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Serving our detachments and their members everywhere
Department of New York Newsletter
“The Ground Pounder”

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*For a complete list refer to the
Department Staff Roster*

**We had a Convention
Finally!**

Yes, we did. With COVID forcing us to cancelled our Spring Membership meeting, as well as our annual June Convention, and following National guidelines on extended Department terms of office, and with the cancelling of the National Convention in Florida we haven't seen each other in a quite while.

Members were stuck in their homes, unable to get out, Detachment were also closed and could not hold meetings. A number of detachments stepped up and stayed in contact with their members by phone, others set up Zoom or Freeconferencecall.com accounts to reach out to their members and others used the department's old account if they did not have one of their own. But we needed to get out, we needed to see each other again, finally, thanks to Jim Ransom we found a place that would take us. Yes, we had to follow state guidelines, some of which changed weekly, we had to be protective of each other and work out all the details.

Then came the question, if we hold it who will come? Would the fears of COVID keep members home? We just didn't know. But our gut said hold the convention and we did and they came. In numbers we haven't seen in a long time. We filled the hotel, worked around all the issues by supplying masks (thanks to Jeff Smith and his wife and a ladies group on Staten Island) so there were plenty of masks to go around. Plus our Chief of Staff, Catherine Huber, RN, supplied us with hand sanitizer and did her best to keep us 6 feet apart.

But fellowship and good times reviled. People were talking, eating and drinking and enjoying themselves.

We had to cater the banquet and we kept the price down. That too had a good turnout. Once again, a good guest speaker, (see pictures), good food and good people added up to a good time for all.

If you came, bought a journal ad or played a round of golf, we thank you for your support in helping all of us have a great time.

We already are setting up our Winter membership meeting in Suffern, January 15th & 16th, 2021. We are now asking Detachments to provide the name of their member attending this and future Department events. This helps us with planning and helps the Detachments by having a representative there. The member need not be an officer to represent their detachment.

Convention pictures.



We donated money to help feed vets. We gave a special award to Jim Ransom, we gave out awards to many of our executive officers as well as our paymaster and a number of our Area Vices who go far beyond to serve the department.

(Above Left,) We present a check to Feed the Vets. (Above) Steve Topilnycky receives the Distinguished Citizen Gold



Congratulations to both Department Adjutant Steve Topilnycky and Area Vice Commandant Volker Heyde received the National Distinguished Citizen Gold,

(Above Left) A.J. Kalil's Plaque, (Above) Volker Heyde receives the Distinguished Citizen Gold



(Left), Al Merrill and Ralph Luciani receive Department awards for outstanding service.

The Dogs had a Growl



Both the Pack of NY and the Auxiliary gave money to the local children's hospital.

Awards were given out, New Devil Dogs were brought up from Pups and elections were held.



The current slate of Pack officers were re-elected into another term.



Have a safe Thanksgiving

And we had a Banquet



Our Guest speaker for the Banquet was Sergeant Major Brad Trudell (Ret.) who spoke of his time in the Corps as well as being assigned to an armored unit in Desert Storm.

We had the food catered as COVID-19 rules prevented the hotel from cooking, but the food was good and the turnout even better.

Next June we will have the Banquet on Saturday as requested by the membership



COVID-19 and the Department Newsletter

We realize that COVID-19 has stopped many of our Detachments activities and we all regret that but there isn't much anyone can do about that. Many functions are being affected especially Toys for Tots. While many of our detachments are trying, restrictions and fear has an effect.

The new normal is not normal. Watching where you go, wearing a mask, endlessly washing your hands all the time is not what we are use to.

Because of COVID-19, this issue is light as we are based mainly on what you send me. If you are locked down, your not doing much of anything.

And if you aren't doing anything, it's tough to send in pictures, I get that.

I know many of you are trying and working within the State's restrictions which can be difficult to say the least but keep trying if you can.

I get that many of you are afraid to step outside and that 90% of us are of the age where we are at risk. So I guess I'm saying do the best you can when you can, how you can.

I look forward to better days and seeing what your detachment is up to. Until that, Semper Fi.

We have some new Officers

Due to various personal reasons our Department Chaplain Angelo Procopio and our Department Sergeant of Arms Mike Gilchrist had to resign. I thank them for their service to the Department. Luckily both slots were filled at the convention and our new Chaplain is Vinny Annunziata (also Area Vice Long Island and stepping up to be the new Sergeant of Arms is Scott Westcott (also sits on the Foundation board). Besides these two fine gentleman we also have a new Junior Past Commandant as the membership elected Jim Ransom to the position. Now

just so you know Jim is the National Awards Chairman, the National Convention Chairman, the Department Convention Chairman, a past Pack Leader, a Past Department Commandant and now has been elected Department Junior past Commandant (again, as he has held this office before).

A.J. Kalil was awarded a special plaque by the Department thanking him for all he has done around the Department and well deserved at that.

Around the Department

Back in early February North Shore Queens Detachment was contacted by Brandon Balsamo Boy Scout Troop 106. Asking for help with his Eagle Scout project. Then COVID-19 hit our area in Queens. Everything went on-hold. Except Brandon. He stayed focused and Today 7/14/20. I got to help him deliver 30 boxes for our Veterans at St Al-bums. What a pleasure to see this young man in action. God Bless America and young men like Brandon.



****Note-National is now returning transmittals ONLY via emails. They will no longer use snail mail for this as postage is getting out of hand. The future is here Marines. If your detachment does not have a computer, please obtain one or have someone who can do this for you. The Department can help train your people if need be.***

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

Around the Department

At the East End Detachment on Long Island, they have a Scholastic Award Presentation in August at the Riverhead Inn in Birchwood, NY

(Left to Right) Chaplain Ed Ritzmann, Awards Chairman Mike Paquette, & Commandant Dick Westhoff.



(Left) Some of the many Scholarship winners



Hair

Hair, not the musical, but on your head or on your face. And this goes for the men only. As I go around the Department I hear one member telling another to “Get a Haircut” or “Shave your face” or my personal favorite, “You don’t look like a Marine”.

People, we are no longer in the Marine Corps. We are no longer under Navy Regs. Look over all the bylaws and Rituals you can find. There is NOTHING there about the length of you hair, the size of your beard or anything about hair. Kidding around is one thing and I took some at our recent convention because I needed a haircut, but chasing away members or

hurting people’s feelings is another thing. There are very few of us that really “Look like Marines” Most of those who say that certainly don’t look like today’s Marines.

Long hair or facial hair is no reason to not speak to another member, to chase away a member or worse, a prospective member. Remember, he’s a member, you’re a member and your brother. Treat them as such.

