

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
TREASURE VALLEY DETACHMENT # 878 & TREASURE VALLEY POUND # 270**

June 22, 2020

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## **COMING EVENTS**

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting:** 7:00 PM, Thursday July 17, American Legion Hall, 22 West Broadway, Ave., Meridian, Idaho

**Next Quarterly Devil Dog Growl/Pack Growl:** TBA

**Monthly Breakfast with Spouses:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, 8:30 AM at Quinn's 1005 S Vista Ave., Boise, ID

**Weekly Coffee:** 8:30 AM Saturdays at Quinn's, 1005 S Vista Ave., Boise

**PURPOSE & INTENT:** To keep detachment members informed of past and future detachment actions and activities. To present a concise summary of the detachment's monthly business meeting.

Meeting opened at 1900 / 7:00 PM

With the exception of the Judge Advocate, who was excused, all officers were present.

Eleven members and one auxiliary member present.

Minutes of the August last meeting were not available. They will be reviewed for comment, modification as necessary, and approval at the July 2020 meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

Here is a one-time only personal announcement from me as newsletter editor:

In the Fall of 2018, I began what effectively became an eighteen-month "sabbatical" from the MCL. Now, I've decided that it's time for me to once again actively participate in Detachment activities, and I hope that many of you who have also been on a sort of sabbatical from the Detachment will join me in my return. I will also offer you a reason beyond self-interest to get re-involved: The coming deactivation of Company C, 4th Tank Battalion.

The Marine Corps' decision to eliminate tanks from its inventory of capabilities; which, is why Company C is being deactivated, will, I think, have a considerable and possibly negative impact on the Marine Corps' visible presence in the Treasure Valley. Our Treasure Valley Detachment, can with near certainty, be expected to try and fill some of that void of visible Marine Corps presence.

One example is the annual Veterans Day Parade in Boise. Since that first parade in 2001, Company C, has given the residents of the Treasure Valley, visual proof of the existence of the Marine Corps. The company consistently placed one or more tanks and a platoon-size unit marching in the parade. This was important to the Corps, because without them marching in the parade, many Treasure Valley residents would never have seen actual in-the-flesh U. S. Marines. Due to Covid-19 crowd restrictions, the 2020 Veterans Day Parade has already been cancelled. But in 2021, and beyond, C Company's absence will mean no Marines marching in the Veterans Day Parade in Boise, unless, of course, the TVD steps-up. Doing that sort of activity is one of the purposes of the Marine Corps League, and making it happen here in the Treasure Valley will be a challenge for our Detachment.

That said; Walt Modler, informs us that there are some 5,000 Marines in the Treasure Valley area. And we know that the Valley's population is growing faster than most of us would prefer, so it is probably the number of Marines in the Valley will also increase. Given all that I have mentioned, can we find a way to reinvigorate the TVD, and make it an organization that a sizeable number of those 5,000 fellow Marines will be interested in joining to help represent the Marine Corps in the Treasure Valley?

In future newsletters I will return to my practice of not offering personal comments and focus on reporting Detachment meeting results. However, if any member wants to submit an opinion piece on detachment matters; i.e. not current politics or national affairs, please send them to me for consideration for inclusion in the newsletter.

#### **REACTIVATING THE DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER:**

Before this issue, the most recent detachment newsletter was published in November, 2018. Also, because of Covid-19, State of Idaho, imposed restrictions on meetings, the detachment has not met since March.

That said; the Detachment did meet at 7:00 PM, on Thursday evening, June 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Meridian, Idaho, American Legion Hall. The turnout of Detachment members was small; only eleven-members and one-auxiliary member present, which was just enough for a quorum to hold an important vote.

#### **Meetings and Elections:**

As you know, or should know, because of the Covid-19 meeting restrictions, the Detachment was not able to conduct an election of officers in May. Nevertheless, the Commandant, did appoint a committee to nominate members for elected and appointed officer positions. For the elected officer positions, those members are: Robert Balfour as commandant; Bobby Lee as senior vice-commandant; Dick Kiplinger as Junior-vice-commandant; and Jack Cunningham as judge advocate.

