



ALABAMA MARINES FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



June 2, 2022

2021 saw the resumption of Alabama Marines Foundation's primary fund-raising operation. (Clara Verner Towers RV parking and game day parking). During the year, our primary focus was to identify and begin working toward establishing an activity that could replace the revenue source represented by the Clara Verner RV operation in the event that the Clara Verner facility becomes unavailable for our use. AMF identified construction of a USMC regulation obstacle course to be the mission with an ultimate vision of that course serving as the nucleus for attracting Obstacle Course Race (OCR) type events that over time would attract participants in such numbers as to be an equal or greater revenue source than current Clara Verner parking operations. The effort was led by board member Lee Busby. The foundation raised \$55,000 for the construction of the obstacle course. A partnership was formed with Tuscaloosa Parks & Recreation Authority (PARA), Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports and Alabama Marines Foundation which led to the successful construction of an eight lane USMC obstacle course located at Munny Sokol Park. This monumental accomplishment would not have happened without the financial and like kind contributions made individual citizens and businesses. AMF celebrated the completion of this project on October 30, 2021 by hosting an obstacle course challenge run that drew over 100 participants. 2021 gross revenue for AMF was over \$120,000. Of that, \$55,000 were contributions made toward construction of the obstacle course and over \$46,000 was revenue generated by the 2021 RV season. AMF has continued to maintain operating reserves of \$48,000 as required by board action. Grant activity for the year was relatively low coming in at \$15,980 for general grants and \$910 through the Bill Dobbs Temporary Emergency Financial Assistance Program. The AMF in partnership with U of A Department of Veterans Affairs celebrated the grand opening of the Alabama Marines Foundation Veteran and Military Health Clinic located on the U of A campus on November 11, 2021. AMF continues to help veterans in need.

AMF selected Elden & Martha Willingham to be the 2021 recipients of the "Janice C. Looney Community Partnership Award" recipients.

R. Forrest Fitts - Chairman of the Board

History of Alabama Marines Foundation

The Alabama Marines Foundation (AMF) was incorporated in 2012 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation with the mission to honor those Alabamians who have served their country as U.S. Marines. It accomplishes its mission primarily by awarding grants to other non-profit military, civic and educational organizations or institutions that provide services to military active duty, reservists, veterans, and their families. While the primary focus of the Foundation is to aid Marines, grants are made available, as resources permit, to benefit veterans and the families of all branches of the military.

The inaugural meeting of the AMF Board of Directors was held in July 2012. At that time the Foundation Bylaws were adopted and officers appointed. In these first eight years the AMF has made rapid and impressive progress in establishing operational policies and procedures, to wit: developing an operational reserve, conducting fund raising efforts, adopting procedures for accepting grant applications, and awarding grants. In addition, procedures were developed for receiving targeted donations in memory or honor of friends and family. Most importantly, from our founding in 2012 AMF has awarded over \$400,000 in grants to directly benefit veterans and their families, through the year end 2021.

Officers and Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Chairman of the Board.....	Forrest Fitts
Vice-Chairman.....	Jim McLean
Secretary.....	Karl Elebash
Treasurer.....	Lee Busby

BOARD OF DIRECTORS *

Lee Busby	William Suclupe	William Boulware
Forrest Fitts	Chris Gattozzi	Hays Webb
Jim McLean	Karl Elebash	Ronnie Colvin

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

LtGen Willie Williams, USMC (Ret)	Sam Olson	Patrick Pritchard
Judge Rob Robertson	Ray Looney	
Ryan Leach	Amanda Milam	

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Lee Busby

Membership: Karl Elebash

Fund Raising: Vacant

Grants: Lee Busby

It should be noted that the Bylaws of the Foundation require that a majority of the Board of Directors be Marines. During 2021, eight of the nine full Board members are Marines and six of the seven Ex-Officio members are Marines. The Board meets monthly. Minutes are available to members upon request.

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of 2021, the Foundation membership numbered 116. As might be expected, most are Marine veterans. However, membership is open to anyone who shares the interests and goals of the Foundation. Military service is not a prerequisite for membership. There is no annual membership fee; however, there is a one-time administrative fee of \$15.00 to join.

Members play a vital role in furthering the mission of the Foundation by their support of its programs, by volunteering their time, by their individual donations, and by acting as spokespersons for the Foundation.

Membership applications may be submitted at the Foundation website, www.alamarinesfoundation.org or by mail.

GRANT PROGRAMS

The Foundation has two distinct programs for directing grants.

General revenue grants are awarded to other non-profit military or civic organizations and educational institutions that provide services to military veterans, either in support of specific projects or for their overall operational needs.

- 1. AMF's General Revenue Grants in support of veterans.** During **2021**, we provided **\$6,300** in general grants.
- 2. AMF's Bill Dobbs Temporary Emergency Financial Assistance Program** provides grants of dedicated donations to affiliated organizations throughout the State to assist individual Marines who have experienced a temporary financial setback. Various Marine Corps League Detachments and other veteran organizations in the State assist AMF in providing grants to Marines and their families. Grants are awarded for such items as medical/dental care, temporary child care, rent, vehicle repair, transportation, utility bills, and food. In **2021 only \$500 in grants** was awarded under this Program. Since the inception of this grant program in 2013, nearly \$21,500 has been awarded to Marines across the State.

