

# USMC

Once a Marine, Always a Marine

MAY – JUNE 2022



## **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE** BETT-TOOMEY DETACHMENT #216

1794 ELECTRIC AVENUE, LACKAWANNA, NY 14218 ★ 716.823.0998

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 311, LACKAWANNA, NY 14218

PLEASE JOIN OUR MEETINGS ON THE SECOND TUESDAY MONTHLY AT 1900 HOURS



# NEWSLETTER

<https://www.bett-toomey.org>

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 OFFICERS

COMMANDANT .....	KENNETH D. BLACHURA
SR. VICE .....	JAMES TAYLOR
JR. VICE.....	RICK CHMIELOWIEC
CHAPLAIN.....	EUGENE HESS
PAYMASTER .....	RANDY HARPER
	SGT.-AT-ARMS .....
	RONALD GULCZEWSKI
	ADJUTANT .....
	DENNIS CHAPMAN
	JUDGE ADVOCATE....
	JOHN KAITANOWSKI





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## MEMBERSHIP

BETT-TOOMEY HAS 78 TOTAL MEMBERS  
63 OF THEM ARE LIFE MEMBERS  
ONLY 2 MEMBERS ARE UNPAID

# CHUCKLE



**SHOES BEFORE TROUSERS  
MAKES SENSE**

**FEEL FREE TO SHARE YOUR MEMORIES.  
FUNNY MEMORIES ARE PREFERRED,  
BUT ANYTHING IS WELCOME.**

[NEWSLETTER.DNY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NEWSLETTER.DNY@GMAIL.COM)

**DAYS  
of  
IMPORTANCE  
2022**



## 2022

10 MAY \_\_\_\_\_  
29 MAY \_\_\_\_\_  
  
9-11 JUNE \_\_\_\_\_  
11 JUNE \_\_\_\_\_  
14 JUNE \_\_\_\_\_  
12 JULY \_\_\_\_\_  
9 AUGUST \_\_\_\_\_  
15-19 AUGUST \_\_\_\_\_  
SEPTEMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
13 SEPTEMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
11 OCTOBER \_\_\_\_\_  
8 NOVEMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
10 NOVEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

MEETING

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Veteran's Stadium S. Park Ave.  
Bett-Toomey hosts the event

DoNY 91ST ANNUAL CONVENTION — Syracuse

CHICKEN BBQ

MEETING — Flag Day

MEETING

MEETING

99<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL MEETING — Daytona

DEVIL DOG MEETING — at Bett-Toomey

MEETING

MEETING

MEETING

USMC BIRTHDAY



**KENNETH D. BLACHURA**  
**COMMANDANT**  
716.471.1002  
kennypleasant@aol.com

## A message from our Commandant

Our Past National Commandant, Dennis Tobin expressed an excellent point to us regarding 'Recruiting and Retaining.' This needs to be a priority for all. Get involved with our detachment, it can be rewarding. The programs we offer are vast; uniform protocol, honor guard & color guard. There are conferences and conventions to attend. Participation at our meetings and gatherings has ramped up. Our detachment is hosting a Devil Dog meeting with Pound #37 in September 2022.

It is time to continue in growing Bett-Toomey and expanding our reach into the community.

At our last meeting, we welcomed aboard our newest members William Felger and John Pyle. In the near future we will be getting a transfer from Hanson Dept., Batavia, Leonard (Lenny) Carfley. He will be voted on at the May meeting. Lenny has outstanding credentials, and has held many positions, including Commandant.

Our recent Chili contest was a huge success. I'd like to extend a thank you to our Mayor, Annette Iafallo, and County Clerk, Mickey Kearns who added time for us in their busy schedules to judge this competition. We are fortunate and honored that they have been big supporters of Bett-Toomey. Our third judge was Tom Chmielowiec.

The next event is our annual chicken BBQ. Let's make this as successful as it has been in the past. Thank you to Rick Chmielowiec for all of his efforts spearheading this event. He has done a fabulous job chairing the event, so please arrive at the club to assist where you can and mingle with our community. See the flyer on the next page.

