

Marine Corps League



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



April and May Newsletter

2017

Commandant Mike Lawson's Report:

These last 2 months have been extremely busy with Veteran activities including Honor Guards for Funerals both in and out of town, Flag Postings, Department of Montana Marine Corps League Convention at Fairmont Hot Springs, Memorial Day Ceremonies at Stodden Park and at our 6 cemeteries, putting over 3,000 Flags on our Veterans graves in the Butte area followed by picking them up the day after. Let's not forget all the time spent in trying to get the Legislature to grant a "Bridge Loan" to get our our SW Montana Veteran's Home built which was unsuccessful. The Newsletter got put on hold which I apologize for but we're back on track. I really put an appeal out to you who are able, to write an article about anything your compassionate about/ interested in that we can include in this your News Letter. It would really take some of the load off my shoulders and give a different prospective.

Memorial Day:

We had beautiful weather for our Memorial Day Ceremonies at Stodden Park, at five of our Butte area cemeteries and at the Crest Nursing Home. Much thanks to all of you who participated as your the one's who make it happen in all we do to give back to our veterans and the communities we live in. We even had two veterans from Pony, Mt. come and participate in conducting the ceremonies that day and thank them also. The speaker, Navy Lt. Steven Wright did a great job as well as our Chief Executive Dave Palmer, Sheriff Ed Lester, Fire Marshall Jeff Miller, Sen. Tester Rep. Eddy Zimpel and Sen. Daines Rep. Gilda Clancy. The main speaker changes each time but these other folks have never turned me down when I've asked them to be part of not only Memorial Day but also "9/11" in Sept and Veteran's Day in Nov. so thank them as well. Remember we are part of the United Veteran's Council with the other Veteran

Service Organizations in Butte and working together we are able to put these type of events together. The Flags we put on all the "Veterans Graves" numbered over 3,000. We, spearheaded by the VFW, and local volunteers such as the Civil Air Patrol kids/advisors put a lot of hours in both putting the Flags out two days before but getting them picked up the day after, sorted out, bundled/repared and stored until next year. This is just another way we step to the plate and serve apart from ourselves and feel good about who we are and what we do. I salute each of you. !!

Semper Fi and Thanks

Mike

Chaplain Janet Wagner's Report:

Please let me know if you hear of a member who is in need of prayer, is ill or has passed away.

Web Sgt. /Master Janet Wagner Report:

We have a calendar on the web site. On mclswmt.org Please send me information on any events you think our members would like to know about. Our web page can be a valuable tool but only if it has reverent and current information.

Janet's comments: May temperatures have melted the snow. I made it through my first Montana winter. !! The fields are green, the flowers are blooming, the river is flowing and the fish are biting. Tony my husband, and I were able to attend MCL Convention. It was great to meet other members and participate in the discussions.

Semper Fi * God Bless

Janet

Senior Vice Commandant Bob Chansler's Report:

Happy June #724, we have a lot going on this month with the Flag Dinner, coffee stops, 4th of July coming up and much more. Anyone that can help would be appreciated as always. The 1st Coffee Stop was a great success thanks to all who donated time and treats. I would like to have a "police call" at the "Hooch" to clean up and do yard work. Thats all for now.

Semper Fi, Bob

Junior Vice Commandant Billy Robbins Report:

The SOS in April went well with everyone getting plenty to eat and lots of people helped in putting it on and the doing breakdown/clean-up after. Did some improvement work in the kitchen. Will be helping with BBQ lunches in Melrose at our set-up there on the 10th. SOS will be at he "Hooch" on July 8th.

Billy

Adjutant John Thompson's Report:

Due to being overloaded at the Copper King Mansion John was unable to get a report in at this time.

Paymaster Bart Wackerbarth's Report:

Sgt of Arms Ron Peterson's Report:

We're busy with Honor Guards, coffee stops, meetings, building projects and the list goes on but it's all good. None of us can help on all we do but help where you can and have fun at the same time. Got our regular meeting at the "Hooch" June 22nd and hope you all can make it.

Ron

Building and Grounds Officer James Long's Report:

Been busy with keeping things up at the "Hooch". The VFW, VFW Auxiliary and the Marine Corps League all meet monthly at our building. This month was busy with us getting all the Flags for Veteran's Day out of storage, sent out to be placed on all the Veterans graves, brought back to be sorted, bundled repaired. Put back into the storage tubs and finally back into storage. Thanks for everyone who Volunteered in any or all phases of this great project that was about honoring our Veterans who have passed on before us. The Display Case was kind of on hold due to Bob being swamped in personal busyness. He is now on it again and appreciate what he does. Need to work on the weeds growing in our compound as well as other projects you don't have to look very far to see that need to be addressed. Any help or suggestions are welcome. A storage shed for our equipment and BBQ Grills is on our wish list. If anyone wants to contribute material, labor or money to make it happen we would put a "Marine Blessing" upon you in a heartbeat. Your all great to be part of and with.

Semper Fi, James

Coffee Stop Fundraiser:

As most of you know we do 5-6 of the events over the summer to raise money to operate the "Hooch" and fund the programs/events we participate in. It's one of those fun things we do as the travelers come through we have a great spread of cookies/brownies/cupcakes/coffee/water/etc. for them to choose from. We engage them in great conversation making them feel welcome and in the process meet folks from all over the country as well as many parts of the world. This last coffee stop, on June 3rd, we received a record of \$625.25 in donations with someone putting two \$100.00 bills in the donation box. People are generous including you who worked there and those

of you who got your wife's/daughters/friends/yourselves to bake the goodies we were able to offer to these travelers. I continue to say thank-you for without you we couldn't do a project such as this. Our next Coffee Stop will be the 17th of June.

