



Newsletter

February, 2021

**Eugene Sara Detachment
Marine Corps League**

PO Box 2051
Billings, MT 59103

WEB www.eugenesara.com

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Commandants Message



Good Day Marines,

I hope this finds you all well.

Things have slowed since Christmas with another successful Toys 4 Tots campaign behind us. That being said I have been getting a flurry of emails from our Department forwarding various VA and National League memos. Hopefully you are getting

those that you find informative. If not please let me know. As a result of concerns raised by National our Department Commandant has scheduled a conference call for all members for Monday February 1st. The issues to be discussed will be (1) the need for a Midwinter convention (2) Department Convention planning;(3) Detachment status and activity reports ; (4) membership levels; (5) meeting attendance and (6) instruction for Commandants and Paymasters regarding utilization of the National MCL data base for everyday Detachment utilization and their membership. I will report back to on the results of the meeting. For all you who fall into the group of early vaccine qualifiers you need to check with the VA health services about getting your vaccine. You can also call your local health care providers and see about getting on the list of those waiting to be receive their vaccine. Here in Billings the contact numbers are as follows; St. Vincent Healthcare, 406-237-7050; Billings Clinic, 406-435-5744; Riverstone Health, 406-651-6596. BE PREPARED TO BE ON HOLD.

Stay Tuned! SEMPER FI.

Mike Tolstedt (406)698-4965

mtolstedt@yahoo.com



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Reaching back into the archives, Bill Van Weiren hanging in there, Give him a call if you can!

Chaplains Report:



Marines & families,

I hope this finds everyone well. There's not a lot to report, funerals, meetings, etc. To be honest feeling a little lazy and don't want to bore you. Lot of personal things to attend to.

Also. If the bug is ever eliminated and things open up, then I will have more important things to relay to all. Until next time, stay safe and healthy and drop a line or call, I like to here from all.

Semper Fi,
James Borner, Chaplain
(406) 598-9733
jborner@gmail.com

Paymasters Report:




It's a New Year Marines!
I have no report this month

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

You may wish to consider Life Membership, rates are as follows:

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

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Jr. Vice Commandants Report:



Marines,

Sorry about the delay on getting this letter out later than usual. Have been having some issues with one of my eyes which slowed things. I have also been trying to line things out for the **Annual Sweethearts dinner. It looks like the Billings Hotel & Convention Center** will host the

dinner. Still working on details. We will be doing a catering menu, which usually has a Beef, Chicken And fish or vegan option. **I need to get RSVP's as soon as possible so I can get the numbers to the hotel. I will forward the food options as I get the info. If you plan to attend please let me know by email or text ASAP.** Dinners are \$30 -\$35 a plate for most. Like dinner at the windmill or Red Lobster.

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



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Senior Vice Commandant Report:



Per Tiny Metcalf, we DO have a Gun Show on February 12, 13 and 14 at the Pavillion at Metrapark. If you can help man the table, please let me know. This is coming up fast. It will be good to get out the Henry for the raffle!!

Semper Fi
Marines,

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



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General Manager
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**Marine Corps League
Eugene Sara Detachment #418
Meeting Minutes for January 11th, 2021**

1900 Meeting Called to order- ritual followed.

Roll call of officers— Jim Borner, Tim Bender, Tom Jones (excused), Ralph McKinney, Mike Tolstedt, Scott Dunlap and Doug Wood.

Last minutes for December meeting— No December meeting or minutes

Correspondence— Received a card and \$300 check from Delmar Vogele's family thanking us for the Honor Guard . Also, received a Christmas card from Tom & Robin Hanel.

Paymasters report— 52 Life members, 49 current annual members, 4 past due and 2 associates.

Chaplains report— Dennis Sitzler is in the hospital with kidney failure. Tom Jones is still recovering from covid-19 and a heart attack **Sr. Vice —** No report **Jr. Vice —** Put out to available members for suggestions for the Sweethearts Dinner in February. Suggestions for the Billings Hotel & Convention Center and Fiesta Mexicana restaurant were put out. **Past Commandant** Tom Lowry put out information that the ongoing expense of the Riverside Cemetery was the reason given by the County Commission for not renewing the headstone project with 100 stones left to place. A suggestion was made to recognize the commission for their passed support at one of their meetings, We would have to apply to be placed on the commissions agenda to be heard. Then we may be able to re apply for the bid to finish. Ralph said he would make contact as soon as possible. **Detail Commander—** Stated that the Firing detail is looking and sounding good and in sync. **Young Marines—** No Report, but we were informed by Ryan Parsons that the young Marines are holding meetings twice a month on Tuesdays.

Good of the League — A motion was made to donate \$1000 to the VFW for supporting our League meetings, etc. Motion 2nd and voted aye, Passed!.

Old Business — What to do for LEO recognition?? Purchase of knives for Billings PD, Yellowstone Co. Deputies and Local MT Highway Patrol officers was suggested. Possible add ons to the recently acquired helicopter , or plaques for the LEOs. Motion was made and 2nd to look into purchasing 300 total plaques at a cost of up to \$100 each. All voted aye, passed.

