

TEXAS

**Charles Ynman
Commandant**



MARINE

**Department of TEXAS
Marine Corps League**

SUMMER

Edition



**August
2016**



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Commandant's Corner

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IN JUNE WE COMPLETED a very successful

Department State Convention, hosted by the Capt. John Yancey Detachment, who did a fabulous job. Our Convention was dedicated to the Vietnam Veteran. As a testimony to their service and to welcome them home, we presented each Veteran a Vietnam lapel pin in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Department of Texas made every effort to show our Vietnam Veterans that their service was appreciated.

During the Convention, we retired our old Department Flag and replaced it with a new flag. I hope that during our future events you will be able to inspect this new flag. We were pleased to have as our guest at the Convention our National Commandant Richard Gore. He commented to me that he was very impressed





MCL Cmdt.
Richard Gore

with the Department of Texas and our accomplishments. Early arrivals were able to attend a Commandant's Mast and posed questions to both the National Commandant and me. Throughout the Convention, we enjoyed the Commandant's company and comments. We also enjoyed our guest speaker at the banquet, Maj. Gen.

Donald Lynch. We had a terrific time from the beginning of the Convention until the final gavel sounded. As always, our primary enjoyment was the opportunity to visit with friends, both old and new.

During our business meeting, the Comanche Peak Detachment #1297 introduced a bid to host the 2016 Department Fall Conference. The members voted to accept the bid and we are now

on the way to Granbury for October 20th – 23rd.



We also received a bid for the 2017 State Convention from the 1st Sergeant Joyce Venable Detachment #1382 in Beaumont, TX. The Convention will be held June 23rd – 25th, 2017.

We encourage all our members to attend the 2016 Fall Conference and 2017 State Convention. These gatherings can benefit the Detachments attending and enable them to fully understand the workings of your Marine Corps League.

I personally thank our members for the opportunity to serve you as Department Commandant over the last year and your confidence in electing the Board of Trustees and me for another term. We have been committed to exceed your expectations. Our members have been and will continue to be our most important asset.

Thanks

We have made progress over the last year and I have been fortunate to have a strong and able Board of Trustees. Our goal was to establish a transparent communication system through a fluid chain of command. Our District Vices will continue their efforts to ensure direct communication with their Detachments. We will also strive to increase our membership and establish additional Detachments.

Senior's Segment



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I HAD A GREAT TIME AT

the Department Convention and it was nice to renew some old acquaintances.

As we move into a new year and new changes in the Department website it will take all of us, working as a team, to help our new Detachment officers and members become proficient in their new duties and responsibilities. If you have a question or problem, ask for help from your District Vices or the appropriate Department Staff Officer.

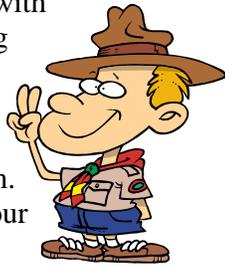


Activity reports still continue to be a problem area. I know we have some computer problems as I do not always receive some Detachment reports. When I receive a report I normally will send an email back that I received it. Starting in August, after the National Convention, I will be sending the District Vices a status report on their Detachments. Hopefully that will help us get on track.



One more thing about activity reports... I know

a lot of the Detachments work with youth groups such as the Young Marines, JROTC, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, (Eagle Scout Certificates presentations), and Youth Physical Fitness program. These should be included on your activity report.



Hope to see you at the National Convention.

Chaplain's Comments

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GREETINGS TEXAS LEAGUERS

and Happy Summer!!

I must start off by saying "Thank You!" to the Capt. John Yancey



Detachment for hosting such a great state convention. I had a wonderful time! (Other than the meeting room being a bit chilly! Brrr!) It was a great convention all the way around. And how about

having our National Commandant there! How awesome was that!?! We certainly showed him some true Texas hospitality!

I made it through my first State Convention duties. It was such an honor being a part of the Memorial Service and recognizing and honoring our fallen MCL brothers and sisters. Thank you to everyone for your support. The Memorial Service is a very important part of our conventions and I want to remind ALL Detachment Commandants and Chaplains to send in those Death Notices. It is not something we like to do, but it is a necessary administrative duty.

We awarded our first Joe Vickery Chaplain's Award at the convention. This is a new award to be presented to a Detachment's Chaplain who goes "above and beyond" his Chaplain duties. Thank you to the Detachments that submitted nominations. It was a bit tough to make the final decision as the nominees who were submitted were outstanding! This year's award was given to Chaplain Kenneth D. Rains of the Pineywoods Detachment #1189. Congratulations Kenneth! Keep up the great work that you are doing as Chaplain. This award will be given each year at the State Convention. Reminders will be sent out probably in January 2017 for Detachment Commandants to review their Chaplains



Judge Advocate's Alerts

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DURING THE LAST QUARTER

I continued to interact with the Department Commandant, District Vice Commandants, and Detachment Commandants. This involved review and approval of Detachment By-Laws revisions, assistance to the Department Commandant on re-instatement of one Detachment, and closure of another. I have also provided informal assistance to issues that arose in several Detachments.



I am willing to give informal advice, but I want to emphasize that if a Detachment wants a formal opinion on a particular issue

they need to make a formal request to the Department Commandant for my assistance.



I also completed the annual audit of the Department and reported my findings to the membership at the State Convention. I was glad to report that the Department is in sound financial status and all records of the Department are in proper order.

and submit their nominations by the end of May.

If you have the paper forms of the Death Notices, please keep one copy and send the rest to me: **Melody Bronson, 704 Rancho Dr., Mesquite, TX 75149**. You can also access the Death Notice form on the Department website. My email: **meadolcard@aol.com**. I am also the Texas Pack Dog Trainer (Chaplain) and any MODD member who passes also must have a Death Notice submitted to me. I will forward League Death Notice copies on to National and the MODD Death Notice copies on to the Kennel.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the



National Convention in Tulsa coming up in August and our Fall Staff

Meeting in October in Granbury.

In closing, I ask ALL members to pray for our nation. We are going through some tough times. This recent tragedy in Dallas with the officer shootings has affected so many of us in different ways. Our thoughts and prayers go out to these fallen officers and those who were injured and their families... they were just doing their job. We are one nation under God.

Until next time... please take care of the necessary paperwork as needed for our fallen members and take care of each other... that's what Marines do!

Semper Fi and Woof! Woof! And God Bless!

Sergeant-At-Arms Summary

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I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE this time to inform all who reads this part of the newsletter why we show an identification card and pay to enter

the general meeting at the conferences.

WHY?

It is required for the Sergeant-At-Arms to insure that all present in the meeting are qualified to be there, by the ritual manual. Which is why we ask at every annual Convention and every annual Staff Training Meeting to see your Marine Corps League identification card.

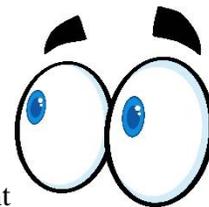
As for the paying part, it is a \$2 fee for the



50/50 drawing that we do at every annual Convention and every annual Staff Training Meeting. The

Department gets one dollar and the winner gets one dollar.

All members at a Convention and a Staff Training Meeting should really take a good look at the name tags. The Department is trying to go above and beyond to identify all newcomers to Conventions by having the hosting Detachment



place a special sticker or ribbon on the name tags of the newcomers. This is not to hassle or finger them in any bad way. It is to let all you seasoned Conventioneers know that there is a newbie in the house and we should take them under our wing and help them feel comfortable. Ask them if they need any assistance or if they have any questions that we can answer. Talk to them, make sure they know what's going on. **Remember the first Convention you went to?** How nervous you were and that you did not want to do or say anything that would make you look like a dummy? All Marines have that *pride* that "I can't screw this up." Also remember, "You cannot know what you don't know." So if they don't know what to ask just give them a gentle nudge in the right direction and let them know the layout and time chart and let them know that they can sit in almost all the meetings (in the back quietly) to see how their Marine Corps League works.



Veteran's Voice

Texas Veterans Newsletter is available to any MCL member or any Veteran. It pertains to the Veterans of the State of Texas and is available at www.tvc.state.tx.us.



