

**LEWIS G  
WATKINS  
DETACHMENT**



**DETACHMENT  
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**Adjutant  
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**Chaplain  
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**Sergeant-at-Arms  
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**Detachment #1131  
website is:**

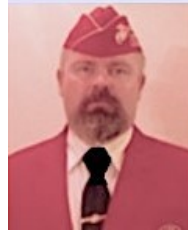
***mcl1131.org***

# Tip of the Spear

VOLUME XI

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## Commandant's Corner

The big events for me this month were approval of this fiscal year's budget, and the SC Department Quarterly Meeting in Columbia. Budget approval was delayed because of several issues. We will do better next year and have the budget approved by May 2024. The major Department Bylaws changes to add Districts and at-large Trustee members were implemented. We discussed in detail what went on at the quarterly meeting at our September monthly business meeting, but I will cover a few major highlights here.

The new Vice Commandants were appointed for each of the four Department Districts. We are in District 1. Our District Vice Commandant, Hadji Harper, was not present at the meeting for me to meet or speak with. The others are Gary Jackson for District 2, Tracey Talley for District 3, and Jimmy Fogle for District 4.

Bylaws added three new Department Trustees as a substitute for all of the Detachment Commandants, primarily as a potential disciplinary work around. Ultimately one of the three will be replaced every year. The 1<sup>st</sup> year Trustee (Dan Hoffman), will serve 3 years before being replaced. In the interim, the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Trustee, myself, will serve 2 years before being replaced, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Trustee, Jim Breen, will serve 1 year before being replaced. From that point forward, every election is for a 3-year term of service.

There was also discussion about the 2024 Department convention. It will be

held beginning on June 13 2024 at the Embassy Suites in Columbia. Cost is a very reasonable \$112 a night. I would really like to have a big turnout for our Detachment this year. This one is close. I went to the last one and it was a really good time. I would highly recommend it to anyone that's on the fence about it.

The rifle raffle is still in progress. The winner will receive a brand new Henry .22 cal "Golden Boy" rifle. Tommy Holland is in charge of ticket sales and reports sales are brisk. Deep South is assisting with ticket sales and will make the Federal Firearms License transfer, if required. SC Department Commandant Helen Breen will draw the winning ticket during the Oconee County Veterans Appreciation Festival in October.

We have some important events coming soon, not the least of which is the Lewis G. Watkins Honors Day on October 7th, at Wolf Stake Cemetery (volunteers needed). The fall Belk Charity Sale event is scheduled for October and early November. — we need as many volunteers as we can muster to man the sales positions in two-hour shifts. Bob Walker is coordinating the schedule. Let him know your availability.

Toys for Tots season also kicks off in October with box placement, and our first TFT train float event is on October 29th. Bob Walker is the Detachment TFT Coordinator again this year. Check the website for all of the relevant dates.

***Semper Fi!***

***Todd Alexander***

No Photo available

**Jim Koerner**  
**Senior Vice-Commandant**



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

Hello all,

Thanks to Detachment members that participated in Ron Bode’s memorial service on September 30th. I know his family appreciated it.

The next few months are among the busiest in the Detachment calendar. We’ll need lots of volunteers for events including the Lewis G. Watkins Honors Day service, the Belk Charity Sale, Veterans Day events, and of course, Toys for Tots. We can use really your help to make these events a huge success.

Semper Fi

*Jim Koerner*  
Senior Vice Commandant

We had our final recruiting event at Lowe’s on September 30th. The weather was nice, people were pleasant and we even got a donation or two. We have one last recruiting event in 2023 at the Oconee County Veterans Appreciation Festival to be held at South Cove Park. The Festival and our rescheduled annual picnic will be held from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with free lunch and beverages being served from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Come out and enjoy the festivities and help us grow our numbers.

Our recruiting efforts are paying off as two new potential members attended the September business meeting. Eric Nelson and Rich Partynski filled out membership applications. We look forward to swearing them in at the next business meeting.

Carol and I are the TFT store managers again this year. We’ve put out the tables at our new and hopefully permanent residence at the Blue Ridge Community Center. We’ve begun to put out toys and will be ordering additional stock in the coming weeks. Once again, thanks to all the volunteers that helped turn our new facility into a showplace.

Semper Fi.

