



QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

TORRINGTON MEMORIAL DETACHMENT 1142, INC.



March 2010

COMMANDANT'S COUNCIL MEETING

On January 17, 2010 the Dept of CT. Sr. Vice Commandant Duanne Knowles held a Detachment Commandants Council meeting at the Elk Lodge in Waterbury.

Of the (19) Detachments in the Dept. of CT. only (10) showed up and (2) Mahackemo & Middle Sex called stating that they could not make it. Of those Detachments that attended all but one were our Younger Detachments, where as the oldest Detachment Brass City showed with a Women Marine as their Commandant.

Seven of the Detachments Commandants were first time Commandants. Which walked away with valuable information. The meeting agenda covered reference books that each Commandant and his elected officers should have in order to be able to perform his his/her job. The **Guide Book for Detachment Officers** was top of the list. And next was the National By-Laws, both of these manuals interlock with each other.

Duanne Knowles covered the Job Descriptions from the Guide Book for Detachment Officers, and explained there functions and how they interface with each other. Using the mentor system where as when a member leaves a position, he is responsible for mentoring the person that replaced him. Explained how the system protects from rogue individuals / groups pushing a personal or political agenda that does not coincide with the principles of the Marine Corps League.

Gregg Timms covered the Paymasters functions such as the proper Record Keeping, Proper Reports / Forms and how we fit into a proper Non-Profit Organization and the proper way of maintaining a Non-Profit Status.

Jim Alexander covered Sectarian and Political Actions in the meeting place. The only reminder one needs is to recall his/her oath they took when becoming a member of the Marine Corps League. We all need reminders now and then.

Jack Dougherty covered the Detachment and Department Marine of the Year Programs. Jack also covered the Department Scholarship Program. He had hand outs for all of the (19) Detachments. And the sad part of that was, the Detachments that needed that information and complained the most, never showed to the meeting.

Duanne Knowles covered uniformity to protocol. Covered reference books on MC Flag Manual, MC Drill & Ceremonial Manual, MCL Uniform Diagram and DOD wearing of Medals, Insignia and Uniform by Veterans and Retirees. It covered When, Where, How & Why. It covered the types of Uniforms. It covered Color Guards and proper commands and movements, and proper Flag Protocol.

Sal Sena covered the needs of Burial Details, Firing Squads, and the need to be certified for these functions. Also covered where to obtain rifles for these functions.

This Commandants Council Meeting was and outstanding meeting and one of the best meetings I have ever had the privilege of chairing. The speakers carried themselves very professional and the information given was well received.



Connecticut Pack Headquarters

The Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

FOUNDED 1939 – Boston Massachusetts

WORTHY PACK LEADERS SCRATCHINGS

I attended Hooch Pooch Hound Pound 141's Growl on January 3rd at the Torrington Armory on 153 South Main St. Torrington. The Torrington Memorial Detachment 1142 hosted the growl at their Dog House. The newly elected Pound Keeper, PDD Jack Dougherty made the wrong turn and found himself in the car wash getting the access flea's washed away. Had to make a phone call to be rescued from the biting of the wet flea's. Pound Keeper PDD Dougherty was late opening the growl

Page 1 of 5

as the pound dogs were howling for the Pound Keeper to be fined for not opening the growl on time. There was a light showing of dogs in attendance, but that did not stop them from howling it up. Pound Keeper PDD Dougherty managed to hold his own as he kept the gavel in action as the acting Police Dog PDD Jim Alexander kept busy collecting bones of all sizes. The growl went well, the dog's enjoyed themselves and after the growl they were well fed and participated in a social gathering. **“Woof Woof.”**

I attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Falls Church, Virginia, with a rowdy contingency of Connecticut Pedigree Devil Dogs, we entered the Kennels Dog House and took part in the Supreme Growl on February 12th.



Photo: A caption of Pedigree Devil Dogs and a small contingency of Flea's attending the Supreme Banquet at Mid-Winter Conference. **“Woof Woof”.**

The 49th Chief Devil Dog, PCDD Doug Fisk of the Connecticut Pack had reservations for us in the front row, smack dab in front of the Podium, where the Sr. Vice was the acting Chief Devil Dog, could stare right down at us as he swung the gavel. Well now, the front row definitely was not an equivalent to the cheap seats in the back, where at the Grand Growls our Dictionary Dignitaries sat and entertained themselves, instead, at the Supreme Growl they sat off to the side in a den in the front, where they could throw Rubber Hand Grenades at those of us in the front row. It did not take us long to realize we were under fire and as fast as the incoming fire came in, it went out just as fast and back in the direction that it came. And as the gavel swinging dog stopped to gather his senses we chanted, “Delay of Growl, Fine Him.” I managed to get recognized for a couple of “Second the

Motion.” PDD Ron Collins kept them entertained with the meowing cat syndrome. Now, with all the Pedigree Devil Dogs howling and barking at the cat meowing, with everyone dressed in dog drag, scratching flea's and dodging Hand Grenades, where else could one go for this quality of entertainment?

“Woof Woof.”

