

Apr. 2017

The Sitrep

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Next Detachment Meeting:
Emmaus Fire Company # 1
50 South 6th Street
Emmaus, PA
Apr. 26th @ 1930

Current Elected/Appointed Officers

• **Commandant-**
Jason Smith

• **Sr. Vice Commandant-**
Michael Donatucci

• **Jr. Vice Commandant-**
Robert Hoffman

• **Judge Advocate-**
Howard Schaeffer

• **Adjutant –**
Terry Keiser

• **Paymaster –**
Terry Keiser

• **Chaplain-**
Joseph Malia

• **Sgt. at Arms-**
Anthony Reed

• **Color Guard Commander -**
Anthony Reed

• **Web Sgt. –**
Jason Smith



Message from the CP

I have to say, I have been very pleased to hear about all of the activities our members have been doing outside of the league. We have a member that volunteers his time at a equine therapy center, another has gotten their dog therapy certified, and has taken them out on nursing home visits, and many other are bring up charity events at our meetings. You all are making our jobs as officers that much easier. I do ask though, if you do attend an event like this to please send in a brief paragraph about what happened, and maybe pictures as well. I will then, be more than happy, to include them in the newsletter as well as on our website.

Please, all of you, take some time to consider who you would like to vote for Marine of the Year. This is a great honor to bestow on one of our fellow marines. If you have any questions on any of the nominee's qualifications feel free to ask other members. We will collect all the votes at the April meeting and the winner will be announced. If you think you will not be able to attend, and you still want to vote, you can email your choice into Judge Advocate Schaeffer at howardschaeffer@remax.net. Again, please take the time to place your votes.

Meeting Minutes

- ❖ We had special guests from Manito Equestrian Center in attendance to talk to us about their equestrian therapeutic program
 - The horses that they have are certified therapy animals assisting special needs children and adults.
 - They are starting up a veteran program this summer
 - We viewed a video about their program and how you could help volunteer
- ❖ Commandant Smith read a letter from the mother of the Boy Scout whose Eagle Scout Court of Honor we attended
 - He also mentioned that he gave her a bunch of our business cards in case any future cases come up.
- ❖ Commandant Smith read a letter from our National Commandant concerning the photo scandal going on currently in the Corps. The overall statement was that we as members of the league are not authorized to release any statements on the situation.
- ❖ The detachment was informed that Thomas Richards, a long-standing member of the Bethlehem Detachment, had passed away. National Chaplain Gill filled us in on the times and dates of his services.
- ❖ Chaplain Malia brought up an article in Semper Fi Magazine about the Combat Casualty Visiting Nurses and that his sister is a part of this unit. If anyone knows someone that is in need of assistance to let him know.

This Month's Birthdays/Anniversaries

- Jason Smith joined the MCL in Apr. of '10

- Adam Polster turns 27 on April 9th

- Anthony Reed turns 69 on April 10th

- Shane Patton turns 35 on April 14th

- Stanley Schaffer turns 78 on April 18th

- John Reppert turns 87 on April 20th

- Johnny Gill turns 69 on April 23^d

Meeting Minutes Cont....