*Len Rock*  
Junior Vice Commandant



*Belk Charity Sale*  
*Ticket Sales:*  
*Mid- Oct thru November 5th*  
  
*Sale Dates:*  
*November 3-5 2023*  
***Volunteers Needed!!***



**Don Alexander**  
**Judge Advocate**

I want to thank David Wessinger and Jim Day for their hard work on preparing the budget for this fiscal year. As you know, it was delayed several months because of a variety of factors but was finally passed at the September monthly business meeting. The budget included items to replenish our ship's store. Jim has volunteered to be the temporary Quartermaster. We really need a volunteer to fill this position. We also need volunteers to man the Belk Charity Sales in October and early November — this is one of our Detachment's big money makers each year.

It is creeping into Fall already. What that should mean to all of us is TOYS FOR TOTS. Coordinator Bob Walker and his staff will need our help in making this, the 76th Anniversary of Toys for Tots a dynamite year. If any of you can volunteer some time, please let Bob know.

I discussed the proposed email voting change to the Detachment Bylaws at the September monthly business meeting. Two others — filling the Past Commandant role and adopting a budget “floor” approach for our annual budget are also being discussed as potential changes. I request that all members, Regular and Associate, carefully look over our Bylaws and if you think there is a question or if you note a section that needs clarification, please have those thoughts on paper and be ready to discuss them at our next regular business meeting. If I can be of help to any of you, please ask me.

Semper Fi

*Don Alexander*

Judge Advocate

The 2nd Annual Oconee County Veterans Appreciation Festival will be held again this year at South Cove County Park. We'll hold our rescheduled annual picnic at the same time — it was just too hot in August.

Free food and beverages will be served from 11 to 1 pm and music will be provided this year. We are asking our members to bring desserts. The winning rifle raffle ticket will be drawn by SC Department Commandant Helen Breen at 2:00 pm.

Be sure to pick you your Oconee County parking pass at the office ahead of time It's free for veterans and is good for a year.



## HENRY GOLDEN BOY .22 RIFLE

Marine Corps League Detachment #1131

Seneca, South Carolina

"Help us to continue helping others!"

This Detachment raffle will raise funds to continue helping others within our community (e.g., charitable projects like last fiscal year's wheelchair swing at Wild Hearts Equine Therapy Center, the JROTC programs at Walhalla, West Oak and Seneca High Schools, flags for cemeteries, Boy Scouts, contributions to other veterans groups and honor guard equipment.

\$10 for single tickets, \$40 for five (5) tickets

### *Rifle Anyone?*

*There's still plenty of time to buy your raffle tickets for a chance to win this beautiful fire-arm. If you want a look/see, you can check it out at Deep South Defense on Rt. 123.*

*The drawing will be held at 2:00 pm at the Oconee County Veterans Appreciation Festival at South Cove County Park. SC Department Helen Breen will draw the winning ticket. See Tommy Holland for tickets and additional information.*



