

**FALL EDITION  
2000**

**DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

### ***Commandant's Corner***

*Al Kotrla, Dept. of Texas Commandant*

The National Convention in New Orleans is now history. It was a lot of work and a lot of fun, and I'll try to make a brief summary.

If you want more information, contact me or someone else from department staff.

**Regarding VA Benefits:** 1) Any combat Marine who has never been screened or tested for Hepatitis "C" should do so as soon as possible. 2) Purple Heart recipients shall not be obligated to make co-payments at VA Medical Centers.

**Toys for Tots:** All departments are asked to name a Toys for Tots Liaison to the National Toys for Tots Chairman. Any volunteer out there?

**Amendments:** Of five proposed *amendments to by-laws*: two were approved, two were rejected, and one was withdrawn. Of four proposed *amendments to administrative procedures*: one was approved, one was rejected, and two were withdrawn. Nothing had direct impact on what we currently do.

**Resolutions:** Of twelve resolutions submitted: seven passed and five were rejected. Most had to do with veterans' benefits and retirement benefits.

**Awards:** Three Texas detachments received awards for Americanism Activities and Photo Albums. In Category I (membership less than 50), Texoma was 2<sup>nd</sup> and CenTex was 3<sup>rd</sup>. In Category II (membership of 51-100), Eastex was 3<sup>rd</sup>. The National Junior Vice Commandant's Awards for Membership Recruiting went to Ken Watterson, D.C. Wilkinson, and James Henderson of Big "D", Del Willey of North Texas, H. Whitzel of Rio Grande,

and Steve Bridgewater of CenTex. Congratulations! (Detachment Commandants, are you recognizing your members' contributions and submitting them for awards?)

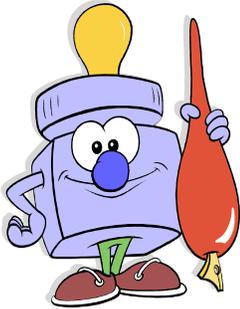
**Registration of Delegates:** My thanks to the detachments that paid for and registered delegates. At final count, Texas had the sixth largest delegation at the convention. Although it never came to a count of votes, I can assure you that your efforts paid off, for I was advised that a controversial matter never came before the floor because off line caucusing determined the issue had no chance of prevailing without the votes from Texas delegation. Even though our votes were never counted, *they counted!* We had 54 registered delegates for 698 votes, but my rosters show Texas has more than 1,200 members in good standing. Let's remember this and do better next year.

**Devil Dogs:** We had several Devil Dogs advance to Pedigree, and I offer my congratulations to those who advanced. Woof Woof!

Now it's onward to Ft. Worth and the 2000 Fall Staff Conference October 12-15. I look forward to some interesting officers' and committee chairmen's reports, especially to hear about the great work Chaplain Ken Henry is doing with the VAVS Committee. And we can talk more about what happened at National Convention in New Orleans ...



## Jr. Vice Commandant's Journal



A.C. Deck  
Dept. of Texas  
Jr. Vice Commandant

First of all, thanks for electing me as your Jr. Vice Commandant for 2000-2001. One of my jobs is to help the detachments focus on membership. Getting new members is our

priority and the methods in accomplishing this are varied.

However, after you recruit a new member, you're faced with his renewal. One of the best ways to help solve the retention problem is Life Membership. Being a Life Member eliminates lots of paper work and problems; specifically, no more dues transmittal forms, lost renewal notices, and the end of Paymaster harassment. If you are not currently a Life Member, it is definitely worth your consideration.

The fees by age are as follows:  
Age to and including 40 years .. \$250  
41 to and including 50 years .... \$200  
51 to and including 60 years ..... \$150  
61 years and over ..... \$ 75

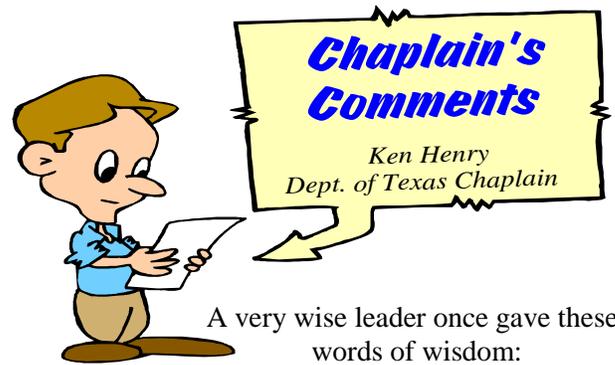
Anyone requiring more information on this subject can contact your detachment Paymaster or myself. My address is PO Box 432, Crystal City, TX 78839.

## Paymaster Postings

Joe Chavez  
Dept. of Texas  
Adjutant Paymaster



Since we don't get too many thanks from students who receive our awards, I thought I would pass along a "Thank You" we did receive. Ms. Patricia Fuller, recipient of a Department scholarship award this June, expressed her "great appreciation" for the award and stated that the scholarship "would help with the cost of books and supplies."



