



Newsletter

August, 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



Good Day Marines,

With the virus still at issue things have been a bit slow (until this month). We are actively involved in funeral and color guard details. On July 17th Doug Wood, Ralph McKinney, Jim Borner and myself performed color guard services with the I&I Marines at the Big Sky State Games. By the end of this month we will have engaged in three funeral details. The National Cemetery now requires face masks for all details. We should also start wearing masks at our monthly meetings. On June 27th Senior Vice Tom Jones & I attended an abbreviated Dep.t Convention in Great Falls, the highlight of which was Tom Lowry being selected as the Dept. Marine of the Year and our Detachment being awarded the Unit Distinguished Bronze. Many of you may be aware of the Marine For Life Program. Simply stated, the program connects transitioning Marines & their family members with education resources, military friendly employment opportunities and other Veteran and community resources. I have been designated as the Department and Detachment M4Life representative. The M4Life Network has an excellent website through which you can also access their official newsletter which provides excellent articles and resource referrals. As Marines are transitioning out of the Corps they are provided information about the program.

(Continued at right)



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If they are interested they are referred to their states Department representative (in the case of Montana, myself), this gets the ball rolling. If, for example that Marine is returning the Butte area he would be contacted by the Butte Detachment M4Life representative. I would encourage each of you to familiarize yourself with this excellent program. If you know any transitioning Marines who are looking some guidance for them and/or their families please feel free to have them contact me at mtolstedt@yahoo.com or by leaving me a voice mail at 406-698-4965.

(Continued on page 4 bottom)

Chaplains Report:



Hi Marines,

Just a short note, things are picking up a bit. We have done a few funerals and renewed a few advertisers for newsletter. Other than that things are still kind of quiet. I would like all members to let us know your status as far as sending out information about the league. If you have a computer,

then we wouldn't have to send a hard copy. Plus the one on the computer will be in color and have extra content. Take care and hope to hear from you soon. God Bless.

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

Paymasters Report:



Hello all,

Just a reminder, The dog days of summer also bring us to the time of year for annual renewals. If you have not yet elected become a life member, it is now time to submit your \$35 for renewal. Sr. Vice Jones has sent out a renewal invoice to many in the membership. However, if you don't receive your

remittal slip simply send your check to the detachment at:

PO Box 2051
Billings, MT 59103.

I wish to thank our newsletter sponsors who have elected to renew their sponsorship for another year. The newsletter is a substantial expense for our little outfit. Your sponsorship greatly offsets the cost. Please join me in patronizing our sponsors as your needs arise.

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



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r.spence@billingshotelmt.com

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!



Fellow survivors,

Well, the world is going to heck again and now we have to wear the mask going most everywhere, even when flying on aircraft. But, they say it keeps others and us safe. I heard that Bill Van Wieren is in

Billings Clinic for an infection around his pacemaker. Prayers and wishes

for Bill, please! We will update on his health as we get the information. Not much else for gatherings until things loosen up again. See you at the next meeting August 10th.

Come if you can, but as safe as you feel. We don't want to jeopardize anybody's health.

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

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Senior Vice Commandant Report:

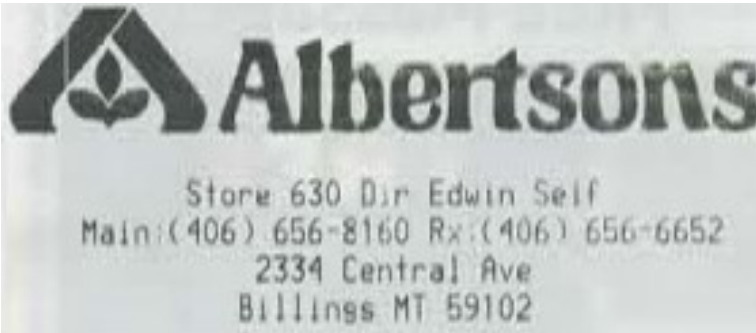


Marine Corps Leaguers,
It's that time again for the annual members. This years membership ends September 1st. I'm in the process of sending out dues notices. Please see Scott Dunlap's article for more information and Please respond ASAP

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

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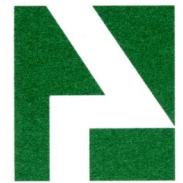
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**Marine Corps League
Eugene Sara Detachment #418
Meeting Minutes for July 13th, 2020**

Meeting opened at 1900

Ritual followed

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

Last meeting minutes: Unavailable at the time.

