



# Marine Corps League

## Pikes Peak Detachment 29

P.O. Box 10536  
Colorado Springs, CO 80932-1536  
www.pikespeakmcl.org



**December 2016**



**Commandant  
Russ Miller  
rcmlr@msn.com  
719-235-1058**

Hello Marines, Navy FMF  
Corpsmen, Navy FMF  
Chaplains, associate  
members, and families.  
We had a great monthly  
meeting on 19 November

with 42 in attendance. Thanks to all that brought  
toys for our 2016 MCL Toys for Tots toy drive.  
Please be sure to read the minutes of the  
meeting for a more detailed run down of the  
items that were discussed and passed, as well  
as the slate of incoming elected officers for  
2016, at the November meeting.



Marine Ron Asmussen

I hope and pray that you all had a wonderful  
Thanksgiving and are looking forward to  
Christmas and the new year with anticipation.  
As we close out 2016, I want to take an  
opportunity to thank all of the officers that have  
put up with my short, intermediate, and long  
term memory problems over the last two years  
and attempted to keep me on track. Especially  
to our Junior Past Commandant, Garry "The  
Gunny" Gibson for his leadership and the  
training he has instilled, and yes, even all the  
**early morning** reminder emails and phone calls  
regarding the pesky little details that I hadn't  
always taken into consideration throughout the  
year. We have many to be grateful to for their  
hard work in our Detachment but I take this  
opportunity as the door hits me in the behind, to  
recognize a few we couldn't have done without.  
First off, thank you to Jr. Vice/Adjutant/Web Sgt.  
and Det. Postmaster General, Terry Crum for all  
his countless hours working on our Detachment  
Website and keeping all of us in the loop  
whenever some important bit of information  
needed to go out to the detachment ASAP.  
Secondly, I may be a "Preacher Leroy", to quote

a couple of you, but I am forever grateful for our  
Chaplain, Pat Carty, and all the work that he  
does for those of us that are sick, in distress, or  
have suffered a loss. The time and effort he  
puts in regarding funerals, visiting the sick,  
arranging rides for folks to Doctor's visits and  
monthly meetings is so very, very much  
appreciated. I know I couldn't do that post the  
justice that he has. Lastly, I want to give a  
profound thanks to our Det. Paymaster, Denise  
Wickersheim. When I took this post and looked  
down the membership roster for a person to  
serve as our Paymaster, the one name that  
leaped off the page at me was Denise's. I had  
noticed her attention to detail and organizational  
skills when she had helped at Toys for Tots in  
2014 and I knew she was the person for the job.  
In a detachment as large as ours with the  
finances and number of accounts that have to  
be managed, it is no small undertaking. **Thank  
You ALL Again!!!** I have truly enjoyed my  
tenure as your Detachment Commandant and  
look forward to continuing to serve our beloved  
Marine Corps and Marine Corps League in any  
way that I can.

**Reminder:** The December Monthly Meeting  
breakfast, as is our custom, will be free for all  
attendees. We will be performing the swearing  
in of the new slate of officers for 2017 as well as  
giving out awards to all of the hard chargers in  
our detachment that make it so great.

Please give extra attention to the Sr. Vice's  
article and our detachment event schedule from  
Jr. Past Commandant Garry Gibson (also  
available at the top left of the  
www.pikespeakmcl.org website) for a list of the  
many upcoming events that are available for  
your participation in addition to our monthly SOS  
Breakfast the third Saturday of every month.  
Watch your email for more information on all the  
upcoming opportunities in the coming weeks.

Semper Fi!

Russ



Ribbon cutting at Fort Carson Santa's Workshop



# Marine Corps League

## Pikes Peak Detachment 29

P.O. Box 10536  
Colorado Springs, CO 80932-1536

www.pikespeakmcl.org

December 2016



### Senior Vice Commandant

**Paul Hinojosa**  
mclphinojosa@q.com  
719-313-1752

Hello Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and associate members. December is here, we've had a successful 2016

so thank you to all our members for attending and helping out in the events scheduled for 2016. Our Detachment is wonderful, the one thing I brag about when I talk about our detachment is that we are the most active in the state of Colorado and I don't think anyone can dispute it. I look forward to carrying on this tradition as Commandant for 2017, and as I mentioned to our future Jr. past Commandant Russ Miller, I got you on speed dial and text. Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year! Stay healthy and I am looking forward to working with you again next year.