Submitted by Juanita O'Dell, Editor
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ONE OF THE highlights since publication of the May 2016 newsletter is:

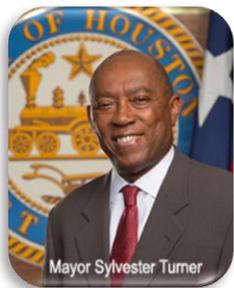


New State Veterans Home Planned for Houston

The City of Houston has completed the purchase of a 17.83-acre tract of land on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., between Beltway 8 and Schurmer Road, that will be the site of a state-of-the-art Texas State Veterans Home. The city will donate the land to the Texas Veterans Land Board for the construction of a 136,000 square-foot, single-story community living center providing 120 skilled nursing beds, including a 30-bed memory support unit. The \$35 million project is funded by the State of Texas and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



"The city is proud to help facilitate this project," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.



"Houston and Harris County are home to the largest veteran population in Texas. These men and women and their families have sacrificed so much on our behalf. We owe it to them to do all that we can to make sure they have access to quality healthcare."

An estimated 180,000 veterans reside in Harris County, and approximately 67,800 of those vets are over the age of 65. Twenty percent or more

of the over-65 population will likely require five years or more of long-term care. There is currently not enough beds available in Harris County to meet that demand.

The design of the home is based on a "small house" concept with three small houses combined in a larger building. Each small house will accommodate 10 residents and include a kitchen, dining room and living room as well as access to an outdoor garden and patio with shaded seating. The intent is to create a home-like environment. A community center will house central administrative and support units, a multi-purpose room, bistro, library and chapel.

"One of the great privileges of serving as Texas Land Commissioner is fulfilling my Constitutional duty as the Chairman of the Veterans Land Board and overseeing this area of our state's veterans' programs, including management of eight VLB Texas State Veterans Homes statewide," Commissioner George P.

Bush said. "As a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, I take this responsibility very seriously, which is why this year, we've taken steps at the Veterans Land Board to do more for those who have done so much for us.



Commissioner George P. Bush

Honoring our veterans requires a commitment from all levels of government. I am proud of the partnership the VLB and City of Houston are forming in order to build a new Texas State Veterans Home in Harris County and demonstrate to our veterans and their families that we appreciate the sacrifices they made to protect our freedoms."

Once completed, the home will employ between 140 and 160 permanent full-time nurses, administrative staff, food service help and maintenance personnel. The city will work with the state to construct the road and utilities needed for the project.

Division/District/Detachment Digest

SOUTHERN DIVISION

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MARINES...

If you were not able to make it to Dallas for the Department of Texas Convention, then you missed a great time. A big well done goes out to the members of the Capt.



John Yancey Detachment for the fine job they did in making sure everyone had a good time. By now all of you should know that the Department of Texas Fall Staff Conference will be hosted by the Comanche

Peak Detachment which will be held in Granbury in October. This should be another fine time because I know that when we were last there in 2014 it was one fine conference and everyone had a great time.

I have just returned from the 2016-2017 Budget Conference at National Headquarters and have had a chance to watch our new Comptroller and the new Budget Committee in action. I was very impressed by the way that they were able to dig through the numbers and put together a workable realistic budget for the coming year. This will be one of the finest budget proposals that has been presented to the membership in a very long time.

I also had an opportunity to see the new members of the headquarters staff in action and I could see a vast improvement over the operations I have seen in the past when visiting headquarters.



I also had the opportunity to have a one on one with Executive Director Tom Hazlett, and there was a majority of the Board of Trustees attending the budget meeting so we were able to get some additional business completed.

For those attending the National Convention you know that the organization



has been on the road to recovery since last year at this time and I think that you will find that we have made some progress from the reports you will hear in Tulsa.

We still have a long way to go but now we know what needs to be done and the direction that must be taken to accomplish our goals.

DISTRICT 2

John Grafflin, District Vice Commandant
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MY FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE



was a very active one. I managed to visit all six of my Detachments at least twice during the year and a couple of them three times.

During the year, I also had the honor and privilege of participating in the District's newest Detachment Charter Ceremony welcoming aboard the LCpl. Jacob D. Hayes Detachment #1426. I also recently conducted their first Officer Installation.

Other Officer Installations included the Terrell Detachment #1338, the LCpl. Jacob R. Lugo Detachment #1300, and the Capt. John Yancey Detachment #631.



Other activities included assisting our State Commandant and the Yancey Detachment in the planning of the State Convention in Dallas.

Ongoing activities include participating in the Toys for Tots Media Event at the Harbor in Rockwall, Texas, the Ride to the Wall event.

One activity I am especially proud of is the continued participation in the annual Memorial Service honoring the students, staff and civilian instructors who perished during training of British pilots at the No. 1 British Flying Training School at what is now the Terrell Municipal Airport. That service is preceded by the Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride. Motorcycle riders from five nations have organized a joint ride in remembrance of members of the Allied Forces, past and present, who have and will pay the ultimate price in the pursuit of freedom and security.

CBSDFW
June 17, 2016...

Allied Memorial Motorcycle Ride



There is a Memorial Motorcycle ride coming to North Texas that will be mirrored in eleven states and nine countries on June 25th. It is to draw attention to the allied soldiers who died and are buried on foreign soil around the world.

The genesis for the *Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride* began in England to remember American soldiers.

“There were two brothers over in Cambridge, England, and they did not want our fallen warriors over there to be forgotten” said George “Tank” Sherman of the *Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride*.

The *Allied Ride* came to the United States eight years ago thanks to “Tank” and some of his riding buddies like Chris Hamilton who handles things in East Texas for the ride each year.

The ride begins in Benbrook and goes to Terrell, where the British had a pilot training school. The Number One British Fly School Museum in Terrell pays tribute to the British pilots and their time spent training in the United States.

“The museum is designed to commemorate the time when cadets from England came to Texas to learn how to fly” said Don Thurman of the British Flying School Museum.

Besides the United States and England, the *Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride* will be held in eleven states and 9 countries.

“The ride will also happen the same day in Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, France, Italy, India and the Netherlands (our new country for this year).” George “Tank” Sherman added.

I would like to thank the Detachments in District 2 who have shown confidence in me by electing me as their District Vice for another year during the State Convention.

DISTRICT 4

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THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

for District 4 since the last annual convention are as follows:

- ▶ Established communications with the Detachment Commandants by visit, phone or email on a monthly basis or more often;
- ▶ Held a District 4 Training School, which six out of eight Detachments attended;
- ▶ Installed the Officers of the Lost Pines and Teufelshunde Detachments and participated in the Installation of Officers of the Cen-Tex and Williamson County Detachments;
- ▶ Have taken possession of the Charter and property of the Hill Country Detachment after being informed by Detachment Commandant Tony White that the Officers took a vote and decided that the MCL did not fit into their plans. I have been trying to find someone to take over the Detachment with no volunteers. I will be informing the members that they will be transferred to another Detachment. I did this with the advice of the Department of Texas

Commandant Charles Ynman.

► Made sure that all the Detachments in District 4 filed their 990s, PLM Audit and Officer Installation on time.

DISTRICT 6

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October 2015

- Visited Jack Ringel and Laredo Detachments; attended Fall Staff Meeting in Ft. Worth

November 2015

- Attended Veterans Day Ceremony in Banquete, TX
- Attended U.S. Marine Corps Ball at Beaumont, TX, along with DOT Commandant
- Attended Coastal Bend Detachment Meeting

December 2015

- Participated in Toys for Tots Bike Run in Corpus Christi, TX

January 2016

- Participated in Funeral Escort for Veteran
- Attended Detachment Meetings for Loosemore and Coastal Bend

February 2016

- Participated in Funeral Escort for Veteran
- Installed Officers at Coastal Bend and Laredo Detachments

March 2016

- Attended Laredo and Coastal Bend Detachment meetings

April 2016

- Attended Southern Division Conference in Oklahoma City, OK, as well as Detachment Meetings for Loosemore and Coastal Bend

May 2016

- Attended Detachment meetings for Jack Ringel, Loosemore, and Coastal Bend
- Attended meeting in Beeville, TX, along with Jr. Past Commandant Amado Trevino to form a new Detachment

Additional Notes:

- Installed New Officers for Jack Ringel and Loosemore Detachments
- Loosemore Detachment is looking for land to put a Morgan building on for holding their meetings
- Jack Ringel Detachment is looking good with the IRS. They had to mail a form in by the end of May.
- Coastal Bend and Loosemore Detachments have filed their 990s.
- All Detachments are looking good.

