

January 2026 NEWSLETTER

Our next monthly meeting is: **21 January 2026**

2026



*May The
YEAR
2026 Be
Good to
You All*

JANUARY

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DECEMBER

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73RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

(also known as Oregon's "Oldest and Coldest"
Parade)



Float preparations. Friday December 5, 2025. My-Comm shop.





Emerald Empire Young Marines, 6 December 2025, Parade Staging.



Emerald Empire Detachment #917, Department of Oregon, Marine Corps League. Stephen Price, Debbie Barker with her good girls, Lois Price with her good girl, Chris Wade, and Paul Grinde (taking photo).



Waiting for the 2025 Springfield Christmas Parage to start.



Parade in progress.

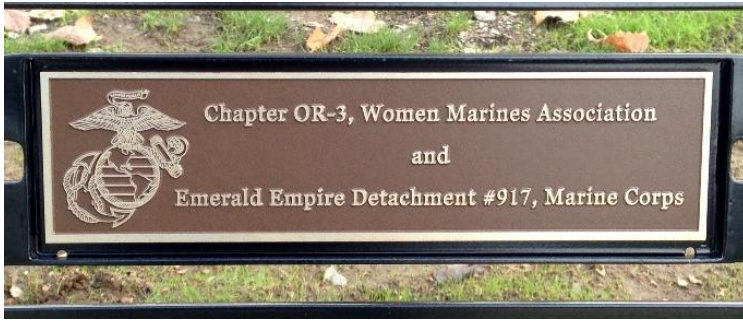
Toys for Tots items (color books, pencils, bracelets handed out), and a small variety of candies were handed out during the parade by Debbie Barker and Paul Grinde.

Float assistance from Lois Price and Chris Wade.

A BIG SHOUT OUT to Craig Myers for use of his shop for preparation, disassembly, trailer, sound system, Christmas Tree, and side decorations.

A BIG SHOUT OUT to Stephen Price for the use of his new Pickup for pulling the float.

A few toys were collected and delivered to Toys for Toys.



Niel Laudati, Assistant City Manager for the City of Springfield, Oregon, has written up and submitted a request for a GRANT from the State of Oregon. This grant will be for the placement of another new bench in the Willamalane Parks and Recreation Veterans' Park. This new bench will be placed in

Memory of our Past Members of the Emerald Empire Detachment's. Stephen Price spoke with Neil on Veteran's Day. The governmental process of obtaining grants is proceeding at the normal governmental pace.

At the December meeting, we received information that we could just buy the bench and have it installed, rather than wait for the Grant Process. If it were not that the concrete costs were more than the bench, it would be a possible option. Determined to continue to wait for the Grant Process.

When the final determination and details are available, they will be disseminated. Standby to Standby.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 January – Debbie Barker

18 January – Thad Lukasik - **Deceased**

21 January – Patrick Burke

23 January – James (Jim) Pilling - **Deceased**

28 January – Matthew Bowerman



Please take a moment and remember each one of these Marines on the
“Anniversary-of-the-Day-They-Were-Born.”

FOOD BASKET DONATION



On 17 December 2025, during the December monthly meeting, Emerald Empire Detachment #917 Commandant Joseph Lamm presented Cheryl Holland with a Donation Check for \$500.00. This donation was to help the Moose Lodge #1726 achieve their goal of providing 125 Food Baskets to Families in Need at this time of year.

The lodge contacts the Thurston School District and the Springfield High School District to obtain names of families in need. This year there is approximately 40 families in the Thurston area, and 80 families in the Springfield High area. This year there is also some Moose Lodge members also in need.

The baskets contain items to ensure a complete dinner meal can be prepared.

Distribution took place on Sunday 21 December 2025.

Dan Stombaugh's Member Incentive



Dan Stombaugh has created an Incentive/Thank You Program to encourage members to attend the monthly meetings. Dan is providing funds, that will fund the program until those funds are exhausted, and tasking the Detachment Junior Vice-Commandant position with implementing the program.

At each monthly meeting, those members whose birthday falls within the month of that meeting will have their dinner paid for out of the funds provided by Dan.

If you want to be considered, the Junior Vice-Commandant must have your birth date (day and month ONLY), so that he knows who is eligible.

This program begins January 2026.



From the Chaplain's Corner



Welcome to 2026!!

What a year 2025 was, a real challenge for many of us, but one full of good times, too. Personally, I am thankful for a full year of life, minus one housemate and her three long-haired cats! I am STILL vacuuming cat hair – I think I'll need to replace all the carpets to get done with that! And I have an extra bedroom again, with a new rug!

We used to celebrate the New Year by partying until the wee hours... now, it is more like party 'til shortly after dinner, then drive home very carefully in the dark from an hour away, where the family lives, lol. No longer do I drive like my hair is on fire, rain, or shine. In fact, I prefer to not drive much after dark and I really do not like driving in the rain after dark... too many reflections from oncoming cars. Sigh, never thought I would see the day I would actually slow down.

As we enter a brand, new year, I hope we can find ways to enhance our lives by blessing the lives of others. It is so rewarding to bring joy to someone else, even in small ways, and it will brighten our lives, also. Something as simple as a text, phone call or brief note can mean so much because family and friends know it takes time to do any of that and they are blessed to know you care enough to make the effort to reach out.

