

*Serving our detachments and their members everywhere*



## Department of New York Newsletter

Number 1 -17

# “The Ground Pounder”

[www.mclnewyork.net](http://www.mclnewyork.net)

### Headquarters Section

#### **Commandant**

Rev. Ricardo Sheppard  
sheppard107@gmail.com

#### **Senior Vice Commandant**

Tom Wortmann  
railmarine@gmail.com

#### **Junior Vice Commandant**

Tom Arcuri  
tarcuri@me.com

#### **Judge Advocate**

Dean Lawton Sr.  
deanthenymarine@gmail.com

#### **Junior Past Commandant**

James Ransom  
Jransom3558@cnymail.com

#### **Adjutant**

Steve Topilnycky  
spt1@mclwestchester.org

#### **Sergeant of Arms**

Bill Keys  
keyswilliam@yahoo.com

#### **Paymaster**

Ralph Luciani  
Rafaelluc@aol.com

#### **Chaplain**

Cathleen Wiggs  
ChaplinMCL@gmail.com

#### **Pack of NY Pound Keeper**

James Seaman  
marine698@aol.com

For a complete list refer to the  
Department Staff Roster

### The Latest Scoop

Welcome Marines to the first edition of “The Ground Pounder” the Department of New York quarterly newsletter. The goal is to send out an electronic copy to the newsletter to every member whose email we have and to have it available on the website. Have no fear if you do not have access to a computer, we will have a dozen or so copies available at all Departmental meetings.

The Department Convention 2017 was just held in Syracuse NY and new officers were elected.

At the Banquet we had three Marine guests, one a full colonel, a major about to be promoted to Lt. Col and a recently retired First Sargent. Colonel Wheeler gave a talk on Marine History

Our next convention will be held on June 7 – 9 2018 at the Embassy Suites Hotel Syracuse. In the future in addition to the golf outing we plan to have transportation to the local casinos and shopping malls.”

We have changed the names of our Staff Meetings and Commandants Counsel to “Department Membership Meetings/ Department Counsel” respectively. The reason for the name changes is that our quarterly meetings are not just for staff but also for the detachments to come together and share information and to learn firsthand what is happening within the Department and National level. The Department desires to hear from you, the

membership. Your opinion is important and welcomed. The Department is here to serve the detachment not the other way around.

Changes are coming and out with what did not work and back with what did such as this newsletter.

The Rifle and Pistol is back and once we get it up and running, (forms, paperwork and finding lots of stuff) we’ll get all interested members signed up. Convention packets are coming back and will contain proposed Bylaw changes, convention registration forms and anything else we feel you need to know.

Some officers have been moved around while new ones appointed or elected. Check out the new HQ Column on the left. Two area vices have changed, one being South East Area so don’t be surprised if when you contact your area vice, you are directed to another. And, BTW, they need assistants.

(continued on page 5)



**Note our new Website address above.  
[www. empirestateleatherneck.com](http://www.empirestateleatherneck.com) is no  
more.**

## Around the Department

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A South Richmond High School freshman received a new, custom-fitted prosthetic leg, thanks to the efforts of Principal James McKeon and members of the **Staten Island Marine Corps League**.

McKeon had watched Joseph struggle in school, limping in the hallways with his ill-fitting wood and metal leg that strapped around his waist and over his shoulder.

"He grew and the leg was too short. He couldn't bend the leg at the knee, and often the straps would cut or chafe him. You could see he was in pain, but he was always smiling, and never felt sorry for himself. He came to school on time, played basketball, kept up his grades".

"It bothered me more than him," admitted McKeon. South Richmond has had a long partnership with the **Marine Corps League** in Sunnyside, whose members visit and mentor students. McKeon decided to reach out to then Detachment Commandant **Al King**. "Once I told him about Ainsley, he put the word out at one of their meetings, and came back and said they were going to get him a leg, and that was it."

King reached out to his boyhood friend, Jack Tiernan, an amputee who also uses a prosthetic leg. Tiernan reached out to another friend, George Gonzalez, of Metropolitan Brace & Limb in Deer Park, Long Island, who designs custom-fitted prosthetics.

Gonzalez wasted no time coming out to the school to meet and measure Joseph for a new prosthetic leg. Tiernan offered to drive Joseph back and forth to Long Island to fit the leg, and the two were able to bond on the trips. Joseph refers to his new friend as "Mr. Jack".

Joseph got his new leg, and has been receiving physical therapy in school to learn how to walk on it. He was eager to show off for the reporter and photographer who visited him at school.

"I don't have to wear a strap anymore, and I can bend it at the knee," he demonstrated, smiling broadly and he happily walked around the hallway, carrying his books to his favorite classes.

Inspired by his new leg, Joseph said he definitely sees college in his future, and said he wants to be either an actor or lawyer.



Area Vice Meeting held at the Sunrise detachment in Massapequa NY.

