



### GatorDet Officers

- **Commandant**  
Jim Yakubsin
- **Sr. Vice Commandant**  
Vernon Kisling
- **Jr. Vice Commandant**  
Bob Gasche
- **Jr. Past Commandant**  
Dick Lester
- **Judge Advocate**  
John Murdoch
- **Adjutant**  
Martha Brown
- **Paymaster**  
Martha Brown
- **Sergeant at Arms**  
Bill Beck
- **Chaplain**  
Bob Wright
- **Quartermaster**  
Scott DuPree
- **Veteran Service Officer** Bob Wright
- **Public Affairs Officer**  
Steve Homewood
- **Historian**  
Steve Homewood
- **Librarian**  
Bob Gasche
- **Social Director**  
Sandy Golden
- **Grants Manager**  
Peter Briggette
- **Web Sgt.**  
Scott DuPree
- **Color/Honor Guard**  
Dave Nettles

# GATOR ALMAR

MARCH - APRIL 2016



Marine Corps League Gator Detachment 990  
PO Box 358772, Gainesville FL 32635-8772  
[www.GatorDet.com](http://www.GatorDet.com)



### Commandant

Jim Yakubsin / [yakmarine@aol.com](mailto:yakmarine@aol.com) / 352-222-8837

### Sr. Vice Commandant & Editor

Vernon Kisling / [vkisling@ufl.edu](mailto:vkisling@ufl.edu) / 352-727-1961

### Jr. Vice Commandant

Bob Gasche / 352-376-0402

FOR OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION USE THE WEBSITE (OFFICERS)  
OR THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY (MEMBERS)

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## 2016 MEETINGS & EVENTS

### MARCH

- 3-5 National Conference
- 12 Oak Hammock Pickup
- 15 MCL Staff Meeting
- 17-20 Gator Nationals
- 22 MCL Regular Meeting
- 24-26 SE Division Conf
- 26 MLYM Breakfast

### APRIL

- 2 Garage Sale Pickup
- 7-10 FL Spring Conference
- 15 MCL Social
- 16 MCL Garage Sale
- 17 Alachua Spring Festival
- 19 MCL Staff Meeting
- 23 MLYM Breakfast
- 26 MCL Regular Meeting

### MAY

- 7 District 2 Meeting
- 13 Relay For Life
- 17 MCL Staff Meeting
- 21 Armed Forces Day
- 24 MCL Regular Meeting
- 28 MLYM Breakfast
- 30 Memorial Day

### JUNE

- 21 MCL Staff Meeting
- 25 MLYM Breakfast
- 28 MCL Regular Meeting

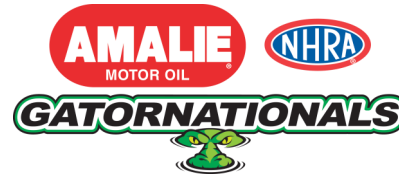
### JULY

- 4 Independence Day
- 19 MCL Staff Meeting
- 23 MLYM Breakfast
- 26 MCL Regular Meeting

- 16 SEP Stand Down
- MIA-POW Day

- 5 NOV MC Bday Ball

## Gator 990 Detachment Activities



GATOR NATIONALS

were March 17-20.

**DISTRICT 2 MEETING** [Gator, Tri-County & Sgt Maj Briggs Detachments] will have a joint meeting here in Alachua [First United Methodist Church] on May 7 (SAT), 10:00-1:00. All detachment members are welcome to attend.

**SCHOLARSHIP TICKETS** are now on sale and our goal this year is to sell all of them. \$5 for 3. See Jim Yakubsin / Forest Hope for the tickets.

### RELAY FOR LIFE Cancer Walk

➤ EVENT will be held MAY 13 from 6:00 PM - 12:00 Midnight at the High Springs Civic Center.

➤ Our goal again this year is \$500. Money raised will be used for American Cancer Society projects here in Alachua and High Springs.

➤ Contributions can now be made using the website:

[www.relayforlife.org/alachuaf1](http://www.relayforlife.org/alachuaf1), then Find a Team (our team is Marine Corps League), then click the Donate text. You can also give cash to me, or write a check made out to the American Cancer Society.

### Commandant's Message:

**WE STILL NEED** members to get involved with our activities and services. In particular, see the open positions on page 3. I encourage our members to do what they can to help the Detachment fulfill its obligations and to be more active. And a big thank you to those members who have been helping.

If you perform any **SERVICES** on behalf of the Detachment, please let our Sr. Vice Commandant know so that we can keep up our record of service hours.

If you have any changes in your **CONTACT INFORMATION**, please let our Adjutant know so we can maintain our membership database.

Your Commandant, Semper Fi

## Gator 990 Detachment Information



### GatorDet Regular Meeting

**First United  
Methodist Church  
14805 NW 140 St.  
ALACHUA**

**MARCH 22  
APRIL 26**

**6:00  
Social & Supper**

**7:00  
Meeting**

**Dinner will be  
BBQ Chicken,  
slaw, baked beans,  
and rolls.**

**No Side Dishes  
needed this time.  
Donations would be  
appreciated to help  
with the cost (meal  
from Bev's Burger  
Café).**

### APRIL Schedule

2 (SAT) @ 1:00 / Garage sale pickup at First United Methodist Church.