- ❖ Sr. Vice Commandant Donatacci reported on several things.
 - He explained the letter about the detachment picnic
 - He reported about what he heard at the department meeting.
 - A brief explanation on the stars on ribbons.
 - Recruitment awards need to be submitted by June 1st
 - He spoke about tenure plaques for long standing members
 - The department meeting focused a lot on the role of the Judge Advocate
 - Every detachment needs to register as a 501 C4 non profit
 - Administrative parts of the national bylaws will be taken out and put into a separate administrative book
 - If you are convicted of a felony or a violent crime against children, you cannot be a member of the league.
 - We are not authorized to sell our roster information to outside sources.
- ❖ June 24th and 25th we will be holding a rose drive at the Trexlertown Wal-Mart. There will be two shifts, 10 – 12:30 and 12:30 – 3. We will have four volunteers for each shift. Commandant Smith will be emailing the volunteers schedule that we currently have. If you would like to volunteer, contact either Commandant Smith or Sr. Vice Commandant Donatacci.
- ❖ The picnic will be held on August 13th
- ❖ There was a request for a Color Guard for a golf outing sponsored by the Keystone Warriors on May 6th at Shepherd Hills Golf Course, set to begin at 0900. Commandant Smith, Shane Patton, Sgt at Arms Reed, and Dave Guldin volunteered for the duty.
- ❖ Judge Advocate Schaeffer asks to schedule May 20th for visits with Opha May.
- ❖ Numerous event times and date were discussed. They will be listed in the upcoming events section.
- ❖ The Americanism Committee has begun work on the book, and Sr. Vice Commandant Donatacci was requesting a meeting with the committee to advance their efforts.
- ❖ The idea of getting a smaller flag custom made for our detachment colors was discussed
 - Sgt. at Arms Reed shared the information he has received on prices and options on a new flag
 - David Guldin offered his assistance to get a computer file made up, which would save us \$150.00
 - The cost of the flag would be \$147.50 if only one was purchased. The more we buy the cheaper the cost would get.
 - A motion was made and seconded to purchase a flag at the price of \$147.50.
 - The motion was passed: **15 For, 5 Against, 0 Abstentions**
 - Commandant Smith will send an email around asking who else would like to buy a flag and what the updated price would be and at which quantities.
- ❖ The Emmaus Youth Physical Fitness team was discussed.
 - A motion was made and seconded to donate \$500.00 to the team
 - The motion was passed: **20 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions**
 - John Eyer will try to set up a time and date for us to deliver the check to the team.
- ❖ Sr. Vice Commandant Donatacci reported that he has been in contact with the reserve unit and there seems to be some interest in setting up a joint Marine Corps Ball. We will try to get some marines from their unit come out to a meeting to further look into this.
- ❖ Commandant Smith, Sr. Vice Commandant Donatacci, and Joe Deddo were all nominated for Detachment Marine of the Year. A form will be attached to the end of the newsletter to assist in making your decision on who you believe should be this year's Marine of the Year. We will tally the votes next month and the chosen marine will receive their award at the May meeting.
- ❖ A motion was also made, and seconded, to nominate Commandant Smith for the Department Marine of the Year.
 - The motion passed: **19 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention**

Meeting Minutes Cont....

- ❖ A letter was read from Anna Rodriguez explaining why she and Michael have not been able to attend the past couple meetings
 - May 27th they will be erecting the silhouette of her son Nick at the Veteran's Memorial in Northampton
 - Commandant Smith, Sr. Vice Commandant Donatacci, Judge Advocate Schaeffer, and Sgt at Arms Reed volunteered for the color guard, but all members are urged to attend. The uniform of the day will be polo shirts and covers.
 - Exact times and location will be given at the April meeting.
 - On May 29th the Whitehall Township Veterans Memorial Ceremony will be celebrated at the Whitehall Township building at 1300.
- ❖ A motion was made to donate \$200.00 to the Manito Equestrian Center, in support of their volunteer efforts.
 - The motion was passed: **20 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions**
- ❖ Chaplain Malia took a moment to commend Dave Guldin on getting his dog therapy certifications, and for taking out on his first visit to Valley Manor Nursing Home.
- ❖ Judge Advocate Schaeffer announced that he was asked to be on the Marine Corps League Foundation Board.
- ❖ Kimberly Fitzpatrick shared that on March 2nd she became a Great Aunt as her nephew gave birth to a baby girl.
- ❖ Mrs. Etta Gill reported that she and Johnny attended the Mid-Winter Conference and enjoyed the festivities.
- ❖ It was decided that we would have a brief meeting next month that will be followed by a viewing of the movie Taking Chance.



Wounded or in Distress

David Guldin updated the detachment on what is going on with the custody case with his daughters. They have a long road ahead of them to transition the girls into a new home, and to help them feel comfortable. I ask that you keep him and your family in your thoughts and prayers.



Paymaster's Report

- ❖ As of 03/22/17 the money market account has a balance of \$3,374.01
- ❖ As of 03/22/17 the checking account has a balance of \$4,525.75
- ❖ There was no motion on the report, as Paymaster Keiser wasn't in attendance.

This Month in the Corps

18 April 1983: One Marine Security Guard was killed and seven were wounded when a large car bomb exploded just outside the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. Lance Corporal Robert McMaugh was standing guard at Post 1, just inside the front entrance when the bomb exploded outside the door. The explosion killed 61 people including 17 Americans. LCpl McMaugh was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 26 April.

Upcoming Events

- Monthly detachment meeting to be held Apr. 26th and is set to begin @ 1930
- May 20th Visits with Opha Mae
- May 21st will be the Western Salisbury Union Church Parade. Muster will be held at 0800 @ the CWV
- May 27th Color Guard for the raising of Nick Rodriguez's silhouette in Northampton. More details to come.
- May 28th will be the Memorial Day Firings at the Emmaus cemeteries. Muster will be at the CWV at 0730
- May 29th will be the Emmaus Memorial Day Parade. We will be organizing at the Emmaus High school. If you are participating in the parade please be there no later than 0840, as the parade will kick off at 0900.