No New applications

Correspondence: National Young Marines sent pamphlet asking for contributions. As a Detachment we support the local Young Marines. Motion was made and seconded to not support the national YM since our support is local, motion passed. Additional discussion followed on the Young Marines as we have received No Thank you for recent support for their group (such as paying parade fees, etc). We have also had limited communications with them due to changes in their adult leadership. Ryan Parsons will be tasked to contact them.

Paymaster—Not available

Chaplain — Gordon Blake is still on dialysis, Bill

Van Weiren is in the hospital with an infection and has been having balance issues since returning from Las Vegas

Sr.Vice — Yearly dues will be coming out soon. Currently no change in Life Member-

ship. **Jr.Vice** — Awards dinner at the Windmill was well attended and Harry Armstrong and his wife Louise, came down to present Department awards. A motion was made on the patio party to postpone it for now, due to coronavirus and low interest. **Sgt at Arms** — Friday July 17th, Big Sky State Games, need marchers for I&I Color Guard at opening ceremony. 7/20 at the National Cemetery @1300, Honor Guard.

Committee Reports

Riverside Cemetery — Too late in the Summer to do anything. No word from the County on future work at the Cemetery. Ralph McKinney will contact Commissioner Ostlund to see if there is any update.

FOC/ Vets Council— No meeting for July

Finance committee— None

Advertising— We have received some renewals and are still waiting on others, only lost a few. If you know any businesses that would be great sponsors please contact them or let Mike Wyrwas, Pete Seigel, Jim Borner, Tim Bender or Mike Tolstedt know so we may contact them.

Good of the League — Discussion on memorial bench for Herb Livingston. **Billings Birthday Ball** —No information yet. **Bozeman Birthday Ball**—will held on November 9th, 2020, location to be determined.

Billings I&I staff will be contacted regarding League property that is still housed at the Reserve Center on Gable Rd. including the large Eagle, Globe and Anchor which hangs in the entry. The EGA may be donated to the I&I. Tom Jones & Mike Tolstedt went to the Dept. convention in Great Falls, 25 state members attended. Tom Lowry was selected for Dept. Marine of the Year, which was awarded to him at the Billings Awards Dinner. Detachment #418 was awarded the Unit Distinguished Bronze Citation for the 2019 Convention. The 2021 Dept. convention will be in Butte. It was recommended to forward emails from Harry to membership/newsletter.

Old Business

Don Huffman made a motion to stop giving covers To newly recruited members, as there have been some that joined and got covers at no charge and never came back or assisted in activities, motion was 2nd and passed.

New Business Mike brought forward information on Veterans Navigation Network, Inc. Which is a local Veteran owned organization.

Meeting closed at 2000

Next meeting will be held August 10th, 2020 at the Heights VFW

(Continued from Commandants letter on page 1)

Another resource separate from the M4Life program is The National Resource Directory(www.NRD.gov) which is a federal gov website that connects wounded, ill and injured veterans, families and caregivers to thousands of services and programs at the National, State and local levels to support them during recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Visitors to the site will find information on topics such as PTSD, military and Veterans benefits, health care, educational opportunities, homeless assistance, employment and more. Remember we are here to help our Marine brothers and sisters.

Stay informed and Semper Fi!

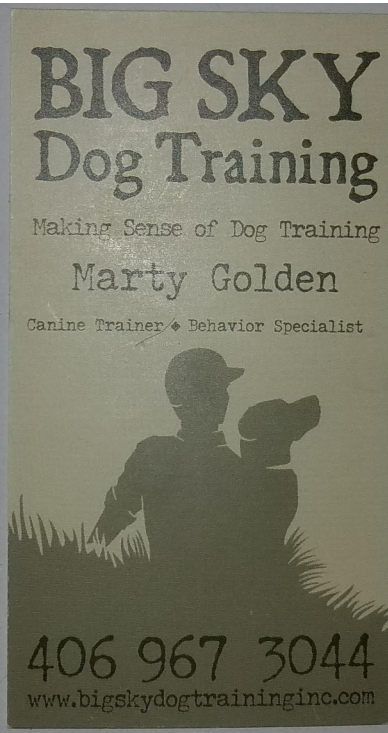
Mike Tolstedt, Commandant

Judge Advocates Report:



I don't have a lot to report. It has been nice to be back doing funerals and the Big Sky State Games. I hope you are all staying healthy. I hope to see everyone at the August 10th meeting.

