



The Gator ALMAR



BEST NEWSLETTER 1999, 2000, 2001

<http://gatordet.tripod.com>

Gator Detachment of the Marine Corps League, Inc.
P.O. Box 5845
Gainesville FL 32627

352.222.7704

Commandant: Bob Gasche 376-0402 APR/MAY 2003
Editor: Scott DuPree - ssgtd@bellsouth.net 336.5822

Next Month's Meeting May 27, 2003

Food will be available. As always, if you want to share a dish, bring it.

SPRING ACTION

MESSAGE FROM COMMANDANT

There is a lot of activity going on with the Gator Detachment. Spring is in the air and the hands and feet of our detachment are out there doing what they do best - serving the community. We have had a blood drive, a support group for deployed Marines, and provided manpower for the Parade of Homes. We are planning the community Memorial Day Service (May 26th), the veteran portion of the Fanfare and Fireworks (July 3rd), multiple yard sales for fundraising (summer), the Birthday Ball (Nov 1st) and the Homecoming Parade (Nov 7th). We will provide proclamations on holidays this year, as in years past. We are assembling a ceremonial unit under the leadership of Jim Yakubsin. We have attended the State Conference and will attend the State Convention in June. We have supported our Young Marines unit with our time and effort. We have assisted VFW Post 2811 in several endeavors. There are lots of small things going on - find one, ask for information, and be a part of it. You'll be glad you did, just as all those working with the events above are.

There is now an increased awareness within the community concerning veterans. We have the responsibility to represent the dignity of our Corps to our citizens by our actions and words. If you are the only Marine a person ever meets, you represent the entirety of the Marine Corps to that person. You are the ambassador of the Corps, whether you asked for it or not. Be the example of dignity. Be the ambassador.
Semper Fi - Bob Gasche

MCL STATE CONFERENCE IN LAKE CITY

The Marine Corps League spring conference was held in Lake City and sponsored by our friends of the Suwannee Valley Detachment. A highlight of the conference was the presentation of two special tricycles to handicapped children. Other points

include auxillary units are folding and having a difficult time; Leaguers all around are supporting deployed veterans and their families; Detachments are encouraged to appoint Veteran Service Benefit Officers; The 2ndMarDiv Museum at Camp LeJeune is selling walkway bricks to support cost of museum; District Vice Commandants all reported on their districts; Department running low on the budget - may solicit donations from membership; Leadership school is for all Leaguers - consider attending; Department officers have no right to intervene with detachment affairs or procedures; Follow the chain of command; Local bylaws may not exceed higher level bylaws; Marion County birthday ball will be November 8th

In addition to the meeting, there was plenty of social gathering as well as a banquet, awards and prizes. Hats off to the Suwannee Valley Det for a very smooth conference!

IT'S BINGO TIME

We STILL have a renewed interest in running the Bingo on Wednesday evenings and we need a few more members who might be able to donate a little of their time to this tremendous fund raising activity. A great BIG THANKS to Cary and Jamie Hill for leading this charge. Anyone interested in helping please contact the Commandant at 376-0402.

BLOOD DRIVE COLLECTS 22 UNITS

The combined VFW - Marine Corps League blood drive was held on Saturday, March 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A Civitan Blood Center bus was available at VFW Post 2811 and 22 units of blood were collected for the GatorDet. Lots of thanks to Eloise Lewis who made sure everything was lined up for the GatorDet

YOUNG MARINES

The second class of Young Marine "boots" has begun. The graduated Young Marines continue to study for their promotions. The Guide and the Squad Leaders continue to get on-the-job leadership training from the unit staff. The parent support group is great! They are scheduling activities for both adventure and for fund raising.

In addition to their usual fare of training, these Young Marines can be found out performing community service. They were there to help at the recent event in support of deployed troops. On April 26th, they were at the Great American Cleanup policing Westside Park. They will be helping the VFW put out flags and policing the Milton Lewis grave site. Our goal is to have a positive impact on the youth of our community. If you want to help out, contact Bob Gasche or Scott DuPree (numbers on heading of ALMAR)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Dues are \$30.00. Members, please give consideration to a **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**. Upon payment of Life dues **anytime**, you become a member for the rest of your life. Fees are:

Age 40 and below: \$250.00

Age 41 to 50: \$200.00

Age 51 to 60: \$150.00

Age 61 and up: \$75.00

BIRTHDAY BALL - 2003

For all who want to attend a nicely appointed Birthday Ball for a very good price, I have one task: sell an advertisement. Included with this issue is a Birthday Ball Ad Form. Take the form to a business deal with, a neighbor or a friend. Ask them for their support. Their contribution is TAX DEDUCTIBLE as we are a non-profit organization. And our members are encouraged to support those business that support us. The sale of advertisements will ensure a reasonable price of your Ball Tickets and will help us to be a more effective resource in our missions. Thanks for any help you can give.

