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Serving our detachments and their members everywhere

Department of New York Newsletter “The Ground Pounder”

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<https://www.mclnewyork.net>

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*For a complete list refer to the
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Area Vice Commandant Alex Kitts



(left) Alex Kitts, North Area Vice Commandant & Commandant of the St. Lawrence County Detachment #408, was awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award Gold by National Commandant Dennis Tobin and the Distinguished Citizen Silver from the Department of New York. The Department also presented Alex with a plaque thanking him for his service to the Department. Department Junior Vice Commandant Dean Lawton Sr. made the presentation on behalf of National Commandant Tobin and the Department of New York.



A New Editor

This will be my last issue as the editor of the Ground Pounder. I am proud to announce that Donna Hildebrandt of the Bett-Toomey Detachment #216 will be our new newsletter editor. I ask that you treat her with the same respect, good photos and stories as you have given me. Membership support keeps this newsletter going. Please send your articles, photos: newsletter.dny@gmail.com. Donna has a background in printing and publishing and should be a great addition to our Department staff.

I want you all to know that I have greatly appreciated all the help and support that you all have given me in making this the newsletter it is today. I packed everything I had into this issue so Donna can start with a clean slate.

TOYS FOR TOTS

(Below) Hats off to the Suffolk County Detachment #247, led by Commandant Carmine Rainer on a blockbuster Toys for Tots Program. They partnered with the USMCR, to collect and distribute toys to children in need.



Congratulations to all Marines and volunteers who participated in this year's Toys for Tots campaign. This year poised many challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic. You exemplify what a Marine is all about. We salute you all. Congratulations on a job well done.



Pictured (L to R) Jean Maisano, Jim Maisano (Westchester County Detachment Member; Director, Westchester County Consumer Affairs; Steve Topilnycky, Westchester County Toys for Tots Coordinator).



(above right) The Utica Recruiting Marines, Mike Mills and Jim Ransom along with some reserve Marines.



(lower Left) Westchester County Toys for Tots Coordinator Steve Topilnycky unloading pallets of Toys.



More Toys for Tots on next page

More Toys for Tots



The Sgt. Angel Mendez Detachment was able to round up toys during these hard times with the help of the local reserve unit, 6th Comm Bn.



National Database

The new National database is up and running, but not without some bugs. As with all new applications there will be hiccups and issues. National is working closely with the database company to address those issues as they are discovered. Most Detachment Commandant's and Paymasters have received their access passwords. National is working to correct issues with rosters and membership as they are being reported. We asked each Detachment to carefully review their rosters and identify issues. Please send details to the Department Adjutant, he will liaison with the National Headquarters staff to get things corrected. With your help and that of the staff at National Headquarters, we will work through these issues. When using the Member Portal, please be careful what you change. There are areas that are clearly marked "do not change", although you can change them, please do not. Use the database and get familiar with it. It is a tool that can simplify things and make the administration of your Detachment easier. The future is here and the use of computers and online databases is part of that. Any questions, contact the Department Adjutant, Steve Topilnycky.

National will no longer distribute PLM dividend stipends via check. All payments will be made via EFT/ACH transfer. To date, all Detachments have submitted their EFT/ACH information except two Detachment. If National does not have the EFT/ACH information, a payment will not be issued. To be eligible for the stipend a Detachment must have submitted a PLM audit to National HQ via the Department before 31 December, is current with their 990-N tax submission, and have submitted a Report of Officers Installation within the last year. The two remaining Detachments can submit their information to the Department Adjutant. Remember, if your Detachment switches banking accounts, remember to send an updated EFT/ACH to the Adjutant.

Membership cards.

National HQ is now issuing plastic membership cards. The new cards have no expiration date. After the initial issue, you will not be receiving them annually, only when you change your status (regular to life), or transfer to a new Detachment. If you wish to obtain the new card, please see your Detachment Paymaster (use code: REMAK on the transmittal; \$10 per plastic card), or you can order it directly from National Headquarters using this link: <https://bit.ly/3kAiy92>. If you received a membership card with your Detachment number in the PLM field, that is an error. Those cards were reordered. National is no longer using an outside vendor for these cards. They have purchased their own printers and are now printing them in house. All membership cards are being sent to the Detachments for Distribution.