**Semper Fi,  
Paul**



### Our next Commandant!

**Junior Vice Commandant  
Adjutant, Web Sergeant  
Terry Crum**  
terry-crum@hotmail.com  
719-432-7340



Greetings. Thanks to all. 2016 has been a good year. I hope you get a chance to see how the Pike Peak Det. is increasing its presence known on the internet. I am most happy with our page on Facebook. This service cost us nothing, simple to us, and is seen by many. Currently the Det. group site has 25 members and over 150 people are members of the Pike Peak Region Toys for Tots group. Russ can get the word out to a lot of folks with little effort. A happy holiday season to all and I look forward to another great year.

**Semper Fi, Terry**



**Judge Advocate  
Gary George**  
garyg4812@yahoo.com  
719-597-3054  
NSTR.



### Guest Mark Schinner

**Chaplain Pat Carty**  
jpcarty1@comcast.net  
719-337-7179



Greetings Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Associates and, Friends. We have a number of MCL members, family members and, other Marines who are undergoing health and distress issues. Marine Vincent Espinoza suffered a stroke earlier this week and is home from the hospital undergoing in-home physical therapy. Commandant Miller and member Joe G. Martinez visited with him at Memorial Main prior to his being sent home.

Marine Ryan Garza lost a leg in Afghanistan on his second tour and is now in Colorado Springs. Commandant Miller says he will need moral, spiritual, and other support.

Marine David Sheffield was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident several weeks ago. His back was broken and he is paralyzed from the waist down and, he will most likely never walk again. He is undergoing rehabilitation treatment at Penrose Main. If all goes well, he hopes to be home by Christmas.

Marine Shane Brasgalla and his wife were in the process of moving to Colorado Springs from Minneapolis when they were robbed and, suffered other crimes, while waiting to catch a bus to Colorado Springs. Now that they are here in the Springs, Commandant Miller, Sr. Vice



# Marine Corps League

## Pikes Peak Detachment 29

P.O. Box 10536  
Colorado Springs, CO 80932-1536  
www.pikespeakmcl.org

**December 2016**



Commandant Paul Hinojosa and others have been helping them with moral support, finding a place to live, a job and, funds from the Marines Helping Marines account.

The bereavement team attended services for Marine Donald E. Bates and, Emily Roitz Cimino wife of Marine Jay Cimino (guest speaker at the recent Marine Birthday Ball). Thank you to all team members who came to these services. It does mean a lot to their families.

Marine Henry M. "Butch" Ragland and, retired Marine Mustang LtCol Lawrence A. Hall (Pikes Peak Detachment member) passed away recently. A service for Mr. Ragland will be held at a later date. There was no local service for Mr. Hall. He was a resident of Kempner, TX.

Ron Asmusen's daughter, Nicki, is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Theresa Crum is battling Graves' disease. Slowly her condition is improving. Theresa is a tough gal and will no doubt recover completely.

Brigid Rudolph is recovering well from recent hand surgery and, was able to drive herself and Doris Purdy to the monthly MCL meeting.

It was good to see members at our November meeting who have not been able to attend on a regular basis because of ongoing health problems. There are members and, family members who prefer to keep their health concerns private. Please say a prayer for them all and, keep good wishes going their way.

Toys for Tots is underway big time now. I know Toys for Tots Coordinator Russ Miller would appreciate any help you can give. There are so many children out there that need our help this Christmas, so please consider stepping forward. Hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. Please let me know if you hear of any members or anyone in their family, that I am not aware of, who may need our help.

**Semper Fi,  
Pat Carty, Chaplain**



**Guest Mike Lawson**



**Paymaster  
Denise Wickersheim  
[md1970@g.com](mailto:md1970@g.com)  
719-590-9109**

Please send your membership dues (\$36.00) to the Pikes Peak Detachment address at the top of this page.

### **Life Membership Costs:**

- Age 35 - below - \$500.00
- 36 – 50 - \$400.00
- 51 – 64 - \$300.00
- 65 & over - \$200.00

**Semper Fi,  
Denise**

**You can be a  
Life Member!**



**Sgt.-at-Arms Osa Tuck  
[osa@divide.net](mailto:osa@divide.net)  
719-332-0557**

Next detachment monthly meeting: Saturday 17 Dec.

