

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

VOLUME XI, Number 1

JANUARY 1998

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636 of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held December 10, 1997, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 19 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant, the Adjutant and the Quartermaster. Distinguished Marines in attendance included: National Public Relations Officer Don Gee; Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr., Bill Plant, Frank Yohe, and Don Gee; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Paul Caprio.

The Minutes of the November Meeting were unanimously approved.

Paymaster Bob Cody issued the Paymaster's Report. The report was unanimously accepted.

Commandant Bud Pearce reported several members of the Detachment had taken part in a Funeral Detail at the request of All Division Detachment. Our members served as part of the Firing Squad and All Divisions Detachment sent a "Thank You" note for their participation. The Detachment also received a note from the Marckstein family expressing appreciation for the flowers sent for Marine Jim Marckstein's mother's funeral.

Senior Vice Commandant - absent. The Detachment has 48 members on the rolls. We have 15 Life Members, 27 Regular Members and 6 Associate Members. There are three members delinquent in their dues. Judge Advocate Bill Plant, PC, suggested a committee be formed to contact delinquent members to determine why they were not renewing their membership. A volunteer offered to contact the delinquent members and, therefore, obviate the necessity for a committee.

Junior Vice Commandant Paul Caprio reported on the success of the Birthday Ball. According to Paymaster Cody, the Birthday Ball cost the Detachment \$153.69 versus the more than \$700 in 1996.

Adjutant - absent.

Judge Advocate Bill Plant, PC, reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

(Continued on Page 3)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 14 JANUARY 1998 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN



LISTEN UP!

LISTEN UP! is the internal information publication of the CENTRAL **BUCKS DETACHMENT** of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania. Inc. It is published monthly by and for the members of the Central Bucks Detachment.

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc. P. O. Box 1372 Doylestown, PA 18901-1372 Ph: (215) 822-6723 FAX: (215) 822-0163

Meets 7:30 p.m., 2d Wednesday of Month American Legion Post 210 315 North Street Doylestown, PA

COMMANDANT: ELLIS M. "BUDD" PEARCE, PC

Sr. VICE COMMANDANT: WILLIAM C.H. ROSENBERGER III

> Jr. VICE COMMANDANT: PAUL CAPRIO

> > ADJUTANT: **GARY SMITH**

PAYMASTER: ROBERT C. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE: BILL PLANT, PC

CHAPLAIN: FRANKLIN YOHE, PC

QUARTERMASTER: DONALD PARZANESE Jr.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS ROBERT A. SUNDLING

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER & EDITOR: DON H. GEE. PC

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines.

Thank you for bringing in so many nice toys for our collection table. If any of you took some for a needy family, I hope the kids enjoyed them. All that were left after our meeting were taken to a shelter for the kids there. Thanks to Wil Haas for being our Detachment 'Santa" and getting those toys up there for the kids!

In January, we will appoint a Nominating Committee at our regular meeting. The election of Detachment officers is coming up and the Nominating Committee is the first step. The next step comes in February when the nominations of the Committee are heard. At that time, the nominations are open to the floor and will remain open until the elections in march. If you or someone you know wish to run for office, please feel free to talk to the Nominating Committee or nominate them yourself. If you plan to nominate someone else, please check with them first to make sure they are willing to do the job if elected. It is very important for the membership to get involved in the elections. The officers haven't changed much in the last few years. I guess that says you are happy with the job they are doing but that doesn't give the rest of the members much of a chance to show what they can do. Please consider running for an office if you feel you have the time to devote. Remember, if you want to do a job for the Detachment, but are not ready to try being an officer, we have a few appointed jobs that need being done also. The Ouartermaster would like to have someone take over that position and Senior Vice Commandant Bill Rosenberger would like to find a member to go to Friendly's on "Fund-Raiser Wednesday" and pick up the money. As you can see, there is a lot of opportunity for you to help out. If you are one of those people who need a written invitation ... consider this that invitation.

