

June 2016

The Sitrep

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**Next Detachment
Meeting:**
**Emmaus VFW
#7088**
316 Main St.
Emmaus, PA
June 22nd @ 1930

**Current
Elected/Appointed
Officers**

- Commandant-
Jason Smith
- Sr. Vice
Commandant-
Michael Donatacci
- Jr. Vice
Commandant-
Robert Hoffman
- Judge Advocate-
Howard Schaeffer
- Adjutant -
Terry Keiser
- Paymaster -
Terry Keiser
- Chaplain-
Joseph Malia
- Sgt. at Arms-
Anthony Reed
- Web Sgt. –
Jason Smith



Message from the CP

This past month has been an extremely busy one for the detachment. We had nursing home visits on the 21st, our meeting on the 25th, Memorial Day on the 30th, and the car wash fundraiser on June 4. Not only did we have all these activities, but also as marines do, we took on the challenge and dominated.

The nursing home visits are becoming more and more a family event and I would love to see more members bring their kids or grandchildren to them. The residents of the homes get a huge kick out of them and it is a good way to teach the future generation to respect their elders.

At this past meeting, we had a very special guest and awards were given. I try to keep special events like this close to chest that way you never know what will be happening at upcoming meetings. This will hopefully bring out members that we haven't seen in a while and help us to bring new members in.

Memorial Day was a great success. We as a detachment had an overwhelming presence as we marched the route. Again, this is a great activity to bring your families out to. It was nice getting to meet the families that were there.

The car wash this year was a great success. Anna Rodriguez put a lot of work in to get things set up. It was also great to see the support we received from other veterans groups and our local community vendors.

I hope we not only maintain the high attendance of members at our events but also see those numbers climb. It is through these events that we let our community know that we are here to support them, and they in return will help to support us.

This Month's Birthdays/Anniversaries

- Johnny Gill joined the MCL in June of '06

- Howard Schaeffer joined the MCL in June of '13

- Richard Stoudt turns 78 on June 6th

- Cameron Wehr turns 24 on June 11th

- Jack Rupell turns 50 on June 13th

- David Hanssen turns 54 on June 20th

- Mike Brody turns 45 on June 23rd

Meeting Minutes

- ❖ A notice was read from the Velodrome on their upcoming Veterans Appreciation Event on July 8th. They asked if the detachment would like to have a table at the event. Sr. Vice Commandant Donatacci volunteered to head up the table. Shane Patton, Jr. Vice Commandant Hoffman, Judge Advocate Schaeffer, and Chaplain Malia volunteered to assist as well.
- ❖ Sr. Vice Commandant Donatacci announced that the first Heartland Hospice Care class will be held on Saturday June 18th and will go from 0900-1500. If you are planning to attend, please get your applications in ASAP. The various ways to submit the paperwork is on the application itself.
- ❖ Commandant Smith wanted to recognize the amount of members present at the meeting. He also appreciates the family feel that the detachment has.
- ❖ Detachment member Dale Seidel, Commander of American Legion Post 191, wanted to say he appreciated seeing this many people present as well and if it wasn't for his work schedule, he would attend more.
- ❖ There was a reminder for the July 2nd fireworks event in Breinigsville, and the fact that we will have a table at the event. If you are interested in attending, please contact either Commandant Smith or Sr. Vice Commandant Donatacci.
- ❖ Chaplain Malia wanted to thank everyone for the donation to his grandson's college fund. He also wanted to thank the detachment for attending his son's memorial service.
- ❖ There was a reminder for the Carwash Fundraiser Saturday June 4th from 1000-1400.
- ❖ Judge Advocate Schaeffer was presented his medal and ribbon for being elected the 2016 Detachment Marine of the Year.
 - He thanked the detachment for electing him, and told everyone how joining the detachment three years ago changed his life. He also wanted to remind everyone to keep their eyes open for marines in need and to bring them into the fold.
- ❖ A reminder about the upcoming Memorial Day Parade was brought up.
 - Members that are attending, and able, were asked to carry the colors of the other local veterans posts
 - Any active duty veterans present will be the lead color guard.
 - The VFW will be providing free drinks and buffet to veterans. It will be \$6.00 for guests to eat, and they will have to pay for their drinks.
- ❖ Judge Advocate Schaeffer wanted to recognize the Reserve Marine Corps Ball in Wilkes-Barre. They are looking for veterans organization to make donations to help support the event.
 - A motion was made to donate \$250.00 towards the ball in the name of Taylor Bailey, a local hometown hero.
 - The motion was passed **29 For: 0 Against: 0 Abstentions**
 - Remax Real Estate will be matching the donation
- ❖ Henry Brokate mentioned that on June 10th the Hokendauqua American Legion will be having a flag retirement ceremony
 - On June 14th, Flag Day, they are having a ceremony at Community Park. The Emmaus Veterans Committee will be providing the Honor Guard for both events.
 - On June 14th, at the Texas Roadhouse in Trexlertown from 1600-2200, 10% of your bill will be donated to Emmaus American Legion 191. All you have to do to ensure the donations to mention the post.
- ❖ Anna Rodriguez asked if anybody was interested in buying a brick at the Whitehall Veterans Memorial.
 - The detachment voted last month to buy one.
 - On June 14th the new flagpole will be erected and a ceremony will be held
- ❖ District Three Sr. Vice Commandant Joe Pokojni presented the detachment our 100% membership streamer from the Scottsdale Convention, and a certificate from the National Jr. Vice Commandant for our meritorious service to the Marine Corps League.

