

**LEWIS G  
WATKINS  
DETACHMENT**



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# Tip of the Spear

VOLUME IX

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## Commandant's Corner

Fellow Marines

I am very happy to announce that we can once again have our general membership meeting. I would like to send congratulations Josh Herring and his new bride and wish them many years of Happiness together.

There will be no family picnic in August this year due to the restrictions. Maybe we can have one this fall.

The passing away of Archie Sweet leaves us with a big hole to fill. If anyone is interested in running for his office let me know.

The Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be on us soon. Having high hopes of being able to have it. If anyone has any suggestion please pass them along to me or any of the officers.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Semper Fi

*Bob Walker*

Commandant #1131

## Upcoming Events.

**July Detachment Meeting.**  
Lewis G. Watkins Detachment 1131 will have regular business meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm in The American Legion Hut. Important matters to vote on: 2020-21 Budget.

**Detachment Annual Picnic.**  
Lewis G. Watkins Detachment 1131 will **not** hold its Annual Detachment Picnic in August 2020. Not safe to have one until Covid-19 Virus is better controlled.

**SSgt Lewis G. Watkins Day.**  
Each October 7th we honor SSgt Lewis G. Watkins, USMC with a ceremony at the Wolf Stake Baptist Church cemetery. Please mark your calendar. We need eleven (11) members of the Detachment to hold the ceremony. Further detail will be published in the next *Tip of The Spear* newsletter.

**2020 Toys For Tots Campaign.**  
The 2020 Toys For Tots Campaign will begin on Thursday October 1, 2020. Please arrange to be available for this very important event. We will need all hands to do this event because of the Covid-19 Virus. Special handling of the toys will be required this year.

**245th Marine Corps Birthday.**  
Lewis G. Watkins Detachment 1131 will celebrate the 245th Marine Corps Birthday. More information will be published in the next issue of the Tip of The Spear newsletter.



**Morris Carver**  
**Senior**  
**Vice-Commandant**

Greetings to all members of Detachment 1131. Hope all of you had a good Fourth holiday, I sure enjoyed camping in Georgia and eating at some of our favorite Restaurants.

Sorry that I couldn't make it to the Board of Trustee's Meeting, but I know you had a good meeting and came up with some plans for upcoming events.

As you know as Senior Vice-Commandant one of my duties is to come up with a budget for the upcoming year. Well the Budget committee had a meeting and we wrestled with the figures for a good while before we settled on what I hope you can accept, some things changed some, but the world around us is changing. We will be presenting the new Budget at the meeting on July 21st. My thanks to David Wessinger and Bill Thompson for their input.

Semper Fi, *Morris Carver*



**Steve Slagle**  
**Junior**  
**Vice-Commandant**

**Smoke Alarms for Veterans Are Available Through Fire Safe South Carolina**

The South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs is partnering with the State Fire Marshal's office for the Fire Safe South Carolina Alarm Program. This program will provide **free** smoke alarms to qualified Veterans in our state. Our Marine Corps League wants to make sure our veterans are aware of the program and to assist if anyone needs help completing an application to receive the smoke alarms. Multiple smoke alarms can be requested based on the number of levels and rooms in your home.

Smoke alarms give early notification to indi-

viduals of a possible life-threatening fire emergency. For South Carolina residents, the Smoke Alarm Program provides life-saving smoke alarm technology. Once qualified, an applicant's information is forwarded to his/her local fire department. The South Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal will support the local fire department to fulfill the request.

Did you know?

- You should have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home, inside every sleeping area (to include the living room), and outside every sleeping area.
- A smoke alarm, the entire device, should be replaced every 10 years.
- Alarms with 10-year sealed batteries, lasting for the life of the alarm, are preferred. Otherwise, batteries should be changed once a year.
- Alarms should be checked monthly by pressing the test button

This program will provide for the installation and/or replacement of smoke alarms in the homes of SC veterans, and the installations will be conducted by local fire departments. If the smoke alarms in your homes are older than 10 years this program is a really good service for our veterans.