Members from all over Long Island were invited by Area Vice James Seaman to hear his report on the convention, elections and what is new coming down the pipe. National Junior Vice Commandant Dennis Tobin was in attendance to further explain the new ideas and concepts coming down from National. Department Commandant Sheppard along with Department Senior Vice Tom Wortmann was also on hand to discuss the new staff, the new ideas and to take any suggestions from those attending. Lots of questions were asked, and many answers were given as the meeting ran close to two hours. Many of those answers can be found in this newsletter. Afterward the staff retreated to the bar area for some well-deserved refreshments.

Have an area meeting with your fellow detachments, share your issues and find out how to resolve them. Work together Marines, we are not in competition with each other.



*LI Area Vice James Seaman, Nat JVC Dennis Tobin, Commandant Sheppard and SVC Wortmann at the Long Island Area meeting*

**PCDD Ed Gallagher** was recently rushed to the hospital with a bad heart, after receiving a Pacemaker, Ed is reported doing much better. Keep him in your prayers.

# Detachment Happenings



Eagle Scouts from the Putnam County Detachment area complete their assentation to eagle scout at a ceremony at the Detachment. The League supports and encourages support if the scouts.

(left) Scouts Kristopher Market and (left) Maxwell Green are both advanced to Eagle Scout

Working closely with our communities is a good way of making strong bonds with the communities and puts out in the public eye opening the door for new members.



Putnam County Detachment held some Memorial day ceremonies as well as teaching our youth to respect those who have gone before. Here (below) Detachment Commandant Jack Duncan and local scouts show their support of the Bob Palmer Project of placing by 3000 flags on veteran graves, This particular grave is that of a WWI Marine Staff Sargent. (right) is a local Con Edison service .



Commandant Duncan holds a Memorial Service at Con Ed in Brewster NY



(above right) Associate Member Carla Lucchino, former Deputy Assistant Commandant for installations and Logistics for the Marine Corps at the Pentagon, former assistant for administration for the Secretary of the Navy, friend of Major General Regnar USMC (ret.) and former Secretary to General Mattis with the new Westchester Detachment Commandant Wilfredo Muniz Jr.

## The 2017 Convention



During the convention the Department renders honors to our fellow fallen Marines by calling out each name and their Detachment and a representative from that detachment (if available) who places a flower in the memorial wall seen here (above left) with National Junior Vice Commandant Tobin. Come to a Department Convention and honor your dead.

There is much more to a Department convention besides meetings. Join us, make new friends and swap stories. You'll be glad you did.

Here we have some fine hard chargers from the South East Area, Vincent Serrano, soon to be heading up our rifle and pistol teams, Stan Kasper, Moe Baxter and Area Vice Steve Topilnycky.

(Below) At the banquet we heard about Marine Corps History from our guest speaker, a Colonel Kurt Wheeler from the USMC University in Quantico VA.



(right) AJ Kalil receives the Department Marine of the Year by last years winner, Tim Forbes.

(Left) Bob Becker received a plaque for his 50 years of service to the Department.

Bob is a past Department Commandant, Past National Commandant and past a lot more. If there was a league job, Bob most likely did it in his Detachment, the Department or National sometime in his life.



Please help out when and where you can and we at the Department need your help as well. One opening is a new Quartermaster. A.J. has been doing a fantastic job for year and years, but he had requested to be replaced and this administration will do that with your help.

Remember, we serve you but we cannot do that without your help. You as a member, an officer or an associate have something to say? We want to hear it.

This is YOUR newsletter, to keep it going we need YOUR input,

**The National Board of Trustees** is proud to announce the hiring of a new Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Marine Corps League.

Mr. Robert J. Borka has accepted our offer and will join the Team on 1 July 2017. We are very excited about bringing Mr. Borka on board to help in the restructuring of the Marine Corps League. Mr. Borka brings experience, organizational and leadership skills from the corporate world with Knight Facilities Management Inc. (1998- 2014), before joining the Young Marines in 2014. He has a very impressive reputation in the success of organization and operations of the Young Marines. He comes highly recommended. Please join the Board of Trustees in welcoming Mr. Borka to the Marine Corps League, National Headquarters.

Robert J. Borka is a business executive with almost 30 years of management experience. He joined the Marine Corps League in 1995 upon his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps as a Cryptologic Technician (2651)/SSO. Robert transferred to the Flint Detachment #155 (Michigan) as a Life Member.

He volunteered with the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League from 2006 to 2014 earning the Lifetime Presidential Volunteer Service Award. He served the Young Marines as Unit Commander, Battalion Commander, Regimental Adjutant, Division Adjutant, and Assistant Division Commander. Robert served on the Young Marines Board of Directors as the Treasurer, Vice Chairman, and participated on several committees. In 2014, Young Marines National Headquarters brought him on full time as the Director of Operations.

Robert received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Management from the Forbes School of Business at Ashford University and graduated Summa Cum Laude. Prior to his position at Young Marines National Headquarters, he was an Executive Director for a global facilities support services company where he had been employed since 1998.