Grant application procedures for these two programs may be found on the Foundation website.

Since its inception in 2012 through 2021 AMF donated \$60,000 to the Marine Corps League, Mike Spann Detachment, Endowed Scholarship Fund at the University of Alabama. That scholarship provides financial assistance for students who have a personal or family connection to the Marine Corps or to Navy Corpsmen who served with the Fleet Marine Force, and who graduated from high school in the State of Alabama. At the completion of that project in 2019, the endowment totaled \$100,000. In 2019, the AMF **committed to provide \$50,000 to support** the establishment of a **VA Health Clinic on the University of Alabama campus**. The first installment of \$10,000 was provided in 2019. We completed the final installments on that original \$50,000 pledge with **\$40,000 of funding during 2020**. Despite the fact that 2020 was a particularly difficult financial year, Alabama Marines Foundation was able to complete the \$50,000 pledge primarily due to the extraordinary generosity of the **Belcher Foundation** who provided us a \$25,000 grant.

Anyone wishing to donate to these grant programs may do so at the Donation page on the Foundation Website, www.alamarinesfoundation.org.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020

Alabama Marines Foundation					
Financial Trends 2018-2021					
		2018	2019	2020	2021
Code		Income & Expenditures	Income & Expenditures	Income & Expenditures	Income & Expenditures
	Income Categories	Income	Income	Income	Income
001	General Donation	\$ 4,118.65	\$ 2,674.17	\$ 28,822.95	\$ 2,385.20
002	Toys for Tots Donation	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	
003	United Way Donation	\$ 963.45	\$ 362.13	\$ 232.27	\$ 225.02
004	Interest Income	\$ 96.04	\$ 82.08	\$ 19.21	\$ 11.61
005	RV Parking Fees Generated (Net)	\$ 30,446.27	\$ 27,077.22	\$ 11,894.96	\$ 25,546.79
	Donations for the UA CVA (Ruck March)		\$ 14,800.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
007	Verner Parking (UA CVA)	\$ 22,460.00	\$ 18,298.00		\$ 20,380.00
008	Verner Parking (Auto Gameday)	\$ 13,490.00	\$ 11,586.00		\$ 16,642.00
010	Amazon Smile Contributions			\$ 5.00	\$ 31.83
011	New Member Fee Collected	\$ 81.75	\$ 28.52	\$ 28.52	\$ 11.41
012	Lt. Arango Bust Fund	\$ 1,679.00		\$ -	
013	Donations for O-Course and Trail			\$ -	\$ 55,000.00
	Total Income	\$ 75,835.16	\$ 74,908.12	\$ 41,002.91	\$ 120,433.86
	Expense Categories				
Code	General Operating Expense	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures
101	Bank Fee		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44.88
102	Insurance Cost	\$ 1,420.00	\$ 1,310.84	\$ 1,557.98	\$ 1,252.62
103	Bond			\$ -	
104	Mailbox Charge	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
105	Tax Preparation/Accounting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
106	Web Hosting Cost	\$ 119.98	\$ 159.98		\$ 448.95
107	Web Maintenance & Support	\$ 570.00	\$ 285.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 450.00
108	Postage/Shipping				
109	O-Course and Trail Expenses				\$ 2,910.39
110	Miscellaneous Supplies				
111	Toys for Tots Expense	\$ 495.87	\$ 103.38		
199	Other Expense	\$ 30.00	\$ 225.00		
	Total General Operating Expenses	\$ 3,785.85	\$ 3,234.20	\$ 2,767.98	\$ 6,256.84
Code	Grants Awarded				
201	General Grant	\$ 71,790.37	\$ 82,456.82	\$ 49,100.00	\$ 15,700.00
202	Temporary Emergency Financil Assistance	\$ 4,583.01	\$ 5,033.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
203	Special Grant/Other	\$ 2,322.10	\$ 2,310.42		\$ 690.00
	Total Grants Awarded	\$ 78,695.48	\$ 89,800.74	\$ 49,600.00	\$ 16,890.00
Code	Parking Specific Expenses				
301	Fiancial (web, credit card, license, etc.)	\$ 136.35			
302	Parking Equipment				
303	Parking Supplies	\$ 1,018.28			
304	RV Lot Specific Expense	\$ 143.39	\$ 491.00	\$ 260.00	\$ 801.00
305	Auto Parking Specific Expense	\$ 468.96			\$ 176.50
306	UA CVA Parking Expense				
307	Refreshments for Parking Crews	\$ 29.59			
	Business License		\$ 157.50	\$ 191.53	\$ 89.37
399	Other Parking Expense				
	Total Parking Expenses	\$ 1,796.57	\$ 648.50	\$ 451.53	\$ 1,066.87
	Total Expenses	\$ 84,277.90	\$ 93,683.44	\$ 52,819.51	\$ 24,213.71

CONTACT INFORMATION

There are several ways to reach the Foundation.

You may send correspondence to the Foundation mailing address at:

**The Alabama Marines Foundation
1655 McFarland Blvd. N., PMB 155
Tuscaloosa AL 35406**

You may use the “Contact Us” button on the Foundation website:

www.alamarinesfoundation.org, or

You may send an email to the Foundation at:

info@alamarinesfoundation.org