

Marine Corps League



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



OoH Rah !! NewsLetter

August 1 - 7, 2017

Commandant Mike Lawson's Report:

Greeting to you all of " Marine Corps League Detachment #724 " on this smoky August day. It's not fun especially for those of you ,like myself, who have breathing issues. This summer has seen the time fly by with our Detachment being involved in many activities. It's been hard to find time to sit down and write this NewsLetter but finally have a time-window to get this going. I appreciate the time that you members who were able to help in our different activities, gave to the cause. Again I stress that those of you who were unable to be part of those actives due to not being here, health related issues or other reasons, do not feel bad about it as we're happy your one of us. Paying your dues to remain a member is so appreciated. We're all brothers and sisters and care about one another no matter what our status in life is. When our social events such as the "SOS" Breakfast or one of our dinners/ picnics come about it's always great to get us all together. For those of you who might need a ride please call me or another member and one of us will get you there and back .

Senior Vice Commandant Bob Chansler's Report:

Well I finally have a chance to sit down and write my report,OoRah! Marines. Happy August! We had a lot going on lately with a couple of funerals one which was for a long lost Airman in Viet Nam (welcome home). The other was for a Combat Army Veteran from Anaconda whose ashes we spread up on the mountain (thanks Griz & Teresa) with a great ceremony. The coffee stops are going well and we're still working on the Display Cabinet and are just waiting for the glass for the doors. We talked about the Miner's coming in and will

bring it up at the next meeting. I acquired all the wood for the storage unit but need someone to help pull nails and stack. I also got a used freezer but we need to keep an eye out for a newer one. Everyone stay healthy and strong. Prayers for all sick and gone.

Semper Fi

Bob

Jr. Vice Commandant Billy Robbins's Report:

Been busy working and traveling to family reunion in southern Colorado. Cooked SOS Breakfast in July and was "Chief Cook" for Folk Festival McGruff Park Campers for two days. Going to build storage shed with Bob Chansler when we can get to it. Will cook SOS Breakfast in September. See you next meeting.

Billy

Adjutant John Thompson's Report:

This summer has been full of funeral Honor Guards including "MIA-Capt. Ron Holton" which in itself was one our most moving events. I took lots of pictures which I'll give to Janet to put on our Web-Site. I help James at the Hooch from time to time but the big thing I'm behind is the "Party Bus" going to Rexburg, Idaho to watch the eclipse August 18. If you want to go, get ahold of me. 490-1298

Paymaster Bart Wackerbarth's report:

At the July meeting the 2017 Fiscal Year Budget was voted on and approved. We will to work hard over the coming year to maintain this budget on both expenses and income sources. Renewals are due in the month of September and this will result in a large amount of paperwork to complete these requests. Please be patient as these are completed since I will want to compile the items into as few individual transmittal forms as possible. During the September and October meetings updates as to completed transmissions will be provided.

Bart

Chaplain Janet Wagner's Report:

We own a motel in Melrose, Mt.. The last couple of months we have been blessed with many guests and record reservations. I have not had the time away from work to attend any of the Memorial Services, myself. But Detachment #724 has a core of members who make an effort for every Memorial we are called to serve for.

The most notable this past month was Capt. Robert Holton. A few members were on hand to serve as pall bears at this highly attended service.

http://MtStandard.com/news/local/finally-remains-of-vietnam-mia-capt-robert-holton-coming-home/article_a78e2982-492b-536f-9d60-23c3ca2e7alf.html

Webmaster Janet Wagner:

Many thanks to Mark Gollinger for including me in his e-mails promoting veteran events. I will post them in several places such as our Web Site Event Page, on the calendar or on our FaceBook page.

<http://www.mclswmt.org/>

<http://www.mclswmt.org/event%20flyers.htm>

[HTTPS://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?](HTTPS://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?Src=mclswmt.webmaster%40gmail.com&cuz=America/Denver)

<Src=mclswmt.webmaster%40gmail.com&cuz=America/Denver>

<HTTPS://www.facebook.com/Detachment724/> or in a group e-mail.

If you have a veteran or community event please send me the information or a flyer for event and I will help spread the word!

Thanks,

Semper Fi, God Bless

Janet Wagner

406-835-2141

Mclswmt.webmaster@gmail.com

The “Hooch” Building Officer James Long’s Report:

The SOS Breakfast was ok and all had a good time but next time be sure and come hungry.

Evel Knievel days were a bust as far as having a Veteran’s informational tent/table at the Original Mine Yard. No one showed up to help or put it up or man the table from any of the veteran groups.

We need a lot of help around the “Hooch” doing projects like fixing the gate, cutting weeds and just maintenance projects that come with us owning our own building. If you can give some of your time to help out contact James ASAP. Ph 406-491-7793

Bob Chansler and I went to an Anaconda Veterans funeral in Anaconda which

was a great success. The Friday services were ok but the great part was Saturday on the Mountain at Grizz's Memorial site. Marines and Army showed up there which made it a great deal. Afterwards we sat around until 2300 Hours and you should see this site after dark. A great time was had by all. I have a hard time with the fact that the Army, Navy and Air Force doesn't do something to put a Memorial on Grizz's Mountain. It is a Vet Memorial not just a Marine memorial. The invitation is "Do something for your service people" get off the couch and be someone!

Semper Fi
James Long

Sgt. of Arms - Ron Peterson's Report:

Not a lot to report other than a lot of funerals, we did the Folk Festival Campers Breakfast, funeral/event Honor guards, coffee stop and coffee at the Hanging Five, with any of the "Hooch" guys who show up, where we solve the world's problems and tell "big lies".