A very wise leader once gave these words of wisdom:

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. **Love them anyway.**

If you do good, you will be accused of selfish ulterior motives. **Do good anyway.**

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies. **Succeed anyway.**

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. **Do good anyway.**

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. **Be honest and frank anyway.**

The biggest men with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men with the smallest ideas. **Think big anyway.**

People favor underdogs, but follow only top dogs. **Fight for a few underdogs anyway.**

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. **Build anyway.**

People really need help, but may attack you if you do help them. **Help them anyway.**

Give the world your best and you'll get kicked in the teeth. **Give the world your best anyway.**

Sounds like a friend of ours called Jesus. Go forward and be Christ like.

## Historian Headlines

Bob Welch, Dept. of Texas Historian

The endless night was not without its gallows humor. An adjoining Korean commander called **Chesty Puller** to report a major Chinese attack in his sector.

"How many Chinese are attacking you?" asked Puller.



"Many, many Chinese," replied the excited Korean officer.

"Goddammit," swore Puller, "put my Marine liaison officer on the radio."

In a moment, an American voice came over the air: "Yes sir?"

"Lieutenant," growled Chesty, "exactly how many Chinese you got up there?"

"Colonel, we've got a whole 'shitpot' of Chinese up here!"

"Thank God," exclaimed Puller. "At least there's someone up there who knows how to *COUNT*."



## *MCL Auxiliary Announcements*

*Jacque Stephens  
Dept. of Texas President  
Email: shawneecreek@texoma.net*

Dear Auxiliary Members:

I'm trusting all of you received my letter and the list of new officers sent out June 16<sup>th</sup>. We are fortunate to also have "The Texas Marine" newsletter thanks to Bernie O'Dell and his wife Juanita. This will be as valuable as we make it; therefore, I encourage each Unit to send Bernie a brief comment on its monthly meetings, activities, etc. His Email address is: [bernie@wf.net](mailto:bernie@wf.net).

It was my pleasure to attend the National Convention in New Orleans as Dept. of Texas President and a delegate from the Texoma Unit. Also attending were: Marie Williams/Williamson County/CenTex Unit, Viola Trevino and Gregoria Lopez/Coastal Bend Unit, Allie Willey/Red River Unit, Jo Davis and Bert Shock/Texoma Unit, Henrietta Vargas/Alamo Unit, Maria Ramos and Janet Deck/Members-At-Large Tx. We had a total of ten members from Texas attend the Supreme Flea Scratch! National Awards received are as follows: **History Book:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Dept. of Texas, Marie Williams/Historian. **Memory/Scrapbook:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Dept. of Texas, Marie Williams/Memory Book Chair and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Texoma Unit. **Americanism:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Hours, Texoma Unit. **VAVS:** 60 Hours/100% Attendance –

Lois Sheeler/Williamson County/CenTex Unit; 360 Hours - Kathy Nelson/Texoma Unit; 100 Hours – Donna Hall and Jacquie Stephens/Texoma Unit; 50 Hours - Shirley Farmer and Brenda Tomonelli/Texoma Unit. **Recruiter Bar:** Kathy Nelson/Texoma Unit.

I'm sure you join me in congratulating these people and Units for all their efforts in helping Texas look so good. I trust each unit member is keeping up with her unit activities for next year.

The new National Officers are: **President/** Barbara Schmitz, **Sr. Vice President/** Patricia Hortsch, **Jr. Vice President/** Gloria Lutz, **Judge Advocate/** Ruth Moyse, **Southern Division Vice President/** Marie Williams, and **Assistant Southern Division Vice President/** Jacquie Stephens. All new officers were sworn in on Friday night during an impressive ceremony at the banquet with over 500 people attending.

I will be mailing correspondence to the state officers and unit presidents on the upcoming Fall Staff Conference being held October 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> in Ft. Worth, Texas. Unit presidents please make 4 or 5 copies and have them at your meetings and let each unit member know you have received your copy.

For those units who received a "wrong" address book, I have the "right" books printed up and have mailed them to the unit presidents who have contacted me. I will have some extra inserts (names & addresses) at the Fall Staff Conference.

I wish each unit well for its plans for Fall activities. Please do not hesitate to call on me (903-465-6060) if I can be of help with your installations.

Also, for those who don't know, we now have a web page for the Dept. of Texas that includes both the League and Auxiliary. The address is: <http://www.texoma.net/texasmclmcla>.

## *VAVS Needs You!!*

*Ken Henry, Dept. of Texas VAVS Rep.*

After being appointed VAVS Rep. in June, I set about to learn all I could about this posting. The first thing I learned was what VAVS stood for: **Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services.**

I also learned that giving of yourself to help out your fellow veterans is one of the most important parts of the Marine Corps League mission statement.



For many veterans, the VA hospital is home to them. Their lives consist of constant medical treatment, hoping against hope that there will be a time when they will get better. Some do, but there are those of them that do not.

As many of you know, I am a disabled vet myself. I have been there and know the fears of what it is like to be away from home in a place you know nothing about except the horror stories that go through the rumor mill. You lie there in pain, not knowing what is going to happen to you next. Everyone who comes through the door you are suspicious of. The one thing you want to know is that there is someone there that really cares about you as an individual. You pray to see a friendly face.

