

**LEWIS G  
WATKINS  
DETACHMENT**



**DETACHMENT  
OFFICERS**

**Commandant**  
**Steve Slagle**  
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**Sr. Vice-Commandant**  
**Todd Alexander**  
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**Jr. Vice-Commandant**  
**Len Rock**  
**(802) 318-5990**

**Judge Advocate**  
**Don Alexander**  
**(706) 491-9310**

**Past Commandant**  
**Robert Walker**  
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**Paymaster**  
**David Wessinger**  
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**Adjutant**  
**James Day**  
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**Chaplain**  
**Leon Davis**  
**(864) 623-8037**

**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
**Charlie Brickett**  
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**Detachment #1131  
website is:**

***mcl1131.org***

# Tip of the Spear

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## Commandant's Corner

We had a very well attended June 21, 2022, Business meeting and we hope everyone will continue to be with us for future meetings. We installed two new Associate Members – Jane Paradise and Pam Dowd – both of whom have been MCL Auxiliary members. We also had two prospective members – Paul Barnett and Thom Wood – who have declared their interest in joining our Detachment.

We will be holding Detachment Business Meetings on July 19 and August 16, 2022. We also have our Summer Family Picnic scheduled at the South Cove Park Gazebo 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. Please remember to renew your state park pass at the South Cove Park Admin Office. They're free and are good for one year.

If you have not renewed your MCL membership for this year, time is running out. We start a new membership year September 1. Please let our Junior Vice Commandant, Len Rock, or our Paymaster, David Wessinger, know if you plan on renewing. We have a number of events and activities planned this year and we want and need all members to help us succeed. Len and David's contact information can be found online. at our Detach-

ment website at [mcl1131.org](http://mcl1131.org).

Looking further ahead we hope that the veteran's organizations, including our Detachment, which are members of the Oconee Council Veterans Council will hold a joint ceremony honoring the National Purple Heart Day on August 6. Collectively the organizations have a number of Purple Heart recipients as members and who deserve our recognition and thanks. We'll announce more about that opportunity by email or phone calls when the details of location and time are decided by the OCVC.

The Marine Corps Birthday Dinner will be held November 10, 2022, at the Keowee Key Clubhouse. A small committee of our members are planning the event and will be announcing the plans later this summer.

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 will once again organize the event which annually brings us more than 100 very nice toys and cash contributions. We hope we can count on your presence at Cross Creek to help with the collection and transport of the toys.

Please remember to check the website at [mcl1131.org](http://mcl1131.org) to keep up with the upcoming events. Our Adjutant Jim Day has done a really good job putting the website on a new software platform and transitioning the previous version to something more modern and less expensive.

No Photo Available for this issue

**Todd Alexander**  
**Senior Vice-Commandant**

Semper Fi, Devil Dogs. This is my first opportunity to contribute to our excellent newsletter. As Senior Vice-Commandant I figure this would be a good opportunity to give a little background about myself. My time in service was from 2005 until 2010. I served in VMFA 312 stationed in Beaufort, SC. My MOS was 6257, which is an airframe technician for the F/A-18 fixed wing aircraft. We were supposed to be a boat squadron, however during my tenure we only saw land duty. My squadron's deployment during my time was what we call a West-Pac. That means we went to the Asian-Pacific. I was at Kadena AFB in Okinawa, MCAS Iwakuni, and Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

I got my engineering degree from the University of Kentucky and work as a Reliability Engineer for BASF here in Seneca. I have been married for 17 years to my beautiful wife Lisa, and we have one son, Sean. We moved to Seneca for a job opportunity in early 2019. My wife also works at the plant and my son goes to Seneca High School.

That's enough about me, let's talk about why I accepted a nomination for this position, and why I am so glad that you all chose to vote for me. The first thing I would like to say is that I believe servant leadership. My job is to my absolute best to help the league and to help each of you in any way that I can. This means that I am always available for each one of you. You should all have my contact information, but if you don't let me know at the next meeting and I will make sure you get it. My primary goal for this year is getting our detachment budget balanced. We have a great budget committee this year helping to keep this on track. I also want to increase our fundraising this year by coming up with some fun events to get the local area involved and raise funds for the detachment. In closing, I want to take the time to thank everyone again for this amazing opportunity. I will do my absolute best to make sure I serve in a way that you will be proud of, and that I bring honor to the detachment and to the Marine Corps League.