DISTRICT 7

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DURING THIS PAST YEAR

I have had the opportunity to visit all five of the Detachments in District 7. Four of the five I was able to visit two or more times. All of the Detachments hold a monthly meeting and follow the order of business pretty well. Membership is an issue with all the Detachments and we have discussed ideas of ways to increase the membership. The participating membership for the meetings are pretty normal with other Detachments that I have visited throughout the League. I cautioned a couple of Detachments about having guests or visitors attend their meetings. I know some that will allow Marines or Corpsmen to sit in on a meeting before they join and I understand that; however, some had speakers, visitors, or Auxiliary members that are not part of the MCL sit in that really should not be hearing or be involved in the business of the Detachment. If they need to do business with the Detachment or show a program they should do it at the beginning of the meeting and then be dismissed so the Detachment can continue on with their business.



I pushed to have all the Detachments have a representative (hopefully the Detachment Com-

mandant) attend the Department Convention. I was told by each Detachment that they would have a member at the Department Convention at least one day to show involvement with the Department and gain some valuable knowledge for their Detachment.

One Detachment had or has an issue with unauthorized pins on their covers. We have worked on that issue with the Detachment Commandant and I have not been able to revisit that Detachment to see if the issue is solved. I know some members removed the pins from their covers and cooperated very well. I worked with the Department



Commandant on this issue during this past year and I will follow up if he has me continue on as District 7 Vice Commandant.

One Detachment has a Paymaster issue and is not getting anybody willing to take on that position. I

explained to the Detachment Commandant that he needed to assign or double task a board member to take on the position. We talked about ideas to fill the position and the Detachment Commandant knows that he needs to get it out of his hands.

Over all the District has programs and fundraisers they are promoting. These types of programs will assist membership growth and continue to build our MCL into a strong organization.

and associate members. The success of the Houston County Detachment can be attributed to the current Detachment Commandant, Roger Erwin.

I attended the Southern Division Conference in Oklahoma City, OK, during the period 7-10 April 2016, and participated in Training Session #3. District 8 had seven members attending the Conference.

On May 5, 2016, efforts were made to recruit and organize a new Detachment in Henderson, Rusk County, TX, through use of the local newspaper and radio station. This effort is an ongoing project and to date, there have been five new regular members and three regular member transfers pending. It is anticipated that this new Detachment will submit the charter application by the end of July.



In light of the recent Charter issued to the Houston County Detachment, which brings the total complete and active Detachments in District 8 to nine, it is recommended that consideration be given toward dividing District 8 to create a new District 9. Using the Sabine River as the dividing line, this would put the Longview, Mineola, Sulphur Springs and Paris Detachments into a new District 9. With the potential of two Detachments being established in Mt. Pleasant and Texarkana, this would place six Detachments in District 9. District 8 would be composed of Detachments currently located in Tyler, Jacksonville, Nacogdoches, Lufkin, and Crockett; and with the Detachment organization underway in Henderson, will give District 8 a total of six Detachments. This division is recommended to provide more effective support to all Detachments from the position of the District Vice Commandant – not only because of the number of Detachments but considering also the distance and travel involved.

DISTRICT 8

Bill Hamby, *District Vice Commandant*
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THE ACTIVITIES AND

responsibilities of the District 8 Vice Commandant were significantly limited during the past 12 months due to personal health issues.

During January – April 2016, activities were centered around the recruitment and organization of a new Detachment located in Crockett, Houston County, TX. On April 14, 2016, Houston County Detachment #1433 was chartered with 24 new members. By April 26th, the Detachment membership had grown to a total of 29 new regular

**ALAMO DETACHMENT
SAN ANTONIO**

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MEMORIAL DAY IN SAN

Antonio held an event called "Carry the Load."

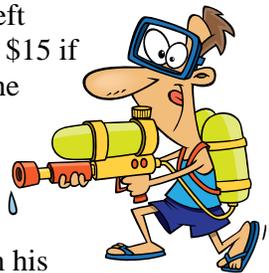


It is a non-profit dedicated to restoring the true meaning of Memorial Day. Jr. Vice Commandant Jimmie Tadlock attended as part of the committee for this event.

All too often I see the younger generation ask what Memorial Day means and have no clue.

This past 4th of July when I asked who some of the founding fathers who signed the Declaration of Independence were or who we won our independence from, not many people knew the answers. Each of you is considered to be a history teacher. You know and have lived the history... pass it on.

The San Antonio Young Marines held its Annual Camo Cool Down Fundraiser. The event was a success and everyone who participated (and a few trail users) were wet down during the race. They still have some event shirts left over and are selling them for \$15 if you wish to purchase one. The funds will go towards their summer trip. Commandant Garza in his test in a 5K after quadruple bypass surgery two years ago and on his birthday was heavily attacked with water pistols and soakers. It was a fun event and is a good fundraiser idea if you're looking for something to do to raise funds.



A Remembrance Ceremony will be held on August 13, 2016, to honor Medal of Honor recipient John E. Kilmer, the only Medal of Honor recipient buried at the San Jose Burial Park, a civilian cemetery. John Kilmer was a Hospital Corpsman who served with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, Fleet Marine Division during the Korean War. In the "Bunker Hill" attack on August 12, 1952, he gave the ultimate sacrifice: his life for that of another. Kilmer crawled to and shielded a wounded Marine with his body during the battle. The Marine survived. Kilmer was awarded the Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.



The San Antonio Young Marines will be providing a Color Guard.

Date: 13 August 2016
Time: 1830
Place: San Jose Burial Park (North Entrance),
8235 Mission Rd., San Antonio, TX 78214

Passing of a Past Alamo Detachment Commandant/Hero

Werner “Ronnie” W. Reiningger, valued



member of the League, passed away. Please keep his family in your prayers.

If you didn't know him, he was one of our own Marine Corps League members and Past Commandant of Alamo Detachment (1997-1999).

Ronnie, Sgt, USMCR (Ret) was presented the Texas Lone Star Medal of Valor by the Governor of the State of Texas, Monday, July 6, 2015 – one of the highest military decorations that may be awarded to a member of the Texas military forces. Ronnie received the award for his extraordinary heroism during the Chosin Reservoir battle in North Korea in 1950 as well as his many contributions to the Marine Corps and to Texas Veterans over the past 60-plus years. Texas Governor Greg Abbott presented the award. Also in attendance was Senator Carlos Uresti, a former Marine and Guest Speaker at the 2015 Department of Texas MCL Annual Convention.

BIG D DETACHMENT DALLAS



Submitted by Melody Bronson,
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HOWDY FROM THE BIG D DETACHMENT!

Let me start off by congratulating the Capt. John Yancey Detachment for hosting such an outstanding State Convention!



Everyone in attendance seemed to really enjoy everything about the convention.

Our Detachment took home several awards to include Detachment of the Year (over 91 members) and 2nd Place Americanism Award. A big thanks to our Historian and Associate Member Ann Danford for all the hard work and time she puts into our Americanism/History book. Congratulations to Polly Weidenkopf for receiving the Department of Texas Harry Bruce Award for recognition of her outstanding service to the Marine Corps League.



*Polly as first
recipient of the
Harry Bruce
Award.*



Jack Danford, Max Bronson, & Ann Danford @ the State Convention Banquet.

On June 11th and 12th in Irving the Wounded Warriors held a 5K, 10K, and Half Marathon event with lots of Marine support. I volunteered along with our Big D Young Marines handing out medals to the runners as they came across the finish line.

Wounded Warrior Military Miles Run with one of the Marines volunteering.



The Wounded Warrior Run with our Young Marines volunteering.

Our National Convention in Tulsa is just around the corner! I am looking forward to seeing everyone and I am anticipating a great convention. Two of our League members who are also members of the MODD will be going through their PDD initiation at Tulsa. Good Luck Linda and John Shook! Woof! Woof!