There is one more recognition that I'd like to express. Special "thanks" to Donna Hildebrandt, an associate member, who spends many hours compiling Bett-Toomey's newsletter. She is also the editor of the Ground Pounder, the Department of New York's newsletter. She spends countless hours researching to update us with important information and news. Donna travels to most meetings and conferences to keep us informed and continue communication with other detachments and the Department officers. Last year our editor took first place for the national newsletter competition in the category of Detachment and Departments. She is aiming for two years in a row.

Finally, I would like to remind you that I will be available at 1800 to discuss ideas, issues, or just to chat.



Semper Fidelis  
Commandant Ken





# Chicken BBQ

FUND RAISER

June 11<sup>2022</sup>

2 TO 6 PM

\$14<sup>EA.</sup>



The club will remain open for normal business hours afterwards

Half Chicken, Salt Potatoes, Baked, Beans,  
Coleslaw & a Roll

**For questions or more information, contact Rick C. at 716-200-3627**

1794 Electric Avenue, Lackawanna, NY 14218

**EARLY RESERVATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED, QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Meals are \$14 ea.

Number of meals \_\_\_\_\_

Total donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Enclose this reservation with your donation*

**LIMITED SUPPLY  
Pre-Order Only**

Dine-in & Cash Bar  
available contingent upon  
NYS regulations

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE LACKAWANNA MARINE CLUB  
MAIL TO P.O. BOX 311, LACKAWANNA, NY 14218, ATTN: RICK C.



# March 26 2022 Chili CONTEST



**Rick Chmielowiec**



After Conrad Kania's three-year winning streak, Rick Chmielowiec brought the trophy to Bett-Toomey, restoring our pride.

There were two submissions from each detachment: Bett-Toomey, Southtowns, and Conrad Kania.

All entries were excellent.

It's no wonder that the judges took so long to declare a winner, and runners up. Thanks to all who submitted entries, and those who came to enjoy the day.

The names of all of the participants were hidden until the judging was complete. Then finally, the hungry crowd got to eat.

Many thanks to our judges  
Mayor Anette lafallo,  
Erie County Clerk Mickey Kearns,  
and Tom Chmielowiec.

### THREE JUDGES

Mickey Kearns  
Erie Co. Clerk

Anette lafallo  
Lackawanna Mayor

Tom Chmielowiec





## SUMMARY OF VIRTUAL NATIONAL COMMANDANT'S CORNER ZOOM MEETING

HOSTED BY VICTORIA McCOY, *Public Relations Chair*



There isn't enough space here to do this subject justice. Please investigate the link below to learn more.

**PURPOSE:** Connecting with the community to build a strong next generation.

**ACCEPTANCE:** To be accepted as a Young Marine (YM) the applicant must demonstrate an array of quality characteristics and habits. The lessons learned as YM and the character that it builds, will have far-reaching effects for future generations.

**The opportunity to become a YM is a privilege, not a right.** There is strict criteria essential for acceptance. Sadly, the pool of eligible candidates has decreased tremendously from previous generations. It is estimated that eligibility is down 29% from the 2013 calculations. Many of our youth are not eligible due to any indiscretions or a demonstration of disrespect or irresponsibility. The youth must be upstanding citizens, students and human beings.

**OPPORTUNITY:** Once accepted, the YM can rise through the ranks as in the Marines. They can even attain status of officer. Although the officer criteria is rigid and difficult, the opportunity does exist. The program's leaders believe that there is a real need for opportunities such as this in every community. Some schools agree and have implemented the YM program as either an elective or mandatory. Additionally, some members of Congress have endorsed the program and desire for it to be expanded.

**HELP:** Adult volunteers are needed. The volunteers do not need to be a Marine. Military/former military, and quality citizens are welcome to be leaders.

For more information visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw8MSY9NPM4> and <https://youngmarines.org/public/page>

## APRIL 2022

### MARINE CORPS LEAGUE FOUNDATION

At the Virtual Commandant's Corner, The MCL Foundation emphasized their mission to help veterans and their families. They are proud to be able to provide support to our brothers and sisters in need. Assistance is offered in the form of grants, scholarships, and help with other necessities. Primarily the benefits are for the family of Marines and Auxiliary members. However, other applicants may apply and be considered.

