

THE BONNYMAN GAZETTE

September 2020

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 3

The Bonnyman Gazette is the official newsletter of the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment #924 Marine Corps League, PO Box 53293, Knoxville, TN 37950. Articles and photos are due to the Editor no later than the 15th of each month. The Editor is Jeff Tegzes, (865) 809-1585.

Detachment & Auxiliary Meetings

We meet monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at the VFW Post 5154, 2561 Hobbs Road, Louisville, TN 37777. Social hour begins at 1730 followed by a business meeting at 1830.

Detachment Officers

Commandant

Ken DeBoer (865) 771-8025

Junior Past Commandant

Jim Williams (865) 740-4155

Senior Vice Commandant

Carlos Reyes (865) 888-1613

Junior Vice Commandant

David Terwell (970) 531-8173

Adjutant

Eric Nash (865) 693-5711

Paymaster

Lee Rhinemiller (865) 414-3460

Chaplain

Ron Naugle (571) 565-6980

Judge Advocate

Mike Napierkowski (908) 910-4193

Sergeant-at-Arms

Aaron Brown (910) 787-3897

Web Sergeant: mclknoxville.org

Tim Shea (865) 408-7900

Detachment Quartermaster

Larry George (865) 789-6535

Ladies Auxiliary President

Charlene Cotton ((865) 279-4652



NEW MEMBERS

Marine Lester Speeks (right) was sworn in at the August meeting. Marine Matt Gordon (left) is a transfer from Naples Florida. Welcome aboard!



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Hello Marines,

Well, ladies and gentlemen, we are moving away from Summer and toward Fall. (I'm looking forward to the cooler weather).

I want to mention that this month, on September 26th, we will be holding an indoor PICNIC which will begin at 11:30 and end by 2:30 pm. The menu consists of beef brisket, beans, potato salad, and green salad. Please contact Tim Shea and make your reservations by September 20th. This will be a safety-conscious event. Water and iced tea are available, but if not to your liking, bring your own refreshments.

Please look at the event calendar for October. Thank you for the good turnout we are having for the meetings. We are getting better organized and moving forward as a strong group. November will be a busy month and upon us soon. I know that the Birthday Luncheon on November 10th will be well attended. (SEE NOTE IN GAZETTE FOR FURTHER DETAILS) The Rose fundraises are on the 11th and the Car Show on the 15th. All members are on the lookout for a good place for the Rose fundraiser; supermarkets, etc. Forms will be available at the next meeting.

The brotherhood and sisterhood will prevail and life goes on. Your strength and input are still needed.

Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much! Be kind to each other and share the time in peace. Please advise the chaplain if you know of any member in need. Please pray for our sick and disabled. Semper Fi !!!

(PLEASE COME TO THE GENERAL MEETING ON SEPT 29 AT 5:30 PM)

