
Marine Corps League



Housatonic Detachment #1129

Volume 8 Issue 5

May 2010

Welcome to Housatonic Detachment 1129's Newsletter



Memorial Day Picnic/Parade:

I haven't had a lot of response from people coming to our picnic on Memorial Day. We do need to have some sort of idea of who will be coming and how many guests so we can make sure we have food and drink for all. If you are bring a food item, or some other item on the list, please let me know. If you are not contributing an item, there is a \$6.00 per person charge. I do need to know how many are coming whether you are contributing something or not. On the last page of this newsletter is our list of items needed for the picnic. Anything with a checkmark (✓) is taken care of so we don't need it. Any item without a checkmark (✓) is an item you can contribute whether there is a name



on that line or not. One thing we badly need, from anyone that may be able to arrange for it, is parade cars to transport the "Marching Challenged" of our detachment. Convertibles would be great but other vehicles would also be OK. There have been a couple of members who have said they will look into getting cars but I haven't gotten any confirmation from them yet.

The address to our home is 2288 Main Street, Stratford, CT. We are about 3-4 blocks up from the start of the parade route and it goes right by the house. The Memorial Day ceremony will start at 1:00 PM at Academy Hill. The parade will step off after the ceremony at 2:00 to 2:15. The police will start closing off Main Street at around 12:30-1:00 PM. If you arrive before the street is closed off, you can park your vehicle behind our back fence. Parking for the parade and picnic can also be on Judson Place and in the cul-de-sac off of Judson Place near Main Street. If you park in the cul-de-sac, you can walk across the field to our house. Keep in mind that street parking will fill up fast an hour or so prior to the parade.

I will also need a few volunteers to help set up for the picnic on Sunday afternoon around 1:00 PM.

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A number of people have filled out the "Member Info" sheet. We still haven't gotten one from every member. I will have copies at our meetings for people that may not have a copy from newsletters. It will help us plan future functions.

Paymaster Request:

When you make out a check to the detachment, please make it out to "Marine Corps League" as that is the primary name on our account. And, even if the check is for a Quartermaster order, make out the check to the "Marine Corps League" as quartermaster merchandise is paid for by the detachment funds. If you are reimbursing me for something that I personally fronted money for, make the check out to "John LaBrecque".

Quartermaster Stuff

Ribbon Bars: I have a number of uniform ribbon bars. Anyone that needs an upgrade can simply exchange their old ribbon bar for a new one or pay for a new one.

Membership applications can be downloaded and printed out from our website at:

<http://www.orgsites.com/ct/housatonic/index.html>

For those that are computer challenged, you can contact me to send you some or pick them up at one of our meetings. Just as an FYI, I usually have copies of our applications and rituals at every meeting. Just ask me for one if you want any copies.

Some people have asked me where to get embroidery done locally (Caps, jackets, etc.). A good place is:

All League Embroidery

171 Bruce Ave
Stratford, CT 06615
203-377-7215

The above info is the updated address and name info of the same place we've had in previous newsletters. They do a decent job with our MCL caps and give us a good price.

Announcements and other info on our detachment can be found on the Marine Corps League Announcement Forum on <http://www.YellowFootprints.com> ; our website at <http://www.orgsites.com/ct/housatonic/index.html> and on our webpage on National's website at

<http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/userpages/HOUSATO NIC-914.php>

We also have a listing on the Department of Connecticut's website at <http://www.mcldeptct.org/pages/detachments8.html>

Jack LaBrecque – Web Sergeant.

My email address is:

jitb@optonline.net

Other contact info is:

Jack LaBrecque, 2288 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615
(203) 380-0303

Commandant's Column

It's been a very busy month and I have a lot to share with you! We had an outstanding Sandwich Night on April 15, thanks to our many Marines and volunteers who participated. The food was terrific and we made a profit of \$295.50. The VFW also made a substantial profit at the bar.

The following Wednesday, I had the distinct and very great pleasure of flying with Bob Goetz in his 1946 Piper Cub. One gets an entirely different perspective of our community flying over it at 1,000 feet. I think I may have qualified for my "wings".

Jack Dougherty and I, along with our wives, attended the New England Conference and Quad state Convention at Mt. Ascutney VT. The accommodations were exceptional, the business meetings informative & meaningful, but the high point of the trip was visiting the Vietnam Memorial in Vermont, the first to be dedicated to the Vietnam Vets. It's good to see that the Vietnam era vets are finally receiving the recognition and appreciation that they so richly deserve. While there, we had the opportunity to talk with Marine Vets from other parts of the country.

On 20 April, Harry Howe and Don Pavia were inducted into the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, the fun & honor society of the Marine Corps League.-Congratulations to both.

The most important event this month was the hearing before the Bridgeport Zoning Board of Appeals for the establishment of a 17 bed transitional housing unit for female veterans at 893 Clinton Ave in Bridgeport.

Among those present from our Detachment, in cover and many in uniform, were Orrie barber and wife Carole, Don Pavia, Jack Dougherty, Jack La Brecque, Bob Vitale, Joe Kubik, John Hopko, Dave Lewis, Jim Hussey and me. Also present were members of the VFW, the Order of the Purple Heart, the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Bridgeport Athletic Association.