The Fall Staff Conference will be held in Granbury, hosted by the Comanche Peak Detachment. They have proven in the past that they can host a great conference so I know this will be another good one!!

**DEANE HAWKINS DETACHMENT
& DISTRICT 3
EL PASO**

Submitted by Robert Way, *Commandant*
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MEMBERS OF THE Detachment

helped to judge the Annual Book Fair at the Deane Hawkins Elementary school. Students were required to read a book and then make a large folder, covering five elements of the book. Then they had to give a brief book report to the judges.



Students at the Deane Hawkins Elementary School waiting to give their book reports.



Pete Gomez was one of the judges at the Deane Hawkins Elementary School Reading Fair.

The Detachment also hosted the 5th Annual Youth Physical Fitness competition this quarter. The male PT Team from Mt. View AJROTC qualified to participate at the National meet held at MCRD San Diego in May, 2016.



5th Annual Youth Physical Fitness Meet 1st place male and female teams. Male team: Mt. View AJROTC; Female team: O’Nate NJROTC.



2nd Place Female Team Socorro NJROTC.



3rd Place female team Chapin AJROTC, Male Team; Socorro NJROTC.

The Honor Unit participated in 17 firing details, one of which was the dedication of a Vietnam Memorial to the servicemen from El Paso who died in Vietnam.



Dedication Ceremony of Vietnam Memorial.

The Deane Hawkins Detachment also participated in the annual Massing of the Colors hosted by the Military Order of World Wars.



MOWW Massing of the Colors

A large portion of this quarter was devoted to bringing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica (The Wall That Heals) to El Paso. Bob Way was the Chairman for the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery Support Committee and coordinated the activities of the National Cemetery, Ft. Bliss, the VA Clinic as well as different Veteran organizations. The Wall was displayed at the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery from April 14th – 17th, 2016.



Patriot Riders escorted Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica to Ft. Bliss National Cemetery.



Soldiers from Ft. Bliss helped to set up the Wall That Heals.



El Paso Young Marines in front of the Wall That Heals, at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery.



Chon Pena receiving the VAVS Award at the State Convention.

The Detachment hosted a 4-day Marksmanship Course for cadets from Socorro, Pebble Hills, Fabens, Santa Teresa and Gadsden NJROTC rifle teams.



4-day Marksmanship Training Course for NJROTC cadets



Young Marines at the 4th of July Parade



NJROTC Cadets who participated in the Marksmanship Training Course.

**GALVESTON COUNTY DETACHMENT
GALVESTON**

Submitted by Richard Torres, *Commandant*
(512) 964-5054 (H) • torgrr@aol.com

THE DETACHMENT participated in the 30th year of the Detachment-sponsored July 4th parade. The crowd estimate by the Galveston Police Department was 40,000 attendees.



**LOST PINES LEATHERNECKS
DETACHMENT
BASTROP**

Submitted by Chad Cohn, PR/Information Officer
(512) 581-1178 (C) • chadwcohn@yahoo.com

DURING THE 2ND QUARTER

of this year The Lost Pines Leathernecks Detachment has been incredibly busy. The Detachment and our Bastrop County Veteran's Honor Guard members have been nonstop rendering honors for veteran funerals and other events. Some of these included rendering honors for former students killed in Iraq and Afghanistan at Smithville High School, the Police Officers activities and involvement in the Bastrop County and Veteran communities.

Beginning in April we began promoting our 3rd Annual Veteran's Appreciation Golf Tournament.



This is an exciting event that most everyone looks forward to.

Currently we are selling raffle tickets for some amazing prizes.

They are listed on our website on the **Golf Tournament** page under

Raffle. If you're a golfer be sure to check out our webpage for more details. The webpage URL is www.lpl1384.org/Golf.html.

Also during the month of April, several of our members served as Airport Guardians for the Austin Honor Flight for WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Veterans going to and returning from Washington, D.C. We also had some members attend the Vietnam Summit at the LBJ Library. This event was sponsored by the University of Texas and the LBJ Library, and featured speakers Henry Kissinger, Luci Baines Johnson and Lynda Bird Johnson.

Our Detachment was also asked to present the Colors for both the United States and the State of Texas during the opening ceremonies of the Bastrop Family Rodeo Club Rodeo on April 29th and 30th respectively.

Detachment members presenting the Colors at the opening ceremonies of the Bastrop Family Rodeo Club Rodeo



Our Bastrop County Veteran's Honor Guard members rendered Military Funeral Honors for one military funeral this month.

During the month of May our activities increased with our members continuing to serve as Airport Guardians for the Austin Honor Flight. This is an honor many of our members take great pleasure in providing and continue to do so as often as possible.

As a continuation of our support to our local NJROTC programs, Commandant Steffek presented the Bastrop High School NJROTC program with a donation to the program.

The Bastrop County Veteran's Honor Guard continued to be busy with rendering honors for veteran funerals and other events. Some of these events include rendering honors for former students killed in Iraq and Afghanistan at Smithville High School, the Police Officers Memorial Ceremony at the Bastrop Fairview Cemetery and several Memorial Day ceremonies.

This month we also had members assist other veterans with trips to the VA Hospital in San Antonio and visited some of our own members who were hospitalized. Several of our members took time to visit some of the residents of the Bastrop Nursing Home.



Detachment members visiting the Bastrop Nursing Home

Our Detachment conducted its annual tradition of placing flags in the Ridgeway Cemetery.



LPL members at Ridgeway Cemetery

Closing out May we ended the month on a somber note. We paid our respect and lay to rest one of our Life Members, Ed Bellamy. Ed received full honors from the Bastrop County Veteran's Honor Guard.

As we rolled into June we had to come together and assist with some clean up from the Bastrop floods. As most know, Bastrop County was hit really hard by those floods and as a county we're still cleaning up.

Commandant Steffek and his wife Pat attended the Annual Texas State Marine Corps League Convention in Dallas from June 23rd - 25th. Our Detachment won several awards this year including a Second Place for Americanism.



Also during this quarter LPL Detachment participated in many local parades and won various awards. We continue to promote our Golf Tournament (see above for more info and webpage). Once again as this article was being written we are currently involved in many, many more items but we will cover those later.

Devil Dog Doings

Taylor Rice
Pack Leader, Pack of Texas
(817) 466-2295 (C)
trice366@aol.com



WOOF WOOF TEXAS PACK..

The following MODD Texas Pack Officers were elected at the Department Convention on June 24, 2016:



Auxiliary Announcements

Viola Trevino
Marine Corps League Auxiliary
Past Department President &
Southern Division Vice President
(361) 960-0142 (H)
vtat47@yahoo.com

GREETINGS LADIES...

It has been a long two years for me but enjoyable

as your Department of Texas President. This month our new Department of Texas President Johnnie Lopez, a highly qualified member of our Auxiliary, would have reported to you but was unable to attend Department Convention due to her husband's illness. I congratulate you Johnnie and wish you the best of luck in your term of office.



Ladies, I am still the Southern Division Vice President and will report to you periodically. Thank you for your ongoing support.

This past June we met at Department Convention in Dallas, TX. We were happy to see some faces we hadn't seen in a while. The Auxiliary also held a "Get Together" on Thursday evening which went really well. We met a few potential members and we all had a good time.

I would like to congratulate our newly elected Officers:

- President Johnnie Lopez*
 - Sr. Vice President Viola Trevino*
 - Jr. Vice President Beverly Hill*
 - Judge Advocate Barbara Hixson*
 - Treasurer Dorcas Simpson*
 - Secretary Viola Trevino*
 - Chaplain Marcia Ynman*
 - Capt. of the Guard .. Brenda Tomonelli*
- Trustees will be appointed later.*

Activity Report Awards:

Americanism Chair Brenda Tomonelli presented awards to:

- 1st Place - Heart of Texas Unit
- 2nd Place - Big D Unit
- 3rd Place - Coastal Bend Unit

Child Welfare Chair Karren Ogg presented awards to:

- 1st Place - Heart of Texas Unit
- 2nd Place - Coastal Bend Unit
- 3rd Place - Big D Unit

Civics Chair Dorcas Simpson presented awards to:

- 1st Place - Heart of Texas Unit
- 2nd Place - Coastal Bend Unit
- 3rd Place - None awarded

Rehabilitation Chair Johnnie Lopez presented awards to:

- 1st Place - Coastal Bend Unit
- 2nd Place - Heart of Texas Unit
- 3rd Place - None awarded

VAVS Chair Connie Chambers presented awards to:

- 1st Place - Heart of Texas Unit
- 2nd Place - Big D Unit
- 3rd Place - None awarded

Congratulations to all these Units for their volunteer work and donations!