As I sit here typing this up, the rain is coming down in sheets outside, and the wind is howling again! How thankful I am for a warm house and a good roof over my head! When I think about the many homeless who live subject to the elements, often with food insecurities and feeling so vulnerable, I am very grateful for the simple things I have.

**Semper Fi,
Joy Cavin
Chaplain
Emerald Empire Detachment #917
Marine Corps League**



CORPSMAN

ROBERT & Tawnee Bowker Family -



Hello and best wishes from the Bowkers. I read every post/text, but rarely feel I have anything meaningful to add. I would like for all of you to know-we do miss the league very much.

Since our last update, our daughter Hannah was married with a surprise wedding, with 30 minutes warning late one night. Very strange, but she is 22 and we had little to say

My eldest daughter is going under the knife today (12 December 2025) for some stomach problems, so please keep us in your prayers.

We have most of our house rebuild now and it is quite livable finally.

We are wishing all of you the very best and if get back over there, we will visit.
Blessings, Robert, and Tawnee Bowker



Matt Scott – Matt let us know at the December meeting that he will miss the January – March 2026 activities while undergoing medical treatment. I have told Matt that if there is anything he needs to let me know so we can assist him.



Fund-Raising Breakfast Service for Sunday, 21 December 2025



At the 21 December 2025 fund-raising breakfast, we had 24 paid meals at \$10.00, and an additional \$2.00 for extra meat. For a total of \$242.00. We also received \$28.00 in tips.

The GRAND TOTAL received was: \$270.00.



Emerald Empire Young Marines

A woman who started the Emerald Empire Young Marines back in the early 1990s, has approached the Young Marines and is interested in getting back involved with them as a “Grant Writer.” This to help with the recruiting and help cover the costs of the Young Marines.

There is a “new” female recruit, whose first event was participating in the Springfield Christmas Parade on 6 Dec 2025.

Marine Corps League “Mission Statement”

Marine Corps League Mission Statement (As shown on our detachment website)

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, former Marines, FMF Navy Corpsmen, FMF Navy Chaplains, Associate Members, and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

The Mission of the Marine Corps League (as shown on national website)

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.



LEAGUE PATCHES

The detachment bought Marine Corps League patches (regular and associate). These are available for purchase for those persons wishing to buy new league shirts, or replace old league shirts.



Regular Patches are \$4.00 each

Associate Patches are \$7.00 each

Emerald Empire Detachment #917 Advertising Pens



The **NEW** pens are available to detachment members for \$2.00 each pen. This covers the cost of the pens and earns the detachment about 50 cents per pen toward the next order of pens.

The pens are for handing out to Marines, Corpsmen, Chaplains, and persons we want to try and recruit for membership.

HATS & VISORS



Eagle, globe, anchor & “Semper Fi” White Sun visors and Black Marine Corps League hats - **\$1.00 each** – **What a Deal.** Hats/Visors are now available at the monthly meetings.



DETACHMENT COINS / CHIPS



Available for \$1.50 each which off-sets the cost of buying them and earns the detachment 45 cents on each one purchased. They are available for purchase in-person during the monthly meetings and from the detachment paymaster.



You can carry one on you as your representation of the detachment when “challenged.” You can also give them out to Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains, and persons who may want to be associate members as recruiting tools; or as gifts to family, friends, and acquaintances who are veterans themselves.

EMERALD EMPIRE DETACHMENT # 917
OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Moose Lodge 1726
2011 Laura Street
Springfield, OR 97477-2100
Phone: (541) 746-3321
3rd Wednesday of the Month

Dinner @ 1800 hours

Meeting Starts @ 1900 hours

Mailing address:

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PO Box 70455 Springfield, OR 97475

Detachment E-mail Address:

mcldet917@gmail.com

Detachment Facebook Page: [MCL Detachment 917](#)

Detachment Web Site: <https://marinecorpsleaguedet917.org>

Department Web Site: <http://www.mcl-oregon.org>

National Website: www.mcleaguelibrary.org

2026 Meeting Dates

MARK YOUR 2025 CALENDARS NOW
(3rd Wednesday of the month)

21 January 2026 (Ham; Scalloped potatoes; tossed salad; green beans and roll)

18 February 2026 (Spaghetti, garlic bread, green salad)

18 March 2026 (Corned Beef and Cabbage; boiled potatoes, carrots, onions; dinner roll)

15 April 2026 (Pork Chops; mashed potatoes with pork gravy; green salad; dinner roll)

20 May 2026

17 June 2026

15 July 2026

19 August 2026

16 September 2026

21 October 2026

18 November 2026

16 December 2026

2026 Fund-Raising Breakfast

Dates

MARK YOUR 2025 CALENDARS NOW
(3rd Sunday of the month)

18 January 2026

15 February 2026

15 March 2026

19 April 2026

17 May 2026

21 June 2026 (Father's Day – Fathers Eat Free)

19 July 2026

16 August 2026

20 September 2026

18 October 2026

15 November 2026

20 December 2026