Semper Fi,

Ken DeBoer, Commandant



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

BROKEN ARROW

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Deuteronomy 31:6 Broken Arrow, Oklahoma is the place of my birth! Broken Arrow is also a U.S. military code phrase that indicates a ground unit is facing imminent destruction from enemy attack. When 'Broken Arrow' is heard on radio nets, all available air forces within range are to immediately provide close air support for the endangered command. Following a tour of duty with the 26th Marines, I volunteered to join CAP Unit Marines, operating in the villages and hamlets 24/7. Four months combat experience was required to enroll in the III MAF CAP School at Danang. Training was only a couple of weeks, but classes covered intense studies on a vast array of subjects including language, government, culture, weapons, and practical lessons on how to survive village life, while training our Nghia Quan counterparts. We received a certificate signed by Colonel T. E. Metzger, USMC, and a CAP Unit pin to be worn on our right pocket. One of the most vivid memories of CAP School was listening to one of our instructors, a 'gung-ho' Staff Sergeant, share stories about villages that were completely overrun during the 1968 Tet Offensive. My research was unable to confirm that any of our CAP Units were totally annihilated, but CAP 2-3-2 came extremely close at Hoi An. We had been expecting a full force visit from Charlie all week. The skirmishes of the previous nights were preludes to an all-out attack. The VC were checking our responses, firepower, and searching for any vulnerability in our defenses. The night that all-hell broke loose was preceded by an exodus of the villagers from our area of operation. The rice fields emptied and multitudes lined the blacktop highway heading for Dien Ban. The villagers fled with sewing machines, saws, and small animals either positioned on their heads, or in baskets balanced on bamboo poles. We knew that this was to be the night that we would be hit hard by a force far superior in number, and so all weapons were cleaned, ammunition examined, and every man sobered to the reality of what was in store for us in a few hours. As darkness approached, we 'saddled up' at Gary's orders and contacted the other half of our unit that spent the day at a nearby house not far from our position. We moved out simultaneously to our night location in spread-out formation. Sergeant More led our squad to a house surrounded by rice paddies with a few houses in the tree line no more than fifty yards away, while the other group took a strategic position at a house close by, for crossfire and to serve as a reactionary squad. I shed my pack and placed my M-16 within arm's reach, using valuable time to scan the area for movement with a night scope. My Claymores were set in position and a couple of LAWs were placed at the edge of my hole. I joined Gary and Trung Sĩ Lam inside the house, as map grids were being checked by the illuminating light of a Buddhist candle, for quickly acquiring aerial and artillery support. The three of us turned to exit at the door, when two or three loud explosions brought part of the roof down upon us as we hit the floor. More explosions followed, then Gary shouted for us to get to our fighting holes. We were being hammered by the infamous Q82 Viet Cong Company with three rocket teams, each one hurling copious numbers of B-40 and RPG rockets, as well as machine guns and AK-47 small arms fire. Several incoming rockets flew over my hole and a couple fell short exploding in front of me. The pigs had been blown out of their pens and were struggling in the rice paddies while giving out blood-curdling screams. The loudspeakers began the propaganda of our fate if we resisted, and of our ultimate annihilation if we failed to Chui Hoi, or surrender. A Nghia Quan crawled to my hole as I put out M-16 fire and said that we had casualties at the back of the house. After crawling under fire to the back I attempted to pull a man out of a banana tree, but it was only a pair of legs intact within his trousers. Morning would reveal him as my friend Yung. Two other men were buried in their fighting hole. I pulled the first man out by the arms and one detached from his body in an effort to get him out. I grabbed the back of his shirt and successfully pulled him out. I pulled out the second man and treated the two of them for horrific wounds and crawled back to my hole dragging the two men. They held hands as they died. I soon left the relative safety of my hole to patch up two other men. During the night I often found myself in the mortarman's hole dropping rounds in his 60 mm tube that he hand-held straight-up. Gary was unusually skilled with his command and knowledge of effective artillery and air support. He shelled the entire area with Republic of Korea (ROK) Marine firebase support, Huey fire, Cobra gunships, and with a Fairchild AC-119G called 'Shadow' with four SUU-11 7.62mm mini guns installed in the aft left side of the cargo compartment, with 50,000 rounds of ammunition. It made an awesome sound when firing like a mad swarm of hornets and displayed a steady stream of fire emitted from the aircraft's deadly guns to the enemy on the ground below. The firefight was the longest of my experience, beginning at dusk and lasting till dawn. Our situation seemed hopeless throughout the entire night! Daybreak was a welcome sight to all, and 'Broken Arrow' had been diverted, as the enemy slipped away. We knew that Q82 would keep trying to kill us, and we developed a numb attitude about everything. Our lives were in slow motion, and we became somewhat oblivious to our surroundings. We quit worrying about surviving a firefight, death, being maimed, or going home. We would never be the same, and I am confident that every Marine who survived that night was 'jacked-up' for the rest of his life. The call for 'Broken Arrow' is seldom seen in a combat scenario and has been used only thirty-five times. And yet twenty-two veterans each day view their situation as hopeless: alas, they cry out 'Broken Arrow' thinking their only way out is to self-destruct, as the trials of life press them from every side. Everyone has their particular difficulties. "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble." Job 14:1. Who cannot bear witness to this? How expressive a description this is of life! Our faith has to be worked out in the context of real life, and one can have the feeling of despair in his own unique situation, just as much as the one who seems to be suffering with a far worse condition. We are God's special creation, and before the foundation of this world, He knew our names, MOS, ranks, and service numbers. He is omniscient (all-knowing), and He had our present needs in mind way back in eternity past. There is nothing that happens to us by chance or takes God by surprise. We are safe to say, that God fixed the outcome; before we ever experience the incoming! Therefore, "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not...."

Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful Chaplain Ron



1ST ANNUAL RODS AND HOGS SHOW

The Alexander Bonnyman Detachment will hold its first annual car and motorcycle show on Sunday, November 15th at the Parkway Drive-In Theater in Maryville. Details of the show and a registration form are available at mclknnoxville.org. **This event will be a major fundraiser for the Detachment and will require maximum volunteer support from the membership to make it a success.**

Organizers will explain volunteer jobs and take names at the September meeting.

NEW DETACHMENT BYLAW VOTE

The new Detachment Bylaws have been approved by the Membership at the August meeting and will be forwarded to Department for approval. The new bylaws incorporate years worth of changes at the Detachment, Department, Division and National levels of the Marine Corps League. Simply stated, the Detachment Bylaws are our "Constitution" and provide the legal structure for everything that we do. All members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the bylaws in order to fully participate in the workings of the Detachment.

2020 MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

Due to restrictions on large group activities due to Covid, many Veterans Day and Marine Corps Birthday events in November have been cancelled. In spite of this, **The Alexander Bonnyman Detachment will hold a Marine Corps Birthday Luncheon on 10 November at Chops South, 7417 Chapman Highway, Knoxville at 1130.** Order from the menu and enjoy an informal, but very Marine celebration of our Birthday. D Company, 4th CEB will not be celebrating the Birthday with a traditional ball this year.



MCL AUXILIARY

Hello, Ladies,

I hope you are doing well. We look forward to the day when we can gather for fun and fellowship without masks. Perhaps some of you plan to attend the Detachment Picnic on Saturday, September 26 in Lenoir City. Kathy Winters and I will be busy with Young Marines that day, so we will miss the fun and Ken DeBoer's smoked brisket.

We received notice that Life Member Margaret Gibson died on August 15. We will mark her passing with the Memorial Ritual at the September 29th meeting. Our meeting space at the VFW is very good and we can set out our Auxiliary flags and Bible with adequate space to move around. New member Kathy Rudis will be sworn in.

The Auxiliary has been asked to hold a Bake Sale in conjunction with the Detachment's "Rods & Hogs" Car & Motorcycle Show Sunday, November 15, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Parkway Drive In, 2909 Alexander Parkway/US Highway 321, Maryville. Individually wrapped, single serving items are requested.

If you are able to bake, but not attend in person, we will arrange to pick up your contribution. If you wish to make a donation rather than bake, please do so with our appreciation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Charlene Cotton, President



RIFLE AND PISTOL MATCHES

The Jim Peacock Memorial Pistol Match is on for Saturday, 24 October. Find more information at mclknnoxville.org. The Gene Collins Memorial Rifle Match is scheduled for 10 October, but may be cancelled if the TWRA Rifle Range is not available due to Covid restrictions. Stand by for word.

October Calendar	
Gene Collins Rifle Match	10
Officers Meeting	12
Jim Peacock Pistol Match	24
Detachment Meeting	27

November Calendar	
Officers Meeting	9
Birthday Luncheon	10
Marine Rose Program	11
Car and Motorcycle Show	15
Bonnyman Memorial Ceremony	22
Detachment Meeting	24

December Calendar	
Christmas Breakfast	5
Devil Dog Growl	7



SCRATCHES FROM THE CLAWS OF THE BARKING DOG

Smokey Mountain Pound 271 Growls are currently being held at VFW Post 5154 in Louisville. The final Growl of the year will be at 1800 on 7 December. Congratulations to PDD Lee Rhinemiller, Pound Dog of the Year for 2019 and Ken Ciolfi, reelected as Pound Keeper for 2021. Woof Woof!

mclknoxville.org
 The Detachment Webmaster is Marine Tim Shea. **mclknoxville.org** is up and will be updated to post events or news. The Bonnyman Gazette will continue to be posted in color on the website.



MARINE ROSE PROGRAM

The Alexander Bonnyman Detachment will be participating in the Marine Rose Program during this coming Veterans Day in November. This program involves Detachment Members distributing artificial commemorative roses, like those pictured here, at selected sites throughout the area and accepting donations to support Marine Corps League projects. The hunt is on for several prime locations at high traffic businesses and shopping centers in and around Knoxville for rose distribution. The Commandant is actively soliciting recommendations from the membership on locations to distribute roses. If you have an idea about a good spot or if you have a connection with a local business, let him know. The Marine Rose Program will be a very important fundraiser and will help make up for the loss of revenue to the Detachment due to the cancellation of the 2020 Mud Run. Get involved with this and other vital fundraisers to get us through this budget year's activities, programs and support for other organizations.