15 (FRI) @ 5:30 / Informal SOCIAL at Gators Dockside (next to Royal Park  
.....Theaters on Newberry Road)

16 (SAT) @ 6:00 - Noon / Garage Sale at Alachua Storage Facility

17 (SUN) @ 8:30 - 5:00 / MCL Tent at Alachua Spring Festival (Main Street)

\*\*\*\*\*Volunteers needed for these events\*\*\*\*\*

### Gator 990 Detachment Elections

Elected offices include: Commandant (Nominated: Jim Yakubsin), Senior Vice  
Commandant (Nominated: Vernon Kisling), Junior Vice Commandant  
(Nominated: Bob Gasche) & Judge Advocate (Nominated: John Murdoch).

NOMINATIONS were made at our January Meeting.

ELECTION was held at our February Meeting. Above nominees were elected.

**INSTALLATION: Postponed to April Meeting.**

### Detachment March Meeting Speaker

Kim Smith, Director, Alachua County Veterans Services, will be our speaker at  
the February meeting. She will be discussing county veterans services, benefits  
and activities, as well as veteran matters at the State and National level.

**Dress Blues Trousers** are available for free if you need some. Brand new in  
sizes 35Wx27L, 35Wx25L, 36Wx26L. See John Murdoch if interested.

### Gator 990 Detachment Positions Needed

Color Guard Alternates (contact Dave Nettles)

Memorial Bricks Assistance (contact Jim Yakubsin)

Eagle Scout Council Liaison (contact Scott DuPree)

Veterans Court Mentors (contact Jim Yakubsin)

### DUES INFORMATION

Since 2014 our dues have been \$40 for renewals and \$45 for new members  
(Regular and Associate). This was done to cover increased dues at the Na-  
tional and State level.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP fees are: 0-35 \$500, 36-40 \$400, 41-50 \$400  
51-64 \$300, and 65+ \$200 [Applies to both Regular & Associate Members]

## History & General Information

### Marine Corps History - MARCH

31 March 1801 / Lt Col Commandant William Burrows rode with President Thomas Jefferson to look for a proper place to locate the Marine Barracks. They chose a square in SE Washington because it was near the Navy Yard and within easy marching distance of the Capitol.

13 March 1943 / The first group of Women Marine officer candidates arrived at the U.S. Mid-shipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. The Navy's willingness to share training facilities enabled the Marine Corps to begin training Marine Corps Women's Reserve officers one month after the creation of the MCWR was announced.

25 March 1945 / After 35 days of fighting, the assault on Iwo Jima appeared to be over, but on the night of the 25th, a 300 man Japanese force launched a final counterattack. Marines fought until morning with heavy casualties, killing nearly all of the Japanese attackers.

27 March 1953 / The 5th and 7th Marines regained enemy held positions that had been lost to a Chinese assault at Outpost Vegas on Korea's western front.

8 March 1965 / After some ten years of U.S. military advisor support, the first combat troops landed in Viet Nam on 8 March 1965 when Marines of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB, later renamed the III Marine Amphibious Force) landed at Da Nang to secure the airfield base.

17 March 1967 / First woman Marine reported to Vietnam for duty—Master Sergeant Barbara Dulinsky. MSgt. Dulinsky and the other officer and enlisted Women Marines that followed were assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) based in Saigon.



### Milton Lewis Young Marines

**Cary Hill, Commanding Officer**

**Jamie Hill, Executive Office**

**Col. William Davis USMC (Ret.), National Executive Director / CEO**

**[www.YoungMarines.com](http://www.YoungMarines.com) / [www.MiltonLewisYoungMarines.com](http://www.MiltonLewisYoungMarines.com)**

Young Marines are recruiting new recruits age 8—18. They meet every 2nd and 4th Saturday at the VFW Post on Waldo Road. Contact Dick Lester for further information.

Several Milton Lewis Young Marines were featured in their recent magazine [*Young Marines Esprit*, v. 4 2015]: Talla Aasved, Abigail Islam, and Nathan Crawford. In addition, Cary Hill, Dick Lester, and Bob Gasche were recognized for their support of this Young Marines unit.

**MILTON LEWIS YOUNG MARINES**  
**NATIONAL UNIT OF THE YEAR 2009**  
*"Strengthening the Lives of America's Youth"*  
*Pursuing excellence through Honor, Courage and Commitment*  
Southeast Division Unit of the Year 2008    First Florida Regiment Unit of the Year 2006 & 2008

The banner features the Milton Lewis Young Marines logo on the left, which includes a globe and the motto "SEMPER PARATUS". On the right, there is a portrait of a young man in a Marine uniform, with the text "Sponsored by:" and a small Marine Corps League logo below it.