At the last meeting, it was announced the Detachment has about 10 parking lots available to us for A-Day weekend. I know it doesn't happen until April, and you are probably wondering why I am bringing it up now. Well, if you take the time to think about the amount of people it is going to take to man those parking lots, you'll see that if we don't get enough of you to set dome time aside, we are going to be in big trouble. Our Detachment has about 20-25 members who come out for all of the meetings. We are going to need every one of you to devote a few hours on one of the days we have the lots. Last year, when we ran four parking lots, we made more than \$3,000. This year, we have the opportunity to more than double that figure. If you would rather stand out in front of the State Store or sell tickets to raise money, then don't bother to help out with parking. From what I hear, though, the Detachment would rather not have to do those kinds of fund raisers. This parking lot project which Bob Shaffer has spent a great deal of time putting together is proving to be a really terrific thing for us. Please remember to keep some time open in April. The exact will be in the next Listen Up! along with a number to call to volunteer to help out. If you are a member who, for any reason, has not been coming to the meetings but would really like to show your support for the Detachment, PLEASE let this be your way of contributing that support.

I understand our next Highway Clean-Up will be in January--probably the Saturday after our Detachment Meeting. The exact date and time will be announced at the meeting. One thing I need for you to do for me in January is to bring any and all items--pictures, etc.--that you would like to get in this year's scrapbook. I know that it isn't due to be submitted until June at the Department Convention, but I am going to have the first half of the year completed by the end of January. If you don't get your stuff in to me, it stands a good chance of not getting in this year's book. Some of you have already given me some photos and articles and they are greatly appreciated. Keep bringing things in as you get them. We have won 1st Place with our scrapbook for a number of years and it can't be dome without your contributions.

That's all I have for right now. I hope that you and your families had a great holiday. Happy New Year, Marines! See you at the meetings.

Buld Hance

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported he had received no requests for the Detachment Color Guard since the last meeting.

Quartermaster - absent.

Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC, reminded the Detachment the deadline for submitting articles for the Newsletter was Dec. 20. He also reminded the membership that the Department Calendars had been distributed and that a donation of \$12 was asked by the Department to help pay for the calendar. He stated he had received a number of compliments on the quality of this year's calendar.

STANDING COMMITTEES

VAVS--No report.

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POW-MIA-POW-MIA Coordinator Bill Plant, PC, reported about an article in the VVA magazine which reported that, at the time of the withdrawal from Viet Nam and the return of POWs, when President Richard Nixon stated there were no more POWs, he knew there were still POWs being held in Laos.

GENUARDI'S/REDENER'S RECEIPTS--Genuardi's Receipts Coordinator Jim Marckstein reported he had recently sent in a batch of receipts. He also reported that Marine Bob Randle would be taking over the responsibility for this program.

YOUNG MARINES--Young Marines Liaison Bill Plant, PC, reported the Bux-Mont Young Marines were conducting a "Toys-for-Tots" program at NAS, Willow Grove. Toys may be brought the Bldg. #33 at Willow Grove. He also reported the Unit was planning a trip to Quantico in the very near future to learn about Marine Corps tanks.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

PARADE COMMITTEE--Parade Committee Chair Mike Waldron stated he had received some in put from Marine Herb Krout suggesting a design for the Detachment Parade Float. He is still looking for more ideas and enjoins the membership to submit ideas about how to decorate the float to him as soon as possible. He asks that plans (and costs) be submitted to him in writing by 7 p.m. on January 14 (next Detachment Meeting). The Committee will report its "Action Plan" to the Detachment at the February Meeting.

FRIENDLY'S RESTAURANTS -- No report.

OLD BUSINESS

TOYS FOR TOTS--Marine Wil Haas thanked the Detachment for donating toys for the abused women's center in Quakertown.

NEW BUSINESS

Paymaster Bob Cody motioned the Detachment donate \$50 to the "Give-A-Christmas Drive" being conducted by the *Daily Intelligencer/Record*. Motion unanimously approved.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Judge Advocate Bill Plant, PC, asked the Detachment to come up with more fund-raising ideas and to volunteer their time to participate in fund-raising activities.

Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC, announced the Central Bucks Auxiliary Unit will be conducting an "Easter Food Drive" for needy families. He asked the membership to bring canned and boxed food to meetings between now and Easter to help support the Auxiliary's effort.

Marine Mike Waldron reminded the membership that "A" Day at Delaware Valley College will be the last weekend in April and that we need Detachment members to donate their time to this major fund-raiser.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed until 1930 on January 14.

Benedict Arnold's Boat Found in Lake

A Revolutionary War gunboat, part of a small fleet commanded in a strategic battle by Benedict Arnold before he turned traitor, has been found nearly intact on the bottom of Lake Champlain, officials said recently.

No decision has been made yet on whether to leave the ship in place or raise it, said **Art Cohn**, head of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. The ship's exact location in the 115-milelong lake and its depth were not released.

The 54-foot vessel, whose name is not yet known, is "in an excellent state of preservation, sitting upright on the bottom, its mast still standing more than 50 feet high and its large bow cannon still in place," Cohn said.

It was found recently during a sonar survey of the lake bottom, he said.

Only four vessels survived out of the 15-ship squadron led by Arnold in the Battle of Valcour Island in 1776.

Cohn told reporters he went on the first dive to the ship. His attention was focused on the complicated dive procedures, he said, but "at the same time there was a voice screaming in my head 'Oh my God, this is the gunboat! Benedict Arnold probably walked on this deck'."

The newly discovered ship was identified as one of Arnold's flotilla because it matches another of his gunboats, the *Philadelphia*, which was found in 1935 and is at the Smithsonian Institution.

Peter Barranco, the historian on the discovery team, said he was sure what had been found as soon as he saw it on the sonar. "There was never any doubt in my mind that it was there. History had told us so," he said.

"This could prove to be the most significant maritime discovery in American history in the last half century," said **Philip Lundeberg**, curator emeritus of naval history at the Smithsonian's American History Museum. "The apparently excellent condition of the gunboat is highly unusual for an artifact this old and is one of the reasons the discovery is so significant."

The lake's cold water, up to 409

feet deep, is credited with preserving a number of wrecks that have been found in the lake in recent years.

Lake Champlain, which divides New York and Vermont, was of strategic importance in the Revolutionary War because it extends north into Canada.

American forces, led by Arnold, met the British fleet Oct. 11., 1776, at the Battle of Valcour Island. While Arnold's fleet was forced to retreat, their efforts delayed the impending British invasion for a year, giving the Colonists more time to bolster future defense. Arnold later switched sides, giving the British information about American plans.



- 1. What do you call a Marine Sergeant who is 6-feet,5-inches tall and weighs 240 pounds?
- 2. Who was the first Commandant promoted to Brigadier General?
- 3. How many Marine pilots were killed in the 1983 Grenada invasion?
- 4. Where is the Canton Bell displayed?
- 5. What does "gung ho" mean?

Answers in Next Month's Newsletter

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

- 1. The four parts of the M-16 magazine are the Base, the Spring,, the Follower, and the Case.
- 2. When saluting an officer, an enlisted Marine cuts away his/her salute either after the officer has cut his/her salute or after the officer has passed by.
- 3. Four Marines are needed to form a rifle team.
- 4. An Interior Guard is established to (a) protect property, (b) preserve order, and (c) enforce regulations.
- 5. The dimesnions of a stradle trench are one foot wide by 2-1/2 feet deep by 4 feet long.

CONGRESS SEEKS TO LOOSEN V-A REGS

Congress recently moved to open the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care to more of this country's veterans. The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee approved by voice vote, a draft bill designed to loosen rules for those who seek VA outpatient care. Within a week, the House of Representatives voted 416-0 to pass HR 3118, legislation similar to the Senate bill.

Under the provisions of both bills, they would cap VA health care appropriations at \$17 billion in FY 1998. VA would also set up a new priority system

for treating veterans, with service-connected disabled veterans continuing to receive top priority and other categories of veterans receiving care as the budget allowed. Further, VA would be given greater flexibility to treat veterans through outpatient care and by contracting services to the private sector. It would eliminate some current VA rules that limit outpatient care to a select group of veterans. Current law requires veterans to check into a VA hospital before they can be treated at an outpatient clinic. Veterans currently receiving priority care would be unaffected. They include service-connected disabled and indigent veterans, and veterans suffering from catastrophic illnesses. In addition, former prisoners of war and World War I veterans would be added.