Happenings:

Retired Miner's:

As Bob mentioned the Retired Miners using the "Hooch" for their meetings where they play cards/meet; was discussed and tabled until next meeting. They need to get out of the Legion Oasis on the 17th of this month. I was not at the meeting or this would not have been an issue as we gave them the go ahead last fall at one of our meetings that when they were asked to leave they could come to the "Hooch" pay \$300.00 rent like both the VFW, VFW Aux do. Because we gave the go ahead last fall and the 17th is before our next meeting I called the members of the Executive Board for their ok to notify the Miner Club members they could use our facility. The rules are basically the same for where they presently at in that they clean up after themselves and treat our facility as their own. Our member Gary Sonsteng who is also one of their members will have a key to let them in and lock up after their done. Of the members there I asked how many were veterans and all raised their hand but one. Their all retired miners who some of us have worked with and are salt of the earth guys who we are able to help in this way. Another way of creating good will in this community of Butte, Mt in which we live.

Evel Knievel Days

This is always a big event for Butte and this year the theme was to honor “Veterans”. I was in on the planning stage for the past few months and some great things came out of that. Our United Veteran’s Council Honor did the opening Ceremony which was well done and people responded with positive enthusiasm. There was also a flyover by a helicopter.

Rodger Knoell organized different Veteran motorcycle groups to attend and they led the parade. Our own Herk Lyons rode with a rider representing WWII. Another one of our members, Corpsman Mike Wilson, had a 90 year old woman riding with him. We also had some folks doing fundraising with some of the proceeds going to the Van Fund.

I had an idea if we could set up a Veteran’s Information table at the Original Mine Yard under one of our tent canopies and each of our veteran groups could man it by passing out flyers/applications/etc.. it would be good exposure for us. James and a couple of our guys put the canopy/table/chairs up but it was a fizzle. Sorry James/crew and thank-you for putting it up and getting it down.

Folk Festival Camper Breakfast:

Another great event with many of you helping which is what makes this type of activity work. Chef Billy Robbins was our Chief Chef with myself being his prep chef. I have to mention the Health Inspector inspected us and we passed with flying colors so give Billy an attaboy!! We did very well the two days of this event and it added a nice chunk of change to our operating funds.

Sick and Disabled:

I visited with some of these old time members that can’t get out much any more but who as our predecessors, did so much to enable us to be who we are today.

Dick Skates:

Dick as most of us know was an FMF Corpsman and was part of the Chosen Reservoir march that lives in Marine Corps History. He is a charter member of Detachment #724 and along with deceased member Bob Brooks fronted the money to get our first treasury going. His back and one knee are giving him grief and is told he’s too old for surgery so he’s using a special salve which is helping somewhat. Ph - 782-3175

Glen Gribble:

Glen has been a member for many years and because of health reasons is living in an assisted living home in Helena which is close to his family. His eyes

are failing but he has a good attitude and is a past Commandant of #724. He, along with Al Harwood, was very instrumental in helping secure the funds we received to get our "Hooch" up and running. Ph - 565 -0790

John (Rocky) Anderson:

Rocky is another longtime member and FMF Corpsman, he is in Big Sky Assisted Living and isn't doing so well. He's no longer able to use his walker and is somewhat restricted to his apartment according to Jon Bristol. Some of us need to get up and see him. He was always a very active member and a joy to be around.

Jack Whelan:

Jack who is a retired Judge and involved with veteran and community activities for so many years continues to improve after getting a pacemaker for his heart. We wish him continued improvement. His wife Bobbi is the lady who makes the cinnamon rolls we are treated to when we have our SOS Breakfast at the "Hooch. Ph 494-2542

AL Harwood:

I had a good visit with Al and he is his usual dry humored self. He's 93 yrs old and he and his wife have been married for 70 years. He sticks close to home but gets out to water his lawn and pick raspberries. Sharp mind and wit so give him a call and get entertained. Ph. 782-8512

Coffee Stops:

We continue to do well at this fundraiser. Ron and Linda Evans have been heading this up and do an excellent job. We probably do better than 90% of the other groups and it boils down to our talking to the folks coming in and them seeing all the good bake goods that you the members make and donate. We always have a good spread and for any of you that can, come out and help us put it on. It's a very fun and rewarding experience. I tell folks that this is one of our fun fundraisers. These kinds of fundraisers, the coffee stop being one, help us keep the "Hooch" and do projects both for ourselves and the community we live in.

National Marine Corps League Convention: Overland Park, Kansas. August 13-18. 2017

Ron Peterson and myself will be driving to Billings and meet up with Jim

Benner and another Marine and together we'll carpool to Kansas City, Ka for the 2017 National Marine Corps League Convention. It's always a great experience rubbing shoulders with other Marine Corps League members from all over the country. Next year will be in Niagara Falls, NY and the following year (2019) may very well be in Billings, Mt as the Billings Detachment is going to put in a bid for it. It will be voted on at this convention on the floor. Never has it been in Montana so that's exciting.

MCL Northwest Northwest Convention: Spokane ,Wa. Sept 29-30. 2017

This is short one lasting from Fri night to Sunday morning. Anybody that wants to go is welcome and we can carpool there. Bring your wives and let them shop. The Devil Dogs will also have a growl Saturday afternoon before the banquet that night. Let me know if you would like to go.

Hunter's Safety Firing Line: August 27th, 2017. Butte Gun Club. Rocker,Mt

This is always one of our most enjoyable and satisfying events we volunteer for. There's something extra special in coaching these kids how to shoot and practice gun safety. If you haven't been part of this please feel free to join us and live this experience.

Calendar:

- (1) Executive Board Meeting. August 21
- (2) MCL Meeting. August 24
- (3) Next Coffee Stop. August 25
- (4) SOS Breakfast (Hooch). Sept. 3

That's all for now. If anyone has anything to include in the next Newsletter please do so as variety makes makes good reading for our members.

Semper Fi

Mike