MEMBERS NEEDED FOR THE HONOR GUARD

The Detachment Honor Guard/Firing Detail is looking for new members to provide honors and salutes at memorial events and funerals. Members must be able to handle the M1 Rifle (9.5 pounds) and will need the League undress uniform (white SS shirt and Dress Blue trousers). The "U.S. Marines" Red Satin jacket is also worn in cold weather. Expert training will be provided and no experience (other than Boot Camp) is necessary. Contact Marine Larry George for details.

ALEXANDER BONNYMAN UNIT REPORT

Our Recruit Class finally graduated. This was probably our longest class in history, not that we didn't gain seven great new Young Marines, but Covid upset our normal schedule. A six member class took us six months to complete. They are a great addition to the unit and we expect great things from them. We awarded three of them High Academic Awards as three tied for first place with a 96% overall score. We had a one high Physical Fitness Award and one Most Improved. Much appreciation for MCL members Ken DeBoer, Carlos Reyes and his wife, and Mike Muriello for attending.

Two of our Young Marines graduated from Regimental Leadership School. We were fortunate to even have a school, one of the few in the Nation. We had kids coming from as far away as Montana and California. One of our Young Marines had to withdraw due to exposure to Covid.

We thanked our Recruit Instructors: YM Sgt Ryan Koza, who be leaving us soon to join the United States Marine Corps, YM Sgt Kelly Pursel, and YM CPL Caitlin Lea. Caitlin Lea was also given a Personal Achievement Award for guiding a Recruit off a tall obstacle at Camp Bonnyman. Her patience and guidance, at risk to herself, was awe inspiring. She was helped by YM LCPL Sydney Jones (granddaughter of two sets of our League members), who will also receive the same award at our next ceremony.

On September 12th, we used that time to review procedures for Community Service. Our Young Marines need to complete 50 hours of Community Service every year. We also worked on DDR mandates. Those who were ready, and some who were not ready, were given promotion exams and oral boards. We promoted two Young Marines: Caitlin Lea to YM Sgt and Jesse Winger, grandson of Marine Coogan, to LCPL.

We are getting ready to celebrate the Young Marine Birthday in October, and hopefully will be going to the Young Marine Ball at Red Stone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. We are limited on how many Young Marines each Unit can bring. Covid again!



Young Marine Recruit Instructors are recognized by Unit Commander, Larry Winters. Commandant Ken DeBoer delivers remarks to the Bonnyman Unit Awards Ceremony.



**WATCH FOR EARLY
VOTING IN YOU AREA!
IF YOU DON'T VOTE,
DON'T COMPLAIN!**



855-838-8255

- For all service members, Veterans and their families
- Confidential/ Anonymous 24 /7 live answer by a Veteran
- Connect with someone who understands military life
- Personalized support for as long as you need it

Contact Vets4Warriors by phone, online chat, email, social media today.
www.vets4warriors.com | Info@Vets4Warriors.com

Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Det. # 924
Marine Corps League
Post Office Box 53293
Knoxville, TN 37950-3293

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment 924, Marine Corps League, Application for Membership

PLEASE PRINT IN PEN

Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____+_____

E-Mail _____ Service/Social Security No ____/____/____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ____/____/____ Date of Discharge/Retirement ____/____/____

Type of Application- New () Renewal () Type of Membership- Regular Member () Associate () Dual ()

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? () YES () NO *If yes is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of my felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.*

I hereby apply for membership in the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment, Marine Corps League, Department of Tennessee, and enclose \$28.00 **for one year's membership that includes a year's subscription to the Marine Corps League quarterly magazine.**

I certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the U. S. Marine Corps, on active duty, for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor,* or have served or am currently serving in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Points or that I have served or am currently serving as a U. S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device or Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon authorized for FMF Corpsman. **If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable service." ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last Form DD 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received).** *General discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable.* By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

*(Korean War Era Marines See National Bylaws, Article 6, Section 600)

Sponsor (where applicable)

Applicant's Signature