

the **CUTTING EDGE**

news for and about the members of Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 of the Marine Corps League
Ed Dahling, Editor / <http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

Semper Fidelis!



The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon is a 24-Marine rifle platoon that performs a unique precision drill exhibition. This highly disciplined platoon exemplifies the professionalism associated with the United States Marine Corps. The Silent Drill Platoon first performed in the Sunset Parades of 1948 and received such an overwhelming response that it soon became a regular part of the parades at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

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National Award Winner

Marine Corps League
National Newsletter Competition
(Detachments of More Than 100 Members)

the *Cutting Edge*

- Published Monthly
- Be sure to keep us advised of your current email address to ensure prompt delivery.

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Detachment Website

<http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

Detachment Staff:

Commandant Ray Sturm
Senior Vice-Commandant Ben Wells
Junior Vice-Commandant Matt Prial
Judge Advocate Chris Wise
Junior Past-Commandant Ed Dahling
Adjutant Norman Huffman
By-Laws Committee Chairman Danny Fischio
Chaplain Fred Kaminski
Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman
Historian Joseph Wright
House Chairman Vacant
Legislative Officer Vacant
Newsletter Editors Ed Dahling
Paymaster Ed Dahling
Public Affairs (Information) Officer Guy Hall
Quartermaster Fred Kaminski
Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Ray Sturm
Sergeant-at-Arms Pat Sharkey
VAWS Officer Vacant
Web Sergeant Joe Wright
Young Marines Commander Dallas Cooper

Auxiliary Staff:

President Anita Ullery
Senior Vice Dawn Parker (Lawton)
Junior Vice Christine Stevens
Secretary Kathy Krutzfeldt
Treasurer Stephanie Jarquin-Wright
Judge Advocate Nila Caulder
Chaplain Michelle Smith
Guard Joe Ann Burr
Toys for Tots Coordinator Christine Stevens



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Visit the Dept. of Maryland web site at...

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>

Membership Statistics

Good Standing (Dues Paid)

Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	75	8	5
Annual Memberships	16	5	–
Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster 19)	New Members		
	4		–
Sub-Totals			
	95	13	5
Total			
113			

Renewals

[Dues expire at end of indicated month]

Dec.. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016
Roy Ringrose *Douglas Toulotte (2014)	- None -	*Dallas Cooper Russ Bixler Pat Bresette James Sanchez Erle Schafer
* Past Due		* (2) Years



Members' Birthdays

Members of our detachment, who will be celebrating birthdays during the month of Jan. include:

Bill Creager, **Charles Dorn,**
Fred Downey Jr. **Gerald Grimes,**
Warren Lindgren

NOTE – If you were born in January and your name is not listed above, please contact the editor to be included in the future.





From the Editor

by Ed Dahling Editor Emeritus

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and an outstanding New Year. With that being said, it is time to get back to business.

I wish to again remind you that our next major fund-raising effort for the detachment is the selling of advertisements for our **Department Convention Book**. If you've sold ads in the past ... please keep on contributing. If you haven't sold ads in the past ... make 2016 the year that you join us in raising the monies necessary to allow our detachment to fund its many charitable efforts.

On a different note, we have many league activities coming up in the next few months... activities such as the **Mid-Winter Conference** in Falls Church, the **2016 election of officers**, the **Department of Maryland Convention**, etc. Please think about taking part in these activities and possibly running for office.

As always, I look forward to seeing all of you at our next monthly meeting! Since it's our goal to have a copy of the newsletter in the hands of our membership prior to the meeting, the **submission deadline** for all **January newsletter article** is **MIDNIGHT, Thursday, January 7, 2016!**



Corps Quotation

When word got around that the bombs had forced the Japanese surrender, we knelt in the sand and cried. For all our manhood, we cried. We Were going to live!"

Unidentified Army Veteran,
who had been scheduled to be part
of the invasion of Japan



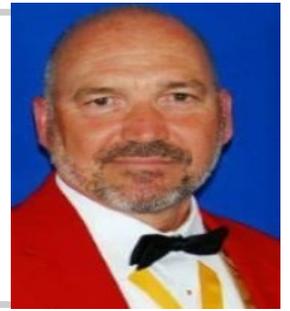
Rifle & Pistol

Ray Sturm

No report. Stand by for future match dates. If anyone is interested in a pistol outing, let me know.



Commandant Rayn Sturm



Greetings,

Happy New Year! I trust everyone has recovered from the holidays. Before I forget, and speaking of the holidays, I'd like to thank our Toys 4 Tots Chairperson, Christine Stevens, and all the volunteers who assisted, for making the holidays a brighter time for so many children. This was my first exposure to the inner workings of the T4T campaign and I was truly overwhelmed at the sheer volume of toys donated. The logistics involved in the collection, sorting, and distribution was incredible. Chris and her team did an amazing job. Bravo Zulu! One final thought on the holidays.. thanks to everyone who brought a covered dish to our December meeting. I think our little celebration was a huge success and was very much appreciated by the members attending.