After Action Reports



FREEDOM FOUNDATION MEMORIAL CEREMONY

<http://www.lvmcl.com/freedom-foundation-memorial-ceremony/>

28 Mar. 2017, Marines and family members of the 7th Engineer Bn. met at the Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, Marine Circle of trees to remember 13 Brothers killed during an instructional accident, DaNang Providence, Vietnam. This memorial took place 50 years after the tragic event. RIP you are not forgotten. SEMPER Fi - **Fred Babcock**



BOB LONGENBERGER BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

<http://www.lvmcl.com/bob-longenberger-birthday-suprise/>

Friday, March 31st – Bob Longenberger turned 92 years old and the Marine Corps League, Lehigh Valley Detachment 296 asked for and received permission to salute 'Bad ol' Bob, (his own description of himself), at his place of work. You read that correctly, his place of work. Bob keeps himself active by working at the Giant Food Store at 3015 W Emmaus Ave in the south of Allentown, Pa.

A Color Guard from the detachment performed a salute to Bob, then wished him Happy Birthday and then to Bob's delight, sang the first stanza of the Marine Corps Hymn which he joined in singing. You could see Bob stiffen as if remembering the days of standing at attention when the Hymn would be performed during his days in the Corps.

Many co-workers and regular customers were spectators for the event and you could see the pride they had for knowing Bob and very happy for him to receive this recognition. WFMZ 69 News had a cameraman / reporter present and they did show the

salute and an interview with Bob later that day. We wish to thank Giant Food Stores for their permission, their local management and co-workers for their help and Channel 69 for their coverage of a member of a rapidly diminishing group of Veterans. It is so great that Bob is still so active. Active enough that we hope to get him to a Detachment meeting so all of us may have an opportunity to meet him.

-Semper Fi Bob Longenberger, Chaplain Joseph Malia



Detachment member, David Guldin, and his dog Leroy during a recent visit to Valley Manor Nursing Home.

Marine Corps Inspiration



LEADERSHIP

They say "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink."
In the Marine Corps, you can make that horse wish to hell he had.

—Sgt Fred Larson, drill instructor, Pfc 343, San Diego, 1965

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Marine Corps League Detachment 296

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Visit with Opha Mae and Reckless

Opha Mae and Reckless are English bulldogs, whom are available to visit veterans of all branches of the United States Armed Forces. The English bulldog is the United States Marine Corps mascot. It was only fitting that they both have names steeped in Marine Corps history. Opha Mae was named after the first woman who enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Opha Mae Johnson joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1918. Reckless was named after Staff Sergeant Reckless, a Mongolian mare, whose heroic endeared her so much to the Marine Corps that there was a statue of her place at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico Virginia. She was also buried with full military honors at Camp

available to visit veterans in hospitals, nursing homes, or private residences. They will wear one of their four Marine Corps uniforms; Dress Blues Uniform, Service Charlie Uniform, Green Camouflage Uniform, or Desert Camouflage Uniform. The choice is yours. There is no cost for this service as these men and women have already given enough. Opha Mae's certifications are available upon request, Reckless is currently undergoing training for his, and their license and shot records are available upon request. Anyone interested in requesting Opha's services can either go to the following link (<http://www.lvmcl.com/visit-with-opha-mae-and-reckless/>) or e-mail Commandant Jason Smith.



Emmaus Veterans Committee

The Emmaus Veterans Committee is made up of veterans from the Catholic War Vets, the VFW, the American Legion, and the Marine Corps League. The purpose of this committee is for all Emmaus veterans organizations to gather and ensure the needs of local veterans and their families are being taken care of.

The committee's activities include, but are not limited to:

- replacing the flags at veterans gravesites, multiple times a year
 - organizing the Emmaus Memorial Day Activities
- Once a year a flag retirement ceremony is held, in which old and tattered flags collected from gravesites, veterans groups, and civilian contributors are properly retired. The ashes of those flags are later collected and spread around the veterans cemeteries.

The Emmaus Veterans Committee also has an Honor Guard. This is a group of local veterans, which volunteer their time to perform military funerals for fallen veterans at the gravesite, including the playing of taps and a gun salute. They will also perform services inside the funeral home per the request of the family. There is no payment requested but donations are accepted. If you would like a military service at a loved one's funeral, please let the funeral director know and contact the committee either at the following link, (<http://www.lvmcl.com/emmaus-veterans-committee-honor-guard/>) or email Commandant Jason Smith.