Meeting Minutes Cont....

- ❖ Howard Cooper offered the detachment members present two Marine Corps covers if any members would like them.
- ❖ Josh Brown announced that his daughter was born on Mother's Day. She had a severe bout with jaundice, but has fully recovered and is now doing well.
- ❖ The meeting closed with a reminder of the upcoming detachment events



Wounded or in Distress

Detachment Charles Kozo was diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer. He is currently signed up for a trial treatment for his ailment. Sgt at Arms Tony Reed will be going in for surgery on his thyroid. Please keep these marines and their families in your thoughts and prayers.



Paymaster's Report

- ❖ As of 5/25/16 the money market account has a balance of \$3,339.11
- ❖ As of 5/25/16 the checking account has an available balance of \$2,008.67



Welcome Aboard

Meet Detachment 296's newest member. Cpl. Cameron Wehr is a young marine who was honorably discharged last month. He served four years in the artillery field. He also volunteered for the female integrated task force to evaluate female capabilities while in combat occupational specialties. Cameron's youth, age 23, will be an asset to the detachment's growth.

After Action Reports



Lifquest Nursing Center Visit

<http://www.lvmcl.com/may-21st-nursing-home-visits/>

On May 21, 2016 the LVMCL 296 and American Legion 191 visited the Lifquest Nursing Center with Opha Mae, Detachment 296's certified therapy dog. Our visit heightened the spirit of all the veterans that were able to congregate in the community room.

A few of us along with Opha Mae went searching for veterans that could not make it out of their rooms. After completing our rounds, we went back to the community room and paid tribute to the veterans by singing each military service hymn and ending with God Bless America. - Sr. Vice Commandant Michael Donatucci

- Traditions of Hanover visit on June 12th. We will meet there at noon.
- Monthly detachment meeting to be held June 22nd and is set to begin @ 1930
- July 2nd Breinigsville Fireworks Show at Earl Adams Memorial Park. The show starts at 1900 but we will be there around 1500 to set up.
- USA Night at the Velodrome on July 8th. The time of the event is 1930.
- Detachment Rose Sale at the Trexlertown Wal-Mart on Sept. 17th and 18th from 1000 - 1500

After Action Reports Cont...



Mosser Nursing Home Visit

<http://www.lvmcl.com/may-21st-nursing-home-visits/>

After the Lifequest visit, additional detachment members joined in to visit one of our frequent stops, the Mosser Nursing Home. We gathered the veterans together, and any resident that wanted to visit, in the community room. While there, we spent time talking to the residents and sharing stories. One of the brightest parts of the day, at least for me, was watching my 3-year-old daughter interact with the residents. At the end of the visit, we led the residents in a round of patriotic songs. It was a wonderful event for all and we look forward to continue our efforts to reach out to our community. – **Commandant Jason Smith**