The guest speaker stated that the group has been struggling lately and National Commandant Baker is appealing to our sense of brotherhood to keep them afloat. Fund raising strategies were discussed.

To assist, National Commandant, Johnny Baker is taking classes for grant writing and planning to use his newly acquired skills soon.

### FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

This group has historically donated to the MCL Foundation and supported other national and international needs. They are proud to interact with youth on many levels, including to provide training to become first responders.



Certificates of appreciation can be presented to outstanding community members who are not required to be part of the MCL.

[www.fourchaplains.org](http://www.fourchaplains.org) describes the mission as to promote interfaith cooperation and selfless service in individuals and organizations.



PARTICIPATE IN THE

# Rifle & Pistol

COMPETITIONS

Nothing will entice younger Marines to join the Marine Corps League more than putting their marksmanship to the test.

In addition to recruiting new members, this program also encourages members to get back to the range to sharpen their skills. The program will also offer a course for nearly any skill of shooter and is inclusive of both regular and associate members.




The official SOP is presently being compiled and its anticipated publication will be relatively soon. The SOP will further outline guidelines for participation in the individual and Detachment level. As you or your team gains notoriety, further competitions will be available. Opportunities will be available to showcase your skills at higher levels. Some of these competitions may require travel. For now, the present guidelines can be found on the national website [https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Marksmanship\\_National-Rifle-Pistol-Match-Sheet-2022.pdf](https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Marksmanship_National-Rifle-Pistol-Match-Sheet-2022.pdf) This is a great place to familiarize yourself with the program. The first level of competition is called a “Postal Match,” and is at the local level.

There are several categories in which to compete at the “Postal Match” level. Competition locations can be anywhere, even in your own back yard. We have a national representative of the Rifle & Pistol team here in the Department of New York, Lynn Stanton who is the Marksmanship Chairman, and is anxious to grow this program.


Generously supported




by Hi-Lux Optics



**Hear Ye!  
Hear Ye!**



**Commandants  
Call To  
Convention**



*According to Google,  
the definition of Hear Ye, Hear Ye is:  
**Hear this American!**  
It's an old phrase used for introducing  
an official, spoken announcement.*

*It is my honor and privilege to issue this official Call to Convention  
summoning the entire membership to attend our  
91st Annual Marine Corps League—Department of New York  
Convention in Syracuse, New York,  
9 June thru 11 June 2022*

*For  
more  
Convention  
information  
[Complete  
Convention  
Packet](#)  
(revised)*

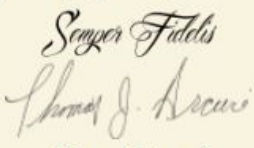
*Come and join us at  
The Collegian Hotel and Suites  
1060 East Genesee Street  
Syracuse, New York 13210*

*Our Banquet to be held on  
10 June 2022  
\$40.00 per person*

*Hotel  
reservations  
can be made  
through this  
link  
[https://  
bit.ly/37aG1  
Lo](https://bit.ly/37aG1Lo)*

*Please RSVP no later than 10 May 2022.  
return the RSVP form and your payment to:  
Marine Corps League  
PO Box 311  
Vestal, NY 13851*

*Please support the programs of the  
Marine Corps League – Department of New York  
by purchasing an ad or booster in our journal.  
All proceeds support the programs of the Marine Corps League.*



*Thomas J. Arcuri*  
Commandant  
Marine Corps League - Department of New York

Lynn encourages individuals and all detachments to create their own shooting team. Scores are kept by the honor system when submitted. Score cards can be found in the national League website's library. <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Marksmanship-Pistol-Match-SCORECARD.pdf>

If you want to learn more, please contact Lynn Stanton at DoNY Marksmanship Chairman, 518-504-0830, [lwldstanton@yahoo.com](mailto:lwldstanton@yahoo.com)





# U.S.S. THE SULLIVANS

## WORLD WAR II ERA DESTROYER TAKING ON WATER

*The historic Destroyer, U.S.S. The Sullivans was renamed such in honor of the five Sullivan brothers who served on a light cruiser and perished in 1942 in WWII. The Sullivans Destroyer has been a staple to downtown Buffalo's waterfront for generations. A trip to Buffalo would not be complete without visiting the Erie County Naval and Military Park in Buffalo, NY, on the shores of Lake Erie.*