Semper Fi
Ralph McKinney



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Sergeant at Arms Report:

Regular business meeting for August

August 10th at the Heights VFW 609 Anchor St.
@1900hrs.

Marines,

I would to thank all of the members that have stepped up to cover our obligations for color guards and honor guards! You are looking good! If any members that I have not called would like to participate, please give me a call.

Sgt at Arms
Doug Wood
(406)666-2209



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.

Billings Vet Center

2795 Enterprise Avenue
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Miles City Squad B Meeting Minutes

No Report Received



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.

Southwest Montana Veteran's Home Update

By Mike Lawson

Greetings once again to you the Veterans/Communities/Counties of SW Mt who are the chief organizers and supporters of the SW MT Veterans Home.

Every week there seems to be a new twist on things and with our Governor mandating everyone to wear a face-mask, it was interesting to see some of the construction workers on our Vet Home wearing face-masks. The other place I saw people wearing face-masks, that was impressing, was at the Rest Stop near the Anaconda turnoff near Opportunity. We, the Marine Corps League, were doing one of our five coffee/cookie stop fundraisers we do in the summer. I was surprised that about 98% of the folks coming through were wearing face-masks, which was very encouraging in the battle against Covid-19. It is alarming at the high death rate at some of the rest/nursing homes around Montana and the nation and the reality, we're building one for our Veterans, who at this stage of their lives need a safe wonderful place to go. Who ever does end up getting the contract to run this our Vet Home, you can rest assured the SW Vet Home Foundation and Veteran Organizations in this area will watch with an eagle eye in making sure our resident Veterans are getting the best care possible and are safe. With that said, it's time for some construction updates. As always, I get great briefings from Site Construction Mike Ascherman and Carpenter General Foreman John Kotka. SW Mt Vet Home Liaison Mark Gollinger and I did a walk-through on Friday. Some good stuff happening all over the site as you'll now read about.

Construction Activities:

Community Center: - Interior; This building is well into the finishing stages of construction. The painters are pretty much done. John said the fire extinguisher cabinets will be installed this week. Still some trim-work on the windows and doors to finish -up on but that is close to being done. Most of the doors have arrived except for a couple and have been hung with the door hardware installed. The two main bathrooms are all tiled, with the other two expected to be done this week, providing the waited on material has arrived on site. The back- order situation is a common problem that interferes in getting things accomplished in the expected time frame allowed for that particular job sequence. The fiber reinforced plastic (FRD) wall panels and ceiling hatch were installed in the janitors room, as well as the permanent steel rung wall latter going to the mezzanine. This is where all the mechanical equipment for the building is located. John expects all the cabinets to be set this week.

Exterior: Construction material is going to be moved out from under the Portico entrance area so the siders can finish this last portion of siding for this building.

Cottage #1: The dominate work being done here is the drywall taping/mud work. A lot of it is done and the painters are expected to do some painting this week or next. Mechanical/electrical work tune-up, by a couple of the plumbers and electricians, is on-going. All the exterior doors are set. **Exterior;** Siders are almost wrapped up on this building.

Cottage #2: A couple of sheet metal guys are working on ductwork. Plumbers are running their water and gas lines from the mains to the bathrooms and to the heating units. The pipe insulators are insulating the pipe through-out the building and the seismograph ceiling T-Bar metal grid frames are being installed.

Exterior; The siding-crew are moving well in getting this building sided with a real catchy green and grey color combination. You can see it very well from the Blacktail Loop Road.

Cottage #3: -Interior; A couple of Plumbers/Sheetmetal guys are finishing up some piping and ductwork. Pretty quiet here at the present. Metal ceiling and lighting install in the bedrooms are complete. **Exterior;** Waiting to be sided.

Cottage #4: - Interior; Mechanical insulation and control installs are on-going. The Mexican sheet-rock crew from Bozeman is going to start hanging sheetrock this week. They were waiting for the inside of the exterior walls insulation and the sound insulation on the interior walls to be completed before coming back and that is now done. . **Exterior;** Exterior soffit framing is now complete.