Our next Pound Growl for Pound 141 will be hosted by Housatonic Detachment @ 1900 on Tuesday, April 20th. Our next CT. Pack Growl will be held at the Fire House in Windsor @1300 on Sunday, May 2nd when we will entertain the advancement of the degree of dogs for the Grand Growl in June. Now is the time to start getting your paper work ready for advancement.

Duanne Knowles, Worthy Pack Leader,

Ct. Pack “Woof Woof”

“It's and Honor to be a Devil Dog”

CEREMONIES

On Sunday, February 28th at 1100 the Torrington Veterans Support Committee held a Gulf War remembrance ceremony inside Coe Park Auditorium. Gregg Timms & Duanne Knowles presented Torrington Memorial Detachments Colors, and John Clark laid the Detachment Wreath in memory of our fallen Marines,

On that same day @ 1900 members of the Torrington Memorial Detachment and Auxiliary took part in the Iwo Jima remembrance ceremony hosted by Valley Detachment in Seymour. Members attending from Torrington Memorial were Gregg Timms and wife Ellen, John Clark and wife Rhonda, and Duanne Knowles.

YOUNG MARINE PROGRAM

The Young Marine Program was started over 50 years ago in the City of Waterbury CT. by the Brass City Detachment. In the summer of last year 2009 the Young Marines held it's 50th Anniversary in the City of Waterbury where it all started. This program is now in every State in the Union. The Waterbury Young Marines as so many other Young Marine Units has since gone under. The Torrington Young Marines was one of those Units.

Page 2 of 5

The Brass City Detachment is once again preparing to resurrect the Young Marine program in their City.

As your Commandant, it is my privilege an honor to inform you that some of us members of the Torrington Memorial Detachment and the Joint Venture Committee of the Route #8 corridor have joined in to assist Brass City get their Young Marines program up and running once again.

As adult leaders we will be trained and qualified into the Young Marines Program with the Brass City Adults. Once we are trained we will bring youth ages 8 to 18 girls & boys from Torrington into the Brass City Unit and train them as youth instructors. And once this is done we will be ready to once again bring the Young Marines Program back into the City of Torrington.

It is going to be a long hard road to travel, but it is do able. We have the resources to accomplish this here in Torrington, we need to get the adults committed, as for the youth, this program is just what they have been waiting for. We will start talking and putting plans together at our upcoming monthly meetings.

As your first Commandant I had two missions that I wanted to accomplish once this Detachment was up and running. The first one was to acquire a piece of property to house all the veterans organizations in Torrington under one roof and share the expenses. But the politics and the undermining of each other along with those that did not want to share the leadership, better known as control freaks with personal agenda's making it almost impossible to accomplish this mission. However, the Torrington Memorial found a safe haven with the youth of our Community, thanks to the efforts of Mayor Ryan Bingham.

My 2nd mission was to get the Young Marines Program resurrected once again in Torrington. I was told by the older leadership of the Dept. of CT. that this Program was expensive to maintain and it takes a lot of commitment on the adults part. And that Torrington is a young Detachment and that we should wait until we were stable and upright before we took on this task. I have been very patient for the past six years. I have this gut feeling that it is time to put it into motion. I am going to need help from

the Adults, It is not my mission to become the leader of the Pack, I want this to happen and I will help those that have the same wishes that I have.
Lets come together Marines, we have a Mission.



PHOTO: L – R, John Clark demonstrating the manual of arms, Jim Lauber & Duanne Knowles showing the proper method of folding and preparing the Flag for encasement, the bottom photo is Boy Scout Troop 140 of St. Mary's Magdalene Church in Oakville. John Clark, Jim Lauber & Duanne Knowles spent an evening on Thursday, March 4th teaching Troop 140 the Color Guard movements & commands to enhance their opening & closing ceremonies.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

The Joint Venture Committee gathered up a dozen plus members of it's committee and boarded the Amtrak for New York City and marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. As you can see from the pictures on the previous page, we had the privilege and Honor to march behind the 8th & I Marine Band and Silent Drill Team. We joined ranks with Marine Corps Leaguer's from New York, New Jersey and Lock City Detachment out of Stamford, Ct. And to top it off, as the Battalions of New York Firemen in Battalion formation marched by the Marine Corps Leaguer's they broke formation and in single file shook our hands and thanked us for our services as we blessed them for their services on 911 and beyond. It was awesome and the spectators roared. This is just one of many annual events that this Joint Venture Committee has planned. And I might add, when the parade ended we were escorted to some of New York's finest watering holes where we socialized with tourist from every where. The ladies wanted their pictures taken with us and with our red satin jackets on them as well. Already looking forward to next years St. Patrick's Day.

OFFICERS DINNER PARTY

On Friday, March 26th Jim Alexander and wife Barbara invited the officers of the Dept. of CT. and their wives to a Dinner Party at the Stone Barn Restaurant in Monroe. It was the beginning of an outstanding social evening. Before the food was served the Marines with wife or significant others stood with their glass raised high in right hand while Jim Alexander offered a toast to the life of the Marine Corps, as we toasted the long life of the Corps, the patrons stood and cheered and clapped. The evening was a high from that point on.

