

Marine Corps League



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



"OoH-RaH" Newsletter

February 2017

Commandant Mike Lawson's Report:

Procrastination seems to be the norm in getting this newsletter out on time but on this cool February 11th day I now sit before my iPad determined to make it happen with news you will find interesting and at times entertaining. I'm always looking for suggestions to make things better so any you may have will be appreciated.

January was very busy for the Detachment as we closed out our "Toys For Tots Campaign", presented testimony in Helena concerning a HB for the SW Montana Veteran's Home, SOS Breakfast, meetings, etc.. In all of this you the membership are the one's that make everything work and get goals accomplished for which I thank-you for more than you know. Some things I'll address besides the above is newest member Janet Wagner, Devil Dogs, upcoming events, veteran issues and whatever might come to mind.

Deaths:

Marge Nye - It is with great sadness that I bring you news of the death of Marge Nye a beloved longtime member of our Detachment #724. She was an Korean War Woman Marine who was always extremely active in our and other veteran activities. She died at Ft. Harrison, was cremated and will be buried at the Mountain View Cemetery Veteran's section by her deceased husband's grave at a later time to be announced. At that time our UVC Honor Guard will do her graveside service and any of you who wish to participate are welcome to do so. Marge's Obituary will be in the newspaper (which I have read) and her daughter Barbra did a great job so look for it Monday or Tuesday.

Irene Louise Strubeck - Irene our member Earl Strubeck's wife, of 47 years, died after a short illness with brain cancer. Our condolences to Earl and his family.

Esteranza Andrade - Esteranza the mother(93 yrs old) of Associate Member Andy Andrade was a 50 year plus member of VFW Aux #1448 and died in January. She always had a smile and was very active in veteran events. Our condolences to you, Andy and Virginia.

The Sick:

Dick Skates having back problems but still gets around.

Tony Huerta has some surgery coming up this month.

Ron Peterson doing well but dealing with a bad knee and treatment for it.

If your into praying please put these brothers in your prayers as we want to see them happy and healthy.

New Member:

It's a pleasure to introduce Janet Wagner, a women Marine, who has joined us here at DET #724. She and her husband retired from jobs in California, moved to Melrose, Montana where they bought the local motel. She brings a lot of computer/technology/communication skills to the table and has offered to bring us into the modern communication world we're living in. She is also going to do Chaplain duties using the MCL National Web Site for many if not all reports associated with this position's duties. Welcome aboard Janet!!

Active Duty Members.

PFC Jacob McCarthy is stationed in Okinawa being part of 3rd MLG SUP BN and hopefully be home on leave this coming fall. Working out in the Gym a lot and staying in great shape.

Col Sean McBride is still in Europe and is a charter member of this Detachment #724. Sean get us an update on your status as we would like to hear from you and what your doing.

Lt.Col James McBride - MTACS -38 - Jim sent his Commander's Quarterly Newsletter which will be available at the "Hooch" for anyone who would like to read it. In his Commanding Officer's message he mentions to his Marines that on a minutes notice they could be deployed so "have your affairs in order". He thanks his "Squadron" for doing a great job. This is really a great way for us to look into the life of an active Marine Unit Commanded by one of our own Detachment members, namely Jim McBride. This News Letter has great pictures, squadron member reports, news items, etc.and is well done. Thanks

Jim for giving us this opportunity to share in what you and your Squadron are doing and giving us a sense of what today's Marine is all about.

Senior Vice Commandant Bob Chansler's Report:

The big project is I'm building Display Cabinets/Counters at the south end of the "Hooch" between the existing display cabinet and the door going into the office. If you haven't been to the Hooch in a month or so be sure to come to our next meeting on Thursday the 23rd and check it out.

Jr. Vice Commandant's Billy Robbin's Report:

Going to do some work on the kitchen but the SOS Breakfast will be at the "Hooch" March 4th so any help you can offer would be appreciated.

Adjutants John Thompson's Report:

Along with James Long and Mike Lawson we got our complete membership roster updated with e-mail address/ph numbers/ mailing addresses. A lot of man hours went into this but it needed to be done. Learning to get into and use the National Marine Corps Web Page to fill out forms/reports/etc. and sent them electronically thus lessening the use of snail mail.

Paymaster Bart Wackerbarth's Report:

Haven't connected with Bart at the time of putting the newsletter together but at our Exe Board and regular meeting his report indicated we were in the black. He knows finances inside and out and explained about us needing to do some type of fund generation to keep financially healthy. He is setting up an audit form for the trustees to follow in auditing the books on a regular basis. We appreciate your expertise and work Bart, thank-you.