Coffee: 0730

Breakfast: 0800

Meeting: 0900

The Enlisted Association (formally called TREA)  
834 Emory Cr. Colorado Springs, CO 80915



**Toys for Tots  
Russ Miller  
[rcmlr@msn.com](mailto:rcmlr@msn.com)  
719-235-1058**

As I mentioned last month, this year we will be taking family toy requests directly and fulfilling those requests ourselves. With the help of Young Marines, Active Duty Marines, Scout Troops, College Students, Academy School District 20 Bus Drivers (Wheels of a Dream), and hopefully some YMCA Staff. We will be performing this year's Family toy giveaway on 19-21 November at our warehouse location which is at the Springs Church (far back corner of the building),



# Marine Corps League

## Pikes Peak Detachment 29

P.O. Box 10536  
Colorado Springs, CO 80932-1536  
www.pikespeakmcl.org

**December 2016**



1515 Auto Mall Loop. It will take a large number of volunteers to make this year's campaign a success. So come out and join us as we still need help delivering collection boxes, warehouse volunteers to count, sort, and bag toys for delivery, as well as toy drive event site support. Please contact me if you are available or just stop by the warehouse anytime between 0900 and 1700 Monday – Friday. We may not always have something for you to do, but I guarantee we will have coffee and goodies.

**Semper Fi,  
Russ**



**Quarter Master  
Russ Miller  
rcmlr@msn.com  
719-235-1058**



Cash sales will be OPEN at the December monthly meeting.

**Semper Fi,  
Russ**

**Steve Schwartz  
Pedigree Devil Dog (PDD)  
Pound Keeper**

sjschwartz\_98@yahoo.com  
719-213-1922



Short and Sweet. Happy Holidays to all of our Detachment members,

Associate members, FMF Corpsmen and Devil Dogs. I'm looking forward to serving this next year as your Junior Vice Commandant.

WOOF! WOOF!

Steve

### **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Bowl-A-Thon**

**Marianne Smith  
719-392-4456**



Hello Marines, Corpsmen and associates. I am extremely happy to report that our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Bowl-A-Thon was a tremendous success. The most raised ever. A huge thank you to all members, families, and friends who so generously donated. There are still a few pledges outstanding, if this applies to you then please send your checks to me at: Marianne Smith 546 Raemar Drive. C/S 80911. Your checks should be payable to "MCL Bowl-A-Thon. Many thanks to: Iris Rudesill, Helen Hill, and Dennis Wickersheim for making calls and collecting money.

Thanks you and Semper Fi,  
Marianne



### **Minutes of the 19 November 2016**

Meeting of the Pikes Peak Detachment.

(Note: Draft until accepted at the 17 December 2016 meeting). Commandant Miller opened the 19 November meeting of the Marine Corps League Pikes Peak Detachment for Official business at 0900 with Salute to Colors and opening prayer. All officers were present except for the following excused officer: Junior Past Commandant.

### **Guests / Application for Membership:**

Mark Schinner: Served active duty in the Marines for 6 years in the air wing.

Mike Lawson: Active duty Marines 1985-1991.

Russ Miller motioned that both of these Marines be accepted as Detachment members upon proof of honorable service and payment of dues. The motion was seconded by Osa Tuck and the motion carried.



# Marine Corps League

## Pikes Peak Detachment 29

P.O. Box 10536  
Colorado Springs, CO 80932-1536  
www.pikespeakmcl.org



### December 2016

**Minutes:** Marine Bob Berndt made a motion to accept the October 2016 minutes. Marine Osa Tuck seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**New Correspondence:** Letter from the accountants for the Estate of Harry Hoth. Former mayor Hoth included in his will \$5,000 to the Pikes Peak Detachment of the Marine Corps League. A thank You card has been mailed to his daughter.

Commandant Russ Miller made a motion, seconded by Bob Berndt, that the \$5,000 not be placed in the Detachment general fund but instead be invested. The motion passed.

**Paymaster: NSTR**

**Sick and in Distress:**

Theresa Crum – Continued treatments for Grave’s Disease, her treatment is improving her vision issues and the possibility of surgery is decreasing.

Marine Kaz Mueller’s mother passed away this past week.

### Report of Officers

**Commandant:** Commandant Miller

Change in Membership Deadlines as discussed at the October Department Staff Meeting. All MCL membership annual dues will be due at the same time, 31<sup>st</sup> August. This can be prorated for new members joining through the year at the Detachment’s discretion. Lifetime members are not affected.

Commandant Miller made a motion for the Detachment to make a \$300.00 donation to the Guide Dogs of the Desert/Operation Freedom Paws. This would be in lieu of purchasing a table at their annual fund raiser dinner as we have the past two years. The motion was seconded by Roger Baty and was passed.

Detachment helped young homeless Marine couple that just moved here from Minnesota with temporary housing \$484 was spent from MHM fund after a unanimous vote of the officers via email.

Thank You to Bob and Helen Hill for a fantastic MC Birthday Luncheon. Bob and Helen have been organizing this luncheon for years and have expressed a desire to turn the job over to someone else.