(continued on pg. 8)

(**SW Montana Veterans Home update** continued from pg. 7)

Cottage #5:-Interior; Framing of blocking, backing, soffits and other miscellaneous framing is completed. The Plumbers/Electricians/ Sheetmetal guys are heavy into their rough-in work. Fire-painting of the trusses is close to being done. The setting of doorframes is scheduled for this week. Exterior; the roofing has been held up due to the back-order of "style D flashing" not showing up. Again this type of back-order problem puts things on hold. Should be in this week, which will allow the roofer to complete shingling this roof.

Maintenance/Receiving Building: this building saw a lot of activity this past week and will continue to see that continue this week. All the exterior/interior walls are standing and the roof trusses arrived on Thursday afternoon. GF John Kotka is hopeful that all the roof trusses will be rolled up into place and sheeted with plywood, by the end of this week. He also wants to set the door frames through-out this building, this week.

Elk Horn Electric; All the underground high-voltage and low voltage conduit, to all the buildings, has been run and at a later date they'll pull wire through that conduit to each building. They set two exterior "Electrical Switching Gears" on cement pad next to the Electrical Vault Building Site cement slab floor.

Zemlijak Excavating: Doing some fun-to-watch setting of pre-cast cement retainer blocks in the building the retainer wall at Cottage #1. Drive by on Black Tail Loop Road and take a look as it's very impressive. They also leveled/prepped pads for the Air Handler/Air Condition Units, for each cottage.

Not much happening on the state or political end, other than the face-masks. Still waiting for the Contract Operation Bid to be awarded. So far the fire season has been quiet. Hopefully you're all doing well and enjoying the weather. With that I'll close.

Marine Corps History for August Excerpts from marineparents.com

August 1, 1944 Major General Harry Schmidt, commander of V Amphibious Corps, declared the island of Tinian secure. This came after nine days of fighting Japanese forces occupying the island. The combination of surprise, heavy pre-assault bombardment & effective logistical support resulted in significantly fewer casualties (344 killed and 1550 wounded) than were experienced in previous landings during the Corps' Pacific Campaign. As a result, the assault on Tinian was coined "the perfect amphibious operation of World War II."

August 3, 1950 Eight Corsair fighter planes launched from the USS Sicily (CVE118) and carried out the first Marine aviation mission in the Korean War. The raid targeted enemy installations with incendiary bombs, rockets, and strafing runs near Inchon, Korea. The Corsairs were with VMF-214, more famously known as the "Black Sheep" squadron of World War II.

August 7, 1990 President George H.W. Bush ordered U.S. military troops and aircraft to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force to defend that nation against possible Iraqi invasion. The following week, the Marine Corps announced that it had committed 45,000 Marines to the Persian Gulf area as a part of Operation Desert Shield, which would become the largest deployment of U.S. forces since the Vietnam War.

August 9, 1942 The 1st Engineer Battalion began work on an airstrip taken from Japanese forces on the island of Guadalcanal. The work was done with captured Japanese equipment and three days later, on August 12, the first American airplane, a Navy PBY, landed on what by then was known as "Henderson Field" to evacuate two wounded Marines. Over the next few months, as U.S. Marines fought to take control of the island, Henderson Field would be the staging area for the evacuation of almost 3,000 wounded.

August 17, 1942 The 2nd Marine Raider Battalion under Lt. Colonel Evans F. Carlson landed on Makin Island. The Raiders, who were launched from the submarines *Nautilus* and *Argonaut*, destroyed a sea-plane base, two radio stations, and a supply warehouse, in addition to killing approximately 100 Japanese soldiers before leaving the island the following day.

August 21, 1968 Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to Private First Class James Anderson Jr. for heroism in Vietnam, the first time an African-American Marine received this medal.

August 23, 1984 The last Marines to serve on peace-keeping duty in Lebanon arrived back in America. The 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) arrived off the coast of Lebanon on 9 April to relieve Marines of the 22nd MAU, who were guarding the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The 24th MAU left Beirut on 31 July, marking the end of U.S. combat troops in Beirut for the first time since Marines had entered the city almost two years earlier.