I would also like to congratulate our 2016 Auxiliary Member of the Year Karren Ogg and also to our Leadership Award recipient Johnnie Lopez.

Thank you Ladies for all you do and keep up the good work!



Karren Ogg receiving Auxiliary Member of the Year Award from Dorcas Simpson



Auxiliary Group @ Department Convention 2016

Flea Fiddlings

Karren Ogg
 DOT MODDF Hide Big Flea
 (903) 652-5601 (H)
 karrenogg@outlook.com
 Brenda Tomonelli
 DOT MODDF Hide
 Scratchy Flea
 (903) 786-8243 (H)
 besteptom@yahoo.com



Big Flea Karren Ogg installed a “chicken dancin’ bunch” of new officers for the upcoming term. Lots of Flea-clownin’, candy sales, and finin’, resulted in a nice donation to the Operation Little Angel fund.

Ringmaster Brenda Tomonelli & Clown Dorcas Simpson



THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

MODDF Hide met for the State Convention Flea-Circus Scratch in Dallas in June.



The Flea room was festooned with striped decor, clowns, animals, games, and signs. They were treated to Circus Animal Crackers, popcorn, peanuts, Cracker-Jacks, and sodas.

The Fleas welcomed three Pups for Pesterin’ and proceeded to clown around in the Devil Dog Growl selling candy. Thanks to all the Dogs for coughing up some Bones for our sweet treats.

The Circus Fleas initiated one new Crawler from the Heart of Texas Unit - Welcome Judy Beard!! They also held a Circus costume contest. Winners were 1st Place - Brenda Tomonelli as Ringmaster, 2nd Place - Linda Blair, and 3rd Place - Ann Danford as Clowns.



Clown Linda Blair & her Circus Dog

The third annual *Marie Williams* Flea of the Year was awarded to Barbara Hixson for her long-time representation of Fleadom. Congrats to her!!



Flea of the Year Barbara Hixson



Several Fleas are now preparing to represent the Texas Hide at the National Flea Scratch in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in August, where we will wear our Rodeo-Cowgirl-Flea outfits and present at least three Crawlers for advancement to Fleas. Good Luck to Linda Blair, Jackie Deen, and Dolly Fogle!

We would like to invite all MCLA members and MODD Fleas to visit our next Texas Flea Scratch in Granbury in October. New Madame Big Flea, Viola Trevino, has announced the theme to be “HOLLYWOOD” - so get “red-carpet ready” and join us for more Dog-Pesterin’ good times!



**M.O.D.D. Fleas Hide of Texas
Officers 2016-2017**

Big Flea	Viola Trevino
Medium & Shopper Flea	Beverly Hill
Little Flea	Johnnie Lopez
Smart Flea	Ann Danford
Scrappy Flea	Barbara Hixson
Holy Flea	Marsha Ynman
Police & Scratchy Flea	Brenda Tomonelli
Studious Flea	Dorcas Simpson
Waggy Flea	Karren Ogg
No Name Flea	Linda Blair
Trusty Flea #1	Robin Borel
Trusty Flea #2	Jackie Deen
Trusty Flea #3 ...	Gloria DeLaCruz

**From the
Front**



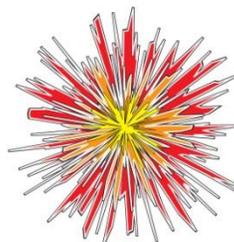
**War Veteran Now Battles for Fellow Marines,
Soldiers**

Statesman, Round Rock, TX
July 18, 2016

Calling upon two who have also worn our country’s uniform, Jonny Jones asked Army Sgt. Ryan Bose and retired Marine John King to stand up. They did. Then he asked them to sit down. They did that, as well.

“There was a time in my life I thought that was impossible,” Jones said, microphone in hand and prosthetic legs visible as he spoke. “There was a time in my life that was all I wanted to do.”

Staff Sgt. Jones lost parts of both legs in 2010 while on Marine deployment in Afghanistan. Tasked with clearing improvised explosive devices from where the Taliban had planted them - in



poppy fields and market bazaars - Jones stepped on an IED, causing it to explode. It was, by his recollection, the 80th one he had - one way or another - taken out of commission.

*Sgt. Jonny Jones speaks at the Williamson County Republican Women’s Annual Military Appreciation Luncheon on July 14.
Photo by Mike Parker*



“I got the first 79 with my hands,” Jones said. “I got the last one with my feet.”

Sensing his audience was unsure how to react, Jones smiled and reassured them: “That’s a joke. You can laugh.”

Alternating between still-boyish enthusiasm, dark humor and a zealous call to duty, the 29-year-old retired Marine held a crowd of about 80 people spellbound during the Williamson County Republican Women’s Annual Military Appreciation Luncheon on July 14. No augmented reality was needed.



*Staff Sgt. Jonny Jones lost both of his legs after stepping on an IED while serving in Iraq in 2010.
Photo by Mike Parker*

'It's Your Job'

Jones hails from Dalton, GA, where his father lays brick and his mother cleans houses.



"There was a girl I had dated in high school and I was in love with her," Jones said. "You know the story – that's how I ended up in the Marine Corps."

Flash forward to 2010 and Jones, already trained at Marine IED school in Florida, was on his way to Afghanistan.

"There are some amazingly strong people in Afghanistan," he said. "They want to reclaim their country."

Jones described being a member of his 69-member platoon as being "equal parts police officer, detective, bomb technician, (and) diplomat."

"It is your job to put your life on the line to save the lives of those Marines around you ... Lots of them killed in action, wounded in action," he said. "I was the second one on that line to lose both legs."

And so it came to pass, on August 6, 2010, when word came there were more bombs to defuse.

"There was a town south of us (where) we had left well enough alone," Jones said. "In war, when you leave well enough alone it comes back and bites you."

Jones stepped on an IED, forever changing his life.

"It knocked me on my back. I was very much awake," he said, before interjecting another of those observations that elicits in the listener both horror and comic relief. "When you're a young man, and a bomb goes off beneath you, there's a checklist you go through ..."

A Long Road Back

Jones had lost both his legs: one above the knee and the other below it. He also had a broken arm.

He was flown from Afghanistan to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. It is the largest American hospital outside of the United States,



Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany

specializing in care for military personnel and their families. From there, Jones was brought home, beginning a year-long recovery at Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Maryland.

Oddly - or maybe not, as these things go, he



reached out to that girl who'd broken his heart in high school, Meg Garrison. "I was in a medicated stupor," Jones said. "The only number I could remember was her parents' phone line."

Meg came to see Sgt. Jones, at Bethesda, as he began his physically and mentally painful recovery.

"I would cuss God," he said. "I would cuss the Devil. I would cuss the Taliban. I would cuss the government. (But) eventually, I didn't feel mad anymore."

"God gave me a second chance," Jones said. "I should have died on that battlefield."

Next 'Greatest Generation'

Today, he and Meg advocate for active-duty military personnel and veterans through a Texas-based nonprofit called Boot Campaign.



Jones said veterans' issues became even more important for him after a friend from the military took his own life while fighting an addiction to painkillers.

He said the U.S has 22 million military veterans, making up about 6% of the population. Yet veterans account for 18% of all suicides.

"Twenty veterans a day commit suicide," Jones said. "About 40% of those are under the age of 50."

Jones said he realized getting as far away from Washington, D.C., was the only way he could change society.

"We don't want programs that just let a veteran collect a disability check," he said. "We want to give them an opportunity. We want to show them how relevant they are in today's workforce. These veterans leaving the service today have more skills with their hands and minds than any other generation."

