

Marine Corps League
Battle Born Detachment 672
2014 Accomplishments and Goals

Our detachment is responsible for the Marine Corps Memorial at the Northern Nevada Veterans Cemetery located just off Interstate 80 in Fernley, NV. We conceived, designed, acquired, built, clean, and maintain this memorial, which is a 155mm howitzer on a non-movable stand. The spring and fall of 2014 saw our detachment go to Fernley for several weekends to clean, paint, wash and generally spruce up the memorial. We also put in new plants, and repaired the irrigation system. Our detachment has placed on the walls around the memorial the USMC Division and Air Wing plaques. Members of our detachment helped build and complete the Korean War Veteran's Memorial at Fernley, and then participated in the dedication of this new memorial when it was dedicated on Memorial Day 2012.

Our detachment was successful in raising and funding full expenses for a successful candidate to attend the Devil Pup program at Camp Pendleton in the summer of 2014. Our candidates did very well at Camp Pendleton, and also received honors for his Devil Pup performance. We are now in the process of selecting our candidates for the 2015 summer program.

Our detachment sent a delegation to the May, 2014 Dept of NV MCL State Convention held in Pahrump, NV hosted by the Pahrump Detachment.

Through 2014, our detachment coordinated "Honor Flight Fund Raisers", to send WW2 and Korea veterans from the State of Nevada to Washington D.C. This program was brought to NV by one of our detachment members in 2012. The first Honor Flight from NV took place in September 2012 from the Reno/Tahoe Airport. Since that first flight, our detachment has participated in each Honor Flight that has departed from Northern Nevada. We have provided coordination to the veteran's in these flights, and also chaperons for disabled veterans. Each year the goal is to send about 3 flights to D.C.

We help with all veterans groups in Northern Nevada, and Northern California, to find, screen, and sponsor those WW2 and Korean veterans who qualify for these special flights. Our members attend both the departure and arrival of these Honor Flights at the Reno/Tahoe Airport, and thank each veteran for their service. A large welcoming group of citizens and all veteran organizations are also there. The expense for each veteran is about \$1100, and is all paid thru donations.

In July our detachment had our annual summer picnic from 11am-6pm, with BBQ and all the trimmings. It was at this gathering that members and their families enjoyed socializing with each other.

Every year our detachment has a presence at the Reno National Championship Air Races that are held in September. We man a booth in the middle of the main grandstand area, and sell beverages to all guests and visitors. The Air Races are from Tuesday morning thru Sunday afternoon, and our booth is manned every day with approximately 4-6 members. This is our main revenue project for the year.

Our detachment has a large participation in Reno's annual Veterans Day Parade. This year we had one of the largest groups of members in many years. We received many compliments from other participants and military units on the sharpness of our float and its design and posters. We also participate in the Veterans breakfast held before the parade.

Our detachment has an annual cake cutting ceremony at the Reno VA hospital for all Veterans from all services. This ceremony is always on the Marine Corps Birthday of 10 November, after the lunch meal. It is attended by a large turnout of members in their MCL attire. All veterans, their guests, and the hospital staff thoroughly enjoy the ceremony, the music, and the multiple cakes that are provided by our detachment. 2014 was the 19th year in a row that "Battle Born Detachment" has done this. All 3 USMC cakes were decorated in WW1 posters, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the start of "The Great War". The wife and daughter of a member made and decorated these cakes.

In May of 2014 was the 75th anniversary of the opening of Reno's VA Hospital, and our members participated in this celebration. Our VA Hospital has grown and expanded throughout this time.

During the year of 2014 members of our detachment have been volunteers at various VA Hospital events, such as drivers to help veterans needing transportation, and participating at the Veterans Halloween Games for the full time residents living at the VA Hospital.

About 2-3 times a year our detachment participates in the Crossroads of the West Gun Show held in the Reno Convention Center. We have a booth at the show, and sell items to raise money for the Devil Pups, and to try to recruit new members. We also have a presence in other local events, like the Spring and Fall Reno Home Shows, and the Reno Antique Car Show. Our detachment has a special Marine Tent to erect at these events to increase our visibility.

This year was the first year our detachment had a booth at the Reno Rodeo, where we talked with all visitors, and passed our USMC, and MCL items.

In August, our detachment was asked to help with the 3rdMARDIV Convention that was held at Reno's Grand Sierra Resort Hotel. Our members helped with delegate check-in, and with the hospitality suite. This convention was a great success for all persons.

Unfortunately in 2014 we had our detachment trailer, and all of its items for sale, stolen by unknown persons. The Reno Police did find the trailer, however all our items were missing. This has caused a severe monetary loss which our detachment is now recovering from.

Our members are active in Reno veteran's volunteer service programs, and in numerous veteran projects in the local area. Examples in 2014 were helping in the annual Toys for Tots Christmas drive in which we gathered over 35,000 new toys. Since the USMC Reserve unit at the Stead Airport closed, and the unit moved to New Orleans due to budget cuts, our detachment has been tasked with the Northern Nevada "Toys for Tots"

program. This has put a great strain on our detachment resources and manpower. The USMC Reserve unit had about 300 members to coordinate the TFT Program, however our detachment has only about 30-35 active members. We have partnered with the local Salvation Army Organization to screen, qualify, and distribute these toys and Christmas items to needy families.

Also, on Tuesday evenings at the Veteran's Food Bank, our detachment has funded expenses for Marines and Marine families who need help in purchasing the food available that night. We also donate an extra \$100 at both Thanksgiving and Christmas for the Veteran's Food Bank. The goal of the Veteran's Food Bank is to provide surplus food from area supermarkets to any and all veterans and their families for a small fee. Our detachment pays this fee as needed.

For the past several years our detachment has contributed to a small, but growing, detachment scholarship fund. We hope to award the first scholarship amount to a student in 2015.

In the fall of 2014 the Tesla Car Company of California announced that the Reno/Sparks Industrial Park had been selected over all other locations for the Giga Battery Factory. Our hope is that this new factory will bring to our area more MCL members, and an improved economy.

In summary, our detachment attempts to attract new members at all of our functions, and we attempt to participate in community activities as good citizens. Our officers and staff are briefed about different MCL rules and regulations as the need arises. The present economic conditions affect our members and city, as they affect all others. We meet once a month at the VFW building in Reno, and we annually contribute to that buildings maintenance fund. Our members have high morale and commitment.

Respectfully Submitted to the Dept Of Nevada Mid-Winter Conference.
Don Enea, Commandant
MCL DET#672, "Battle Born"
Reno Nevada