OORAH! *Todd Alexander*



**Len Rock**  
**Junior Vice-Commandant**

Our recruiting efforts for the coming year will focus on 3 main areas:

a. Re-establish a monthly presence at the Newcomer Club of the Foothills. This organization is a resource for newly retired and others who have moved into our area. We will make certain they are aware of Marine Corps League Detachment 1131 and encourage them to consider joining us.

b. Recruiting Tables : We will periodically set up at area locations such as Lowes & Home Depot to attract fellow Marines and other veterans. We have procured a 10x10 "tailgate tent" and will provide table/chairs flags and banners to promote Marine Corps League Detachment 1131. Our next recruit table is tentatively planned for Saturday September 24th at Lowes in Seneca from 11:00 am to 2 pm. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to attend. Confirmation of time/place will be announced at September Meeting on September 20th.

C. Individual Outreach: We highly encourage all members to carry a supply of MCL Det 1131 brochures in their vehicles. If you see someone with a Marine ball cap, T-shirt or bumper sticker - approach them. introduce yourself and give them a brochure. If possible get a name, email and cell number so we can follow up.

Growing our detachment membership is critical to our continued success in providing our services to Oconee County.

Semper Fi

*Len Rock*

Junior Vice- Commandant





## Awards

During the May 17, 2022 Detachment Meeting there were a number of awards given to Detachment members. The award ceremony was conducted prior to the Installation of newly elected officers.



Associate member Nancy Walker was presented a Distinguished Service Award by Commandant Robert Walker



Associate member Pamela Dowd was presented a Distinguished Service Award by Commandant Robert Walker



Associate member Leon Davis was presented a Distinguished Service Award by Commandant Robert Walker



Associate member James Day was presented the 2022 Associate Member of the Year award. James Day was presented the award due to his work as the Toys For Tots Literacy Chairman during 2021.





Judge Advocate Bill Thompson was presented the Marine of The Year award by "Skip" Wake-man.



Member Don Alexander presented an engraved Marine Corps Kar-Bar Knife to Commandant Robert Walker in memory of the three years Robert served as Commandant of Detachment #1131

## Installation of New Officers

At the May 17, 2022 Detachment Business Meeting newly elected officers or 2022-2023 year were installed. Past South Carolina Department Command, Jerry Holt conducted the Installation Ceremony.



New Officers installed were (left to right, Leon Davis, Chaplain; James Day, Adjutant; Robert Walker, Past Commandant; David Wessinger, Paymaster; Todd Alexander, Senior Vice-Commandant; Don Alexander, Judge Advocate; and Charles Brickett, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Two of the newly elected officers was not at the Installation Ceremony; Steve Slagle elected Commandant was sick with Covid and Len Rock elected Junior Vice-Command was travelling out of town.



Len Rock, Junior Vice-Commandant and Steve Slagle, Commandant were administered their Oath of Office by Past Commandant, Robert Walker at the June 21, 2022 Business Meeting.

## **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 6:30 pm:** Detachment #1131 **Business Meeting**. American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St., Seneca, SC 29678.

**Saturday, July 23, 2023 at 8:00 AM:** Monthly **Family Breakfast** location will be announce later by email or at next business meeting

**Tuesday, August 2, 2023 5:00 PM.** Detachment **Trustee's Meeting** at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC 29678

**Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 2:00 PM** Detachment **Annual Family Picnic** at South Cove County Park, 1099 S. Cove Road, Seneca, SC 29672

**Tuesday, August 16, 2023 at 6:30 PM;** Detachment #1131 **Business Meeting**, American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC 29678.

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

**Tuesday, September 6, 2023 5:00 PM.** Detachment **Trustee's Meeting** at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC 29678

**Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:30 pm:** Detachment #1131 **Business Meeting**. American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fair-play St., Seneca, SC 29678.

**Tuesday, October 4, 2023 5:00 PM.** Detachment **Trustee's Meeting** at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC 29678

**Tuesday, October 18 2022 at 6:30 pm:** Detachment #1131 **Business Meeting**. American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St., Seneca, SC 29678.

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Editor Del Williams

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment#11321, MCL

Postage