Robert and his family live in Dumfries, Virginia. They have three children. His wife, Patricia, is the Director of Administration at Young Marines National Headquarters. Both she and Robert are members of the Chapel of Four Chaplains.

The Board of Trustees would also like to thank Mr. Thomas W. Hazlett Sr. for his service as the Marine Corps League Executive Director during the past two plus years. We wish Mr. Hazlett the best in the future on his endeavors. We will be seeing Tom around the League and Devil Dogs. Mr. Hazlett has agreed to overlap for 30 days to help in the transition of the duties as



## LETSGO School

We held a LETSGO school in Chester NY back in May. It has been close to three years since we last held so it was due.

Nine Marines signed up, giving up their weekend to learn how the league works. Classes started at 9 AM Saturday morning with a welcome by then Senior Vice Cmdt. Sheppard and ran till 4 PM that evening covering uniforms, forms, protocol, forms, *Robert's Rules of Order*, forms, 990's, and a whole lot more. Did I mention forms? Yes, forms are one cause of mistakes in any detachments paperwork. Learning how to properly fill them and who to mail them to is very important. National Junior Vice Tobin even gave a talk on recruitment and retention. The Marines also ate well at lunch time with the department having lunch brought in so we ate and learned at the same time. Sunday was a video on suicides and a mock meeting putting to practice all they had just learned about *Robert's rules of Order* and the League *Ritual*. We were done by noon and all headed home after receiving their completion certificates.



**Attention on deck!** Starting November 11, 2017, veterans who are verified, will be allowed to shop online at the online at post exchange. This is online only and not on any base. So get online at <https://www.vetverify.org/> Quick and easy so why wait until the November rush?

---

**Does** your detachment have a computer? Does it have access to one? If not get one fast! The modern age is here. Forms and information is all digital now and on the internet. Forms are no longer being mailed out, rosters are no longer being mailed out.

You can use your local library if need be to download the needed forms and information. But fear not. Your department is here to help. Let your area Vice know if you don't have a computer, or are having problems finding the form or anything else you need. It is the departments job to help our detachments and their members.

The Department of NY will be mailing out Convention packets. Detachments will get their rosters from their area vices whom will get them from the Department Adjutant.

---

**Talking** about National. Did you know the 2018 National convention will be in Buffalo NY? If you have never been to Buffalo or attended a National Convention this is the ideal time to go. There will be plenty of things for the entire family and if you have been, it's all changed and worth another visit.

---

**Don't forget**, do not mail any more transmittals, life member audits or transfer forms, to PNC Becker's home anymore or the old PO box. We have a new paymaster, and a new address. And that is: MCL, Post Office Box 311, Vestal, NY 13851. If you use the old address it will add a lot of time to your paperwork.

**And**, send your Commandants Quarterly reports, Installation reports and 990's reports to the new Adjutant at MCL, Department of New York PO Box 360 Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706.

---

Installation reports can be emailed if scanned with a signature. Please understand that improperly filled out forms will be returned. Installing officer must complete, sign and submit this form. That officer has 15 days from date of installation to submit the form to the Department Adjutant. It must have your

---

**National** tells us that sometime after the National Convention in Kansas City, four weeks or so the new database will be up and running. So what does this mean to you? You will be able to make corrections to your information all by yourself. Each detachment will have a special password to download their rosters and their membership cards. Each member will be able to obtain a individual password so you can update your address, your email and other info all by your-self.

No more waiting for National to reply to something they were mailed. And rumor has it the Metal life card is going the way of the do-do bird. It will be replaced by plastic card, just like the VFW, DAV, AM and AV. No word or rumor on when this will take place.

---

**Has** a Marine in your detachment passed away? Be sure to have the funeral parlor call the Casualty platoon in Quantico to arrange for Marines to be at the gravesite. Call 866-826-3628.

They'll ask you to fax the Marines DD-214 and they will take care of the rest. This number s ONLY for Marines. IN-PORTANT, as most funeral parlors call the general veteran number.

Also be sure to mail that death notice to our new Chaplain, Cathleen Wiggs, 155 Chemung Street, Waverly, NY 14892.

4 copies please and she will handle the rest.

---

*"KNOWLEDGE HAS NO VALUE UNLESS IT IS SHARED",*

Share your detachments events with us.

We'd all like to know.

---

## DEPARTMENT CALENDAR

October 13-14th, 2017 Dept. Membership Meeting, Clarion Hotel, 3845 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Ronkonkoma NY 11779

January 12-13th, 2018 Department Membership Meeting. The Desmond, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany NY 12211

April 13-14th, 2018 Northeast Conference, Holiday Inn, 2-8 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY 13901 .

April 20-21st, 2018 Department Membership Meeting, Akwesasne Mohawk Casino, 873 STRT 37, Hogansburg, NY

June 7, 8 & 9th 2018 Department of NY Convention, Embassy Suites 6646 Old Collamer Rd S. East Syracuse, NY 13057

*The department reserves the right to select what is inputted into the newsletter. There will be times when we cannot print everything right away due to space limitations. For that we apologize and thank you for your submission.*