Commandant Miller made a motion that the Detachment organize future Marine Corps birthday Luncheons. On years that the day of

the ball lands on 10 November, the luncheon would not be scheduled. The motion was seconded by Osa Tuck and passed.

**Senior Vice: Paul Hinojosa**

Upcoming events:

Nov 20 Toys for Tots benefit Football game in Denver. 3800 S. Logan, Englewood CO.

Nov 22 Pearl Harbor Day proclamation reading at the El Paso County Commission's Hall on Cascade and Vermijo at 0900. Navy Lt Jim Downing, oldest Pearl Harbor Survivor (103 yr old) will be attending.

Dec 07 Pearl Harbor wreath Laying ceremony.

Editor note: The Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be 7 Dec. 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, 215 South Tejon Street.

Dec 13 WWII & Korean Luncheon @ western Omelet, 16 S. Walnut Street

Dec 17 Awards ceremony and swearing in.



**Junior Vice Commandant/ Adjutant: NSTR**

**Judge Advocate:** Gary George

Judge advocate George inquired if there were any additional nominations for any of the elected officer post for 2017. There being no further nominations, the nominating processed was closed. At this time the Detachment voted unanimously to elect the nominees from the October meeting: Commandant Paul Hinojosa, Senior Vice Commandant Terry Crum, Junior Vice Commandant Steve Schwartz, Judge Advocate Gary George.

**Junior Past Commandant: NSTR**

**Chaplain: Pat Carty**

*Marine* David Sheffield is still in Penrose Main, room 820. David Sheffield was paralyzed from the waist down as a result of a motorcycle



# Marine Corps League

## Pikes Peak Detachment 29

P.O. Box 10536  
Colorado Springs, CO 80932-1536  
www.pikespeakmcl.org

### December 2016



accident. He is on the slow road to recovery. Visitors welcome but please call first. Marine Ryan Garza, Afghanistan Veteran that has lost a leg, National SVC contacted our detachment to make contact and lend aid and comfort to this Marine in his current struggles. Marine Jay Cimino, lost his wife Emily on Wednesday to a very long battle with Alzheimer's along with other medical ailments. Jay was the guest of honor at the recent Marine Corps ball. He is a Marine and a long friend/supporter of this detachment. WWII/Korean War Luncheon on the second Tuesday of every month at Western Omelette 16 S. Walnut St.



**Quartermaster:** NSTR  
**Sergeant at Arms:** NSTR  
**Web Sergeant:** NSTR

**Toys for Tots: Russ Miller**

Toys for Tots is now located at 1515 Auto Mall Loop in the Springs Church (the old Phil Long Expo Center).

26 Nov Manitou Springs Christmas Parade begins at 1800. The parade will promote Toys for Tots.

3&4 Dec Walgreens at the corner of Vindicator and Centennial Blvd from 1400-1800. Come freeze with us.

10&11 Dec Cumbres Toltec Railway in Antonito CO 0700-1600. Everyone who donates a toy gets a free ride on the train.

Starting Tuesday volunteers will be needed at the new warehouse storage on Auto Mall Loop. Come help, talk, drink coffee, etc.

19-22 Dec Toy giveaway event at the warehouse 0800-2000 daily

**Military Order of Devil Dogs (MODD): Steve Schwartz**

The next Growl will be January 20th following the Detachment meeting.

Pound Keeper Swartz spoke to PDD Jerry Pino about bringing his Dogs (Home of Heroes) to our Growl. The Home of the Heroes do not have a pound for their dogs. The general consensus was that they are welcome with us. Pound Keeper Swartz invited all eligible Detachment members to consider joining the MODD.

**Standing Committees:**

Scholarship; NSTR

**Report of Special Committees: NSTR**

**Unfinished Business;**

Drew Aquino handed out leaflets for the upcoming free YMCA Veterans Appreciation breakfast.

**New Business:**

Marianne Smith announced that this year Bowl-A-Thon raised more money than ever. Please contact Marianne if you need a receipt.

**Good of the League:**

It was announced that TREA was up for sale. Our time at TREA will end after December. Paul Darrow announced that work for the Pikes Peak area veteran's cemetery has begun.

Russ and Carmella Miller will be having an open house 17 December 1500-2000. All members and their families are welcome.

With no additional business at hand, the 50/50 drawing was held. The total amount collected was \$147.00. Pat Hyland won.

With all business being completed Commandant Miller closed the meeting at 1000. The next meeting will take place on 17 December 2016. Respectfully submitted, Terry Crum, Adjutant Pikes Peak Detachment, Marine Corps League



**Working the warehouse for Toys for Tots!**