



Newsletter

July, 2021

Eugene Sara Detachment
Marine Corps League

PO Box 2051
Billings, MT 59103

www.eugenesara.com

Commandant - Mike Tolstedt

Editor - Tim Bender

Distribution— Bill Bishop

Advertising—Tim Bender, Mike Wyrwas, Jim Borner

Photos— Tim & Patricia Bender and Scott Dunlap

Contact Phone# (406)876-4086

Commandants Message



Good Day Marines,

A very special CONGRATULATIONS to our Chaplin Jim Borner for being awarded the Northwest Regional Marine Of The Year Award at this years Department Convention. This is a very well deserved highly prestigious award. We are all very proud of Chaplin Borner and grateful

for his many years of selfless service to his brother and sister Marines.

Your Detachment has been very busy with many Honor Guard Details. As expected Memorial Day was especially busy. We started off the day at 0730 at Riverside Cemetery. The ceremony was well attended including members of the American Legion Riders. Chaplin Borner gave a brief welcoming speech followed by a prayer from Bill Kennedy, Chairman of the Friends Of The Cemetery, closing with the Honor Guard Salute and Taps. From there we proceeded to Mountain View Cemetery where we participated in a joint salute with the VFW and American Legion Honor Guards. Guest Speaker Dave Rye, a local Vietnam War Veteran gave a moving speech honoring all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country. We then moved to the Laurel Cemetery where again there was a great turnout. A special thanks to Jack Kline who did a great job with bugling duties.

On June 8th we were privileged to present the Montana Highway Patrol, Billings Police Department, and the Yellowstone County Sheriffs Department with plaques of appreciation for their selfless service to our community. Our thanks to the Yellowstone County Commissioners



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(Continued) who put our presentation on their agenda opening it to the public. At our June 14th meeting GySgt Nick Molina Station Commander of the Marine Corps Recruiting Station joined our ranks and discussed how we can work with his marines in joint recruiting efforts. We are actively engaged with First Sgt. Haas of the I&I staff working towards a potential all Marine family activity this summer. We are looking at an all family picnic with the I&I staff, the Marine Corps Reserve, local Recruiters and our Detachment. More to follow on this. Stay in touch and stay safe. Semper Fi. Mike Tolstedt, Cmdt, Eugene Sara Detachment. (406)698-4965

mtolstedt@yahoo.com

(continued at right) 1

Chaplains Report:



Marines & families,

July is creeping up on us, and we have had quite an eventful year to this point. I Want to start out with letting all know that Dennis Sitzler and wife have moved to Aspenview assisted living. they are in cottage 10.

If you get time, help me out with a visit. Memorial day and funerals

kept us busy 'til now. I went to convention in butte with Doug Wood, Scott Dunlap, who by the way did a fine job on providing all with detachment business. Tom Jones and Laurel also attended. Met new faces and heard stories. Also took some pictures to share. I will let some others relay other information. As many of you may already know, I was awarded the Division Marine of the Year at the State convention in Butte. I was surprised to receive this award as I have not done any thing unusual recently. That may be just being humble, but I also the great Marines that I have as comrades here that have helped me with the many projects and services over the years. If there were a way to do it I would give everyone a piece of the medal. I am truly blessed and so are you, my friends! Stay safe and take care. God Bless.

Semper Fi,

James Borner, Chaplain

(406) 598-9733

jborner@gmail.com

Jr. Vice Commandants Report:



Marines,

First, Congratulations to Chaplain Borner on the Division Marine of the Year award. He does a lot for the Detachment, more than some may realize. Second I was looking at the Detachment website a few days ago and noticed the newsletters were current but that was about it.. I know a

bit about webpages but am not a master by ant means and do not have time available to try and stay up with the work on it. If you are Tech Savvy and want to take up the challenge it would go a long way to help us with image and local recruiting. Contact an officer if you are interested.

