

COMMANDANTS REPORT DEPT.of MO. APRIL 2010

Sir, the Dept.of Mo alive and thriving in 2010! In June of 2009 we as a Dept set out Objectives and goals that would guide us for the upcoming year. Those goals we as follows:

Enhance Communication with Det's, Dept, and Division
Increased participation with Det's at Dept meetings and Conferences
Gain a better geographic balance/representation in our Dept staff
Increase membership retention through mentoring programs at Det level
Add at least two Dets in the Western part of the State

We have for the most part accomplished those objectives:

- .Communication is much improved by updating and maintaining Det and Dept rosters
And sharing information between Det's.
- .The last two Quarterly Dept meetings have had 90% participation levels
- .Gaining a better geographic balanced leadership team is a work in progress
- .Overall Dept membership has increased from 1335 to 1466 or a 9.8%
- .In March of this year we chartered our new Det. in Joplin Mo.Det # 1356
"TRIPOLI MARINES". Although this Det was chartered with 20 Marines it is already at 28 Marines with an excellent growth potential.

Our current challenge is the Delinquent Membership level. As of 12/31/09 the Department of Mo had 231 members in a delinquent status or 17.3% of total membership. As of 31 March 2010 we have 183 members delinquent or 12.4% of total membership indicating a reduction of 20.8%. While we consider this a good start in getting this issue under control, we are far from satisfied with this number. We have and will continue to encourage each Det. Commandant to personally contact each member who shows to be delinquent, as well as to assign specific responsibility to contact each member in the month prior to the expiration of there membership. This will attempt to address the issue prior to the member becoming delinquent. During the past two months that we have been tracking this issue we have asked the Det. Commandant to identify the reasons given by those members who have chosen not to renew so we can develop a plan to address these issues. Listed here are the main reasons given and how we are addressing:

Financial Hardship:

We are all aware of the tough economic times we are facing. Based on individual needs some Det's are reducing the renewal dues or picking up the renewal dues entirely for those Marines who are active assets to the Det. For the average Det. dues are \$30,this breaks down to \$23 for National,\$5 for Dept leaving \$2 for the Det, it is obvious that the Det. cannot continue to address this issue alone for an extended period of time, if we really want increased membership it will require a shared burden by all the stakeholders.

Recruiters:

For the benefit of both the Det. and the MCL overall, we strongly encourage ALL Det's bring on the local Marine Corps Recruiters into the local Det. This provides a tremendous benefit to both the League and the Recruiters. However, the downside to this is that every two years the recruiters relocate and leave the area with no intention of returning. This not only leaves a membership deficit but also a "delinquent" spot for two years. I would like to suggest that we set up a special category of membership for recruiters that would be excluded from both dues and retention accountability. Of the Dept's 183 Delinquent members 19 of them are transferred recruiters.

Illness/Work Issues/Moved Away:

We have no workable plan to address these issues at this time other than continued counseling and enhanced contact.

Dissatisfaction with the Marine Corps League:

Most of the Marines in this category were and continue to be extremely upset with the "uniform changes" from the last National Convention. This has resulted in not only Members who have refused to pay there dues and be a part of the League, but also have had a negative effect on some Det's. to field honor guards and burial details. This issue has also had a negative effect on many of the "Life Members" who do not show up in any of the statistics we have discussed, but still are issues that effect overall attitudes.

We in the Dept. of Mo are fully aware that change (along with the time & tides) is inevitable and will come even if it is not embraced, but we must all insure that the changes that we bring about do not cause more problems than they solve.

Respectfully Submitted

Dan Ferrell

Commandant Dept of Mo. MCL