Gun Raffle and Melrose Town Garage Sale:

Our Our own Chaplain/Web Sgt./etc. Janet Wagner is spearheading this event on June 10th. We're going to set up a table/tent and sell a hotdog lunch as well as have Marine Corps League info on hand telling others about us to those that might ask. It should be fun and who knows there might be something there for sale you can't do without.

We can use some help with this one if you can spare a few hours . It's a beautiful place along the Big Hole River to spend a day to relax. Give Janet, Ron Peterson or myself a call and let us know if you can share this experience with us. Remember we are going to do the drawing for the Gun Raffle sometime during the day at this event.

Department of Montana Marine Corps League Convention:

This years Convention was held in May at Fairmont Hot Springs hosted by the Pvt. Mike Detachment of Anaconda. It was a great convention as can be attested to by those of us who were there. The Memorial Service was especially moving with Bagpipers from Anaconda participating in this service honoring our members who have died from all the Detachments across the state. The Banquet and Award Ceremony was excellent with some of our own members receiving various awards of recognition. Next years Convention will be hosted by the Bozeman Robert A. Ellerd #1050 Detachment which is also located relatively close, so start thinking about possibly going as it's a great experience meeting and sharing with other Marine Corps Leaguers from across the state.

New Members:

It's a pleasure to introduce our latest new members beginning with Ed Pate who was the Commanding Officer at the Recon Command in Billings where our Colonel Sean McBride as a Sgt. was stationed. When Sean graduated from Mt.Tech. Ed did the paper work for getting Sean into Officer's Candidate School. Ed helped put out flags already. Welcome! elcome!

Ron Bolton also has come on board and helped with the flags/Honor Guard as well as his Wife Cheryl making goodies for the rest stop. Welcome! Welcome!
Chad Armstrong is also one of our new younger members and has a lot of getup and go. He was very instrumental in putting me in contact with our speaker for Memorial Day. Welcome! Welcome!

Active Duty Members:

We were all active duty at one time so can really appreciate/Respect our members who are presently active duty. I'll start with Colonel Sean McBride who is stationed in Europe, Lt Colonel Jim McBride stationed in San Diego, PFC Jacob McCarthy stationed in Okinawa. Keep these members in your thoughts and prayers if you would. I might mention my Grandson Connor McCarthy graduated from Anaconda High on June 1 and will be arriving at MCRD in San Diego on June 11 to start Boot Camp. I'll be going to his Boot Camp Graduation around Sept 8th with a MCL application in hand.

Honor Guards:

We are part of the United Veteran's Council Honor Guard and welcome any of you our members to participate. We have conducted over thirty funerals/ ceremonies in the last 2 months both in town and out of town. We do a great job and are being sought out to help bury Veterans from out of town more all the time. Another great way we are able to give of ourselves to help veterans and their families. Some of you are able to participate more than others but we appreciate those of you who can only participate once in a while also. It all helps believe me!

SW Montana Veteran's Home:

I'm not giving up on Our Veteran's Home and neither should you. I'm participating in some discovery meetings with another one coming up within a week or so. I think the possibilities are pretty hopeful and will have more information in the next Newsletter.

Dues! Dues! Dues! :

It's so easy to get behind as we get busy, forget, etc.. The other thing going on is MCL National is making August 1 the due date for all members where before it was on the anniversary of the Member's joining date. For some of you your dues will be prorated according to when you joined. I'll list your name and the last time you paid your dues so you know what you owe. If you don't agree with that just give Bart your receipt and we'll get it squared away. The other thing I encourage (and what I did) was to get a Paid For Life Membership and than you never have to worry about it again.

Paid For Life Schedule: 0-35 is \$500 ,36-40 is \$400, 41-50 is \$300, 51-64 is \$300, 65-over is \$200.

Flag Dinner:

This has been one of our mainstay events for over two decades second only to the Marine Corps Ball in that we have dinner, a speaker, usually some awards and overall have a good time socializing with one another. This year

we'll be at Perkins on June 22nd at 6:00 PM

Tribute to Fallen Soldiers Memorial Torch Motorcycle Ride:

This organization's plans have changed and Butte will only be a rest stop, not an overnight stop. Some of us will try and contact them when they stop to rest at one of the truck stops and wish them well. Feeding them/putting them up for the night is canceled.

Dates to Remember:

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| 1) Granite Mt. Mine Memorial Honor Guard. | June 8th |
| 2) UVC Meeting. | June 14th |
| 3) MCL Gun Raffle/Melrose Garage Sale. | June 10th |
| 4) VFW Meeting. | June 15th |
| 5) Coffee Stop. | June 17th |
| 6) Exe Board Meeting. | June 19th |
| 7) MCL Meeting/Flag Dinner. | June 22th |
| 8) Butte Independence Day Parade. | July 4th |

Important Telephone Numbers:

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| <u>Nurse Triage Call Center:</u>
(Need medical attention at VA) | 877-168-8387 |
| <u>Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline:</u> | 800-273-8255 |

From the Editor:

I hope I covered things you wanted to be covered. Your input is important and any article you might want to contribute would be welcome. Jim McBride sends a News Letter from his Command in SanDiego which we could put on our web site for you to download and read that Janet knows how to do.

Communication keeps changing and we are doing our best to change with it thus making us a better organization and have younger potential members join us as the Computer World is how they function day in and day out. Combining the past and the present makes us strong as well as it makes us a tight knit family of Veterans upholding Marine traditions serving each other and our communities we live in. It's a pleasure serving each of you in this way.

Semper Fi
Mike Lawson