New Business — Nick Reyna, a former Marine and Yellowstone County Deputy Sheriff, is in hospice with end stage cancer and not expected to survive much longer. His family has requested that we supply Honor Guard and firing detail when services are needed.

APC(Adaptive Performance Center) for Veterans is looking for sponsors for memberships for disadvantaged veterans. A motion was made to sponsor three \$300 memberships at a cost of \$900. Motion was tabled to the February meeting while some information was checked on.

The new 1st Sgt at the reserve center appears to be receptive to the league and would like to have a BBQ or similar with us later this year.

Meeting Closed at 2007hrs.

Next meeting will be held at the Heights VFW on February 8th

Miles City Squad B Meeting Minutes

No Report Received

**For Crisis assistance after hours, weekends, and holidays call:
1-877-WAR-VETS (1-877-927-8387)**

**Free Help For Homeless Vets phone number: 1-877-424-3838,
which has 24 hour access.**

Judge Advocates Report:



Marines,

I have not received a firm answer on the Riverside Cemetery yet. I have been in contact with the county commissioners and still have hope that the project will move forward.

I hope everyone is staying healthy.

I know some are getting the COVID shots which is a step in the right direction

Semper Fi
Ralph McKinney
ralphmckinney44@q.com
(406)860-2271



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Sergeant at Arms Report:

February Events

Feb 8th MCL Regular business meeting at the Heights VFW 609 Anchor St. @1900hrs.

Feb 12,13,14 Gun Show Metrapark Pavilion

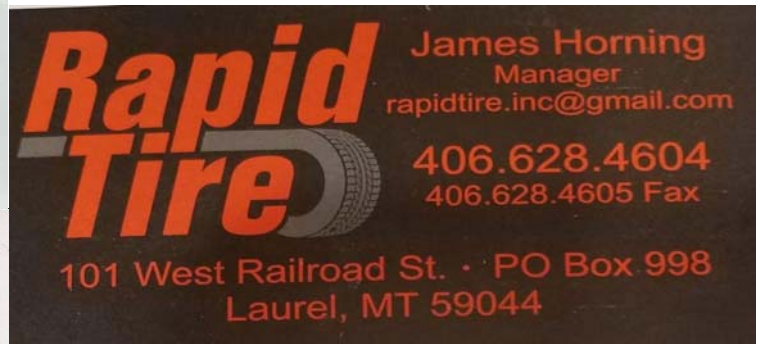
Feb 14th ==Sweethearts Dinner Billings Hotel & Convention Center 1730 -1900

Sgt at Arms

Doug Wood

(406)366-2209

I want to thank all you Marines that answer the call for our Honor Guards and Color Guards! Semper Fi



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
Suite 1
Billings, MT 59102



Current issues/Hdq's from National Commandant Tobin

To; Detachment Commandants, Paymasters, and membership
From; National Commandant, Dennis Tobin
Subject; current Issues.

Marines,

First, everyone needs to calm down and relax, I understand the frustration by members waiting to receive membership cards, checks cashed, transmittals returned. National Headquarters is working under some very trying conditions. Covid restrictions are still in effect especially in Virginia. So, I will try and explain some issues and hopefully ease some tensions and some unwanted emails and phone calls to Hdq's.

1- Mid Winter conference— We cannot rush into a no/go decision without it costing us thousands of dollars, we have contractual issues. Currently we are working closely with the Hotel. We are waiting on the Governor to adjust or not adjust the current restrictions in Virginia. Currently it stands at no more than 10 persons at a meeting. The Board of Trustees has another Zoom meeting scheduled for 2 Feb. to discuss the conference again. IF there is any way to hold a face to face conference we will.

2—Transmittals and membership cards,

a) Currently Hdq's staff is working on transmittals received as of this past Monday, dated, December, November, October, September, August, and even July, again please take note that these were just received at Headquarters on Monday

b) Membership Cards—Printing of the cards is a slow process. working the transmittals is not once we have them. During the months of Nov, Dec and Jan there were major slow downs in the postal system.

c) Gold Cards, 1/2 half been processed and there are currently 600 at the printer, they were on the December transmittals and went to the printer as a Jan. order.

d) Checks— under a new system, checks are deposited as soon as they are received, a form is then filled out with the check info and stapled to the transmittal identifying the check.

3—Where is the roster? right in front of you, its in the data base for all Detachment and Department paymasters to look at and print out if needed. there is going to be a time (very soon) when the only roster coming from National will be the one for voting strength for the convention.

All Detachment and Department paymaster must learn to us the data base portal for their needed info.

4— How to use the portal, there are directions posted on the members library on the National website. If you have a problem COO Bob Borka stands ready and willing to talk you through it.

Please read and understand that our staff is working hard for you under strict conditions.

Please, avoid nasty phone calls and emails to National Headquarters.
go through your chain of command for answers and help.

Last but not least remember we are still under COVID RESTRICTIONS, SLOW DOWNS AND EVEN SHUTDOWNS.

When calling Headquarters, Please be RESPECTFUL!!!!!!!!!!

Semper Fi

Dennis Tobin

National Commandant

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.