Local Businesses acknowledged for their support of the Middletown Detachment



Middletown Detachment Commandant Don Wells & Department Southeast Area Vice Commandant Mike Piscioti awarded Certificates of Appreciation to Adam & Randi LaLima of LaLima's Bakery; Darlene Tedesco, Christine Mazzoli, Hailey Warnet of the Crowne Plaza and Freeman's Auto & Tire in Monroe, NY for their valued and continued support.

Marines take care of their own.



The Department was made aware of a WWII Gunnery Sergeant with no family that had passed away. Marine Vinny Annunziata (Father Vincent Capodanno Detachment #1471 & Long Island Area Vice Commandant) got the word out and ensured that the Marine was laid to rest with proper honors. The Father Vincent Capodanno Detachment #1471 also lost one of their own, Matt Falcone, the Detachment paymaster. Marine Annunziata and his Deputy Area Vice Commandant Emery Josephs organized a honor guard from 6th Communications Battalion. Marine Annunziata stated "We gave Marine Matt Falcone a great sendoff yesterday. 6th Communications Battalion provided a color guard, rifle detail and 3 SNCO's, 21 Gun Salute, TAPS and the presentation of the Flag to the Family". Deputy AVC Emery Josephs also arranged for the Patriot Guard who escorted Marine Falcone from the church to Pine Lawn Cemetery and formed an honor trail as Marine Falcone was carried to his final resting place. Marine Josephs serves as a liaison to the Patriot Guard.

The White House gets decorated by an Associate Member.



Susan Porcello, NYPD and a dual member of the Brooklyn #1 Detachment #217 and the Westchester County Detachment #254 got to help decorate the White House this year. The decorations are exquisite. Merry Late Christmas Marines!

Awards Given



The East End Detachment's scholastic award presentation on 2 August 2020 at the Birchwood of Polish Town in Riverhead, NY. (L to R) Ed Ritzmann, Chaplain; Mike Paquette, Awards Chairman; Dick Westhoff, Commandant



Mountain Top guest speaker



Many Detachments cancelled their Marine Corps Birthday celebration; however, the Mountain Top Detachment #1274 went ahead and held their ball. Commandant Wortmann was invited to be the guest speaker for the event, joined by his lovely wife Maureen. Commandant and Mrs. Wortmann were honored to be there. As the Commandant stated "Good food, good drink and a fine bunch of Marines".

We have a Winner.



West Area Vice Commandant Earl Herrington presented Marine Marcy Ramsdell, Past Commandant Southtowns Detachment, Past WAV Commandant; the grand prize from the 2020 Department of New York raffle, a check for \$4000.00. Marine Ramsdell recently lost her husband, Associate Member Dave Ramsdell to cancer. This award, along with a donation from the New York Marine Corps League Foundation and Pack 37 Devil Dogs will help Marine Ramsdell cover large medical and funeral costs. Marine Ramsdell thanks everyone for their thoughtfulness.



Advertise your pride in the League and your Corps in your daily life by wearing your League jackets, shirts and hats everywhere you go. When you wear your League clothing, you advertise us to the world.

Semper Fidelis Marines

License Plates

There appears to be a lot of questions about the New York Marine Corps League License plates. All the required information is on the two respective forms. Please review them. The Department has recently sent out two e-blasts with some of the more commonly asked questions. If you have any questions, please contact the Department License Plate Administrator, Marine Tom Arcuri. He can be reached at contact@nymarine.org or call (315) 339-9032. You do not need verification letters from your Detachment Paymasters, and such letters are not authorized or accepted. The Department verifies membership via the Department records. To be eligible for the plate and to keep them, you must be a member in good standing. You must have the application notarized before sending them in to the Department for processing (The documents to be sent is the "MCL License Plate Order Form", "DMV Form CP30" and your payment, made payable to the "Commissioner of Motor Vehicles").



Veteran of the Year



John W. Thurston Detachment #250 Sr. Vice Commandant Eric Fetterman was awarded NYS Veteran of the Year by NYS Senator Fred Akshar.



Get your butts out there and **support your Detachments!!**

The Department would like to publish this newsletter four times a year. The cut off dates are: June 10th, Sept 10th, Dec 10th & March 10th. Please submit your detachments photos and stories.

The Department's 90th Annual Convention will take place June 10, 11 and 12th in Syracuse NY in the Embassy Suite Hotel.