While these bills together comprise an initial phase for VAhealth care reform, veterans groups are concerned about the impact these changes will have on services and treatment of priority category "C" veterans seeking VA health care. Supporters claim these changes will allow VA to treat veterans for less money.



Auxiliary Launches Easter Food Drive

"Bring a can or a box of food for the needy for Easter," is what the Central Bucks Auxiliary Unit is asking of Central Bucks Detachment members.

The Auxiliary, which will again be sharing the American Legion Post with the Detachment beginning in January, will have a container available for dona-

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tions at our next meeting.

"We will collecting canned and boxed food items at each Detachment and Unit meeting until Easter," says Auxiliary Unit President Tammy Gee. "We need the Detachment's support to make this food drive successful," she states. The Easter Food Drive begins in January.

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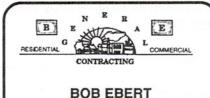
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Department of Veterans Affairs

Guide to Writing for Your Medals

Standard Form 180 is no longer used to obtain military medals. Instead, a letter requesting the medals should be sent to the appropriate address shown below:

BRANCH	WHERE TO WRITE FOR MEDALS
Army	U.S. ARMY RESERVE PERSONNEL CENTER ATTN: DARP-PAS-EAW 9700 PAGE BLVD ST LOUIS MO 63132-5100
Air Force	AIR FORCE REFERENCE BRANCH NCPMF NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER (MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS) 9700 PAGE BLVD ST LOUIS MO 63132-5100
Marine Corps Coast Guard Navy	NAVY LIAISON OFFICE (N314) ROOM 3475 9700 PAGE BLVD ST LOUIS MO 63132-5100
CAN	IDLE LETTERO

SAMPLE LETTERS

SAMPLE APPLICATION LETTER

entitled to. I have attached a copy of my separation document (DD 214).	award emblems that (full name of veter to. A copy of the separation docum enclosed.
My Social Security number is:	Veteran's Social Security number was:
My former service number is:	Veteran's service number was:
My VA claim number is:	Veteran's VA claim number was:
Date and place of birth:	Veteran's date of death was:
Full name, address and phone number:	Veteran's date and place of birth was:
	Full name, address and phone number

SAMPLE LETTER FOR NEXT-OF-KIN APPLYING FOR MEDALS

As the legal next-of-kin, I request that I be issued all rans) was entitled

to. A copy of the separation document (DD 214) is enclosed.
Veteran's Social Security number was:
Veteran's service number was:
Veteran's VA claim number was:
Veteran's date of death was:
Veteran's date and place of birth was:
Full name, address and phone number:
-

BUCKS COUNTY WWII COMMEMORATIVE BRICK

Acquisition Form - 12/97

this form may be duplicated

I wish to purchase a Bucks County World War II Commemorative Brick, honoring a <u>WWII loved one</u>, unit or comrade, to be incorporated into the courtyard of the new WWII Monument. The cost is \$100.00 and will aid the building and maintenance fund. Engrave the brick as follows:

Three lines, twenty			letters & spaces (or less) per line - no punctuation (twenty spaces are provided)																
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			В	ricks	to l	oe lai		iring Brick					e mo	num	ent j	proje	ect		
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To	own	1								5	State	2				Zip			

My check for \$100.00 is enclosed and is payable to the Bucks County WWII Monument Fund

Please attach a military history to this form (optional)

This Bucks County WWII Monument Fund Raising Campaign is sponsored by

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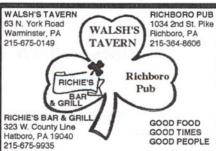


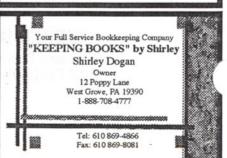
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'ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"