Semper Fi,

Tim Bender, Jr Vice

(406)697-5968

tim.mtlonegunman@gmail.com

Paymasters Report:



Hello all, not very much to report for July. I was in attendance at the Department Convention and watched as Jim Borner was awarded Marine of the Year for the entire District. What a great honor for Jim as well as our Detachment. I will remind you all to turn in your After Action Reports for any volunteer work that you do on behalf of the

detachment. Welcome again to the recently added new members. You will be able to purchase you League Cover and EGA device. Be sure to order the correct size cover.

<https://www.mclnational.org/httpsthe-semper-fi-storemyshopifycom.html>

Any questions or need help. Please call or text.

Semper Fidelis,

Scott Dunlap, Paymaster

(406) 281-1271

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

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Senior Vice Commandant Report:



Semper Fi Marines!

Things are almost back to normal. We had a very good Department of Montana Convention. It's the first Convention that I have attended where all detachments were represented.

Joseph Rogrish is the new Department Commandant, he is a member of the Hamilton detachment, I am still the Sgt At arms, Mike Tolstedt is returning as

Marine For Life. **Janet Wagner** was awarded the Department of MT Marine Of The Year and **JAMES BORNER** was awarded **NORTH WEST DEVISON MARINE OF THE YEAR!** Scott Dunlap did a good job as Awards Chairman. Scott, Doug, Jim and I attended this year. it would be nice to see more attend next year when the convention will be in Hamilton, MT. Hope to see you at the meeting on the 14th, Tom Jones

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**Marine Corps League
Eugene Sara Detachment #418
Meeting Minutes for June 14th, 2021**

1901- Meeting Called to order— Ritual followed.

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

Last Minutes— Read but not accepted at this time as official minutes were not available

Membership — New applicant Recruiter GySgt Molina, motion was made and second to accept him, to be sworn in later, dues paid. **Correspondence—** A thank you card and \$50 check from the Heights Crematory & Funeral Gallery and Miles City minutes were received, **\$200 check received from Mi-**

chelotti-Sawyer **Paymasters report— Not available** **Chaplains report—** Dennis Sitzler is

not doing well and has been moved to the AspenView Retirement center, Eva Aguilar is having health issues, Pat Bender is coming down with Alzheimer's and Bill Van Wieren is doing good and has been in Las Vegas, his Grand Daughter apparently has power of Attorney. **Sr. Vice — None** **Jr. Vice**

— Put out about trying to setup Marine day with the I&I and Reserves and Recruiters and poolees. **(Ray Gann was motioned as the person who did a lot of leg work for the last Marine Day, Ray if you would like to help on this let me know)** **Past Commandant —** No report **Detail Command-**

er— .Need people for the Symphony in the Park. **Adjutant — None** **Judge Advocate — None.**

Committee Reports

Riverside Cemetery - No new news on the cemetery. **Friends of the National Cemetery —** Jim Borner attended the last meeting and the memorial benches are installed, but no word on dedication services for Herb And Ben Steele which are currently being held up by the VA, DoD and Federal Government.

Toys for Tots— Recieved a \$50 donation. **Birthday ball -** Will be held November 13th tickets are \$65 and will be at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. A motion was made to cover half the ticket expense for active members and spouses to attend, costs paid up to \$65 total per couple Attire for the Marine Corps Ball as usual is the Red Blazer, Black Trousers, MCL cover, Black Tie if available or other appropriate tie for gents & mini medals as authorized and formal attire for the ladies **Young Marines—** No Report

Good of the League — Discussion was held on the Plaque presentation to our Law Enforcement Officers which went well. **Old Business —** Long sleeve MCL uniform shirts are now available at the National Ships Store (MCL national) website. If you chose to wear the long sleeve shirt a black tie is also required.

New Business — New member, Gunny Molina discussed recruitment. For both the regular marines (new enlistment) and acquiring new members for the League> How can we help each other with numbers. **Good of the League — None**

Meeting Closed at 1956 hrs.

Next meeting will be held at the Heights VFW on July 12th, 2021 at 1900hrs.

