

**LEWIS G
WATKINS
DETACHMENT**



**DETACHMENT
OFFICERS**

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Past Commandant
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Adjutant
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**Detachment #1131
website is:**

mcl1131.org

Tip of the Spear

VOLUME XI ISSUE 8 AUGUST 2022



Commandant's Corner

Our Detachment Business meeting on July 19, 2022, included some important business discussions, some of which our other officers will report on in this newsletter. Our attendance was a bit low so perhaps some of you are taking some vacation time. We hope everyone will try to join us for future meetings. By the way, we will bring forward a recommendation to the members at that meeting to have our Business meetings start at 6:00 pm rather than 6:30 pm. If you have an opinion on that suggestion, please attend or let me know in advance.

We will also hear a recommendation from our Judge Advocate about a change to our Detachment Bylaws which will require a vote of the membership.

We were pleased to accept, approve, and install two new Regular members during the meeting—Paul Barnett and Jim Koerner. They both have interesting backgrounds as Paul is still a working man and Jim has relocated from the New York/New Jersey area. We welcome them and already know that both will be participating members. Paul has presented us with a new

fundraising project idea that has a lot of promise.

We held our Detachment Summer Family Picnic at the South Cove County Park Gazebo in Seneca on August 13 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Del Williams, Jim Day and Leon Davis volunteered to serve on a committee to plan the event. The picnic weather cooperated and we had a very nice turn out of members, family and friends. Several members brought side dishes and the Detachment provided the main dishes that were grilled to perfection by our Senior Vice, Todd Alexander. If you haven't already done so, please remember to renew your state park pass at the South Cove Park Admin Office to gain entrance to the park. They're free and are good for one year. It can be used again in October for the Oconee County Veterans Appreciation Festival.

On August 6, we also participated in a ceremony sponsored by the Oconee Council Veterans Council commemorating National Purple Heart Day at the Purple Heart Memorial in front of the Oconee County Courthouse in Walhalla. Collectively the veterans' organizations have a number of Purple Heart recipients as members who deserve our recognition and thanks.

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(Continued from Commandants Corner)

I attended the MCL National Convention in Daytona Beach August 15-19 and have some good and useful news for us. U.S. Marine Commandant General David Berger was a featured speaker. In my absence at our Detachment Business meeting on August 16, our Senior Vice Commandant Todd Alexander conducted the meeting.

We also held a well-attended Detachment Family Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, August 27, 2022, at Mayberry's Restaurant in Seneca. Food was great. Join us for our future monthly tradition.

The Marine Corps Birthday Dinner will be held November 10, 2022, at the Keowee Key Clubhouse. Bill Thompson, Skip Wakeman, Del Williams, and Todd Alexander are serving as a committee to help plan the event. We will want to know in advance who plans to attend and have registration fees paid in advance, by November 2, so the final details can be arranged. You'll be receiving an invitation and an RSVP card soon. Please mark the date.

Also make note that our Toys for Tots Golf tournament will be held November 14, 2022, at Cross Creek Plantation. Eddy Brown and T.J. Grove are once again organizing the event which annually brings us more than 200 very nice toys and cash contributions. We hope we can count on your presence by 9:00 am at Cross Creek to help with the collection and transport of the toys. Bob Walker, this year's Toys for Tots coordinator, will let us know soon our calendar of dates for collecting and distributing the toys from our new "store" for 2022 at 510 W. North First St in Seneca.

Please remember to check the website at mcl1131.org to keep up with the upcoming events. Our Adjutant Jim Day has done an excellent job putting the website on a new software platform and transitioning the previous version to something more modern and less expensive.

No Photo
available

Todd Alexander
Senior Vice-Commandant

Oorah Marines,

I don't have a whole lot to say this month. Short and sweet. I want to thank everyone who attended the family picnic and brought food and desserts. It was my pleasure to run the grill and make the main course of cheeseburgers and hot dogs for everyone. Thanks for making it a pleasant event with good company and great food.

I also want to ask everyone for a little help with the poker run planning. We need a good spot to end the run that has room for a large group, can serve food, and would be willing to work with us. If you know anyone, have any friends with venues, etc., please let me know so I can reach out to them. You can also have them reach out to me. If you didn't know, my number is 843-441-1261 and you can feel free to share it with them.

We are also looking for more fundraising ideas. If you have any ideas you would like to share you can email them to me at timothy.alexander@basf.com. No idea is too big or too small. So please feel free to share.

