

## Dept. Of Mo. Commandants Report Oct. 2010

The Dept. of MO. continues to remain extremely active and total Dept Membership is the highest in the last 18 months. We have “stood up” a new Det. in Joplin with a current membership of 38 Marines, and pulled the charter for one of the St Louis Det’s. on a temporary basis to allow an opportunity to reorganize by July of 2011. We are also VERY close to standing up a new MCL Det. in Warrensburg, our first organizational meeting was very positive, and we expect to forward a “application for Charter” in the next few weeks.

As you can see from the attached graphs our Dept. has been on a positive trend for the last 6 Quarters with higher membership in each qtr. and lower delinquent membership. It appears to be a bit of an anomaly in the Sept ending report as our delinquent membership level reached a 1 ½% increase to 12.37%. This increase is focused on three Det’s which we are dealing with on an individual basis. Our goal for the year end is still 8% delinquent, we will achieve that goal.

### What’s Working:

Communication has never been better between Dept. and Detachments, rosters of Dept. Officers and Det. Commandants are current and will remain so. Dept. newsletters (now including features from many Det’s) are published and posted on Dept. website quarterly.

Participation at Dept. meeting remains at apx.84% of Det’s being represented each quarter.

Quality of Membership interested in running for Dept. office remains very high, our bench is strong.

Our Focus for the past year of “increasing membership and reducing delinquent” levels has had a positive impact in reversing a very negative trend- this will continue to be a focus.

## What's Not Working

Membership retention is still not where it needs to be. As a Dept. we do not do enough to insure the Det's. are able to keep the members they recruit. We continue to give "lip service" to this issue but I don't think we are being effective.

We are not doing a good job of "training" our Det. officers, too many are not sure of or proficient in their duties. Main problem seems to be a lack of training time set aside at Dept. meeting, and getting the right officers on hand at these meetings. We keep trying to add to many items/issues to the limited meeting time. It may be time to "rethink" our Dept. meeting format to make the training a much larger priority. This will be particularly important as we move forward with the new national data base.

We are still having instances where a few of our members get caught up in the frenzy of "political partisanship" , this is not an issue of being unaware of the bylaws regarding this issue, but one of not agreeing with the interpretation of these bylaws. We will continue to work toward a very clear understanding of this issue and attempt to develop a consistent approach to dealing with it. It would be helpful to have the specifics from National on this issue has been dealt with in the past.

Respectfully Submitted

Dan Ferrell

Commandant Dept. of Mo.