It is time to start thinking about the Detachment Marine of the Year. I know there are several very deserving individuals out there worthy of nomination. The MOY nomination procedures have changed slightly due to a by-law change. Details of the procedure will be the subject of future correspondence. I just want everyone to start thinking about who they'd like to see as our MOY.

Our Jr Vice Cmdt has personally called (or attempted to call) every member. He was trying to determine several things. One of those was why some members had fallen off the active roster. I'm happy to say that we have gained a few members back. However, some of the reasons the members gave for going "inactive" was disturbing. One member stated he doesn't come to the meetings because the detachment does fund raising but doesn't spend it on the members. *Two thoughts on this. First, our fund raising efforts should be focused on helping those who need it, for example, Marines Helping Marines. Second, now that the detachment is financially sound, we have spent money on our members, for example, subsidizing the bus trip to the museum.* Another member said he doesn't come because there are not enough programs or guest speakers. *I agree. This is your detachment. If you have an idea for a program or would like to have a guest speaker, please reach out to me or to any staff member.* Just remember, these programs won't run themselves. We'll need your help to make them a success. A final reason why some members do not attend is lack of mobility. I'm open to suggestions here.

I think our detachment is heading in the right direction. We have unlimited potential to make a real difference in our community. Our membership is our foundation.. and we have great members.

Semper Fi

Ray





Corps History

by Ed Dahling for Joe Wright, Historian

4 January 1991

Marine helicopters evacuate 281 people from U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu, Somalia.

7 January 1969

Medal of Honor awarded posthumously to 1st Marine Division Chaplain, **Lt. V.R. Capodanno, U.S. Navy**, who was killed in action in Quang Tin Province, Vietnam on 4 September 1967.

8 January 1815

Marines, with Andrew Jackson's help, repulsed British forces at New Orleans.

9 January 2002

All seven Marine crewmen were killed when their KC-130R crashed near a forward operating base at Shamsi, Pakistan. Enemy ground fire was not suspected in the crash. These Marines of VMGR-352 were the first to die in the war on terrorism.

10 January 1995

2,600 U.S. Marines deployed to Somali (Operation United Shield) to assist in the final withdrawal of UN peace-keeping troops from Somalia.

18 January 1951

Marines of the 1st Marine Division begin mop-up operations against guerrillas in the Pohang, South Korea region, following their epic battle with Communist Chinese troops at the Chosin (Changjin Reservoir).

20 January 1968

The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hill 881 South and Hill 881 North.

22 January 1969

Operation Dewey Canyon began with the airlift of the 9th Marines and supporting artillery into the A Shau/ Da Krong Valleys.

25 January 1856

Marines and seamen from the **U.S.S. Decatur** went ashore at the village of Seattle, Washington, to protect settlers from Indian raids.

Senior Vice Commandant Ben Wells



Greetings all,

I hope everyone had a good start to the New Year and that you're ready for another exciting year. Now it's time to get down to business, before you know it, the election of officers will be upon us. Nominations for the elected offices of Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate will be held at the February and March meetings with voting being held at the March monthly meeting. So be thinking about those Marines of this Detachment that you consider to be most qualified to lead us during this coming year.

I would like to see more members volunteer for elected and appointed positions. Many of the tasks may seem daunting at first, but there is always plenty of help. The Detachment needs your help and input. After all, the Detachment includes all of us, not just a few. If you think you could or should be doing more, please get involved in more than just the monthly meetings.
Semper Fi,

Junior Vice Commandant



Semper FI,

Alright it's a new year. You know you have been meaning to get down to a meeting. So do it. You will see some old friends and maybe make some new ones. We have added a few new members, you should be there to welcome them aboard. Really, what else is there to do on the fourth Monday this January?
There is always the possibility that you will enjoy yourself!

Matt





VA Can't Fix Backlogs, Can't Honor Veterans' Privacy

When it was reported that the VA Regional Office in St. Petersburg had a backlogged stack of mail totaling around 30,000 pieces, the VA inspector general launched an investigation to get to the bottom of it. To no one's surprise, the backlogged stack of mail actually totaled more than 41,900 pieces, and included at least 1,600 boxes of unprocessed veteran disability claims at a contracted scanning facility.

How did all these letters and documents end up in warehouses? A few years back, the VA began implementing a new paperless claims processing system to "modernize" the department and help the VA process veterans' claims more quickly. Interestingly enough, that system has run more than \$700 million over budget and the VA IG found that those costs had not resulted in any measurable improvement.