Semper Fi Marines

Senior Vice Commandant

Todd Alexander



Len Rock
Junior Vice-Commandant



Don Alexander
Judge Advocate

The Financial Audit Committee consisting of Len Rock, Jr Vice, Jim Day, Adjutant and Dave Wessinger, Paymaster met August 2nd. We reviewed 4th Quarter ending June 30, 2022. The numbers matched bank records we examined. All expenditures were in accordance with our Bylaws and documented with receipts and/or explanation for purpose made. A complete report was made at the August meeting and a copy filed with Adjutant.

Our next recruiting event is still scheduled for Saturday September 24th at Lowe's in Seneca from 11:00 to 2 pm.

Please continue individual outreach efforts to bring in new members.

Len Rock

Jr Vice

Happy August to all our members. If you lived in Vermont this is when you would start your process of getting ready for Winter (ask Len).

There is not a lot to talk about from my desk. At the August 2nd Trustee Meeting we agreed to present the final draft for the changes to our By-Laws regarding guests who attend our meetings. This was presented at our August 16th Business Meeting and the proposed changes were voted on. The changes require a that a Request For By-Laws Change be forwarded to the SC Department Judge Advocate, Claude Davis, for Department approval.

Should any of you have any questions concerning our By-Laws, feel free to contact me at 706-491-9310. And, above all, if you have not read our By-Laws and SOP I implore you to do so. They are clearly located on our website.

Semper Fi, *Don Alexander,*

Medal of Honor Day Ceremony

On Saturday, August 6, 2022 the Lewis G. Watkins Detachment #1131 participated in a ceremony sponsored by the Oconee County Veterans Council commemorating National Purple Heart Day. The ceremony was held at the Purple Heart Memorial in front of the Oconee County Courthouse in Walhalla. The Veterans Council Director, Jerry Dyar, emceed the event. Collectively the organizations have a number of Purple Heart recipients; all deserve our recognition and thanks.



There was an excellent turn out from members of the Veterans Council and their families for the 20 minute ceremony. About 10 people associated with Detachment 1131 attended.



"Skip" Wakeman, a Purple Heart recipient, was asked to place a wreath at the memorial.



Above: A firing detail from American Legion Post 124 provided Military Honors for the ceremony.

Left: Commandant Steve Slagle provided historical background on America's oldest award.



Detachment's Family Picnic at South Cove County Park



Catching up with some old friends & new acquaintances



Great turnout this year — about 25 enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon under the gazebo.



Master Chef Todd Alexander
"hot" at work making burgers
and dogs

Have Smoker, Will Travel!



The deserts were popular too.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 Last date to pay Annual **members Dues** (\$35.00). Please pay to Detachment Paymaster, David West-singer.

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 5:00 PM. Detachment **Trustee's Meeting** at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC.

Saturday, September 17, 2022 at 8 am Detachment **Family Breakfast** at Mayberry's in Seneca, SC

Note: This is a change because of the MCL recruiting event on September 24

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm: Detachment #1131 **Business Meeting.** American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St., Seneca, SC.

Note: The 6:00 pm start time is a permanent change voted on at the August Detachment Business Meeting

Saturday, September 24, 2022 at 11:00 am—2:00 pm at the Seneca, SC Lowe's. Detachment recruiting event.

Tuesday, October 4, 2022 5:00 PM. Detachment **Trustee's Meeting** at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC 29

Friday, October 7, 2022, Time TBD, Lewis G. Watkins Honor Ceremony, Wolf Stake Cemetery. Volunteers needed for the rifle detail & event coordinator.

Saturday, October 8, 2022 Oconee County Veterans Appreciation Festival, 9:00 am—3:00 pm, South Cove County Park, Seneca, SC. Recruiting event & Toys for Tots promotion opportunity. Food & beverages served from 11:00am to 1:00 pm.

Tuesday, October 18 2022 at 6:30 pm: Detachment #1131 **Business Meeting.** American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St, Seneca, SC

Friday, November 10, 2022, Marine Corps Birthday Dinner, Keowee Key Clubhouse. Registration & payment deadline is November 2, 2022. Social begins at 6:00 pm, Program at 6:45 pm followed by dinner at 7:30 pm.

Veterans Day Events. Detachment to place USMC flags at Marines' gravesites at 3-4 local cemeteries. **Dates & times TBD.**

Monday, November 14, Toys for Tots Golf Tournament, Cross Creek Golf Course. Assemble at 9:00 am to assist with event execution.

Salem, South Carolina 29676

912 Stamp Creek Road

Editor Del Williams

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment #11321, MCL

Postage