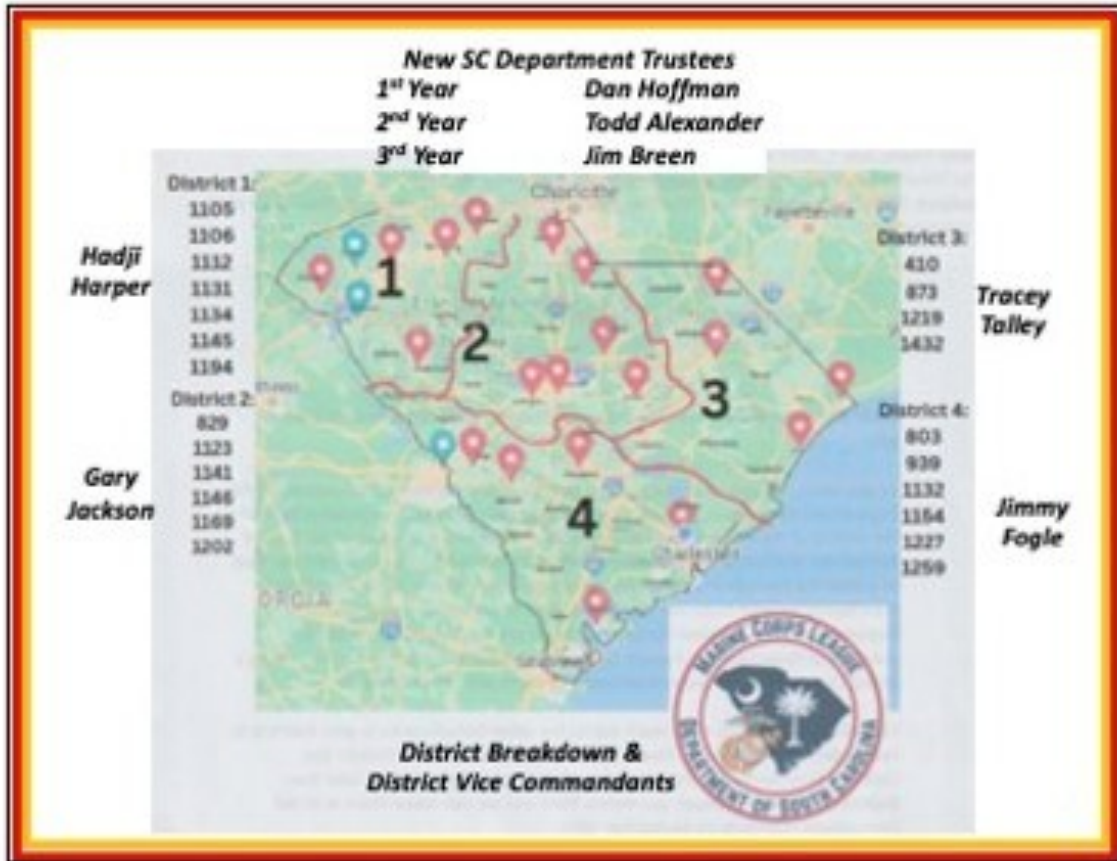
*Len Rock striking his recruiter pose at the Keowee Key Newcomers meeting in early September. He's always on the look out for additional Detachment members.*



*Another busy day at our last recruiting event for the year at Lowe's. The visitors to our booth are appreciative for our service and what we do for the community..*



*After a couple of false starts, the Detachment was able to present a plaque to Belk Seneca's manager, Katherine Willimon on September 18th. The Journal provided nice coverage in their September 20th edition of the newspaper.*



*The New SC Department Marine Corps League Districts*

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

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

**Saturday, October 7, 2023, 11:00 am, Lewis G. Watkins Honor Ceremony, Wolf Stake Cemetery. Assemble at 10:45.** Volunteers needed for the rifle detail.

**Saturday, October 14, 2023, 9:00 am—3:00 pm. Oconee County 2nd Annual Veterans Appreciation Festival/Annual Detachment Picnic**, South Cove County Park, Seneca. Set up at 8:30. Food & beverages served from 11:00am to 1:00 pm. Rifle raffle ticket drawing at 2:00 pm.

**Tuesday, October 17 2023 at 6:00 pm: Detachment #1131 Business Meeting.** American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St, Seneca.

**Sunday, October 29 at 1:00 pm: 10th Annual Ride for Toys for Tots.** Meet up at Norton Thompson Park, 300 Main St., Seneca. Ends at West Union Town Park, Railroad St. Volunteers needed to help unload toys at the Toy Store.

**Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 5:00 pm: Detachment Trustee's Meeting** at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC

**Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 9:00 am: Veterans Day Flag Placement.** Detachment to place USMC flags at Marines' gravesites at Oconee Memorial Park.

**Thursday, November 10, 2023, at 6:00 pm: Marine Corps Birthday Dinner.** Paisano's Restaurant. Social begins at 6 pm, Program at 6:30 pm followed by dinner.

**Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 4:00 pm: Veterans Day Parade**, Walhalla. Meet at 3:30 pm. No candy or toys.

**Monday, November 14, 2023 at 9:00 am: Toys for Tots Golf Tournament**, Cross Creek Golf Course. Assemble at 8:30 am to assist with event execution.

**Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 6:30 pm: Detachment #1131 Business Meeting.** American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St, Seneca, SC

**Saturday, November 19 at 8:00 am Family Breakfast** at Mayberry's, 125 N. Townville St, Seneca, SC

Salem, South Carolina 29676

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Editor Jim Day

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment#11321, MCL

Postage