

**LEWIS G
WATKINS
DETACHMENT**



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**Detachment #1131
website is:**

mcl1131.org

Tip of the Spear

VOLUME XIII ISSUE 2

APRIL 2023



Commandant's Corner

We have a number of important events and activities coming our way in April through May. Our next Detachment Business meeting will be held on **April 18, 2023, at 6:00 pm.** Both meetings will be held at the American Legion Hut on Fairplay Drive.

The next family breakfast is scheduled for **April 29, at 8:00 am** at Seneca Family Restaurant in Seneca, so please try to join us. We had a particularly good turnout at our March breakfast.

Our April and May Detachment Business meetings are important ones for us, as we will announce our annual Detachment Awards and elect Detachment Officers for 2023-24. Senior Vice Commandant Todd Alexander will chair the Awards Committee and seek nominations from the membership for a variety of awards.

Beginning this month we will also be seeking candidates for Detachment officers so stay alert for opportunities to serve yourself or nominate others.

We're also participating in the two local high schools' ROTC awards

ceremonies in April and May. The Seneca High School Military Ball was held on March 25 and a newly enlisted Marine, Keith Brady received the Marine Corps League's Outstanding Leadership JROTC award. .

We were saddened in March to lose another longstanding member of the Detachment - Del Williams, former Commandant. Per his wishes, the Detachment conducted an Honors Memorial Service at the American Legion Hut in Seneca on April 2, 2023. Thanks to all the Detachment members who attended the service, participated in the firing detail, and a special thanks to Jim Day for organizing the event and to Bill Thompson and Josh Herring for their roles in folding the flag and presenting it to Sally Williams, Del's spouse.

See the photos and other portions of the ceremony later in this newsletter.

Please remember to check the website at mcl1131.org and this newsletter to keep up with the upcoming events.

Semper Fi,

Steve Slagle
Commandant



Todd Alexander
Senior Vice-Commandant

Hello Marines,

It's the time of year again when we start working on our annual awards. This is the Detachment's opportunity to recognize the people who have made a difference to our detachment. A nomination letter is included. Any detachment member can nominate someone for any of the awards except for Marine of the Year and the Commandant's Award. All submissions need to be given to the awards committee, headed up by myself, so we can validate the information provided and forward the recommendations to the Commandant and Board for final selection. The awards that we traditionally present include:

Marine of the Year. This award is voted on solely by past Detachment MOTY awardees. Recipients should clearly exceed in all they do, work in concert with the Detachment, and are committed to our success. It is our practice that the most recent recipient of the MOTY Award acts as the Chairperson of this committee.

Associate Member of the Year. This award is given to the Associate member who is actively involved with the Detachment and does the most to promote the Detachment and its programs as well as most exemplifying the spirit of the Marine Corps League.

Distinguished Citizen. This award is presented for distinguished service above and beyond what would normally be expected to either the Marine Corps League or the community. Our Detachment places a heavier weight on the service to our community as a whole, as opposed to the Marine Corps League; we believe the Distinguished Service Award is more fitting for exemplary service to the League.

Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented for distinguished service above and beyond what would normally be expected to either the Marine Corps League or the community. Our Detachment places a heavier weight on the service to the Marine Corps League as a whole, as opposed to the general community, our belief being that the Distinguished Citizen Award is more fitting for exemplary service to the community.

Meritorious Commendation (Individual). This award is for individual Regular Members or Associate Members who performed at a high, or above average efficiency in one or more areas, while maintaining good performance in all other areas, or to a member who has, through his/her personal effort, performed a task, duty or service to the U.S. Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League, and the Detachment.

Certificate of Appreciation. This award can be given by the Detachment to acknowledge any act or action by an individual, company or organization that either benefitted the Detachment or promoted the Detachment for the good of the League.

Commandant's Award. This is a personal recognition certificate that is given at the discretion of the Detachment Commandant.

I need to put together the Awards Committee to help me review all nominations and forward them on. If you are interested in joining this committee, please email me at magnumsrt807@gmail.com and I will put together the list of all those who wish to participate.

Semper Fi.

Todd Alexander
Senior Vice Commandant



**Len Rock
Junior Vice
Commandant
(Outgoing)**

Spring is starting to show it's face ... spring rains and warmer weather. My lawn is starting to turn green and redbud and dogwoods have blossomed.

As we get more active and start moving about more let's keep an eye open for recruiting possibilities. My wife and I walk most days and yesterday we saw a neighbor working with his chainsaw. I noticed the USMC plate he had on his pickup. We stopped to visit and I gave him a Semper Fi. He joined the Marine Corps in 1962 and was involved with the Naval Blockade of Cuba. He was very proud of his service and we shared some of our experiences. I'm going to put together a little "recruiting pack" with a bumper sticker and decal with our brochure. I'll invite him to a meeting. Hopefully he'll take me up on it.

Individual outreach is still one of our best recruiting practices. I'll be at Lowe's March 4th for our monthly recruiting event. We are tracking 17 prospective candidates at the present time. Hopefully with our combined efforts we can get some new members.

I want to thank Jim Koerner for filling in for me for the balance of my term. I'm feeling better each day now and hope to be back to normal soon.

Semper Fi.

Len Rock

Outgoing Junior Vice Commandant



**Don Alexander
Judge Advocate**

Aloha to all Detachment #1131 Members. Things are starting to get active as we move into the mid-months. Right now, the Belk's Charity Sale is in progress and so far is looking good for our Fund-raising needs.

A couple of changes are coming up with regard to our present Bylaws and I will keep you informed on that. We plan to vote on one bylaw change at our meeting on April 18, so please join us so we can hear from you and get your comments.

Please make time to attend our monthly meetings. We really need membership participation in order to keep our detachment active. See you at the next meeting.

God Bless you all.

Semper Fi,

Don Alexander
Judge Advocate

In Search of ... New Members!



*February Newcomer's Table
at Keowee Key*



*March Recruiting Tent at Lowe's
in Seneca*

Former Junior Vice Len Rock lead the effort to recruit at Keowee Key Newcomers & at Lowes. Several nibbles but no new takers. Weather was dicey in February, beautiful in March (and rained out in April.) We're still on the hunt to grow the Detachment.

In Memoriam

***Clarence Delmus "Del" Williams
January 25, 1938—March 15, 2023***



A Vietnam combat veteran, Del served in the USMC as a Marine enlisted and officer for 20 years. He also served as chief detective in Watauga County, NC and as Salem Chief of Police in Salem. Del joined Detachment #1131 in 2012, became a Life Member in 2013, and served in various positions including Commandant, Adjutant, and Chaplain. He was also founding member of Hotel Company 2/3 of Vietnam—1965. Per his wishes, the memorial service was conducted by the Lewis G. Watkins Detachment on April 2, 2023.

Del Williams' Memorial Service April 3, 2023



Adjutant Jim Day Former Hotel Company 2/3 Commanding Officer Bob Martin attended the memorial service.



Our memorial with Del's canteen & mess kit from Vietnam



"Volley of Musketry"



Josh Herring presenting flag to Sally Williams



Memories of Service in the USMC, Law Enforcement & the Marine Corps League

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Detachment Business Meeting at American Legion Hut, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC.

Saturday, April 29 2023 at 8:00 am: Detachment Breakfast at Seneca Family Restaurant, 575 Bypass 123, Seneca, SC.

Belk's Charity Day Sales April 18 -May 5

Detachment Board Meeting at 5:00 pm

May 4

Detachment Business Meeting at 6:00 pm

May 16

Installation of 2022-23 Officers and Presentation of Awards)

Family Breakfast at Seneca Family Restaurant 8:00 am May 27

Salem, South Carolina 29676

910 Stamp Creek Road

Editor Jim Day

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment#11321, MCL

Postage