GAINESVILLE'S MARINE CHECKPOINT

The annual PARADE OF HOMES was held from April 12th to April 20th. The GatorDet provided personnel to man the two-person positions from 1245 to 1800 on weekends and 1645 to 1900 on weekdays. The organization managing the event was very appreciative and enjoyed the support provided at "the Marine checkpoint." Many thanks to all the members who took a tour of duty. As you provided a service to the community, you also provided valuable support to the detachment and helped the detachment to earn a gratuity for your collective efforts. A salute to Carey Hill for lining it all up and supervising. We look forward to doing this again next year, possibly with two checkpoints.

GATORDET FORMING CEREMONIAL UNIT

The GatorDet is now in the process of forming a ceremonial unit. Participants will be able to wear the khaki shirts and work with M-1 rifles. This unit will be a major player in our community service. If you want further information, please contact Jim Yakubsin at 386-462-0493 (Alachua).

UPCOMING STATE CONVENTION

The annual state convention will be held June 26-29 in Orlando. Accommodations will be at Sheraton World (right by Sea World) at \$69.00 per night. The convention is a great place to meet other Leaguers and hear how other detachments do things. Any member interested in attending should contact the Commandant or the Adjutant.

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE IS ON TRACK

Planning for the 2003 Memorial Day services continues. Commandant Bob Gasche heads the committee which is comprised of members from both the GatorDet and the VA Hospital. The event, planned for May 26th at 10:00 a.m., will highlight the service of nurses in the armed forces. The ceremony will include several speakers and the highly requested flag folding ceremony. Participation will also include Young Marines, Junior ROTC members, and high school band youth.

GATORDET SPEAKERS

On May 8, Bob Gasche and Ralph Lewis will be speaking to the D-Day veterans group in Starke. The topic of discussion will be the perspectives of World War II veterans. On May 16th, Scott DuPree will be the speaker for a group of local Christian home schoolers. Scott will speak on the experiences of a Marine who is a Christian.

FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

[Not about racing] Hi, Marines: I just want to pass along a couple of thoughts. Back in the old days of the French (excuse the term) Foreign Legion, some said if you survived your enlistment, you were shot as being a coward. Now, Detachment Commandant Gasche has not threatened such drastic action, but how about getting involved in one or more of the detachment's projects and not being a coward? That 30 bucks you pay for a year is only the beginning, the challenge. Coming to meetings is second and important, but the third step, getting involved in our projects is the third and most important. Come on, let's be Marines!

Thanks and Semper Fi, Norm Froscher

Ben Kinard - Chaplain
Norm Froscher - Public Affairs Officer
Alan Gray - Military Historian
Ann Zecca - Photographer/Librarian
Bob Casey - Americanism and Education Officer
Cary Hill - Toys for Tots Chairman
Kirby Stewart - Fund Raising Chairman
Scott DuPree - Newsletter/Birthday Ball Chairman

Your Gator Det Staff 2002 - 2003
Bob Gasche - Commandant
Gary Powers - Senior Vice Commandant
Richard Lester - Junior Vice Commandant
Scott DuPree - Jr. Past Commandant
Ralph Lewis - Judge Advocate
Fredrick Peterkin - Adjutant/Paymaster
Ray Guyette - Quartermaster
Dan Brinsko - Sergeant at Arms

Upcoming at Gator Det ...
May 22, 2003, 6:30 p.m.- SFCC Downtown Conference Room - Staff Meeting
May 26, 2003, 10:00 a.m. VA Hospital front lawn - Memorial Day Services
May 27, 2003, 7pm - VFW Post 2811 - General Meeting
June 14, 2003 - VFW Post 2811 - FLAG DAY ceremony
June 19, 2003, 6:30 p.m. - SFCC Downtown - ROOM 128 - Staff Meeting (note change of location)
June 24, 2003, 7pm - VFW Post 2811 - General Meeting

GATOR DETACHMENT 990
P.O. BOX 5845
GAINESVILLE FL 32627-5845



“ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE”