display Case, etc., need to be covered by donations and/or fund raisers. Continued discussion on completion of display case and what needed cost/labor wise. Feelings were positive. (C) Need to get a contract on the rental/storage signed by the VFW and VFW Auxiliary to stay within "IRS" guidelines.

- (4) Spring "Clean-up Day" needs to be set up with possible lunch included. General clean-up, fix gate and what ever we see that needs to be done.

Dates to Remember:

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| 5) UVC Meeting. | April 12th |
| 6) VFW Meeting. | April 13th |
| 7) Exe Board Meeting. | April 24th |
| 8) MCL Meeting. | April 27th |
| 9) SOS Breakfast at the "Hooch". | May 6th |
| 10)2017 MCL Dept. Of Mt. Convent. | May 19-21, 2017 |
| 11)MCL Det#724 Gun Raffle. | June 10th |

Nurse Triage Call Center, Ft. Harrison

877-168-8387. Option #3

Need help medically call these folks to get answers/help.

Thoughts to Ponder.

Helped another veteran get headed to Mental Health because he was thinking of suicide. If you ever are confronted with a veteran like this don't brush it off or not take it lightly. Call me or if you can get them to Mental Health at Ft. Harrison quickly do so or call 911 and report it and they will tell you what to do locally. The National Suicide Prevention HotLine is 1-800-273-8255. Too many Veterans are giving up and taking their own lives.

Honor Guards

When we think of Honor Guard Details we mainly think of funerals but Honor Guard Details Post flags at all kinds of events such as opening of conventions, meetings, ceremonies, etc.. We have a very special one coming up which I never heard of but am proud to be part of now that I've become acquainted with it. This organization is called Quilts of Valor who make a quality quilt by a volunteer team for the soul purpose of awarding it to a "veteran who served in combat". It is a civilian equivalent of a Purple Heart. There is a short ceremony accompanying this presentation which the Honor Guard Detail does in connection with the Posting of the Colors. We'll be doing the first one in Butte on April 17 to a WWII Vet who served with General Patton in Germany and got his discharge in 1946. I'll follow-up on this next month.

Taper Light and Semper Fi