Acting on a one-time basis, a motion to suspend the Bylaws was made, seconded and passed by unanimous vote to hold the necessary election on June 18<sup>th</sup>. All those nominated were voted into the billets listed.

Nominations for the appointed officer positions were: Dave Swickard, Adjutant/Paymaster; Frank Guy, Sergeant-at-Arms; Skip Nakashima, Chaplain. Their actual appointment is a Detachment Commandant function.

**Coffee Wagon** receipts for May were \$423.00. The next Coffee Wagon event is June 27 & 28. Slots are available. Contact Dick Keplinger at 208-887-4572 to sign up to help out.

The **Department of Idaho Convention**, is July 9, 10, and 11, in Pocatello. If you are attending, then you've probably already signed up. If you would like to attend and still need to sign up, then contact Dave Swickard at 208-229-3043.

Skip Nakashima, is lead planner for the **Detachment Picnic**. Whether or not we will ask to once again impose on Stan and Jeannie Meholchick, who are not in the best of health, remains an open question. Other possible venues are the picnic area adjacent to the Boise VFW, Building, or a location in Caldwell. Do you have a "snappy idea" for the picnic venue? If you do, then let Skip know of your suggestion.

**ACUVC (Ada County United Veterans Council)**. Building a veterans' service organization multi-use building on the Boise, Veterans' Park grounds has been a goal of the ACUVC, for many years. The latest impediment to the project is a Federal restriction on building any sort of building on such grounds. Our Detachment representative to the Council, Dave Swickard, reported that the Council in coordination with the Boise Base Submariners' Organization—project lead—is working on a solution. If you are an inquiring mind that wants to know more, contact Dave.

**Detachment 2020 Fundraiser:** Due to the complications surrounding Covid-19 restrictions, we will not have a 2020 detachment fundraising raffle this year. Personal donations to the detachment to help support the Detachment from members are welcomed, however. I think that you could designate your donation for either the Detachment general fund or the social fund.

**Christmas Party:** The Junior Vice-Commandant, Dick Keplinger, is the lead for this project. The Plantation Golf Course dining room was a successful venue last year; however, part of the cost of the event was paid by the Detachment's Social Fund, which may not be sufficient to meet the total expense this year. Alternative venues will be examined. Contact Dick, if you have suggestions or recommendations for the Christmas Party.

**Possible Change of Meeting Location:** The Detachment's leadership is weighing the idea of rotating our monthly meeting location between Boise, Meridian (current), Nampa, and Caldwell. Why would we do this? To encourage membership and spread-the-wealth of driving distances across the membership. We have members who live in Boise, Caldwell, Eagle, Meridian, and Nampa.

**Detachment Member in Pain:** Jack Cunningham's wife as ben in hospice care for an extended period of time. Hospice is an obviously difficult time for a family. Please keep Jack, and his wife Connie in your thoughts and prayers.

**Deactivation of Company C.** As an MCL detachment we've been very fortunate to have an organized MCR unit in Boise. Company C's presence has meant that we've not had to support Toys for Tots in any significant way, and we've not had to plan and conduct a Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

The best unofficial information we have is that by November-December, 2020, Company C's unit strength will be down to 40 to 50 Marines. With that, and other uncertainties, the I&I first sergeant says they are not now planning anything to support Toys for Tots, or planning to host a birthday ball.

Will the Marine Corps replace Company C, with a different Reserve organization? According to the first sergeant, no one knows. I doubt that, but if anything like that is a possibility, Company C, has not been informed. My personal guess is that we will not see a replacement Reserve unit. If one was planned, then there would be a recruiting plan to "hire" the necessary Marines or to ask current Company C, members to consider an MOS change. As it is, the first sergeant says the Idaho National Guard is already recruiting tankers from the unit.

Next week, I will request a meeting with the I&I, Captain Johnston, to learn what I can about the deactivation. At a minimum, I expect that either HQMC PAO, or the Fourth MarDiv PAO to publish a press release on this matter.

Send your comments or questions about this newsletter's contents to: [g.randeljr@att.net](mailto:g.randeljr@att.net)

Gary Randel, Editor

Available for viewing at the detachment website page: <http://tvdmc.org/newsletters/>

TREASURE VALLEY DETACHMENT, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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