Miles City Squad B Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021


Meeting called to order by Squad Leader Dee Murray

Ritual followed

All Squad members present except Jim Keith (excused)

No new members

A short meeting was held on the Fourth of July Parade which was the new business



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Judge Advocates Report:



Marines,

The past couple months some new members have joined our detachment. GySgt Molina from the recruiting applied for membership at our last meeting. He pledged to help recruit for us and asked in return we send him candidates. A fair trade. It

is important for our detachment to have a good relationship with the recruiting staff, the I & I staff and the young Marines.

Have a safe summer
Semper Fi

Ralph McKinney
ralphmckinney44@q.com

(406)860-2271



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Sergeant at Arms Report:

July Events :

June 27th— Symphony in the Park 1900 east side of Pioneer park.

July 4th — Independence Day

July 12th : MCL Regular Business meeting at the Heights VFW 609 Anchor St. @1900hrs.

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



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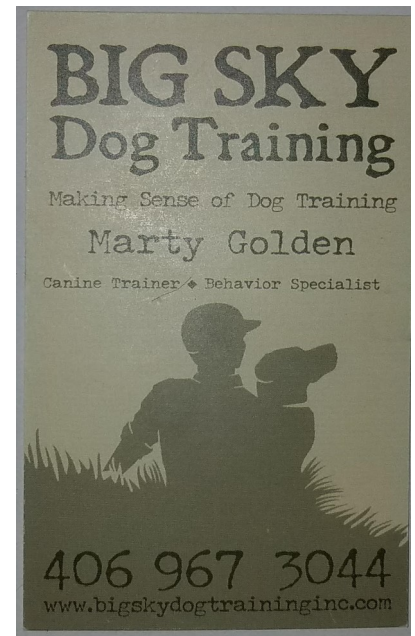
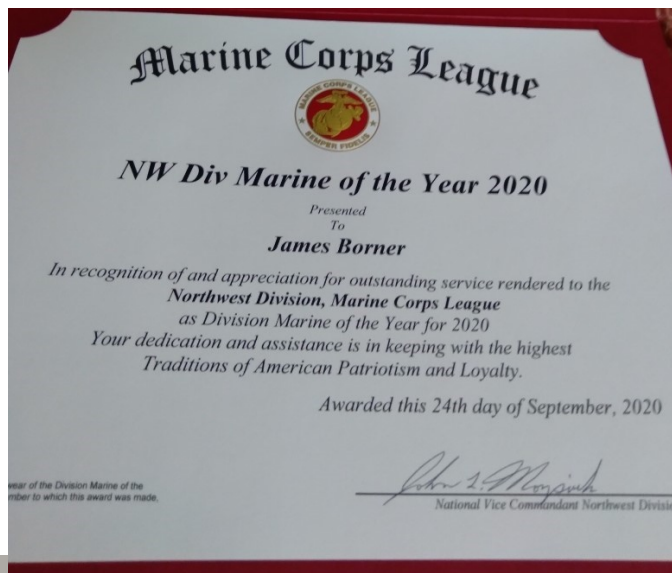
Buy, Sell or trade you unused uniform parts or pieces in this column of the newsletter. Just send the item description to me and I will list them for you. —Tim

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
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Jim Borner receives the Division Marine of the Year award from Northwest Region Vice Commandant John Moysiuk in Butte at the MT. Dept. Marine Corps League Convention.



County Commissioners Don Jones, Denis Pitman & John Ostlund join Detachment #416 members Mike Tolstedt, Doug Wood, Tim Bender and Jim Borner in presenting our plaques honoring the selfless service of our area Law Enforcement Officers. Lt. Sean Mayo, USMC, accepted for the Billings Police Dept. Trooper Brandon Van Zee, USMC, accepting for the Montana State Patrol and Sheriff Mike Linder for the Yellowstone County Sheriffs office. We appreciate the Commissioners allowing us the time to make this presentation.

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.



Above — Doug wood, Scott Dunlap, Tom Jones and Laurel Hansen enjoy dinner and conversation during the State Convention at the Butte VFW.