Although we were unable to speak because of time constraints, I am sure our presence was duly noted.

The next meeting of the Zoning Board will be Monday May 24 at 6:45 PM in Room 210 of Bridgeport City Hall. We will

all be heard at that time and I encourage all members who can attend to attend. I will be unable to attend that meeting but have submitted an editorial to the Connecticut Post.

The acceptance of Transitional housing is very important to our female veterans and is important to all veterans, going forward, as we seek appropriate Veterans' benefits. Please try to attend.

We will continue to pursue a trip to the Intrepid, Since we have a limited number from our Detachment interested in making this trip, we will have to do it as a Joint Venture with other Detachments and perhaps postpone it until August or September.

Formal Mess Night is scheduled for May 15 at the Stone Barn on Route 110 in Monroe. this promises to be an outstanding event and evening. I would love to see more members of our detachment participate. Tickets are \$75.00, not cheap but a real value all considered. Tickets can be purchased from Jack Dougherty or me and will also be available at our next meeting on 10 May.

Semper Fidelis,
Jim Alexander
Commandant

Detachment News & Info

2010 Staff:

Commandant: Jim Alexander
Sr. Vice Commandant: Jack Dougherty
Jr. Vice Commandant: Matt O'Neil
Judge Advocate: Jim Jarusinsky
Jr. Past Commandant: Harry Howe
Adjutant/Paymaster: Jack LaBrecque
Chaplain: Bob Chenoweth
Sgt. At Arms: Bill Lamb
Web Sergeant: Jack LaBrecque
Newsletter Editor: Jack LaBrecque
Public Relations: Bob Vitale
Color Guard Commander: Jack Dougherty
Scholarship Chairman: Jim Alexander
Detachment Historian ~ Dave Schmidtke
Detachment Librarian ~ Don Pavia
VA-VAVS ~ Jim Alexander
Youth Liaison ~ Open
Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast ~ Don Pavia
Toys for Tots Coordinator ~ Jack LaBrecque
Detachment Activity Coordinator ~ Orrie Barber
Memorial Day Picnic & Parade ~ Jack LaBrecque
Quartermaster ~ Jack LaBrecque

Detachment Address:

Marine Corps League
 Housatonic Detachment #1129
 Post Office Box 281

Stratford, CT 06615-0281

Detachment Meetings are at:

VFW Post 9460
 100 Veteran's Blvd (Off of Barnum Avenue Cut-Off)
 Stratford, CT



Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 10th, 2010 at 1930



The Marine Corps League Cover

Every member should have MCL cover as it is the minimal Marine Corps League uniform. Current prices are: Cap \$23, EGA cap emblem \$3.50 and the Associate cap emblem is \$5.50.

A Happy Birthday this month to:

Jim Alexander ~ 5/30/1937

1 Song " September in the Rain" by Guy Lombardo

Ron Bacote ~ 5/7/1954

1 Song " Wanted" by Perry Como

Rosella Hook ~ 5/18/1950

1 Song " The Third Man' Theme" by Anton Karas

Stan Kaplan ~ 5/9/1949

1 Song " Riders in the Sky" by Vaughn Monroe

John Ray ~ 5/3/1925

1 Song "I'll See You in My Dreams" by Isham Jones with Ray Miller's Orchestra

Above indicates the # 1 Billboard Song on the date they were born

Membership Dues

Membership dues renewals should be sent to our address:

Marine Corps League
 Housatonic Detachment #1129
 Post Office Box 281
 Stratford, CT 06615-0281

Or to:

Jack LaBrecque
2288 Main Street
Stratford, CT 06615

You can use the Renewal Form that National sends you or the Application/Renewal form available at our website at:

<http://www.orgsites.com/ct/housatonic/index.html>

Make checks out to the "Marine Corps League". You also can just send a check with "Renewal" printed in the Memo section on the check.

Marine Rose Booster Members 2010

Jack LaBrecque ~ January

Jim Alexander ~ January

Bob Vitale ~ February

John Scianna ~ February

It's not mandatory that you become a Marine Rose Booster but it does focus certain funds towards worthwhile charitable projects of the detachment.

Life Member Booster 2010

Jack LaBrecque ~ January/April

Jim Alexander ~ January

Dick Steele ~ February

MCL Events

Friday May 14 @12:00PM
61st Connecticut Armed Forces Day Luncheon
@ Aqua Turf
Southington CT.
\$30.00 per person. See handout or contact Jack LaBrecque,
Jack Dougherty or Jim Alexander
Saturday May 15 @ 6:30PM

FORMAL MESS NIGHT

Stone Barn Restaurant (Whitney Farms Golf Club)
Rte 111
Monroe CT

Sponsored by Joint Venture

\$75.00 all inclusive

"A most outstanding Event" – no spouses

Monday May 24 @ 6:45 PM
Bridgeport Zoning Board of Appeals:

Hearing on Transitional Housing for Female Vets at
Bridgeport City Hall.