We met Christina, the manager that will be in charge of our Marine Mess Night. She gave us a tour of the banquet hall and the lay out of the bar. It is an awesome layout, it is going to be an outstanding Mess Night, the lighting, windows and view will set the mood before we even get started with our Marine Traditions.

The ladies were very interested in the Mess Night after they found out that a Dining in Mess Night is with wives. There were a lot of questions, But when they found out that they could hold a Mess Night of their own with a Mr. President and Mr. Vice to run their Mess night for them, you could actually see the wheels turning.

After the dinner was over we departed for Jim and Barbara Alexander's home for more socializing. It was a great relaxing evening, a lot of laughs and great sea stories, the ladies had a great time. This is the type of things as Marine Corps Leaguer's we should be doing, get out an socialize with our members.

In attendance was our host Jim and Barbara Alexander, Jack and Jane Dougherty, Sam Beamon and Ida, Jim and Connie Lauber, Duanne Knowles and Rhonda Clark.

FORMAL MARINE MESS NIGHT

As your Commandant, I have e-mailed fliers with the information on our first Annual Mess Night to those that have e-mails and snail mailed those that do not have e-mails. We printed 100 tickets that were disturbed to the members of the joint venture committee. At present I have 10 tickets left and I will have them with me at our up coming meeting on Tuesday, April 13th.

If you have attended a Mess Night before, you would have a ticket by now and encouraging your buddies to go with you, and I would not be trying to explain it to you. "And if you have never been to a Mess Night as a Marine you have no idea what it is all about and the only way that you would understand what I have been trying to explain in many different ways is to attend.

Our guess speaker is going to be 1st Sgt Ben Grainger, a Marines, Marine. He will be joining us in toasting those Marines that have gone before us. Let it be the time for strengthening the Customs and Traditions of our Corps and Marine Corps League. A time to reaffirm our Common Bond as Marines and Marine Corps Leaguer's. "For he who spills his blood with me, is my Brother for Eternity."

"Semper Fi"

"A Toast To Our Fallen Comrades"

**Make it a bumper, Comrades,
And each one standing here
Can whisper soft above his glass
The name he holds most dear.**

TAPS

**Jose A. Rivera Greater Bridgeport Detachment
07-13-1943 to 02-18-2010.....Safely Home
I am home in Heaven, Dear ones: Oh, so happy and
Page 4 of 5**

so bright! There is perfect joy and beauty, In this everlasting light. All the pain and grief is over, Every restless tossing passed: I am now at peace forever, Safely home in Heaven at last. And he came himself to meet me, In that way so hard to tread: And with Jesus' arm to lean on, could I have one doubt or dread? Then you must not grieve so sorely, for I love you dearly still: Try to look beyond earth's shadow, Pray to trust our father's will

**Matthew J. Carrafa Brass City Detachment
03-11-1929 to 03-25-2010**

When Mom Took You Home

Mom saw you getting tired , and a cure was not to be, So she put her arms around you, And whispered come to me.

With careful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away. Although we loved you dearly, We could not make you stay!

A golden heart stopped beating, Hardworking hands at rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

It broke our hearts to lose you, But you didn't go alone, For part of us went with you, The day Mom took you home.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

APRIL:

Sunday 11TH Dept Membership meeting @ 1330 host by Valley Detachment.

Tuesday 13th Torrington Memorial Detachment monthly meeting @ 1900 at Armory.

Friday 16th Rocky Hill Bingo @ 1900 Veteran Hospital.

Friday 16th, 17th, & 18th Quad State Conference @ Brownville, VT.

Tuesday 20th Pound 141 Growl @ 1900 hosted by Housatonic Detachment.

Saturday 24th Hardware City Detachment's awards night.

MAY:

Sunday 2nd Pack Growl at Windsor Fire House @ 1300.

Thursday 6th National Prayer Day at Coe Park Auditorium @ 1900 TMD Color Guard.

Friday 14th Conn. Armed Forces Day Luncheon at the Aqua Turf in Southington, social hour begins @ 1100, lunch served @ 1200.

Friday 14th Rocky Hill Bingo @ 1900 Veterans Hospital.

Saturday 15th Marine Mess Night @ 1830 Stone Barn Restaurant Rout 110, Monroe.



APRIL BIRTHDAY'S

Denny Bodak 2nd
Addo Bonetti 4th
Christopher Gust 20th
Gerald Kyes 23rd



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Thomas Mastroberti 4th
Dan Ward 5th
David Tribou 7th
Robert Killackey 10th
William Wood 15th



JUNE BIRTHDAY'S

Richard Pescatore 3rd
Jeffery Sales 4th
Michael Brockelman 15th
William Chase 17th
John Wojtysik 16th



Editor

Duanne Knowles

H: 860-618-0157

C: 860-309-3318

Don't be bashful, if you have a story or better yet, a Sea Story, we want to hear it.



All Gave Some and Some Gave All