

Marine Corps League Slattery Detachment #206 Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Roll Call of Officers: Tony Fiorentino, Jr. Vice Commandant, was unable to attend. All others present.

Applications for New Members: Theodore Jemas from Cedar Knolls along with Bob Cooke from Florham Park put in applications.

Guests: Gy/Sgt Matthew Hutcheson of Picatinny was in attendance in order to explain the Toys For Tots Program. Bruce Jensen's daughters, Karen Dispenziere and Colleen Luberalzzi, were present. They thanked us for the support and friendship given to their father and them. Tom Frodella from Emmaus for Veterans planned to give a presentation regarding his organization. Also in attendance was Pastor Father Joe D'Amico from Our Lady of the Lake Church.

Commandant's Comments: Bob Beck mentioned that Bob Stalzer accepted the duty of the Jr. Vice Commandant during the absence of Tony Fiorentino.

Frank R. Richardson, a retired MGT Gunny Sergeant, is currently in the hospital where he had a heart operation. He has been in the hospital for a few months but has fallen into a depression. Barbara Camper, a City of Atlantic City Affirmative Action Officer, sent a request to us asking our Detachment to send a card that may help him cheer up. Gloria Beck had a card which was circulated for members' signatures which she will mail to him.

Boxes of the ad book were available. Members were encouraged to keep a copy and to also give to those they solicited. Also, books will be taken to the Marine's Ball. Suzy Becker will send an e-mail listing the advertisers.

Report of Adjutant/Paymaster

Marines Care Secretary: Steve Bliss indicated that the list of the following members of the Detachment are interested in continuing their participation in the 2016 Board of Directors of the Marines Care Foundation:

- John Andrews
- Bob Beck
- Steve Bliss
- Art Bowie
- Keith Butler
- Bill Freeman
- Jimmy Heien
- Mario Monaco
- Eddie Neas
- Dave Katz
- Jim Loizides

Domenick Monaco and Dan Danzi were interested in serving. A motion was made and all were approved.

Steve Bliss mentioned that the Marines Care Foundation, a 501(c)(3), was created so that corporations would be able to contribute matching funds.

John Andrews' father-in-law, Mr. Bors, donated \$500.

The Corvette Car Show Rose Program received an additional \$500 for a total of \$1,000 from that event. Thanks goes to Tony Fiorentino and Jim Loizides who are members of the Club. Also received a donation from the Corvill family honoring Sergeant Frank T. Carvill who was killed in action June 2004.

Bob Beck mentioned that a small check in the amount of \$20.00 was received from Lois Leventhal, one of his customers.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Accepted.

Correspondence: Steve Bliss mentioned that we get copies of letters from Kathy Sturla from FFFFF when they send out money to those in need. Slattery and Marines Care send out \$2,000 per month. Gunny Monaco mentioned that when Don Patterson, a Detachment member, who is at the hospitals gets a needed request, he passes it onto our Detachment and we go to Kathy. We all work together. Steve mentioned that we gave \$1,500 to Sergeant Chris Cleland and \$1,500 to Joseph Hoffman. Steve mentioned letters we received thanking us for our help.

Keith Butler received an e-mail from Steven Holder who took part in the Picatinny Arsenal Wounded Warrior Hunt thanking him for the \$500 check given to him from our Detachment by Keith at a luncheon.

Bob Beck received a letter from the Township of Hanover inviting the Detachment members to a Township Committee Meeting on November 12 at 8:30 p.m. honoring each veteran organization. An American Eagle figurine will be presented to the F/O Robert C. Gulick Post No. 5351 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Whippanong Post No. 155 of the American Legion and the Slattery Detachment. Bob Beck will accept this award for the Detachment. This will be held at the Municipal Building, 1000 Route 10, in Whippany. Rodney Frelinghuysen has been invited to attend.

Members Sick or in Distress: Dan Danzi mentioned that Frank Handy is not doing well. Tom Miller is recovering from his shoulder operation as is Tony Fiorentino from his hip operation.

Walter Michura indicated that Sergeant Lenora Abene, a 90 year old member, died recently and Walter requested that a Mass Card be sent from our Detachment that would also include her deceased husband, also a Marine. Father Mike said that he and Father Joe will celebrate the Mass. The motion was accepted.

Joe Donahue was welcomed back.

Report of Project Leaders & Committee Leaders

Marines Care: Gunny Monaco passed around a list of free meals and discounts to the members available on Veterans Day.

Gunny mentioned that the Marine Corps Birthday Ball is being held at the Parsippany Sheraton Hotel in Parsippany, NJ on November 7. Let him know if you would like to attend.

Gunny mentioned that 2 wheelchairs and 6 transfer chairs were sent to Bethesda/Walter Reed. We also sent chairs to Germany.

Gunny mentioned that along with Operation Jersey Cares, some of our Detachment members appeared on the Fox & Friends TV show. You can see this on their website. Keith Butler mentioned that he has a 5 minute video if you would like to see it after the meeting.

Gunny also mentioned that a 240th Marines Corps cake cutting celebration on Saturday, November 14, is being held at Drumthwacket, the Governor's Mansion, in Princeton. Check with Gunny if interested in attending.

Rose Program: Keith Butler indicated that Tom Miller was able to get the next Rose Program to be held at the Greater Morristown ShopRite on November 7 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. Much help is needed.