Monday May 31

Memorial Day Celebration & Picnic

1PM Ceremony @ Academy Hill

2PM Parade Picnic @ Jack & Koreen LaBrecque's home to
follow the Parade.

\$6.00 pp or food donation

Saturday June 12 @7:00PM

Spousal Appreciation Dinner

@ Smolen's Catering & Restaurant

(Details to follow)

Friday & Saturday June 18 & 19

Dept of CT Annual Convention

Dayville CT

Consult Jack Dougherty for details

August or September

Bus Trip to NY to visit the Aircraft Carrier Intrepid.

Limited to 44 people, (Spouses, children & guests invited)

Details to follow

October or November

Pre-Holiday Porketta Dinner, Details to follow

Saturday November 6

Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast

Monday January 10, 2011 @7PM

Installation & Awards Dinner

Commandant Alexander's Letter to the Editor in the Connecticut Post

Supporting Female Veterans in Transition

The Housatonic Detachment #1129 and the Greater Bridgeport Detachment #654 of the Marine Corps League, who serves the Greater Bridgeport Area, strongly support the establishment of a 17 bed transitional housing unit for female veterans at 893 Clinton Avenue, Bridgeport CT.

There is no question that there is a pressing need for such a facility and program in the Greater Bridgeport area.

Historically, female veterans have not received the benefits and recognition that have been bestowed on their male counterparts. Today, women fight side by side with our servicemen and are exposed to the same physical and emotional trauma in the defense of our nation and freedom. In fact, statistics indicate that females are more susceptible to emotional disorders related to war and combat including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Women veterans clearly deserve the same rehabilitative, medical, emotional and transitional support as do our male veterans.

It should be noted that the women served by this transitional program are all honorably discharged, totally free of substance and/or drug abuse and most, if not all, have served tours of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The proposed Clinton Avenue location is an ideal location for transitional housing since it offers easy accessibility to medical services, mental health facilities, employment opportunities, rehabilitative services and educational opportunities. It also offers a reasonably stable and safe neighborhood that is well on its way to re-gentrification.

It is most probable that such a program will have a positive influence and effect on the neighborhood, community and city. One should keep in mind that the women veterans that would be served by the transitional housing program are basically healthy individuals who have been emotionally or physically traumatized in the service to our country and are having various problems with reintegration into civilian life and our community.

Both Detachments of the Marine Corps League above mentioned and, I am sure, other local service organizations would be willing to assist in whatever way we can to make this program successful.

Semper Fidelis,
James M. Alexander MD
Commandant Housatonic Detachment #1129 Marine
Corps League
Department of CT Judge Advocate

PICTURES



Some members at Bridgeport zoning meeting



Jim & Jack checking email



One final note: Please get those dues renewals in.

| Picnic Items | | Supplied by |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Soda | | |
| Soft Drinks | | |
| Water | | |
| Fruit Juice | | |
| Beer | | |
| Wine | | |
| Ice | | |
| Hamburgers (40) | √ | Bill Pavia |
| American Cheese | √ | Leftover from Sandwich Night |
| Hot Dogs (40) | √ | Bill Pavia |
| Hot Dog Buns (40) | √ | Bob Chenoweth |
| Dinner Rolls/Bread | | |
| Hamburger Buns (40) | √ | Bob Chenoweth |
| Grinder Rolls | | |
| Salads | | Ruth Rosenberg |
| Bread Dip | | |
| Desserts | | |
| Ribs | | Jim Jarusinsky |
| Pasta | | |
| Sausage & Peppers | | |
| Kielbasa & Sauerkraut | | |
| Baked Beans | | |
| Watermelon | | |
| Fruit Salad | | |
| Potato Salad | | |
| Pasta Salad | | |
| Coleslaw | | |
| Parade Cars | | Curran Volkswagon |
| Cheese/Crackers | | |
| Chips | | Leftover from Sandwich Night |
| Chilli | √ | LaBrecque |
| Sterno | √ | LaBrecque |
| Heating Trays | √ | LaBrecque |
| Canopies | √ | LaBrecque |
| Tables | √ | LaBrecque |
| Chairs | | LaBrecque |
| Propane | √ | LaBrecque |
| Condiments | √ | Mustard [√] Ketchup[√] Mayo[√] Olive Oil[√] Salad Dressing[√] Detachment Purchase |
| Tablecloths | √ | LaBrecque |
| Tableware | √ | Detachment Purchase |
| Plates | √ | Detachment Purchase |
| Cups (Cold/Hot) | √ | Detachment Purchase |
| Charcoal | √ | Detachment Purchase |
| Candy | √ | Detachment Purchase |
| Salt & Pepper | √ | LaBrecque |
| Coffee | √ | LaBrecque |
| Tea | √ | LaBrecque |
| Milk | √ | LaBrecque |
| Sugar | √ | LaBrecque |
| Sugar Substitute | √ | LaBrecque |
| Napkins | √ | Detachment Purchase |
| Corn on the Cob | | Joe Kubik |
| Philly Steak | √ | Leftover from Sandwich Night |
| Salsa & Chips | | LaBrecque |
| | | Anything without a checkmark is open to multiple items |