I joined up with Howard Naylor's bunch from the John Yancey Detachment in Dallas. Howard and most of his crew have been doing this sort of thing for over ten years and serve the SCI (Spinal Cord Injury) Unit of the Dallas VA Hospital.

This is the same unit I go to for my treatment and medical care. It was hard going back into that ward, but with God's help I got enough courage to go. It pulled at my heart to see some of the people I knew when I was there who will never know what normal life is again. You leave there and it takes a couple of days to regroup, but you do, and you are glad that you went.

A couple of days before you are scheduled to go back you start feeling emotions again but you go and are rewarded for your efforts. It takes guts to do this sort of thing, but most of all it takes heart and a friendly smile to do the job right. That is what I admire about Howard Naylor and his crew. They are true heroes in my eyes. That's only fitting – it takes heroes to help heroes.

The John Yancey Detachment has been joined by members of the Big "D" Detachment and also by members of my own Tarrant County Detachment. I

know that there are other detachments doing a great job but I haven't heard from them.

Commandants, please encourage your people to report to me what they are doing to assist the VAVS in their areas and a report of man hours served. A good exchange of ideas is always helpful.

To those who are not involved in your local area with VAVS, I highly recommend it and place this plea for your help. The man hours you give help with appropriations from Congress towards the money allocated to the Veterans Administration. Helping another veteran is always a good thing to do, and believe me, that friendly smile coming through the door sends out a message loud and clear, "All is well, the Marines have landed, and we really care."

I can be reached by mail, telephone, or Email:

3716 Co. Rd. 920, Crowley, TX 76036-5528  
817-297-4405

[KenJarhead@aol.com](mailto:KenJarhead@aol.com)

## *Devil Dog Doings*

*PDD Tom Miller, Pack Leader*



To all you flea-bitten dogs in the Pack, we are finally recognized at Kennel. They know we have arrived and are here to bite someone in a bad place. We had 12 dogs advance to Pedigree at New Orleans and this is the most since the National Convention which was held in Dallas. **Way to go ya'll!**

We presented the chief with a little bone at the Supreme Growl, a prehistoric wing bone from a hummingbird.

remember chief was Philadelphia heard were big in we were to show bark is not our bite bone (it PDDs to

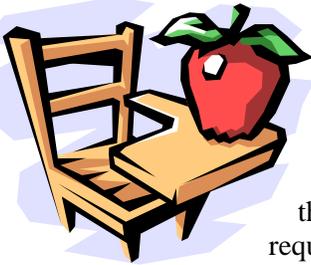


You must that the from and had that things Texas, but finally able him that our as bad as with the took six carry the

thing to the front just for him). It was well worth it for the excitement that we caused to the entire growl. (Packs of Pennsylvania and New York, beware of the Pack of Texas!) We did get their attention to say the least.

The next Grand Growl of the Pack of Texas will be in Ft. Worth on 13 October 2000. Mongrels and any advancements report to the Mad Dog at 1500, with the growl beginning at 1600 sharp. (There are to be no water cannons in the growl!) Looking forward to seeing you all at the Grand Growl, and having some fun. Woof Woof!

### Help Needed ...



Being on the staff of the Young Marines in Central Texas, I have the honor of teaching the history of the Marine Corps. I am requesting any material that will help me teach this subject (copies of books, magazines, photos, overhead projections, etc.). I am a disabled combat Marine and live on a fixed income but will be happy to pay for any items and/or shipping. If you have anything you would like to share I will return it to you after use. Thank you for your assistance.

Benjamin C. Johnson (MCL Life Member #PLN30160)  
4623 Lexington St., Waco, TX 76705-2376  
Home: 254-867-0426 • Fax: 254-867-8378  
Email: Benjsr@aol.com



- **Dept. of Texas Fall Staff Conference**  
Ft. Worth, Texas  
October 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000
- **Southern Division Conference**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
March 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001

## WANTED ... A fundraiser for the Dept. of Texas for this year

Anyone with an idea or proposal is asked to contact the **Budget & Finance Committee Chairman**, Paymaster Joe Chavez, or **Department Commandant**, Al Kotrla.

Ideas and proposals will be discussed at the Fall Staff Conference  
October 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>





*From its creation in 1947 through the Christmas 1999 campaign, Marines have collected and distributed over 256 million toys to over 127 million needy children.*

*It continues to be a success year after year because it makes a positive contribution to every community it reaches.*

**Did you know that:**

- *In 1948 Walt Disney designed the logo we still use today.*
- *Major celebrities and athletes support and/or have been spokespersons for Toys for Tots (Bob Hope, George Strait, Garth Brooks, Ann Margaret, Johnny Carson, Nancy Reagan, & Barbara Bush to name a few).*
- *Beginning in 1980 only new toys have been collected and distributed.*
- *The 1999 campaign surpassed all previous records for collecting toys and helping needy children.*

**Become a part in bringing  
the joy of Christmas to  
America's  
underprivileged children.**

**JOIN THE 2000  
TOYS FOR TOTS  
CAMPAIGN!**