*Buffalo hosted the 95th National MCL Convention. Some of the activities were held close to the Erie County Naval and Military Park, near the U.S.S. The Sullivans. Hopefully, some of the 560 Marines in attendance will recall the Park.*

*As a native Western New Yorker, it's been known that U.S.S. The Sullivans has needed repair for years. Even so, the breaking news of her taking on water so rapidly, and listing up to 45° was shocking and heartbreaking. By midday of 4/14/22 she had sunk to the level of her top deck but the appearance of the depth of submersion correlates directly with the level of the tide. She is fortunately supported by the shallow water depth. Without that shallow level, her injuries would have overcome her and the result would have been catastrophic. The holes in her hull have also allowed the leakage of thousands of gallons of oil and other contaminants into Lake Erie. Attempts to contain it are underway.*

*This story has made the national and international broadcasts. Local media has reported that the hull's failure is due to the harsh winters in Buffalo. My personal opinion is that efforts to prevent this tragedy could have been taken, and the upkeep was grossly insufficient.*

*At the time of this writing, thousands of gallons of water were repeatedly being pumped out of her belly. Divers and cameras have investigated the severity of the damage and have found at least a dozen leaks to her hull. While some minor repairs have begun, many more are still needed. Surely if the water were not so shallow, the ship would have become a casualty. Multiple options are being discussed for repair, but each is remarkably expensive considering the urgency. Update, today (4/30/22), I can report that more repairs have been made, but still not enough to right her and give her back her dignity. Divers, doing repairs have been dedicated to saving her.*

*We, who live near Buffalo, have been fortunate to have her for so many years, but at 78, she has lived well beyond her expected lifetime. I find it sad that she requires such overwhelming repair. If a stitch in time saves nine, those nine stitches will cost us all dearly, not only financially, but historically. If she sinks, she will take a part of our collective hearts with her.*

*A Submarine, called The U.S.S. Croaker — and Battleship, The U.S.S. Little Rock also share the waters of the Park. I pray that they will be cared for well enough to avoid the same situation in the future for them.*

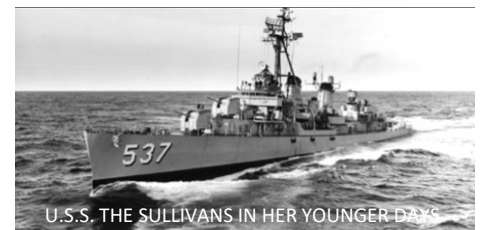


Photo: Spectrum News 1

*Our collective hearts break*



Derek Gee / The Buffalo News



U.S.S. THE SULLIVANS IN HER YOUNGER DAYS

*A concentrated effort to raise funds to right the destroyer, have begun. To donate, please visit [savethesullivans.org](http://savethesullivans.org) or send check to The Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, ATTN: SAVE THE SULLIVANS, One Naval Park Cove, Buffalo, NY 14202, or call the Park 716-847-1773.*

*Photo on the following page is courtesy of Gary Hildebrandt. The light shone in such a way that everything took on a beautiful ocean blue hue. He gives permission to download it, but **it is not for sale.***

*Donna Hildebrandt: Information was gathered from multiple sources and opinion.*





**USS THE SULLIVANS**

*April 2022*

*Eric County Naval & Military Park, Buffalo, NY*

*Courtesy Gary Hildebrandt*

*Not for resale*



# TAPS

**D**ay is done  
Gone the sun  
From the lakes  
From the hills  
From the sky  
All is well  
Safely rest  
God is nigh

**F**ading light  
Dims the sight  
And a star  
Gems the sky  
Gleaming bright  
From afar  
Drawing nigh  
Falls the night

**T**hanks and praise  
For our days  
Neath the sun  
Neath the stars  
Neath the sky  
As we go  
This we know  
God is nigh

*Representing Bett-Toomey at the Department meeting in Syracuse were the Commandant, Sr. Vice, and the editor. The DoNY Commandant, Tom Arcuri opened the meeting dedicating it to two Marines who had recently passed away, Gordon "Gordie" Williams and Donald Marsh. (The information herein is condensed.)*

THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

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APRIL 8-9  
2022

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
is for specific officers only.