But who's counting, am I right?

Anyway, the VA contracted the digitizing process to a third party, which would scan these records into the system...where many of them today continue to wait for scanning. **So in the end, the VA managed to create more backlog...in the name of fixing the backlog.**

And if that isn't bad enough, it gets worse. Inspectors discovered the documents in the boxes were disheveled and disorganized, "to say the least." Documents with sensitive information were left in open spaces and occasionally mixed in with unrelated documents, making it confusing and all but impossible for employees to scan the documents, not to mention exposing numerous veterans' private medical information.

In fact, violating patient privacy is a popular hobby at the VA these days. [The Washington Examiner](#) reports that since 2011, **VA employees have violated the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)**, the law establishing privacy protections for your medical information, over **10,000 times, making the VA the country's worst offender of patient privacy laws.** Visit a VA hospital and you may find your personal medical records have been accessed for no reason, been discussed on social media by a VA employee, or mailed to the wrong person.

The violations even extend to VA employees themselves. The same report states that records have been used in some cases to retaliate against whistleblowers. Who knows what atrocities the public hasn't been made aware of when a whistleblower keeps silent for fear their medical records will be released to the public.

Of course, the VA refuses to take responsibility. No surprises there. You can be a part of making them care, however. Call your senator now and urge him or her to support the [VA Accountability Act](#), which would enable the VA secretary to fire those employees responsible for backlogging claims and violating veterans' privacy. We need you in this with us.



TRICARE Pharmacy Copays to Increase:

Starting Feb. 1, copayments for brand name drugs through TRICARE Home Delivery will increase from \$16 to \$20 for up to a 90-day supply. At retail pharmacies, generic drug copays go from \$8 to \$10, and brand name drug copays go from \$20 to \$24, for up to a 30-day supply. Copays for non-formulary drugs and for drugs at non-network pharmacies will also change. All drugs obtained from military pharmacies, and generic drugs through TRICARE Home Delivery, will still be at no cost to beneficiaries. TRICARE officials say beneficiaries can save up to \$208 for every brand name prescription drug if they switch from a retail pharmacy to TRICARE Home Delivery

NEW PROTOCOL FOR ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERSHIP

- 1-All Active Duty Marines can now become regular members of the Marine Corps League for FREE, for the duration of their enlistment.
- 2-The Detachment will send a separate transmittal with all the Marines necessary information to include the join date (MCL) and the Marines end of enlistment date. The code will be H-AD. If the Marine reenlists, a transmittal will be sent to National (copy to the NJr Vice) stating the new end of enlistment date.
- 3-They will be issued a regular membership number with AD in front of it giving them all rights and privileges including voting and holding office.
- 4-The National Jr. Vice will print up a membership card with all the information and # and email it to the Detachment. The card will include the join date (MCL) and the end of enlistment date.
- 5-The Detachment WILL keep a separate list of all their Active Duty Members under this program. They will have all rights and privileges including voting and holding office.
- 6-The Detachment will also send a copy of the transmittal to the National Jr. Vice Commandant who will also keep a list of the Active Duty Marines.
- 7-The Detachment will be responsible to keep track of these Marines and keep them involved and interested by any means necessary. If the Active Duty Marine gets transferred to a new Duty Station the Detachment will work with the Marine to find him/her a new Detachment near their new Duty Station. It will then be handled like a regular transfer according to our By-Laws, that will include sending in a change of address. The National Jr. Vice will also be notified.
- 8-The Marine Corps will also be putting out the word to all Marine Corps installations regarding this new program.
- 9-The Detachment will also be responsible to give the Marine a Magazine.

Marines,

This is a new program so there may be some glitches. If you foresee a problem contact me and we will work it out.

Dennis Tobin
National Jr. Vice Commandant



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Color Guard

by Mac McNeir for Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman

There are no events scheduled for our Color Guard until March of this year; but, you are reminded that...our color guard is always looking for new volunteers to join their ranks, and the schedule of future Color Guard activities will be published as it evolves.

Need more information? Want to volunteer? Want to be part of the future of this valuable group? If the answer to any of these questions is **YES**, Call **Woody Bowman** at the following number...

(410) 647-9655



The 2015 Anne Arundel County Toys for Tots Campaign was very successful.

The campaign would not be successful without the generosity and support of our volunteers.

Toys were picked up by our volunteers from more than 400 locations.

The more than 40,000 toys were distributed to more than 20,000 children.

Every child deserves a little Christmas. Thank you to the Marines and volunteers who made this campaign successful. We look forward to another successful year in 2016.

