

**LEWIS G
WATKINS
DETACHMENT**



**DETACHMENT
OFFICERS**

Commandant
Steve Slagle
(864) 710-6739

Sr. Vice-Commandant
Todd Alexander
(843) 441-1261

Jr. Vice-Commandant
Len Rock
(802) 318-5990

Judge Advocate
Don Alexander
(706) 491-9310

Past Commandant
Robert Walker
(864) 884-3532

Paymaster
David Wessinger
(864) 710-6231

Adjutant
James Day
(864) 247-6661

Chaplain
Leon Davis
(864) 623-8037

Sergeant-at-Arms
Charlie Brickett
(864) 557-0983

**Detachment #1131
website is:**

mcl1131.org

Tip of the Spear

VOLUME XIII ISSUE I

JANUARY 2023



Commandant's Corner

Our Detachment Business meeting wasn't held in December because of the wrap-up of our Toys for Tots campaign and the busyness of the holidays. We also did not hold a Family Breakfast in December because of the holidays.

We're eager to get back to business and a more normal routine this month. The next Detachment Board of Trustees meeting will be **January 5, 2022, at 5:00 pm.** Our next Detachment Business meeting will be held on **January 17, 2022, at 6:00 pm.** Both meetings will be held at the American Legion Hut on Fairplay Drive.

The next breakfast is scheduled for **January 28, 2022, at 8:00 am** at **Seneca Family Restaurant** in Seneca. Note the change back to SFR for this month. Please try to join us.

We had a very busy fall, with Veterans Day activities, our Toys for Tots toy collection, golf tournament, and distribution of toys to families in mid-December. We also held our Marine Corps Birthday dinner on November 10, participated in four Christmas parades to tout Toys for Tots, and assisted in placing wreaths on veterans' gravesites for Wreaths Across America at five

cemeteries on December 17-18, 2022. A huge thanks is warranted for all the members and other volunteers who participated in making these events and activities a success.

Our Toys for Tots campaign wrapped up with the distribution of toys to families before Christmas. Bob Walker served as the overall coordinator for this year's campaign, Bill Thompson coordinated the toy collection and pickup operation, and Len and Carol Rock 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 as well as the distribution of toys in time for Christmas. I think we made a difference to 775 children this year.

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

Semper Fi,

Steve Slagle
Commandant



Todd Alexander
Senior Vice-Commandant

Good day my fellow Marines,
I just want to wish everyone a happy new year, and I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Semper Fi.

Todd Alexander
Senior Vice Commandant



*A last minute delivery from
a local pageant*



Don Alexander
Judge Advocate

Well, we've reached 2023. I hope everyone had a happy holiday season. Unfortunately Clemson fans didn't quite have the end of year they'd hoped for. But we'll survive.

On a brighter note, our Toys For Tots Program was very successful. We collected in excess of 3,200 toys and distributed over 4,000 toys compared to the 2,761 we distributed in 2021.

We are holding over 1,952 toys for this year's program. I'm expecting 2023 TFT to be even more successful than last year. Thanks to everyone who helped us reach our goals.

I've spoken to the manager at Lowe's and received permission to set up our recruiting booth at the Lowe's exit door from 11 am till 2 pm from January through April. All she asks is a reminder note a week prior the event which I will do.

I attended the January Newcomers meeting at Keowee Key this week and spoke with a Marine Reservist who had been thinking of joining our Detachment. We'll speak again after his upcoming cruise. Attendance at the meeting was down but I'm told that is typical for January. Please be alert to possible new members wherever you go. Remember — recruiting is everyone's job.

Semper Fi.

Len Rock
Junior Vice Commandant

All ready on the right, all ready on the left, "FIRE." 2022 is out the back door so get prepared to usher in twenty-twenty-three. Now that's a pretty dumb way to say Happy New Year but what can I say? Our detachment is just coming off a very active December and I must apologize for not carrying my part of the load. All I can say, in my defense, is that this old body just doesn't want to cooperate with my mind. How about we start this year off in a fine manner by everyone being in attendance for our January 17th Business Meeting at 1800.

Semper Fi,

Don Alexander
Judge Advocate

2022 Toys for Tots Campaign

**3,200+ Toys Collected Including 92 Bicycles
9 Community Groups
775 Children Received Toys
4000+ Toys Distributed
Joy and Happiness — Priceless!!**



Lift Tech buying bikes on behalf of their employees again this year.



A few of the 60 very efficient “shoppers” this year.



Seneca Shoppers



*SC Regional Housing Authority
Group*

Oconee County 2022 Toys for Tots Campaign

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment #1131, MCL



Salem/Tamasee Shoppers



Westminster Area Shoppers



Pendleton Shoppers



Walhalla Shoppers



GUEST VIEW

Toys for Tots thanks you

As this year's Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots coordinator for Oconee County, I wanted to thank the community for their tremendous support for this year's campaign.

The Marine Corps League Lewis G. Watkins Detachment #1131 has responsibility for Oconee County. As a result of your tremendous support, we were able to hand out free toys to more than 750 children and fulfill the

Toys for Tots mantra of "bringing the joy of Christmas to America's needy children." Each child received four gifts, at least one book for newborns to 12 years old, and stuffed animals. Each 9-year-old also received an Amazon Fire tablet. Several businesses purchased a total of 95 bicycles, too.

We could not have done this without the support of the nine community organizations and churches, plus the Seneca Police Department. They collected the children's names, verified their need, selected the toys at the Toys for Tots toy store and distributed them before Christmas. Each group brought sufficient volunteers to complete their "shopping" in the three days that were allotted.

I also want to thank the businesses, churches, banks and other organizations that allowed us to put the Toys for Tots collection boxes at more than 150 locations



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

More than 750 children received gifts from Toys for Tots in Oconee County this year.

throughout the county. Collected toys were up significantly over the past two years despite the economic situation. Collected toys and your donations to the Toys for Tots Foundation allowed us to obtain enough items for all age groups. And a big thanks to the special event coordinators for their efforts. I also want to thank the members and volunteers with the Marine Corps League that made this year's campaign a success.

Bravo Zulu (well done)!
Semper Paratus.

ROBERT E. WALKER is this year's coordinator for Oconee County's Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots effort.

**GUEST
VIEW**

**ROBERT E.
WALKER**

Upcoming Meetings and Events

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 21, 2023, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm: Recruitment at the Seneca Lowe's. Tent to be erected outside the Exit.

Saturday, January 21, 2023: MCL Department Quarterly Meeting in Columbia, SC. Steve Slagle is scheduled to attend.

Monday, January 23 at 5:00 pm: Oconee County Veterans Council Meeting at 223-C Kenneth St, Walhalla, SC. Don Alexander is scheduled to attend.

Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 8:00 am: Detachment Breakfast at **Seneca Family Restaurant**, Seneca, SC.



Department Raffle Tickets are available for sale. See Steve Slagle.

Salem, South Carolina 29676

910 Stamp Creek Road

Editor Jim Day

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment#11321, MCL

Postage