**THE DEVIL DOG GROWL** Rule #1 is to have fun. The group is looking for more quality members. (Bett-Toomey will host the Growl in September.)

**A FLEA SCRATCH** is similar to the Growl, but is for the Ladies Auxiliary.

**THE DETACHMENT MEETING** was about gaining and keeping members.

**HOSPITALITY EVENT** is mingle time.

**BUSINESS SESSION**

- At the Northeast Convention, Pennsylvania presented a donation at the Growl. Like poker, others kept raising the pot to an notable \$5000.
- Our National Commandant Johnny Baker underwent cataract surgery and had some complications.
- Some of the detachments that had their charter revoked, flourished and then overcame the obstacles .
- The Department is looking for locations for the fall meeting.

- There was discussion about the process of repealing a charter. The result was that the process will be revised to improve communication.
- In order to get reduced pricing, follow deadlines for reservations. Meeting is 9-11 June in Syracuse.
- The National Convention will be held in Daytona on 15-19 August. The rooms are entirely booked, but there are nearby hotels, and there will be a shuttle running between them.
- The finances have had good returns even with the balance declining.
- Members can check their info on the national database, by using the ID number on their card.
- Presently, the records keep deceased on file for 810 days.
- Reminder that 990s needs to be sent yearly because if not done for 3 years, the detachment's non-profit status is revoked by the IRS.
- **Please share the E-blast. It has an abundance of information.**

- There is misinformation circulating, please refer to the bylaws.
- Suicide prevention's talks continue. Contact Bud Hazzard for more details.
- Rifle and Pistol. See page 7.
- Contact Skip Diamond, at skipdiamond13@gmail.com, regarding the Eagle Scout program, that recognizes outstanding youth.
- For supplies from the Ship Store, phone Al Merrill at 716.219.0761 or email al.merrill.amvets@gmail.com. He will find what you need, however Covers are unavailable everywhere.
- **Regarding the National convention, in Daytona, there will be a shuttle to connect local hotels because the convention hotel is fully booked. The event also hosts a golf tournament. See the E-blast. Refer to page 7 .**
- The Foundation helps Marines and their families. Bob Becker will be stepping down in June. Detachments are allowed to raise funds.



# Supporters

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7/22

**WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

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4721 BROADWAY  
DEPEW  
716-865-4721

James Taylor  
Bett-Toomey, Sr. Vice  
AmVets, Trustee

**Buddy Knaus**

8/22

As a proud member of the government in the City of Lackawanna, I am honored to be a supporter of our area's service men and women.

*Mayor Annette Lafallo*

714 Ridge Road, Room 301  
Lackawanna, NY 14218 • (716) 827-6464  
mayor@lackny.gov

5/23

*Semper Fidelis*

Richard Juda, Sr. family

3/23

LACKAWANNA  
CHIROPRACTIC

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Dr. Thomas J. Taylor, DC

ABBOTT ROAD PLAZA  
1234 Abbott Road Suite #230  
Lackawanna, NY 14218  
[www.lackawannachiropractic.com](http://www.lackawannachiropractic.com)

5/23

*With gratitude  
to our military  
past and present  
and future*

Donna & Air Force Gary

1/23



# Supporters

Commandant Ken Blachura and his wife Joan, want to thank the membership for their ongoing commitment and camaraderie



1/23

**Rectangle ads \$40 /yr.**  
**Liners \$10 /yr.**

JAMES TAYLOR, Det. 216, Senior Vice ♦ 716-768-2522

5/23

LIFE MEMBER MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, MIKE

10/22

PROUD LIFE MEMBER of the MCL, DONNA HILDEBRANDT

1/23

COMMANDANT KEN BLACHURA, PROUD DEVIL DOG

6/23

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, NANCY HASSETT

6/23

THANK YOU FOR OUR FREEDOM—TOM CHMIELOWIEC

6/23

*Your name — your short message*

## SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Refer to the Library about the 2022 Marine Corps League Scholarship Application and instructions.

Questions regarding the Program may be directed to Mike Rainbolt.

[Mike@1040Quick.com](mailto:Mike@1040Quick.com)

Phone: 609-744-5684



I found the LT