Though retired from the military, Jones said he

remains at his core a Marine.

“You put a goal in front of you and you rely on everyone around you to get you there,” he said. “That ‘Greatest Generation’ got us through ... now it’s my turn to be part of that next generation.”



Highlights of the 2016 State Convention

Activity Awards...

Category 1: (15-49 Paid Up Members)

- 1st Place Deane Hawkins Det.
- 2nd Place Longhorn Det.
- 3rd Place Lost Pines Leathernecks Det.

Category 2: (50-79 Paid Up Members)

- 1st Place McLemore Det.
- 2nd Place Jacksonville Det.
- 3rd Place Comanche Peak Det.

Category 3: (80 & Over Paid Up Members)

- 1st Place Eastex Det.
- 2nd Place Coastal Bend Det.
- 3rd Place Big D Det.

Americanism Awards...



Category 1: (15-49 Paid Up Members)

- 1st Place Deane Hawkins Det.
- 2nd Place Lost Pines Leathernecks Det.
- 3rd Place Brazoria County Det.

Category 2: (50-79 Paid Up Members)

- 1st Place **NO ENTRIES**
- 2nd Place **NO ENTRIES**
- 3rd Place **NO ENTRIES**

Category 3: (80 & Over Paid Up Members)

- 1st Place Eastex Det.
- 2nd Place Big D Det.
- 3rd Place NO ENTRIES

Since 2005 I have served as the Department of Texas Americanism Chairman. During this time there have been years (2011 thru 2014) when no Detachment in **Category 2** (those with 50-79 paid up members, which includes Marines and Associates) submitted an Americanism Scrapbook. The same was true for 2016, although nine Detachments were eligible to enter.



This saddens me, because after the awards were presented during those years there were two award plaques that had to go back to Graham for lack of someone wanting them. I’m sure they felt rejected as well as tired because of all the miles they had travelled without finding a home. Not to mention the “facelift surgery” they have had to undergo each year to bring them up to date for the next year. Finally, it was not possible to do the surgery any longer and I had to discard them completely and have new plaques created. What a waste!

So, I am pleading with those Category 2 Detachments (see the requirement above) to find someone (or maybe two someones who could work together) in their membership who would be interested in creating a scrapbook for competition at our 2017 State Convention. It would make me and the plaques very happy!



Thank you for your consideration. If you need help for any phase of creating a scrapbook, please call or email me. I will be glad to help in any way I can.

*Juanita O’Dell, Americanism Chairman
(940) 549-3944 • juanitaodell@sbcglobal.net*

Bernard Sheeler VAVS Award...



Arsenio (Chon) Pena, Jr.
Deane Hawkins
Detachment,
El Paso

Joe Vickery Chaplain Award...



Department Chaplain Melody Bronson showing plaque that was presented to Award Winner **Kenneth D. Raines**, Pineywoods Detachment Chaplain, Nacogdoches

Cam Posey Scholarships...

Big D Detachment:

Melody Bronson

Christine Garner • Tyler Hicks

Coastal Bend Detachment:

Fernando Juarez III

McLemore Detachment:

Elaine Renberg

Sgt. Jay M. Hoskins Detachment:

Rachael Greer



(The Scholarships this year were in the amount of \$1,000 each)

Harry Bruce Award...



Polly Weidenkopf
Big D
Detachment,
Dallas

Marine of the Year...



Ray Beard (center), Comanche Peak Detachment, Granbury, accepting award from Bernie O'Dell, Committee Chair

Meritorious Commendation Certificates (Detachment)...

Big D • Cen-Tex
Deane Hawkins • Galveston County
Hopkins County • Jacksonville
Lufkin • McLemore
Pineywoods • TOT Dogs Pound

Meritorious Commendation Certificates (Individual)...

James Andrews • Chuck Bones
Chris Borel • Melody Bronson
John Casey • Mike English
John Grafflin • Jim Gulley
Bill Hamby • Robert Hurtado
Bernie O'Dell • Juanita O'Dell
Chon Pena • Raphael Ramos
Felix Salmeron • Dennis Thomas
Amado Trevino • Robert Way
Larry Webber • Nick Weidenkopf
Polly Weidenkopf

National Jr. Vice Commandant's Certificates (100% Membership) – Detachments...

Big D • Brazoria County
Cen-Tex • Colorado Valley
Comanche Peak • Hill Country
Hopkins County • Jack Ringel
Jacksonville • LCpl Jacob R. Lugo
Longhorn • Longview
Lost Pines Leathernecks • McLemore
Mike Loosemore • North Texas
Pineywoods • Roan Creek
Rose City • Sgt. J.M. Hoskins
Terrell • Teufelshunde of Texas

Pack Dog of the Year...



David Nelson (right), Longhorn
Detachment, Crowley, receiving award
from 2015 winner Charles Ynman

Southern Division National Vice Commandant's Award Certificates (Membership)...

Big D • Capt. John Yancey
Coastal Bend • Colorado Valley
Deane Hawkins • Eastex
Heart of Texas • Hopkins County
Jacksonville • Longhorn
Longview • Lost Pines Leathernecks
McLemore • Tarrant County

Southern Division 2015 Detachments of the Year...

North Texas
(Under 50 Members)
Capt. John Yancey & Lost Pines Leathernecks
(51-90 Members)
Big D
(91 members & over)

Miscellaneous...

Department Officers for 2016 - 2017:

Commandant Charles Ynman
Sr. Vice Commandant Robert Way
Jr. Vice Commandant Charles "Chuck" Bones
Judge Advocate James Gulley
Adjutant/Paymaster Polly Weidenkopf
Chaplain Melody Bronson
Sergeant-At-Arms Chris Borel
Web Master Felix Salmeron
Jr. Past Commandant Amado Trevino

District Vice Commandants:

District 1 Dennis Thomas (Hawthorne Det.)
District 2 John Grafflin (Terrell Det.)
District 3 Chon Pena (Deane Hawkins Det.)
District 4 Charles Casey (Cen-Tex Det.)
District 5 . Richard Torres (Galveston County Det.)
District 6 Amado Trevino (Coastal Bend Det.)
District 7 Mike English (Comanche Peak Det.)
District 8 Larry Barnes (Jacksonville Det.)
District 9 John Brewer (Jacksonville Det.)

District Change – It was decided that District 8 would be divided into two districts, thus creating District 9.

Our Judge Advocate will create the necessary Enclosure Change for this item as well as the changes required for the requirements for the new Harry Bruce Award and the Joe Vickery Chaplain of the Year Award and present them for approval.

Fall Staff Meeting – October 2016

Comanche Peak Detachment will be sponsoring the Fall Staff Meeting to be held in Granbury from October 20th through the 23rd.

See the page at the end of the newsletter for further details.

State Convention – June 2017

The 2017 State Convention will be hosted by the 1st Sgt. Joyce Venable Detachment in Beaumont the weekend after Father's Day. It will be held at the Elegante Hotel. Room rates will be \$95 + tax of 15%, which includes breakfast.

Larry Webber of McLemore Detachment was the winner of a three-night stay at this convention.

MEMORIAM
Department
of Texas



Notification received of members who passed away since State Convention 2015 (June 1, 2015, thru May 31, 2016)

A.A. AVALOS DETACHMENT (Houston)

Sam Guzzetta • Richard G. Perez
Magarito Cano Vazquez

ALAMO DETACHMENT (San Antonio)

Ramiro Martinez

BRAZORIA COUNTY DETACHMENT (Angleton)

Sarah Buice • Jesse Damian

COASTAL BEND DETACHMENT (Corpus Christi)

Adam Alaniz, Jr. • Dewey Horton

EASTEX DETACHMENT (Conroe)

A.J. Berg

GALVESTON DETACHMENT (Galveston)

Israel Almednarez • Eugene Overbeck

Betty Lou Williams

HAWTHORNE (Stinnett)

Bugs Burney • Harold Dalzon

Tom Davis • Norman Keith

HOPKINS COUNTY DETACHMENT

(Sulphur Springs)

Jefferson Davis

LONGHORN DETACHMENT (Crowley)

Louise Henry

LONGVIEW DETACHMENT (Longview)

Gordon Hargett

LOST PINES LEATHERNECKS DETACHMENT

(Bastrop)

Edward Bellamy

PINEYWOODS DETACHMENT (Nacogdoches)

Dennis Bradford • James Lee

SGT. J.R. TIJERINA DETACHMENT (Katy)

David Lemak

TEXOMA DETACHMENT (Denison)

Patrick Stelzer

WILLIAMSON COUNTY DETACHMENT

(Georgetown)

Hal Cummings • Leroy Kleinfelter
Barry Krockover • Norman Thornton

_____ DETACHMENT

George Marti



National News

Commandant
Richard D. Gore, Sr.
(774) 239-6067

MARINES...