## Local Veterans Activities



ALACHUA  
COUNTY  
VETERANS  
EVENTS,  
ACTIVITIES,  
AND  
ORGANIZATIONS

### MARCH / APRIL

**American Legion Post 16** open house on **March 26**, 3:00-6:00. Come meet Medal of Honor recipient **Marine Corps Corporal Duane Dewey**. (4701 NW 6th Street, Gainesville).

**Gainesville Vet Center** open house will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Vietnam veterans service on **March 29**, 11:00-1:00 (105 NW 75th Street / Tower Road, Suite 2). Contact Ingrid Rincon at 352-331-1408.

**Marine Corps Corvette** is coming to High Springs **March 30**. Owned and displayed by David & Debra Sommerdorf as a memorial to those who died in the 9/11 attacks. This digitally wrapped 1992 Corvette will be on display at the Victory Springs Baptist Church (18172 U.S. Hwy 441).

**Victor Whiskey**, a group for military veteran writers, will hold a meeting on **April 10** at 1:00 at the downtown library (meeting room B / 401 E. University Avenue). Veterans of all ages are welcome to attend and no writing experience is needed to attend.

#### ALACHUA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES

Kim Smith, Director / 352-264-6740

[www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/CSS/Veterans/Pages/VeteransServices.aspx](http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/CSS/Veterans/Pages/VeteransServices.aspx)

#### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS \* VFW Post 2811

Dick Lester, Commander / [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) ([www.vfwpost2811.org](http://www.vfwpost2811.org) / not up)

#### AMERICAN LEGION Haisley Lynch Post 16

Victoria Van Buren, Commander / [www.amlegionpost16.org](http://www.amlegionpost16.org)

#### VIET NAM VETERANS OF ALACHUA COUNTY Chapter 1092

Forest Hope, President / [vva1092.org](http://vva1092.org)

#### KOREAN WAR VETERANS

[dfi.kwva.org](http://dfi.kwva.org)

#### IWO TRIO, Inc.

Bob Gasche, President / 352-376-0402

#### MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Tom Hennessey, Commander / [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org) ([www.mophchapter0823.org](http://www.mophchapter0823.org))





[www.mclfl.org](http://www.mclfl.org)

**DEPT STAFF**

**Commandant  
William Cona**

**Sr. Vice Commandant  
Ronald Ashley**

**Jr. Vice Commandant  
George LaMont**

**Judge Advocate  
Scott Westervelt**

**Jr. Past Commandant  
Lou Calleja**

**Paymaster  
Janis Beal**

**Adjutant  
Andy Smith**



**DISTRICT 2  
District 2 VCMDT  
John Murdoch**

**District 2  
Asst. Vice Commandant  
Scott DuPree**

**District 2 includes  
Gator Detachment 990  
Tri-County  
Detachment 1086  
Sgt Maj Briggs  
Detachment 1018**

## MCL Department of Florida Information

The INJURED WARRIORS FUND OF FLORIDA has disbursed over \$57,000 to needy combat injured warriors.

The SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM this year has awarded \$350 each to over 40 recipients.

The LEADERSHIP PROGRAM at the 2015 Fall Conference had nearly 60 participants.

The BOY SCOUTS (EAGLE) PROGRAM will award 70 Good Citizenship Awards in January 2016.

Department of Florida membership stands at 3,652 with an additional 711 delinquent members. A major effort will be made this year to reduce this number. Our Gator Detachment has already made significant progress in this direction.

The FLORIDA SPRING CONFERENCE will be held at Safety Harbor on 7-10 April 2016. Refer to the Department of Florida website for further information.

The SOUTHEAST DIVISION will hold its conference at Augusta, Georgia on 24-26 March 2016.

DIVISION 2 MEETING will be held May 7, 10:00-1:00 at the First United Methodist Church, Alachua.



## MCL National Information

NATIONAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE was held 3-5 March 2016 at the Fairview Park Marriot in Falls Church, Virginia. Reservations need to be made before 8 February 2016. Conference information is available in *Semper Fi* and on the National website.

The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to propose expanded disability compensation for veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune 1953-1987. The VA is working on regulations that would establish these presumptions.



U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs / [veterans.house.gov](http://veterans.house.gov)

U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs / [www.veterans.senate.gov](http://www.veterans.senate.gov)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs / [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

U. S. Marine Corps / [www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil)



[www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org)

### NATIONAL STAFF

#### National Commandant

**Richard Gore**

**National Sr. Vice  
Commandant**

**Wendell Webb**

**National Jr. Vice  
Commandant**

**Dennis Tobin**

**National Judge  
Advocate**

**Johnny Baker**

**Jr. Past National  
Commandant**

**John Kovalcik**

**Executive Director**  
**Thomas Hazlett**

**Adjutant/Paymaster**  
**Meg Thoburn**

**President, MCL  
Auxiliary**  
**Deborah Evans**



[www.GatorDet.com](http://www.GatorDet.com)

### MCL Mission Statement

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 and former Marines 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.



Founded in 1923 by Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune (13th Commandant, 1920-29), the Marine Corps League is the only federally chartered (1937) Marine Corps related veterans organization in the United States.

#### Marine Corps League

Gator Detachment 990  
PO Box 358772  
Gainesville FL 32635-8772