Special Guest Bryan Carpenter

<http://www.lvmcl.com/guest-speaker-bryan-carpenter/>

<http://www.battleafteriraq.com/>

During the May Detachment Meeting, the members were surprised with a special guest speaker. Bryan Carpenter is an Iraqi War veteran and Purple Heart recipient. On June 6 2006, the vehicle Bryan was driving struck an IED. Bryan suffered multiple injuries and had a long road of recovery ahead of him. During his visit, he shared his story covering everything from his physical therapy to his battle with PTSD. His visit was both enlightening and motivating. – **Commandant Jason Smith**



Emmaus Memorial Day Parade

<http://www.lvmcl.com/memorial-day-parade-2016-1/>

Detachment 296 continued its tradition in participating in the Emmaus Memorial Day festivities. The parade kicked off at 0900 and was followed by the ceremony at the Memorial Triangle. After which many of the members proceeded to go back to VFW Post 7088 for food and refreshments. It was a lovely day for all of our family and friends to get together and remember our fallen veterans. A special thank you to Detachment 296 Sr. Vice Commandant Donatucci, who instead of marching with us walked along the route taking photos.

- **Commandant Jason Smith**



Detachment Carwash Fundraiser

<http://www.lvmcl.com/june-4th-car-wash-fundraiser-1/>

The Detachment held a fundraiser car wash at the Ace Hardware in Northampton. It was a very successful event. The weather was a little on the hot side but we made the event fun. We would not have had as much success if it were not for all of the assistance we received. A special thank you goes out to Ace Hardware for the venue, Gold Star Mother Anna Rodriguez for setting up the event, and David Rider and the Warrior's Watch Riders ECPA for all of their volunteers and the hard work they put in. It is great to see the support we are gaining within our community. - **Commandant Jason Smith**

Awards and Recognition



Detachment Judge Advocate Howard Schaeffer was presented his medal after being selected the 2016 Detachment Marine of the Year



District 3 Sr. Vice Joe Pokojni presented Commandant Smith a certificate from the National Jr. Vice for the Detachment's meritorious service to the MCL and our membership ribbon for maintaining a 100% roster



Memorial Quote

"The patriot's blood is the seed of freedom's tree."

- Joseph Campbell

Marine Corps League Detachment 296

Official Website:
<http://www.lvmcl.com>

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Visit with Opha Mae and Reckless

Opha Mae and Reckless are English bulldogs, whom are available to visit veterans of all branches of the United States Armed Forces. The English bulldog is the United States Marine Corps mascot. It was only fitting that they both have names steeped in Marine Corps history. Opha Mae was named after the first woman who enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Opha Mae Johnson joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1918. Reckless was named after Staff Sergeant Reckless, a Mongolian mare, whose heroic endeared her so much to the Marine Corps that there was a statue of her place at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico Virginia. She was also buried with full military honors at Camp

Both Opha Mae and Reckless are available to visit veterans in hospitals, nursing homes, or private residences. They will wear one of their four Marine Corps uniforms; Dress Blues Uniform, Service Charlie Uniform, Green Camouflage Uniform, or Desert Camouflage Uniform. The choice is yours. There is no cost for this service as these men and women have already given enough. Opha Mae's certifications are available upon request, Reckless is currently undergoing training for his, and their license and shot records are available upon request. Anyone interested in requesting Opha's services can either go to the following link (<http://www.lvmcl.com/visit-with-opha-mae/>) or e-mail Commandant Jason Smith.



Emmaus Veterans Committee

The Emmaus Veterans Committee is made up of veterans from the Catholic War Vets, the VFW, the American Legion, and the Marine Corps League. The purpose of this committee is for all Emmaus veterans organizations to gather and ensure the needs of local veterans and their families are being taken care of.

The committee's activities include, but are not limited to:

- replacing the flags at veterans gravesites, multiple times a year
- organizing the Emmaus Memorial Day Activities
- Once a year a flag retirement ceremony is held, in which old and tattered flags collected from gravesites, veterans groups, and civilian contributors are properly retired. The ashes of those flags are later collected and spread around the veterans cemeteries.

The Emmaus Veterans Committee also has an Honor Guard. This is a group of local veterans, which volunteer their time to perform military funerals for fallen veterans at the gravesite, including the playing of taps and a gun salute. They will also perform services inside the funeral home per the request of the family. There is no payment requested but donations are accepted. If you would like a military service at a loved one's funeral, please let the funeral director know and contact the committee either at the following link, (<http://www.lvmcl.com/emmaus-veterans-committee-honor-guard/>) or email Commandant Jason Smith.