



As we bring 2021 to a close, we have to reflect back on this year. And wonder where did it go!

We started the year with a Change of Command. Larry Winters stepped up to Battalion Commander and Marine Daniel Kelly was installed as the new Unit Commander. Mr. Kelly has done a great job, going to school full-time and driving eighty miles to come to all of our activities. The rest of our staff remained stable.

We currently have twenty-three Young Marines most of whom are active. Two of our Young Marines graduated from Leadership Schools at the Regiment. Several have been promoted to higher ranks. YM CPL Jesse Winger was selected as the Unit Young Marine of the Year. We still have a very young unit; the average age is twelve.

We started a recruit class in April which took longer than normal to complete. We had to dodge Covid and our extra Activities. We spent a lot of time at Camp Bonnyman as it was 'safer' to be outside. We participated in the MCL Car Show, put out flags for Memorial Day at John Sevier Cemetery, and hosted the annual Stout Memorial in June. We again took the Unit to the Little River and camped out for a week. We assisted the League with their pistol match and the rifle match. And at the end of July, we finally graduated six new Young Marines.

The new adventure this year was the Young Marine Mud Run held at Camp Bonnyman in October. For a first-time effort, it was very successful. The course is challenging. The League really stepped up to help us at running obstacles, parking, traffic control, and cooking.

Veterans Day week was a killer. We put flags out at the cemetery. Participated in the Knoxville Veterans Day Parade with a great showing from our kids. And fund-raised for Wreaths Across America, in conjunction with the United Veterans Council on that Friday, Saturday and Sunday at two different locations. We raised almost \$5000 for Wreaths Across America.

In between all this, we managed to complete regular drills and complete all of our mandatory training.

We need to thank many individuals for their generosity in time and money towards the success of our unit. We have the best Adult Leaders and parents. Many thanks especially to the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Marine Corps League, without whom we would not be as successful.