Below — Guest Speaker Colonel Sean McBride receives laser cut metal flag from Mike Lawson, Commandant Southwest Detachment #724



2021 MCL CONVENTION AGENDA

Department of Montana MCL—6-19-2021

Anniversary – **15 June 1944 - 2nd & 4th Div. Assault Saipan**

Opening Ceremony - Sgt at Arms – Tom Jones

Chaplain – Ed Olsen

Intro Members - Introduce Dignitaries – **NW Nation Vice Commandant John Moysiuk**

Welcome Letter

Voting Strengths: 418-6, 620-2, 688-5, 724-3, 903-2, 937-3, 1041-3, 1050-5, 1380-2

Membership: Roll Call of Officers

All officers present

Roll Call of Detachments

All detachments present

Minutes - - Adjutant Janet Wagner

Correspondence: Adjutant Janet Wagner

Paymaster Report - Paymaster – Janet Wagner – Annual Dues – Vote

Lost 301c status – paper submitted to reinstate

Officers Report. -- Commandant - Harry Armstrong –

Has loved being Commandant, traveling to the detachments and installing officers each year. COVID really messed up our plans. All of our detachments were not having in person meetings. We have 446 paid members in MT. National HQs in Virginia is still in COVID lockdown. We did have a very small convention in Great Falls last summer. Harry is a member of the National Board of Trustees so attends zoom meetings which are very informative. In the past we seldom got info from National but now we get MANY emails. Need to find an effective way of disseminating all the information. Marine Corps Balls were cancelled in 2020, this year we should be able to have MC Balls again. Toys for Tots did well. Bozeman shooting range is a real good draw for the younger marines. They want to do things not attend meetings.. Failures; Did not get the Department Scholarship off the ground. Did not get detachments going in Missoula, Kalispell and Miles City. We need to get a membership drive going. Gene Bell, 95 yrs old, Bozeman member and a Iwo Jima vet, is in the hospital in Kalispell. Operations: Linda Moore, Mike Tolsted and Janet Wagner. Col Hastings wife passed away. We need to be practicing Servant Leadership, reach out to members.

Veterans Report – TBA

State MCL M4L Program – Mike Tolstedt - [Excused](#)

MCL Training – Harry Armstrong– Know your job/complete your job - TBA

Sr. Vice Commandant- Joe Rogish

No report / zoom mtgs / COVID restrictions

Jr. Vice Commandant- Mike Flynn

Membership. 1. Out in community events talk to themmake a card with det info meeting times

2. retention members not seen for a while - do you need a ride ?

Harry talked about Phone tree – call members before meetings or events - get them active again

Webmaster –John Miller/Wagner

Doing good – link for national emails updated links updated forms t4t aux

More photos newsletter every month from billings.....send yours in.....

Needs charter dates from detachments - detachments officers photo

Judge Advocate- Kit Johnson -- Legal report:

No activities - will talk about by laws in committee

Detachment Reports: 418, 620, 688, 724, 903, 937, 1041, 1050, 1380

418 - Scott Dunlap

620 – Kit Johnson. Attendance is low but still doing Semper fi match / Toys for Tots /

688 – Carol Casteel

724 – Mike Lawson

903 – Gary Lee

937 – Joe Rogrish ad lib. 3 great new members / toys for tots really good / entire rivali county 460 kids / honor details 12 / no ball but planning one this year /

1041 – John Miller toys for tots golf

1050 – Harry Armstrong and Mike Flynn gold star shoot Sunday before Memorial day
Relationships younger members/ask for 2 hrs a month

1380 - Mike Johnson

Report of Standing Committees:

Eagle Scout, (Polson has been weak - Great Falls is good)

VAVS (submit hours),

Legislative ,

Toys For Tots (in each detachment) ,

Cemetery (Billings, Jim Benner now doing full blown funerals) ,

(Mike Lawson -united vets council / honor guard 5 cemeteries)

SWMT Veterans Home - Mike gave a report, construction progress reports are posted on Det 724 web page.

They formed a foundation to make sure the home is run properly. The Grand Opening will be June 29.

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Convention Committee Appointments:

Credentials (Wagner, Beausoleil),

Audit(Rogish, Gummer),

By-Law (K. Johnson) By laws are on the web site.

