

**LEWIS G
WATKINS
DETACHMENT**



**DETACHMENT
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**Detachment #1131
website is:**

mcl1131.org

Tip of the Spear

VOLUME XI ISSUE II DECEMBER 2022



Commandant's Corner

Our Detachment Business meeting on November 15, 2022, included discussions about minor budgetary revisions related to the Marine Corps Birthday dinner held on November 10. Also reported was that the proceeds from ticket sales for the fall Belk's Charity Sale surpassed \$2,400. Bill Thompson took over coordination of the Detachment's presence at the Charity Sale and deserves our thanks for making sure we exceeded our revenue goal.

The annual TFT golf tournament was another huge success with a bounty of toys and bikes.

Our next Detachment Business meeting will be held on **January 17, 2022, at 6:00 pm**. The next Detachment Board of Trustees meeting will be **January 5, 2022**. Both meetings will be held at the American Legion Hut on Fairplay Drive.

We will not have a family breakfast in December due to the holidays, and the next breakfast is scheduled for **January 28, 2022, at 9:00 am** at Mayberry's in Seneca, so please try to join us. This is an hour later than previously held, as Mayberry's has changed their opening hours on Saturday.

Our Toys for Tots campaign is wrapping up with distribution of toys to families scheduled before Christmas. Bob Walker has served as the overall coordinator for this year's campaign, Bill Thompson coordinated the toy collection and pickup operation, and Len and Carol Rock have once again managed the Toy Store and the organization of toys. Excellent work by these four and a big thanks to the nearly 20 volunteers who participated in the collection of toys across Oconee County.

The detachment, featuring our Toys for Tots Train participated in community Christmas parades including Seneca, West Union, Walhalla, and Salem. These were great opportunities to draw attention to the final week of the Toys for Tots campaign. Thanks to Bob Walker and Bill Thompson for towing the train and to several other members and friends for joining in to pass out candy to kids along the parade routes.

Our next big community service activity will be participating in the Wreaths Across America program on December 17 and 18. We'll place wreaths on the grave sites of veterans at five local cemeteries, beginning at Noon on December 17 at Oak Grove cemetery, followed by Mountain View cemetery and Friendship cemetery, all in Seneca, at 2:00 pm respectively.

Commandant's Corner (Continued)

Wolf Stake cemetery and Old Welcome Baptist cemetery wreaths will be placed on December 18 at Noon and 2:00 pm.

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Be safe if your driving in town or are traveling for the holidays.

Semper Fi,

Steve Slagle
Commandant



Todd Alexander
Senior Vice-Commandant

Good day my fellow Marines,

It's a busy time of year for us with Toys for Tots preparations. Thanks for your assistance with the golf tournament, parades and toy collection efforts. The big toy distribution days are coming up in mid-December. I encourage you to help out where you can.

We will also be placing wreaths at several cemeteries as part of Wreaths Across America with assistance from BASF veterans. We can use some help with that effort too.

Be safe for the holidays, especially if you are traveling.

Semper Fi.

Todd Alexander
Senior Vice Commandant





**Don Alexander
Judge Advocate**

December is Toys For Tots time for our detachment. To all who have helped with the golf tournament, parades, collections and the toy store set up and organization I thank you all for a job well done.

Next month we will renew our efforts to grow our Detachment. I will set up a recruiting event at Lowe's for January and I'll resume attendance at the Keowee Key Newcomers monthly meetings. Merry Christmas to all and have a happy and healthy New Year.

Semper Fi.

Len Rock
Junior Vice Commandant

Yes, here we are at the end of another year, soon to be 2023. I know there are many of us that never thought we would see 2023 but I guess the good Lord still has something for us all to do. There is not much news to report on from the desk of the Judge Advocate. As I reported at our November meeting, I will be following up on the approved National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures (commonly known as SOP) changes so that I, hopefully, will have information to share with all members at the January 17, 2023 Business Meeting.

I, and my wife Barb, wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Semper Fi,

Don Alexander
Judge Advocate

Hartwell Fishing Tournament Saturday, November 19, 2022



Bob Walker delivered the train at 0430 and Bill Thompson, Steve Slagle & Jim Day met participants Saturday afternoon.



The fish haul was impressive — toys not so much. Entrants will bring toys next year to start of another TFT tradition.