The application can be completed in 2-3 minutes and should be emailed or mailed directly to the SC Department of State Fire Marshal as noted on the application form. The available number of smoke alarms is limited, and all veterans, including the Marines, are eligible.

You can receive a simple request application with all the details by contacting [FireSafeSC@llr.sc.gov](mailto:FireSafeSC@llr.sc.gov).

Due to the COVID-19 virus, installation of the smoke alarms may take a while to schedule, but it is best to have your application sent in and your request confirmed now.

Semper Fi,  
*Steve Slagle*



## Bill Thompson Judge Advocate

Salutations again from the Judge Advocate's "bench". I Pray that all of you and your Families are healthy

and surviving the Covid-19 Virus, as well as all the "craziness" happening in The United States of America.

I know all of you have been spending hours reading and cogitating over the proposed changes to the National Bylaws and National Administrative Procedures I reviewed in the previous "Tip of the Spear". I have been overwhelmed by the feedback and want to "thank you". However, I know many of you will be just as disappointed as I am that the National Board of Trustees has cancelled the National Convention in Florida. "All the proposals submitted for the 2020 National Convention will be required to be "filed again" for the 2021 National Convention". Probably by then, there will be almost 100 for us to analyze and deliberate.

Supposedly, some time around July 15, 2020 Department Commandants will be directed to "caucus" their Departments for the election of the National Officers. The current National Officers have advised they will be running again for their present positions, and hopefully other nominations will be submitted. After we receive all the names of individuals running and positions, that information will be shared with you. After much thought and research on the "candidates" please apprise our astute Commandant, Bob Walker, of your selections. Apparently, all the Members have been playing together nicely and no Disciplinary Charges have been escalated to the National Level.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the July 21st Meeting.

Semper Fi,

*Bill Thompson*

## Paymaster's Report

Because of the coronavirus, the Detachment's income will be very limited this year.

The coronavirus may have effected our income but the Detachment has expenses, whether we have meetings or not, i.e. rent, post office box and others.

A reminder to all annual members, annual dues are to be submitted before August 30, 2020. Dues must be made by check or cash, the Marine Corps League does not have a program in place to pay dues by credit card. National says they are working on a program, but it is not in place now. Make checks payable to **MCL Det 1131** and give to the Paymaster.

Thanks for your help.

*David Wessinger.*

## Adjutant's Report

The Annual August Family Picnic has been cancelled. The Covid-19 virus has taken a toll on Lewis G. Watkins Detachment this year. Many of the Detachment's activities have suffered. The August Family Picnic is no exception.

No decision has been made as to when we will restart the monthly Family Breakfast. As of now we are not able to do the Family Breakfast safely.

During the Detachment's meeting on July 21, 2020 the procedure will be:

- Everyone should wear a mask.
- Avoid personal contact, i.e. no handshaking
- Maintain proper social distancing.
- There will not be a meal before the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the July 21, 2020 Business Meeting.

Semper Fi. *Del Williams*

## **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

<b><u>Time &amp; Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event/Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Coordinator</u></b>	<b><u>Uniform</u></b>
6:30 pm Tuesday July 21, 2020	Detachment Business Meeting	American Legion Hut 575 N. Fairplay St. Seneca, SC 29678	Robert Walker	Basic
8:00 am Tuesday August 4, 2020	Board of Trustee's Meeting	American Legion Hut 575 N. Fairplay St. Seneca, SC 29678	Robert Walker	none
6:30 pm Tuesday August 18, 2020	Detachment Business Meeting	American Legion Hut 575 N. Fairplay St. Seneca, SC 29678	Robert Walker	Basic
8:00 am Tuesday September 1, 2020	Board of Trustee's Meeting	American Legion Hut 575 N. Fairplay St. Seneca, SC 29678	Robert Walker	none
6:30 pm Tuesday September 15, 2020	Detachment Business Meeting	American Legion Hut 575 N. Fairplay St. Seneca, SC 29678	Robert Walker	Basic

Postage

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