Resolutions (K. Johnson), no resolutions have been submitted. - if you have any input please send to Kit

Awards (Dunlap), will get info in Dec. and make phone calls to Detachments to get this next year 2022

started up. Give awards to civilians also, involve the community

Officer Nominations (Past Dept Cmdts Miller, Lawson, Benner)

Committee does have a Slate of officers recommendations

Recess:

John – NW Div

Talk from my heart

Love the phone tree idea – post card – stay in touch. Communication !

Veteran culture – we have to care about each other

We are not called Marines until after boot camp. EARN

Cop pulled him over took him to him to a MCL meeting. Our history our traditions

4th generation Marines. His great grand father was a Bella wood Marine

Awards – recognize people with awards

Other people are involved – group of people

In the community - servant leadership -

Why did you join ? the MCL

Hearing good stuff – not normal day ops

We need to say what we are doing Challenge

Find out about individuals, talk to them,

Shooting range....family involved.

Stories camaraderie – photos special events –

Marine for Life. Program stalledretraining the reps....

You know your community; how does it operate. Suicide rate too high.

Help them transition to civilian life. Has lost 28 friends to suicide.

Toys for tots – big recruiting tool.

Wave our MCL flag – let the community see us.

Out of pandemic – people want to be around other people

Memorial Day Cemetery MC recognition

Put marine corps flags on their graves.

Eagle scouts - recognize them

Servant leadership – why did you join the Corps ?

Oregon Dept Commandant could not commit to serve the League. Did not reach out to ask for help.

Hand duties over to Sr Vice.

Why should I be in this organization ? blind sided by the question.

Hard time getting back into civ life, transition.... Purpose, value, in our lives. Can still serve..

Harry last Tuesday morning – gave a ride to MCL member to go San Diego for a funeral.

MSTSGT - 30 days out of corps, was getting married, pulled the trigger.

Facebook pages need monitor – no public posting

Paymaster / Adjutants must keep minutes and sign in sheets. Commandants should make sure this is done.

Detachment 620 is in trouble

Harry visited – they had the Convention in Helena 2 yrs ago

Now only 5 members at the meeting

Everyone really wants to close the detachment

Communication - leadership

Steve Jopa –

Strength of 68. - different directions

Gunnys club – took people away

Leadership issues ladies were denigrated associates group

must have election by July 1st

Phone tree – communicate w members

Any other new minutes.

Awards:

Carol Vincent - Toys for Tots Det 724

AJ Justice – readily help. Vice and Adjutant

Distinguished citizens. Scott Dunlap – Jim Bourner – David Wells -

Bronze - all the commandants of 9 detachments

David King Det 724 Chaplain and fund raising

James Long – Det 724. Appointed bldg. officer

Several Department officers ??????????

Tim Bender - his newsletters are amazing

Arthur Mann – commandant in Roundup

Jack Walsh – toys for tots Det 724

Meritorious unit commendation – all detachments

Convention Committee Reports:

Unfinished business – National Convention Ad payment - motion to approve all present consent.

Dep dues/per capita - motion to suspend the per capital payment from Detachment this year
Department does have money, let the Detachments keep their money.

1st kit Johnson and 2nd Jim banner. All present approve. Motion carried.

New Business - [Officer Elections – John Miller, Presiding,](#)

Next Convention – 2022 ???

Round up not ready for convention Roundup no – Hamilton yes May – June 2022
not Mothers Day. They will set a date soonest

Election committee – John Miller / Benner / Lawson

2021 officers

Nominations 2021- 22

Benner nominates Commandant - Joe Rogrish

Lawson nominates. Sr Vice Commandant. – Mike Flynn

Lawson nominates. - Jr vice Commandant - AJ Justice

Benner nominates Judge advocate Kit Johnson

Jr past Harry Armstrong

Lawson. Makes a motion to accept White ticket

Scott Dunlap 2nd

All present approve

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Special Thanks to Janet Wagner for providing these minutes of the convention for inclusion in the newsletter.