



Newsletter

July, 2020

**Eugene Sara Detachment
Marine Corps League**

PO Box 2051
Billings, MT 59103

WEB www.eugenesara.com

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Editor - Tim Bender

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Commandants Message



Hello Marines!

With the State moving into Phase 2 we were able to hold our regularly scheduled June meeting. It was great to see our fellow Marines. We were honored to have two special guests, State Commandant Harry Armstrong and his bride. Cmdt. Armstrong formally swore in your officers and gave us an update on the State convention which will be held on the 27th in Great Falls. It will be held at the VFW located at a 4123 10th Avenue South. The meeting will begin at 1000 and close at 1200 with the Devil Dog Grand Growl commencing at 1300 until 1500. During the swearing in I was reminded of the great honor and responsibility we as officers have as the Detachment is the most important unit in the League for it is comprised of the membership, which is at the very heart of the League. "Without the Detachment, the other units of the League would have no reason to exist. The life and growth of the League would have no reason to exist." As you know new membership and retention is one of primary importance and is at the heart of our mission. To continue our growth we MUST seek out and embrace new members. In addition to increasing our numbers we need to increase the number of younger Marines.

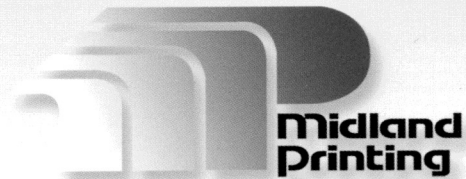
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While we have done a good job of keeping our community profile at an acceptable level, it apparent that this alone is not serving to increase our membership levels. I would appreciate it if each of you, to the extent possible, would provide your officers with any ideas you may have on how we might increase our numbers. Your experience and thoughts are extremely important. Feel free to contact any of us and offer up any suggestions you may have. You are at the very heart of the Marine Corps League. Each of us is responsible for guiding the destiny of the Detachment.

Semper Fi!

Mike Tolstedt (406)698-4965

mtolstedt@yahoo.com

Chaplains Report:



Marines & families,
Just a short letter that I'm still around. Covid 19 has sure kept the league down. I pray the good Lord steps in to get rid of it. Now to sum important info. Got a call from Barb, Dennis Sitzler's wife, and from what she told me Dennis is not doing well. He has lost a

lot of weight. Barb told me he has a Dr's appointment on Thursday. Told her to call and I'll be there if possible. Again, you can't just be where you like because of the virus. Before it hit, it seemed like we stayed pretty busy, but I'm ready to get back at it. Lets all say a prayer for Dennis and keep the Lord in your hearts.

Semper Fi,
James Borner, Chaplain
(406)850-1802
jborner@gmail.com

Paymasters Report:



No Report

Semper Fidelis, Scott
Scott Dunlap, Paymaster
(406) 281-1271

MCL dues are \$35 please remit to the Detachment at: PO Box 2051 Billings, MT 59103. You may wish to consider Life Membership, the rates are as follows:

AGES	65+	\$200
	51-64	\$300
	36-50	\$400
	35 & under	\$500

Life membership costs may be going up!

In previous editions of the Newsletter we added some new content that will be available in the digital edition only. This will help keep are letter costs down and still have the best of both worlds. Contact me if you want the digital copy sent to your email.

Tim

Ron Spence
General Manager

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Fellow survivors,
Our long nightmare is almost over and still I haven't heard of any of our membership becoming ill from the virus from china. As this comes out one member is on 14 days quarantine, but that's all I know of. The end of June we had the awards dinner which was postponed when

covid-19 reared its ugly head. Harry Armstrong from Dept. came down to join us. Good to see you and the Mrs. Hopefully everyone stays healthy for the summer and beyond. Besides the meetings we will have a Patio Party coming up, no date set yet. Donna Lowry recently had surgery. Prayers and Best Wishes for her quick recovery.

Semper Fi,
Tim Bender, Jr Vice
(406)697-5968
tim.mtlonegunman@gmail.com

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Senior Vice Commandant Report:



Marine Corps Leaguers,
The lockdown is easing up We had our first meeting and the Department of Montana is having a shortened convention. The VA is now allowing ceremonies at the National Cemetery and we are having our Awards Banquet. Its good to get out and act normal, just don't be carless. The virus is still around and we want as many members to attend our meetings as possible.