Building and Ground Officer James Long's Report:

Hello folks, just to bring you up to date:
The "Hooch" has some new things that have been done. (1) The roof is now in good shape for the winter, thanks to Billy Robbins. (2) We now have a Snow blower for parking lot, loan by Mike Lawson (maybe forever). (3) Two new file cabinets , thanks to Gunny Muhammad. (4) Moved some things around for better organization. (5) Now have new file system and updated Rosters so now we know who you are! (6) The new Display Cabinet/Case is a work in progress by Bob Chansler and is coming along quickly. (7) New Conduit/electrical box outlets installed as well as breaker box brought up to code, thanks to Dave Reisenhauser who donated his labor/expertise.

There are a lot of you out of town. We will see to it you get a Newsletter. We have some things not done yet and that will always be the case. Your help in any of these would always be appreciated. People who I would like to thank

for jumping in and helping me are Mike Samples, Ron & Linda Evans, Dave King, John Thompson, Bob Chansler . They have jumped in and helped in a number of recent projects and just so you know we have more coming up. Thanks also to Mike Lawson. One project coming up is changing the projection screen and getting our projection equipment working in a simple to understand format.

Thanks,
James H. Long

Nomination/Election Report:

At Det #24's January 26 meeting the following members were nominated for the elected offices and finding no candidates to challenge them were elected by acclamation . Commandant; Michael Lawson, Senior Vice Commandant; Robert W Chansler, Jr. Vice Commandant; Billy Robbins, Judge Advocate ; Dennis Owens, Adjutant; John Thompson, Paymaster; Bart Wackerbarth, Chaplain; Janet Wagoner, Sergeant At Arms; Ron Peterson

Executive Council Report:

Discussion focused mainly on our fiancés and the need to have some outside fundraising to help pay the bills, to keep maintenance of building up and to fiancé improvements to property. We do coffee stops and bring in some income but felt something like a raffle of some kind might work well for needed additional funds. Any ideas from you the membership are welcome. One improvement going on is the display cabinets which are being financed mainly by the Detachment but some money is being donated by a few members. Concerning fundraisers, with all of us working together it's felt we can come up with a good plan that we all can participate in with very little physical labor.

SW Montana Veteran's Home:

This is the year that we need to get the ground broken and construction started on this "Veterans' Rest Home" here in Butte as it's shovel ready. Everything is in place to make it happen if the Montana Legislature will provide a Bridge Loan until the guaranteed money from the VA comes through in the future. We've been battling to get this financéd for 8 years knowing we had a window of 10 years in which to use the land donated or lose it if construction didn't take place. For those of you who were not able to go testify for the Governor's infrastructure HB concerning the SW MT's Vet Rest Home, we got a lot of Media exposure and a great many on both sides of the isle testified for it. It did get out of Committee and is on the floor of the House right now so it's a wait and see for the next couple of weeks. If it doesn't fly this time than a stand alone "SW Montana Veterans Bill" will be

introduced which will be more easily supported by our representatives. We'll keep you updated.

Devil Dogs:

Our new SW Montana Pound is called the "Lyle Gillette" Pound #374. The Devil Dogs are the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League Chartered by an act of Congress on 4 August 1937. We used to belong to the Great Falls Pound but got enough Marines from Butte/Bozeman/Anaconda to form our own. We should have our first meeting next month and any of you Marines we can talk into joining it's a laugh a minute. It's just a lot of fun.

Dates to Remember:

- 1) Exe Board Meeting. February 20
- 2) SOS Breakfast (at the "Hooch") March 4
- 3) UVC Meeting March 8
- 4) VFW Meeting. March 9
- 5) MCL Meeting. March 23
- 6) 2017 MCL Department of Montana Convention. May 19-21,2017
Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

Food for Thought:

If a Veteran or member is in need in any way, please let us know. I was privileged to be part of a process that got a suicidal veteran to Ft Harrison where they quickly sent him on to a Treatment Center in Sheridan, Wy.. We always want to take care of our veteran brothers and sisters when their in need. Detachment #724 is a great caring veteran family so don't hesitate to call any one of us if you or someone you know, who is a veteran, needs help. We being part of the United Veterans Council are always helping veterans and believe me we feel good every time this happens because in some small way we were able to make a positive difference in that individual veteran's life.

Happy Valentines Day to you all
Semper Fi
Mike