Annual Toys for Tots Golf Tournament Monday, November 14, 2022

Our annual Toys for Tots golf tournament was held at the Cross Creek Plantation Golf Course again this year. Eddie Brown and T.J. Grove did a superb job of organizing the event — as usual. The weather cooperated and contributed to a truly great outdoor event.



This year's tally: 314 toys, 18 bikes, 3 books and 50 stocking stuffers.



Tourney organizers
Eddie Brown and
T. J. Grove



Santa's Helpers from Lewis G. Watkins
Detachment #1131



Dressed to the 9's
and ready for 18!

2022 Holiday Parades

The Detachment's TFT Train participated in four parades this year — Seneca, West Union, Walhalla and Salem. We were near the front in Walhalla and at the end in front of Santa for Salem. Although the weather was gloomy, the rain held off for all of the parades. And the Candy cravers knew no age limit. We also won 3rd place in the Salem Parade judging contest.

Walhalla Parade



*Parade line up
in front of the
Detention
Center?*



*Different fuel
sources but still
about 2 HP each*



The band was in tune & kept us marching right along

Salem Parade

Small town but a big, appreciative crowd. And we even had a Miss TFT!



We needed all the help we could get!



Although he was a bit grumpy, the Grinch still gave out candy.



Young and old — and 2 story crowds



Downtown Salem



***Oconee County 2022 Toys for Tots Campaign
Lewis G. Watkins Detachment #1131, MCL***

Boxes & Application Key Dates

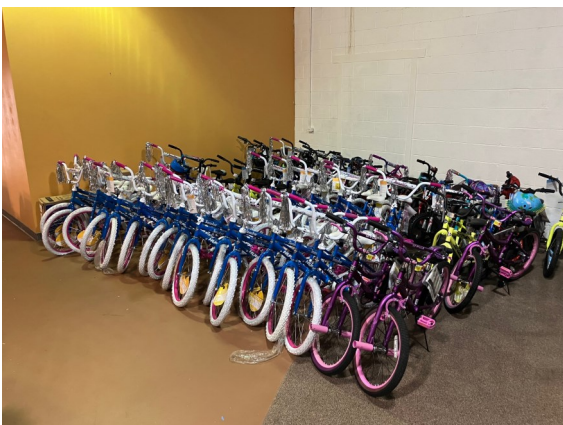
- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| ✓ All TFT Collection Boxes in Place | Monday, October 10, 2022 |
| ✓ Toys for Tots Golf Tournament | Monday, November 14, 2022 |
| ✓ Last Date to Submit Toys Applications | Wednesday, November 30, 2022 |
| ✓ Last Date to Drop Off Toys | Sunday, December 4, 2022 |
| ✓ Pick Up Date for Toy Collection Boxes | Tuesday, December 6, 2022 |

Toy Distribution Dates

This year the store is located at 510 W. North 1st St in Seneca. Toy pick up dates are:

- Tuesday, December 13, 2022
- Wednesday, December 14, 2022
- Thursday, December 15, 2022

Tuesday and Wednesday are full days. Volunteers are needed. Shopping starts at 8:00 am.



Store managers Len & Carol Rock

Ready to Rumble!

And these are just a portion of the
toys and bikes ...

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Tuesday—Thursday, December 12-15: Toys for Tots Toy Distribution at the Toy Store, 510 W. North 1st St, Seneca, SC. The store will open at 8:00 on Tuesday and Wednesday; our busiest days. We will need help with placing toys in bags, loading vehicles and restocking.

Saturday, December 17, 2022 beginning at 2:00 pm: Wreaths Across America. Wreath placement at 5 local cemeteries. Assistance being provided by BASF veterans.

Tuesday, December 20, 2022: No Detachment Business Meeting.

Saturday, December 31, 2022: No Family Breakfast. Happy New Year instead!

Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 5:00 pm: Detachment Trustees Meeting at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St, Seneca, SC

Tuesday, January 17, 2022, at 6:00 pm: Detachment Business Meeting at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St, Seneca, SC.

Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 9:00 am: Detachment Breakfast at Mayberry's, 125 N. Townville St, Seneca, SC.

Salem, South Carolina 29676

910 Stamp Creek Road

Editor Jim Day

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment#11321, MCL

Postage