Semper Fi
Tom Jones, Sr. Vice
(406)670-4364
tcgysgt21@yahoo.com

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**Marine Corps League
Eugene Sara Detachment #418
Meeting Minutes for June 8th, 2020**

Meeting opened at 1900 ritual followed

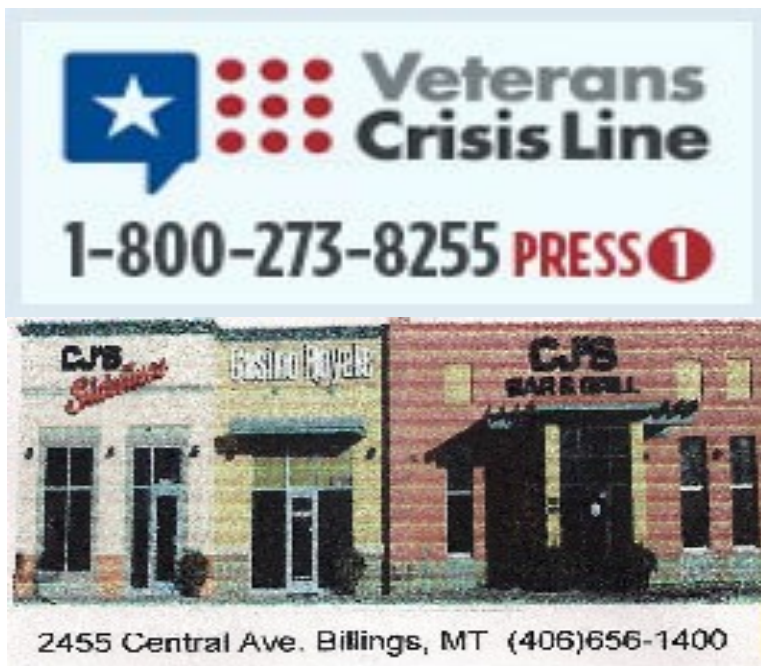
Officers present: Mike Tolstedt, Tom Jones, Tim Bender, Scott Dunlap (excused), Doug Wood, Jim Born-er, Ralph McKinney and Past Commandant Tom Lowry. Guests - Dept. Commandant Harry Armstrong and his wife

Last meeting minutes: Correction— Mike Tolstedt attended the Dept. meeting in Butte, minutes ap-proved with change.

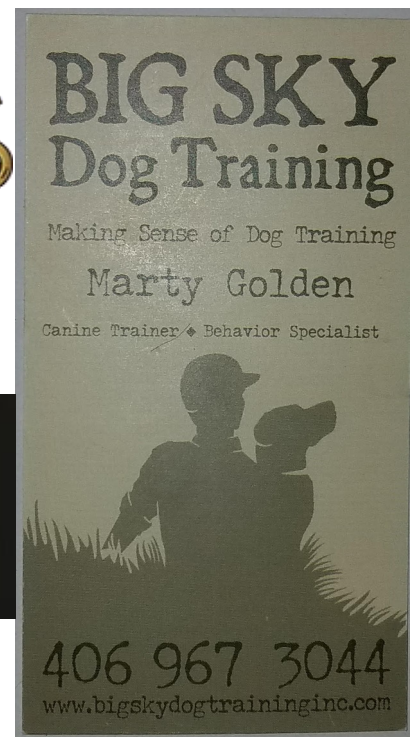
Correspondence: none **Paymaster**—Not available **Chaplain** — Gordon Blake is still on dialysis, Marine John Emigh passed away. **Sr.Vice** — The Dept. Convention was rescheduled (this will be addressed by Harry Armstrong). **Jr.Vice** — Awards dinner to be announced and put out for vol-unteer to host patio party. **Sgt at Arms** — The detachment equipment inventory has been completed and we have one broken rifle, Unclaimed remains ceremony scheduled for July 1 was cancelled. Last rifle raffle has not been drawn yet . Motion was made to vote on reschedule of drawing at September Gun Show, Second and vote passed. Will be drawn at next Gun Show in September. Commandant Tolstedt introduced MT. State Dept. Commandant Harry Armstrong To Swear in the 2020 officers staff for Det. #418. Harry also advised that the Montana Dept. Convention was changed to a one day convention be-cause of the continuing covid -19 restrictions. It will be held in Great Falls at the VFW on June 27th. The National Convention in Daytona Beach, FL. Is on a indefinite hold dependent on CDC State of Florida covid restrictions. Also the Dept of Montana MCL is looking to fill state level vacancies (Tiny Metcalf said he would put his name in for state Sr. Vice). Tom Lowry and Tom Jones said they would be attending the state convention. No ads needed for the State convention because of the shortened schedule. Swearing of offic-ers took place between 1939–1948hrs.