Thanks,
Chris Stevens



Military Order of the Devil Dogs



Military Order of the Devil Dogs (MODD) The Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof woof,

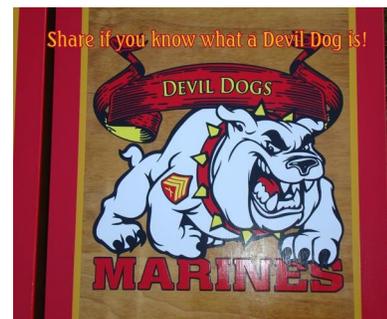
Things are finally happening in Dogdom. Pound 204 held a very successful Growl last month collecting \$212.00 in passport bones. After the Growl the Dogs moved to the bar and after getting a little liquored up, another \$205.00 was raised, making a total of \$417.00 for the children's Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma during the Supreme Growl in August. That brings the Pound total, after only two Growls, to \$765.00. I hope other Pounds top that, but I have my doubts. Way to go Pound 204!

This Detachment still has one member in arrears. He will be dropped from the roles in the near future as it makes the Pound look bad by having a Dog in arrears.

Our next Pound Growl will be on 14 February. The next Pack Growl will be on 16 January 2016.

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog!

Woof woof,
PDD Paul Taylor
Dog Robber



Have You Heard?

Meeting called to order by Commandant Ray Sturm at 1900 hours.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by prayer by Chaplain Fred Kaminski.
Members in attendance: 21

Commandant Ray Sturm acknowledged the presence of the following Special Guests.

Paul Taylor	Department of Maryland Adjutant
Guy Hall	Mid-East Ambassador, Past Detachment Commandant
Jim Brady	Mid-East Fund Raising Chairman
Mac McNeir	Past Detachment Commandant
Ed Dahling	Department of Maryland Paymaster, Past Detachment Commandant
Manny Airey	Past Detachment Commandant
Woody Bowman	Color Guard Commander
Joe Wright	Past Detachment Commandant

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Two applications were turned in, but no DD214s were supplied.
Commandant Sturm presented Bill Collins with a new Life Member card.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Adjutant Norm Huffman reported minutes of the November meeting were distributed via the detachment list server (e-mail). Several hardcopies were available at the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PAYMASTER: Ed Dahling gave the paymasters report:

Checking	\$11,196.11
<u>Savings / CDs</u>	<u>\$ 5,271.05</u>
Total Detachment Assets	\$16,467.16

Special guest Mike Wendt from former Annapolis Detachment 1365. Mike plans on transferring to Detachment 1049.

MEMBERS SICK AND IN DISTRESS: Chris Wise is absent due to the passing of his grandmother.

NEW BUSINESS: Jim Brady serving as Mid-East Division fundraising chairperson, has Mid-East car magnets for sale for \$5.00 each. If you haven't gotten one yet, please see Jim Brady or he will see you.

Motion was made by Ed Dahling and second to donate \$100 to the Marine Corp Heritage Fund. Voted on and passed.

(Continue on the next page)

Have You Heard?

(continued from previous page)

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: MCL Detachment 1049 received a thank you letter from the Special needs Boy Scout Troop 216 thanking us for our \$250 donation. Troop 216's 2016 schedule was also supplied. Schedule will be posted on the board, as well as Facebook and website. Commandant Sturm also had a \$500 check for Troop 216 from the Pack growl which he will present at a later date.

Woody Bowman thanked Bill Collins for the trip to the Aircraft Museum. A great trip!

Guy Hall requested the Detachment newsletter be mailed to everyone, as everyone does not have email. Most can retrieve the newsletter via email or website. There was a suggestion to take newsletters to Mission BBQ and Department meetings for anyone to read, if interested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

January 16th, 2016 – Pack Growl – Westminster

March 3-5th, 2016 – Mid-Winter Conference – Falls Church, Virginia

CLOSING CEREMONIES:

Commandant Sturm closed the meeting IAW MCL rituals. The next Detachment meeting will take place on January 25, 2016. Prayer was given by Fred Kaminski.

Winner of 50/50 was Joe Wright.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Huffman, Adjutant
Marine Corps League - A. A. County Detachment 1049

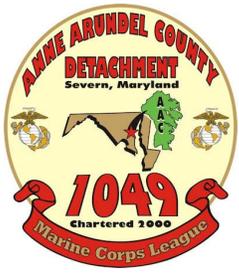


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(Address Correction Requested)



A World War II B-17 Bomber takes off from Manassas Regional Airport, Va., during “Arsenal of Democracy” media day, May 7, 2015. B-24, B-17, and B-29 aircraft from World War II are taking part in the Washington D.C. flyover to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. *DoD photo by Marvin Lynchard*