

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPT. COMMANDANT DEC.2010

Greetings Marines and Merry Christmas,

We just finished our 4th qtr. Dept meeting and I appreciate all of you who made the time to attend and support the Marines in your Det. These meetings are very important to all of us as this is where we have the opportunity to exchange ideas on how to do our jobs better- we really need to have ALL of our Dets represented. Our next Dept. meeting is scheduled for 5 March 2011 in Jeff City so please place it on your planning calendar now.

We covered a lot of ground at the meeting and much of it requires action on the part of our Marines.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As the Leadership Team of the Dets and Dept.- we must do a better job of insuring that we are proficient in the knowledge of our duties and that we are developing our future leaders. Toward that end we will be conducting formal training in the duties of each office: Every Marine who wishes to hold an elected or appointed office should undergo this training- we will be entertaining a motion at the March Dept. meeting to make it mandatory for all Marines who wish to hold a Dept. Office to have completed this training. I would hope that all Dets would take this same approach. It will be the duty of the Dept. Commandant to maintain records of those who have completed the training. The first training session will take place in St Joe Feb 19 and should take approx. 3-4 hrs. I know that this location will not be geographically conducive to many and I will be working with the Reg. Vice Commandants and Dept. Officers to set up other training sessions in each region. The outline of the training materials is posted on the National Website.

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION/ WELCOME ABOARD PACKAGE

Our goal of Membership growth/retention is not being met! One of the things that I am seeing as I look at the charts and records of our Dept. is that while we are bringing aboard new members, we are not achieving growth because we

don't retain them. A very simple tool has been developed and was given out to each Det. Commandant who attended the Dec. Dept. meeting. It is designed to be a hand out to your new or newer members to really spell out things that most of us take for granted; uniforms (what are they and how to get them) what exactly do we do as a League Member, how to communicate with other members (roster), what is the structure of the League, etc. This was given out in both disk form-so it can be adapted for each Det.and a hard copy for you to use to get the feel of. Think back to the time when you first joined the League, how long did you just sit around wondering just what was going on. Most Det's. Will form a committee to work on this project, it might be a good idea to put a new member on this committee to not only get them involved but to gain their perspective. I will be looking forward to looking at these packages as I travel to the different Det's. this spring.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE FOUNDATION

We have a wonderful partner in the MCL Foundation. This foundation has provided a huge amount of support for Marines in the State of Mo. this year, and it is very comforting to know that they are there to support us in our mission to take care of our Marines who encounter hard times. Please keep in mind that we need to support the foundation every chance we get. One of the easiest ways to do this is through the "Memorial Certificate Program", where in lieu of flowers when a Member or a Members family passes, the Det. can purchase a Memorial Certificate. These are really done well and are a gift that keeps giving. The form is now on the Dept. website and easy to use, please keep it in mind.

NATIONAL MCL SERVICE PISTOL AND RIFLE MATCH

Great News! As a Dept. we have now adopted the National MCL Service Pistol and Rifle Match as a replacement for the Dept. shooting match that we have been holding at the Dept. convention for the past few years. The adoption of this program accomplishes several important things:

1. Provides clear and consistent rules and procedures for the match
2. Allows winners to go forward to the National Events

3. Will provide more time and less conflict between the Growl and the Shoot
4. Adds a pistol competition to the Dept. event
5. Allows Det's who do not have access to a range to host a Dept. Convention.

The event will now be held on the afternoon of the first Friday in March prior to the March Dept. meeting in Jeff City. The coordinator of this event will be Allan Sanning and he will post specifics shortly- this is a BIG deal and will be a lot of fun.

DEPARTMENT GROWTH

One of the goals that we set out for the Dept. was to grow our League in the areas of the State that were under developed. We have been working on this for the past 18 months and these efforts are paying off. We currently have Chartering efforts taking place in the following areas:

WARRENSBURG TROY ROLLA MARSHALL

If you are aware of any former, current or Reserve Marines or FMF Corpsmen in these areas please send me the contact info and I will get them to the organizers.

Marines, I want to thank all of you for making 2010 a successful year for our Marine Corps League, it has been a year of challenge- but we have overcome these challenges and made a difference for our Marines and our Communities.

As President Reagan said" SOME PEOPLE SPEND A LIFETIME WONDERING IF THEY HAVE MADE a DIFFERENCE- MARINES DON'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM".

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and hope that you all get to spend wonderful time with those you love.

Semper Fi

Dan