Good of the League — Bozeman Birthday Ball will held on November 9th, 2020, location to be deter-mined. **Motion was made to have one patio party for the summer because of the covid and chang-ing schedules and restrictions, 2nd and passed. See last page of newsletter for Patio Party Infor-mation.** *Motion was made to hold the awards dinner 2nd and passed. The dinner will be June 29th at 1800hrs at the Windmill Club on Transtech Ave.* Pete participated in the Semper Fi Steel Challenge shoot which raised over \$7000. Recruiting for the detachment was discussed to try and get more and younger Marines to join up. Advertiser lists were put out to try and get our newsletter funding caught up. Mike Wyrwas at his house for the League to use, Kevin Kuhlman will take them to store for now.

**Meeting closed at 2008
Next meeting will be held July 13th, 2020 at the Heights VFW**



Have a Safe 4th of July



Judge Advocates Report:

I have nothing to report due to the virus situation. I hope you are all staying healthy. I hope to see everyone at the July 13th meeting.

Semper Fi
Ralph McKinney



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Eric Harkins
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Sergeant at Arms Report:

Marines,
Regular business meeting for July— July 13th
at 1900hrs. @ Heights VFW

No Details at this time.
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The Detachment Exchange

Buy, Sell or trade you unused uniform parts or pieces in this column of the newsletter. Just send the item description to me and I will list them for you. —Tim

Tom Lowry has 2 pair of Dress shoes size 10.5 & a cover size 7 1/4.

I have numerous items from Jim Borner and Diana Schaefer for use, just contact Tim at 697-5968.

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Miles City Squad B Meeting Minutes

No Report Received

Marine Corps History for July Excerpts from marineparents.com

July 4, 1801 The third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, reviewed Marines led by the second Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant Colonel William W. Burrows and the Marine Band. The review took place on the White House grounds and the Marines performed drills and fired salutes in observance of our country's 25th anniversary.

July 6, 1990 The last two A-4 Skyhawks from Marine Aircraft Group 32 flew their final flights from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina to Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland, as the Marine Corps decided to retire the Skyhawk from its active aviation structure. The Skyhawk was one of the oldest, most versatile attack aircraft in USMC history. They had been in service for more than 30 years.

July 7, 1941 The 1st Marine Air Wing (1st MAW) was activated at Quantico, Virginia. Less than a year after its activation, the 1st MAW participated in the Marine Corps offensive at Guadalcanal. The Guadalcanal campaign would be the first of many legendary battles in the Wing's history and over the course of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, the 1st MAW earned five Presidential Unit Citations for gallantry.

July 11, 1798 The second President of the United States, John Adams, approved "An Act for Establishing and Organizing a Marine Corps" and it became law. The following day, President Adams appointed William Ward Burrows the Major Commandant of the new Corps. In August, Major Burrows opened his headquarters in Philadelphia, which was still the capital of our young nation, at the time.

July 14, 1993 The *USS Iwo Jima* was decommissioned after over 30 years of service in a ceremony at Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia. The ship, named for the World War II battle in which three Marine divisions defeated 20,000 Japanese troops, the ship was commissioned August 26, 1961 and it was the first ship specifically designed as an amphibious assault ship from the keel up.

July 18, 1918 The 4th Marine Brigade began an attack near Soissons, France. The attack was part of a World War I three-division counterattack against German forces. The Marines sustained 1,972 casualties in the first two days of the battle.

July 24, 1944 The "V" Amphibious Corps, a formation of the United States Marine Corps composed of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions, landed on Tinian, in the Mariana Islands during the Marine Corps' Pacific Campaign in World War II.

July 26, 1947 The National Security Act of 1947 was enacted, reaffirming the status of the Marine Corps as a separate military service within the Department of the Navy. The act provided for Fleet Marine Forces and confirmed the Corps' mission of seizing and defending advanced bases, as well as land operations in support of naval campaigns.

July 28, 1918 United States Marine Corps Brigadier General John A. Lejeune assumed command of the U.S. Army's 2nd Division in France during World War I. Lejeune remained in that capacity until August the following year, at which point the unit was demobilized. Lejeune was the first Marine officer to hold an Army divisional command and following the armistice that ended the war he led his division in the march into Germany.

Mike Wyrwas will be holding the Patio Party at his house at 5824 Mountain View Ave (off Grand & 58th St. West on July 19th. Please RSVP to Mike at the following number.

(406)855-8356



Thanks again, to all of our members and sponsors for all of your continuing support throughout the past and current year. You are all important to our continuing programs and events.