Sorry about the delay between messages but just let it be said that we have been busy. You may already have heard that there have been a lot of changes that have taken place at HQ.



I will not get into the details of the transitions except to tell you that they have been beneficial to all of the members and allowed the League to move forward in the proper way to serve you.

Johanna Hill from Membership was terminated and replaced. Meg Thoburn, Adjutant/Paymaster, resigned. Debbie Smith in Merchandise resigned. These issues alone resulted in positive changes being made which resulted in savings in money and an increase in productivity mainly through the work habits of their replacements.



Our Comptroller Paul Hastings was replaced after many years of dedicated service by William Miller from the Department of Georgia. This is another positive change as he is a CPA and understands what his duties are to the membership. Allan Ferguson is remaining as the Assistant Comptroller and will handle the book work at National in concert with William Miller. Bernard Heaney has been appointed as National Auditor. Bernie is a retired IRS forensic Auditor and he is preparing to do an audit of the HQ books with the assistance of Allen, Bill, and Tom.

Another event that will be happening in the near future is a new publisher will be hired for the "Semper Fi" magazine. We have been operating at an approximate loss of \$250,000 per year for quite a while now and were told to expect to continue to lose for many reasons. After much searching and discussion, we have agreed with Hammock Publishing to transition from them and are set to work with Chipotle Publishing, LLC from Henderson, NV, who has literally assured us of a quality magazine with more pages, better paper and more advertisements for a decrease in costs in the production of our magazine. Chipotle is projecting a break even figure after the first year. We are not interested in an award winning magazine, but I bet we will have one within a few years. A proposed contract from Chipotle Publishing, LLC will soon be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.



So, with the same number of employees as we had before the changes and the cost savings between salaries and magazine publishers, we are looking at a cost savings close to **\$400,000 annually**. This is what you mandated from us and I hope you like the results thus far.

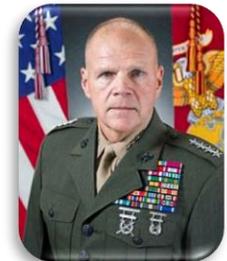


Some really hard work is still ahead of us, but now that the barriers have been removed we are confident of continued success in the future; I just do not know why these issues were not corrected before we got into this situation.

Your Board of Trustees and the Executive Director and myself look forward to seeing you at Convention in Tulsa, OK.

NewsFlash!

Our 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert B. Neller, has accepted the invitation of the National Commandant and the Marine Corps League and will appear at our National Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as our Guest of Honor!



Article from *Semper Fi Magazine*
(Summer 2016)

SEE YOU IN TULSA MARINES...

I hope everyone is planning to attend the National Convention in Tulsa. I have been assured that it will be a rollicking, fun-filled week with many great events for everyone to participate in and enjoy. By attending and reporting on the events to the members who could not attend, you will enhance your own image within your Detachments and Divisions. You will also gain knowledge of what makes the MCL function.



In addition to the Devil Dogs holding their initiations and the wild antics taking place, plenty of awards will be handed out for participation in the various committees, as well as awards for the “Dog of the Year,” “Recruiter of the Year” and “Marine of the Year.” You will witness the annual election of the officers who will lead you in the coming year. The more delegates in attendance represents a greater number of votes for the Departments, and your voices should be represented.



So far this year, it appears our membership strength is improving and our rebuilding efforts are producing success. During my visits this year to the Division and Department conventions, I saw an increase in membership numbers. The one factor we cannot fight is the fact that World War II veterans and, unfortunately, Vietnam veterans are dying in increasingly larger numbers every day. Many of our dear and close friends are no longer with us. Honor their service to the country and Corps by letting it be known that we miss them and by remaining “Semper Fi.”



I will report more on current issues at the National Convention when we meet for our annual business meeting.

Remember: “Our flag does not fly because the

wind moves it: It flies with the last breath of every serviceman who dies protecting it!”

National News

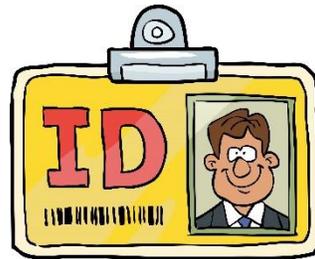
Executive Director
Thomas W. Hazlett

Article from *Semper Fi Magazine* (Summer 2016)



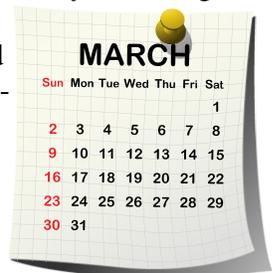
ONWARD AND UPWARD!

Your Marine Corps League headquarters is operating at full speed. Your Membership Department is turning around transmittals within two days of receipt, and membership cards are also being printed and mailed within that time. Every



effort is being made to eliminate the multiple membership cards that have been sent out in the past. It's of utmost importance to us that all members have their cards in a timely

manner. The Merchandise Department is turning around orders within four days, and this, too, will be worked on to eliminate any delay in filling and shipping orders. We have completed our Form 990, and it was mailed out by the deadline. We are also working hard to get the Permanent Life Member (PLM) checks cut and issued to the Departments and individual Detachments. We will do better next year. We are striving to have them out by March 2017.



A great deal of work has been done by your Headquarters staff to provide improved service to the membership. I am sure many of you are aware of the changes within the National Headquarters.

We have greatly cut our operational costs, yet we are providing a faster, more efficient service to our membership. I, again, stress the need to utilize the online forms for administrative needs. Not only are they easier to read than the handwritten forms, but they can also be emailed versus using postal mail - a cost savings and a more effective means of communication.



Our members remain a top priority of mine. I hope that by ensuring we have a more efficient operation at Headquarters that you will see a noticeable difference in response times. I urge you to contact me if you are experiencing problems, and we will get the situation under control. I cannot thank the Headquarters staff enough for their hard work and efforts in making member satisfaction a top priority.

I have seen a noticeable difference in the attitudes throughout the League; it is a good thing, and it is contagious. Please continue to seek new members, strive to reduce our delinquent membership numbers and, once again, remind our members why they initially joined the League. Being a Marine, Navy Corpsman or Chaplain will always be a badge of honor and pride that can never be removed. I am convinced that if we, the members, remember why we joined the League, we will increase our numbers and move forward as an organization.



I hope to see you in Tulsa, a convention spot that looks like a sure winner. I know all who attend will have a great time. I urge the Departments and Detachments to support the convention book with their ads, and I ask our members to support it as well.

Please keep our deployed Marines and their families in your thoughts and prayers, especially those who remain in harm's way. Remember all those who have served: Our remaining World War II veterans are few, as are our Korean War veterans. Never pass up a moment to thank them for what they endured and sacrificed. We are all brothers and sisters, and they deserve our gratitude and respect.



Remember, if you keep it fun, they will come!

Marine Corps History

MARINE CORPS VALUES



(Excerpt from *Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines*, copyright 2001 Marion F. Sturkey)

Why are U.S. Marines considered the world's premier warriors? Why? What puts the Marine Corps above the rest? Other military services have rigorous training and weapons of equal or greater lethality. So, why do U.S. Marines stand head and shoulders above the crowd?

The truth lies in the individual Marine. He (or she) did not *join* the Marines. Roughly 40,000 try each year. Those who survive the crucible of Marine basic training have been sculpted in mind and body. They have *become* Marines.

