

The Marine Corps League Slattery Detachment #206 Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Roll Call of Officers: All officers except Jim Wisecup, Sr. Vice, were present. Jim Loizides was present for Steve Bliss.

New Members: Singh Sukhdeep from Parsippany became a new member. His brother was also with him at the meeting. Maureen Tice a previous member renewed her membership.

Guests: Keith Butler introduced the following individuals from Guitars For Vets: Dan Zurich, Margaret Seickel, John Abbott, Pat Donofrio and Andy Golojuch. Dan Zurich, the Chapter Coordinator for the East Orange Chapter #74, thanked our Detachment for our donation of \$500, and he spoke about the Organization. Guitars For Vets, a non-profit organization, provides Veterans with free guitar lessons for those with PTSD. They supply a guitar for a vet to borrow for a 10-week course. Those who complete all 10 weeks are awarded a brand-new guitar and the accessories. The organization is looking for donations of guitars, referrals and teachers.

Lateasha Sass from Military One Source, a Veteran having served in the Air Force and the National Guard, explained that the Organization is a Department Defense funded program providing resources to service members and their families and also transitioning services to members and their families. She attended our meeting to see what other resources are available that their Organization does not cover. They want to support us and vice versa.

Commandant's Comments:

- Bob Beck updated everyone regarding Pete Gallo's health. He is improving and within a few days will be transferred to another facility possibly Care One in Whippany for further rehabilitation. Bob will continue to update his condition.
- Jack Gartenberg was the guest speaker at Picatinny and he spoke for at least one hour without any notes. Keith has some videos and if you would like a copy, let him know.
- The Rose Program is coming up very soon and it is very important that members volunteer to help with this very important fundraiser. Ideally, a Chairperson overseeing all the events would be optimum but individuals can run just one event. Lee Moreau has again offered a booth for us at Lake Hopatcong on May 7. Jim Ward will help with letter writing and letting the Coordinator know where the best events are. The Rose equipment is kept in the shed at the Legion.
- The Ad Book and T4T also needs volunteers.
- Uniforms will be in the April Newsletter. The Detachment pays half of the cost of the Fore & Aft cover and the emblem.
- The Governor of New Jersey has made a proclamation that March 2016 is Women Veterans Month. This will be on the website.

Old Business

Report of Adjutant/Paymaster

Marines Care Secretary: Jim Loizides reported the following:

Detachment \$ 5,200
Rose Fund \$27,000
Marines Care \$74,000

Jim Loizides reiterated what Bob Beck had mentioned about the Rose Program, Ad Book and T4T which pays for the functions of the Detachment such as the trips to Walter Reed. Very important that we continue these necessary activities.

Jim indicated that dues can be paid at the meetings. It is important that dues be paid 30 days before membership date.

Minutes of Meeting: Accepted.

Correspondence Received: Marines Helping Marines Program sent a thank you letter and a Certification of Appreciation for our donation of \$250.00. The funds will be used to support the various activities designed to support hospitalized Marines during their treatment and recuperation period at Bethesda and Balboa Naval Hospital.

A letter was received from Laurie Tomaino from the Department of Veterans Affairs thanking our Detachment for hosting a coffee social for the Community Living Center at Lyons Hospital on February 13, 2016.

A letter was received from the Borough of Fair Lawn, Office of Veterans Affairs, indicating that they will be hosting a Veterans Information and Outreach Fair on Saturday, May 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Fair Lawn Community Center. This event is a chance for Americas Military Veterans to learn more about the organizations and services that are available to help them. The Center is located on 10-10 20th Street, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. This event is free and open to all Veterans.

Members Sick or in Distress: Other than Pete Gallo, no others were mentioned. Bob Beck mentioned the statistics from the Department indicating that there were 60 deaths in New Jersey this past year and only 43 new members.

Report of Project Leaders & Committee Leaders

Hospital Visits: Eddie Neas spoke about the hospital visits. There are minimal casualties and therefore, no hospital visits are planned for now. Eddie spoke about a mother of the lady who was killed by her husband and she was working in Building 62 at Walter Reed. He also spoke about the family of the Marine who was a police officer when he was shot and killed. A motion to donate to each of the two families in the amount of \$1,000 was approved.

Keith Butler mentioned that a police officer in Hackettstown lost everything in a house fire. Since he wasn't a Veteran, Keith sent the information to Picatinny hoping they could get toys out to the family. Maureen Tice who is from Hackettstown mentioned that the American Legion Post #164 was in contact with the Police Department there and that the family needed gift cards and monetary donations only.

Rose Program: Bob Beck reported that \$2,085.06 was collected at the Rose Program at St. Bartholomew's Church.

Lyons Hospital: Dan Danzi will let us know the April date to visit the Lyons Hospital.

New Business

Bob Beck mentioned that the Bergen County American Legion is working with DMAVA to hold a Veterans Awards Ceremony and Veterans Out-Reach at the Paramus Mall on May 24-26 with the Medal Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. on May 24. If you have not been awarded your NJ Distinguished Service Medal, NJ Vietnam Service Medal, NJ Meritorious Medal, NJ Korean

Service Medal or NJ POW/MIA Service Medal, you can get the information in the April Newsletter along with an application.

Bob Beck indicated that Casino Night hosted by Legacy Of A Hero, the L/Cpl Chris Cosgrove III Foundation, Inc. has set a date of Friday, October 14, as Casino Night. A portion of the proceeds will be used to sponsor a therapy dog for a military Veteran. More information will be forthcoming but mark your calendars.

Catholic Family & Community Services has announced the start of The Kosa Veteran Support Center, Inc. located at 48 Wyker Road in Franklin, NJ. The hours of operation are Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. It specializes in Veterans housing issues, counseling services for Veterans and their families, presentations on various topics relating to Veterans issues and offers a safe, welcoming place for Veterans to connect and help one another.

Good of the League: Eddie Neas spoke about his upcoming trip to Vietnam on March 13, a fourteen day trip sponsored by the College of the Old Guard in the Midwest. They have a Veterans Program. Twelve Veterans will be matched up with students that they will monitor as they go through the different locations in Vietnam. The college is paying the full cost of the trip. Eddie will present his trip in the April meeting.

Tony Oszmianski announced that the lunch bunch will be meeting at Billy's and Madeline's Red Room on Thursday, March 17, in Whippany at 12:00 noon, but get there earlier to order food.

Discounts for Veterans was brought up in the meeting. Bob Beck again mentioned Operation Give Back that provides a booklet that lists those places in Morris County that are in the discount program. It is always a good idea to ask any business if they give Veterans discounts.

Ed Moscariello, liaison to Veterans Alliance of Hanover Township, reported that it was our Detachment's turn to choose a Grand Marshall and a guest speaker for the Memorial Day Parade. He will need the names of individuals at the April meeting.

The 50/50 was won by Bob Cooney.

The meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 6 at 7:30 p.m.