On November 14 and November 15, Bob Stalzer is coordinating the Our Lady of the Lake Church. Bob Stalzer showed the OLL bulletin which mentions our collection for those days. Keith thanked Father Mike who kicked off this program years ago and Father Joe with having the school help with putting the roses together and having our Detachment collecting at the Masses. Keith asked that after the meeting check with him if you can help with these events.

The Rose Program received donations in the amount of \$1,557.58 from the outing at Kings in Verona. To date, the program has collected \$13,054.99.

Toys For Tots: Keith has with him boxes for Toys For Tots and also posters. Check with him after the meeting.

GySgt Matthew Hutcheson from Picatinny spoke about Toys For Tots and the help that will be needed. He indicated that 270,000 toys were collected from North New Jersey and the toys donated, collected and man hours spent came mostly from our Detachment. He would like to double the number this year. He indicated that they get a lot of toys for 3-5 year olds but not 6 - 9 girls. He is working with the NJ Devils and they have something planned for December 11. He mentioned that the toys collected in our area stay here. The cutoff date for the collection is December 18, but they will take anything after that. The extra toys can be used for other activities. He is interested in reaching out to large scale organizations that know who is in need in their communities. The organizations would receive the toys and give them out. Gunny and Keith can get in touch with Hutcheson so check with them if you can help.

Winter Social: John Andrews spoke about the Winter Social indicating the date is set for Wednesday, January 6, upstairs at the Legion with a cost of \$25.00 per person. Please give payment to Jim Loizides. The latest he requires payments is at the next meeting.

Pete Gallo requested that the following be included in the minutes regarding the 2014 Winter Social.

With what the members paid plus \$2,500 in raffle gift cards, no Detachment funds were used for last years' Social.

Dan Danzi announced that the next Lyons date is November 14. Plan to meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Legion.

Good of the League: Father Mike, who is now a resident at St. Bartholomew Church in Scotch Plains, spoke about how he would like to get involved in the Rose Program. He would also like his 8th graders to be involved doing things for other people and getting involved with the veterans by taking part in the Rose Program. Father Mike is taking the roses to the school and have the children assembly them. He would also like to have Rose collections at his new church. He has asked Gunny and Domenick to visit the school and he invited others to also join.

Father Mike indicated that St. Bartholomew is planning a Mass and picnic that will include the Detachment members on the Tuesday before Memorial Day, May 24.

Tom Frodella, CEO of Emmaus for Veterans and a Drug and Alcohol Counselor, explained that Emmaus was started to help veterans to get back on their feet. He wants to purchase a building that will house 50 veterans that are in need. The organization has received a grant from the county in the amount of \$60,000. Tom will be doing counseling. They will need a total of \$160,000. Gunny Monaco mentioned that help may come from Home Depot. Gunny said he would work with Tom. This project will be reviewed further.

Kim Armstrong is a Location Coordinator for Wreaths Across America. Roxbury is joining the Wreaths Across America family in honoring veterans by laying wreaths on the grave of the departed servicemen and women on December 12. Wreath laying will begin at 11:00 a.m. The Memorial Ceremony is not just a Roxbury ceremony; this ceremony will be synchronized across the country at 12:00 noon EST.

The wreaths will be placed at the Cemeteries of the First Presbyterian Church and the United Methodist Church. The Memorial Ceremony will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 99 Main Street, Succasunna. She would like the Slattery Detachment to take part in this event. Check with her for further information after the meeting.

Tony Oszmianski announced that the next lunch bunch is being held at Billy & Madeline's Red Room on November 19 in Whippany at noon but come earlier.

Eddie Neas spoke about Bruce Jensen and how they became good friends. Eddie explained how he decided to honor him with Bruce's daughters in attendance at the meeting. At the Marine Ball on November 7 he will be awarding the Golf Company Marine of the Year with a certificate in Bruce's honor and Bob Beck will present the Marine with the NCO sword.

Announcements: Bob Stalzer announced that Father Mike, who is now a resident of the Saint Bartholomew Church in Scotch Plains, is being honored by the Mount Saint Dominic Academy by being inducted in the 2015 Hall of Fame on November 20 in Clifton.

Family & Friends For Freedom Fund is hosting a beefsteak dinner on Tuesday, November 10, at The Brownstone, 351 W. Broadway, Paterson, NJ from 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. at a cost of \$55.00 per person.

There will be a pancake breakfast to honor our veterans on Sunday, November 8 at 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Hanover Township Recreation Center, North Jefferson Road, Whippany. Veterans are free.

The Morris County Library is featuring a Vietnam Wall for the month of November. The library is located at 30 E. Hanover Avenue, Whippany, NJ.

There is a pancake breakfast on November 29 at the American Legion Post #155 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Adults \$8.00, Children \$5.00.

There is a veterans' Day Ceremony being held at the Legion at 11:00 on November 11. Meet at the Legion at 10:30.

Keith Butler asked the following recipients of the Distinguished Service Award to stand up. They will be honored at the Freeholders' Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 9, at the Morristown County Building in Morristown. Keith worked on the bios that will be read at the ceremony.

- Dan Danzi

- Ken Rohlff
- Bob Beck
- Jimmy Heien
- Al Bischoff

Not present at the meeting but are also being given awards are Art Bowie, Tom Miller, AJ Wilt, and Robert J. Slattery (deceased).

Ed Moscariello announced that on November 12 at 9:00 - noon there is a breakfast at the Whippany High School at which time the Detachment members can speak to the children.

The 50/50 was won by Kim Armstrong.

The meeting ended at approximately 9:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2 at 7:30 p.m. upstairs in the Legion.