Once he has *earned the title* and entered the Brotherhood of Marines, a new warrior must draw upon the legacy of his Corps. Therein lies his strength. In return, the strength of the Corps lies in the individual Marine. The *character* (often defined as "what you are in the dark") of these warriors is defined by the three constant Corps Values: honor, courage, and commitment.

HONOR!

Honor requires each Marine to exemplify the ultimate standard in ethical and moral conduct. Honor is many things; honor requires many things. A U.S. Marine must never lie, never cheat, never steal, but that is not enough. Much more is required. Each Marine must cling to an uncompromising code

of *personal integrity*, accountable for his actions and holding others accountable for theirs. And, above all, honor maintains that a Marine never sully the reputation of his Corps.

COURAGE:

Simply stated, courage is honor in action – and more. Courage is moral strength, the will to heed the inner voice of conscience, the will to do what is right regardless of the conduct of others. It is mental discipline, an adherence to a higher standard. Courage means willingness to take a stand for what is right in spite of adverse consequences. This courage, throughout the history of the Corps, has sustained Marines during the chaos, perils, and hardships of combat. And each day, it enables each Marine to look in the mirror – and smile.

COMMITMENT:

Total dedication to Corps and Country. Gung-ho Marine Teamwork. All for one, one for all. By whatever name or cliché, commitment is a combination of (1) selfless determination and (2) a relentless dedication to excellence. Marines never give up, never give in, never willingly accept second best. Excellence is always the goal. And, when their active duty days are over, Marines remain reserve Marines, retired Marines, or Marine veterans. There is no such thing as an ex-Marine or former Marine. Once a Marine, always a Marine. Commitment never dies.

The three Corps Values: honor, courage, commitment. They make up the bedrock of the character of each individual Marine. They are the foundation of his Corps. These three values, handed down from generation to generation, have made U.S. Marines the Warrior Elite. The U.S. Marine Corps: the most respected and revered fighting force on earth.

BLOOD CHIT

Blood Chit is the common term for the written notice, in several languages, carried by Marine aircrews in combat. If their aircraft is shot down, the notice (1) identifies the Americans and (2) encourage the local population to assist them.

The concept is over 200 years old. Jean-Pierre



*Jean-Pierre
Blanchard*

Blanchard the famous French balloonist, came to America in 1793 to demonstrate hot air balloon flight. He would ascend from Philadelphia. Where he would come down, of course, no one knew. And, Blanchard did not speak English. George Washington, U.S. President, gave Blanchard a letter addressed to “All

citizens of the United States.” The letter asked that Blanchard be befriended and given safe passage back to Philadelphia.

This idea lay dormant for over 100 years. But, in World War I the British RAF issued “ransom notes” to its pilots flying in India and Mesopotamia. These notes, written in Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, and Pashto, promised a reward to anyone bringing an unharmed British pilot or observer to the nearest British outpost. British airmen called the notes goolie chits. (Goolie was the Hindustani word for ball, and many hostile tribesmen had been turning captured airmen over to local women for castration.)

When the mercenary Flying Tigers went to China in 1937 to battle the Japanese, they carried blood chits. These printed notices bore the Chinese flag and Chinese lettering which stated:

This foreign person has come to China to help in the war effort. Soldiers and civilians, one and all, should rescue, protect, and provide him with medical care.

Later, when the United States entered the war in 1941, it issued blood chits in almost 50 different languages. And, a reward was offered to those who assisted downed fliers.

The U.S. government kept its word. The greatest reward ever given went to the family that aided a

B-29 crew shot down on 12 July 1950, two weeks after the start of the Korean War. The crewmen, badly injured, were found by North Korean civilians. Yu Ho Chun found the blood chit in the pocket of one flier. He gave the Americans medical aid. Then, at great personal risk, he put them on a junk and sailed them 100 miles down the coast to safety. Two weeks later the North Korean Army found Chun, tortured him, and then killed him. But, 43 years later in 1993 the United States paid \$100,000 to his son, Yu Song Dan.

During the war in Vietnam the fighter, attack, and helicopter crews carried new blood chits. These chits displayed the American flag, plus an appeal in 14 languages: English, Burmese, Thai, Old Chinese, New Chinese, Laotian, Cambodian, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Visayan, Malayan, French, Indonesian, and Dutch. The wording in each language was the same:

I am a citizen of the United States of America. I do not speak your language. Misfortune forces me to seek your assistance in obtaining food, shelter, and protection. Please take me to someone who will provide for my safety and see that I am returned to my people. My government will reward you.

In Vietnam, as in World War II, some unique missions required unique measures. On certain Black Ops flights, in addition to their blood chits, the aircrews carried paper money and gold coins. Needless to say, these required strict inventory control. Upon return from a mission, "I just lost it!" wouldn't work.

Today the United States has pre-printed blood chits, most for locations throughout the world. Blood chits, in the appropriate languages, were issued to airmen for operations in Panama, Grenada, Somalia, Bosnia, and the Gulf War. Since the Gulf War, use of blood chits has continued among airmen flying the hostile skies of Southwest Asia. Today the blood chit package includes money, and sometimes a pointee-talkee pictorial display.

Upcoming Events



Modern Day Marine
Marine Corps Base • Quantico, VA
September 27th – 29th, 2016



Department of Texas Fall Staff Meeting
Granbury Comfort Suites • 903 Harbor Lake Dr.
Granbury, TX 76048
(817) 579-5559 • **October 20th – 23rd, 2016**

National Mid-Winter Conference
March 2nd – 4th, 2017



Southern Division Conference
Holiday Inn S. Broadway
5701 S. Broadway • Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 561-5800 (Use code Z93)
March 24th – 25th, 2017



Department of Texas State Convention
MCM Hotel Elegante • 1355 Executive Blvd.
Beaumont, TX 77705 • (888) 347-2319
June 2017

DEADLINE

for
Texas Marine
FALL Edition
will be
October 15th



Please submit articles/photos to Juanita O'Dell
@ 515 Hall St., Graham, TX 76450
OR
juanitaodell@sbcglobal.net

Rejoice Your Way Through

By Joan Clayton

It's easy to rejoice when all is well. The real test comes in rejoicing during the hard times of life. Someone has said, "It's not what happens to you but your attitude toward it."

Joy does not come from worrying, fretting, and stewing.

In spite of any problem there is something to be joyful about. To be joyful in every situation lowers blood pressure, cholesterol, and family friction.

Joy brings hope.

Joy brings health.

Joy is contagious.

Joy attracts others.

Joy reduces stress.

Joy anticipates hope and optimism.

To make your day, arise each morning and say, "*This is a great day and I will rejoice in it because I'm alive!*"



DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS FALL STAFF CONFERENCE
GRANBURY, TX • OCTOBER 20TH - 23RD, 2016

HOTEL: Granbury Comfort Suites, 903 Harbor Lake Dr., (817) 579-5559
\$79.09/night (with breakfast) *Mention that reservations are for the MCL.*
Call and make your reservation ASAP; limited number of rooms available.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: September 29, 2016



REGISTRATION FEES: MCL & MCLA Members - \$5/person

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL: BBQ - \$25/person

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET: \$37/person (beef or chicken)



DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION, SOCIAL, & BANQUET: October 10, 2016

Make checks payable to: Comanche Peak Detachment #1297
Mail to: C/O Alex Azar
6105 W. Choctaw Court, Granbury, TX 76049-5246



ADS FOR PROGRAM:

Cover: Back page, Inside Front & Inside Back	\$150	
Full Page (B/W)	\$100	
Quarter Page (B/W) ..	\$ 25	
Name/Single Line	\$ 10	
	Half Page (B/W)	\$50
	Business Card	\$ 15



Make checks payable to: Comanche Peak Detachment #1297
(Credit cards and Paypal also accepted)
SEND CHECKS TO: Bernie O'Dell

ADS CAN BE EMAILED TO BERNIE @ bernieodell@sbcglobal.net
OR MAILED TO HIM @ 515 Hall Street, Graham, TX 76450-1412

DEADLINE FOR ADS: October 1, 2016

Contacts for questions: Ray Beard: 817-219-0404
Alex Azar: 817-219-9000

