



SITREP

LEHIGH VALLEY DETACHMENT 296

[HTTP://WWW.LVMCL.COM](http://www.lvmcl.com)

****Due to COVID, next month's meeting will be held via ZOOM on 27 JANUARY 2021 at 1930 hrs. A link will be sent via email****

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

• *Commandant*

Jason Smith

• *SR Vice Commandant*

Howard Schaeffer

• *JR Vice Commandant*

John Eyer

• *Judge Advocate*

William Stoudt

• *Adjutant/Paymaster*

Ron Heckman

• *Chaplain*

Joseph Malia

• *Sergeant at Arms*

Rondell Anderson

• *Web Sergeant*

David Guldin



If you are anything like me, this is most likely how you are feeling right now. 2020 has most certainly been a very different, if not challenging year for all of us. It seems that COVID has managed to infiltrate every aspect of our lives. It has shut down our ability to dine the way we used to, shop the way we used to, gather with our family and friends the way we used to, go to school the way we used to, even work the way we used to. In July's edition of the SitRep, I referenced the adage "improvise, adapt, overcome", and in true Marine Corps fashion, as a Detachment, that is exactly what we have done! We had our annual Detachment picnic in August, held our second annual Birthday Ball in November, met in person when we were able, and took advantage of meeting via ZOOM when we were not. Several Detachment members volunteered their time to help sort toys for Toys for Tots for local underprivileged children, while others participated in Wreaths Across America at several local cemeteries; not to mention the members of the Honor Guard who have and continue to honor our local Veterans. However, I am not surprised by any of this as we have an exceptionally outstanding group of Marines in our Detachment. Three and a half years ago when I happened upon a few members of Lehigh Valley Detachment 296 outside the doors of the local Walmart, I could never have imagined what a huge impact they would have on my life. Everyone knows there is an unspoken bond between *all* Marines, but the family and friends that my girls and I gained that day in this Detachment is more than I could have asked for. There is genuine care and concern for one another and when we gather, it is because we enjoy meeting together, not just because we are bound by our duty to do so. As we say good riddance to 2020 and hello to 2021, I look forward to another year of having the honor of being a part of this family. I wish you all much health and happiness in the new year and can not wait to see what we do in the year to come! Semper Fi Marines!

THE MONTH IN REVIEW



2020 TOYS FOR TOTS

Pictured above, Detachment 296 members Colyer James and Chaplain Joseph Malia, along with members of Bethlehem Detachment 284, gathered to help prepare the toys collected for the annual Toys for Tots program. Thank you to all for volunteering your time to help make Christmas special for less fortunate children in our local area! Currently, the Marine Toys for Tots Program distributes an average of 18 million toys. Toys for Tots began in 1947 and was implemented as a national community action program in 1948.

To read more about Toys for Tots follow the hyperlink below:

https://www.toysfortots.org/about_toys_for_tots/toys_for_tots_program/timeline.aspx



Above, Marine Corps League Detachment 296 members at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Resurrection Cemetery. From left to right: Chaplain Joseph Malia, Fred Babcock, and John Lesniak - Service Branch Wreath presenters.



Below, Wreaths Across the Grove at Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge. Pictured with 7th Engineer Bn, Vietnam Era, is Detachment 296 member Fred Babcock.



SCUTTLEBUTT FROM THE FLEET

Follow the link below to find out what is happening now in the FMF:

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2020/12/26/new-in-2021-the-corps-is-going-to-get-smaller/>

If you would like to submit something to *The SitRep*, please contact me via email or text. I welcome any input you, as a Detachment, may have. My apologies in advance if I have omitted any matters of importance for this month's edition and ask that you let me know if I have done so.

Semper Fi Marines!

Ria Mattix

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MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Last month's meeting was held via ZOOM on 17 DEC 2020

Minutes are as follows:

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made. The motion was seconded

For: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Applications for Membership: NONE

Correspondence:

-Officer installations will take place at next month's meeting. The incoming Commandant will make contacts/provisions to finalize the details

-The Detachment received another Battle Streamer for the Colors for the virtual Department meeting in October

Report of the Paymaster:

-Beginning balance: Checking: \$14,775.72. There were two deposits totaling \$500.00: \$300.00-dues and \$200.00-ball tickets. Checks written were as follows: \$40.00-Fire Co No 2 hall rental, \$280.00 and \$5.00-National Headquarters, \$42.00-Department of Pennsylvania. Ending balance \$14,908.72. CD account-\$3,377.73. Total-\$18,286.45. A motion was made to accept the Paymaster Report. The motion was seconded

For: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Report of Family Members Sick or in Distress:

-Please continue to keep Dave Newcomer's family in your thoughts and prayers

Report of Officers:

-Chaplain Joe Malia spoke to Clifford Benner, 95-year-old Okinawa Veteran, he is doing well

Standing Committees:

-PR: The Website and Newsletter are up to date

-Marine of the Year: NONE

-Marine Corps Ball Committee: Jason will be uploading the pictures onto the Detachment Dropbox as soon as he gets the USB card from the photographer. An email with the link will follow

Unfinished Business:

-If you ordered a jacket, Chaplain Joe Malia is waiting to hear from A&D regarding pick up date

-Incoming officers are as follows:

Commandant - Ria Mattix

SR Vice Commandant - Bill Stoudt

JR Vice Commandant - John Eyer

Judge Advocate - Cory Shellhamer

-Appointed positions are as follows:

Paymaster SGT at Arms

Adjutant Web SGT

Chaplain Newsletter Editor

-Officer installations will occur during next month's meeting, which will take place on 27 January 2021

New Business:

-Dave Guldin opened discussion about the future look of the Detachment comic, but was unable to follow through due to connectivity issues with ZOOM

Good of the League:

-Jason still has glasses from the ball, please contact him if you are interested

Announcements:

-Toys for Tots distribution will be held on 18 and 21 December 2020

-Wreaths Across America wreath laying ceremonies will be on 19 December 2020 at Cedar Hill Cemetery

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The meeting was closed until 27 JANUARY 2021