

DEVIL DOG DISPATCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE TREASURE VALLEY DETACHMENT & AUXILIARY

MARCH 2001

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 07

MARCH EVENTS

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, 7:00 PM, March 21, 2002, at the Indoor Pavilion at Gowen Field

Tentative agenda:

7:00 PM, Business Meeting

7:30 PM, Nomination of Officers for the 2002-2003 year

7:45 PM, Election of Officers

8:00 PM, Adjournment

The election is an important event so please attend.

Breakfast with Spouses

Saturday, March 16, 2002, 10:00 AM Mike's Restaurant, Hillcrest Shopping Center, Boise

Weekly Coffee: Saturdays, (other than the third Saturday) 9:00 AM at Mike's Restaurant

FUTURE EVENTS

Department Pre-Convention Conference: Scheduled for April 5-6, in McCall, Idaho. Arrangements are complete for those who desire to stay at the Best Western Motel in McCall, at a special rate of \$58.00. However, if you simply want to attend the business meeting from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Saturday the 5th you may. Call (208) 634-6300 to make a reservation, and be sure to state that you are with the MCL. **Motel reservation cutoff date is March 25, 2002.** Make your own reservation, but please let me know if you plan to attend.

April Meeting: The April meeting will not include a business meeting, and will be held on the third **Wednesday of the month, April 17th**, rather than the third Thursday. It will be at a local restaurant, assuming that we find one with adequate space. Spouses are invited. The meeting **will include the installation of new detachment officers and feature Major Jan C. Huly, U.S. Marine Corps, CG, MCRD, San Diego, as the guest speaker.** General Huly will speak on recruiting and recruit training, and other current topics that may be of interest to us. I intend to open this meeting to our local recruiters, C Company, 4th Tank Battalion, and the I&I Staff. **FOR PLANNING, PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.** And, "Yes." the day and date is a change from what I announced at the February meeting.

Department Annual Convention: Scheduled for 17-19 May 2002, at Cactus Pete's Resort in Jackpot, Nevada. See the included flyer for details.

AUXILIARY NEWS

March meeting, Thursday March 21, 2002, at the Idaho Military Museum.

Agenda:

Business Meeting 7:00 PM

Nominations of Officers for 2002-2003 7:30 PM

Election of Officers 7:45 PM

Adjournment 8:00 PM

The Auxiliary President hopes that all of you have been contacted by the Nomination Committee and responded favorably to the call to participate and make our organization a "going concern."

Notes from the February meeting:

The meeting was called to order with 13 members present.

Reading of the minutes for our January meeting was postponed. The treasurer made her report. The chaplain, Melba Butler, reported that Donna Schumaker will have knee replacement surgery on March 19, 2002.

Barbara Elston reported on the January Las Vegas convention.

Theresa Nakashima reported on the Operation Little Angels program. The Ada County and Boise City Victim Witness Program needs grocery store gift certificates for immediate use by victims in the program. We discussed making bags for children and/or adults who must leave their homes without taking any possessions with them. Jessie Strong moved we make bags for the Little Angels program. A decision for this motion will be discussed at the March meeting.

(Continued on page two column one.)

AUXILIARY NEWS

Donna Schumaker did a wonderful job typing up all of our unit bylaws, which were read and discussed. Members were given copies and told to take them home, study them, and we will vote on their acceptance at the March meeting.

Velma Williams, Pauline Evans, and Melba Butler were appointed to the nominating committee and will present a slate of officers in March.

A raffle drawing was held and Nancy Teague won the prize. \$10.00 was raised through this raffle. Nancy will bring the raffle gift for the March meeting.

DETACHMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEPARTMENT ELECTIONS: Are you interested in serving as a department officer? Do you know someone who you believe would be both capable of and willing to serve as a department officer? If you are or do, then let me know ASAP. **Nominations must be submitted at the Pre-Convention Conference on April 6, 2002.**

Available billets are: Department commandant, senior and junior vice-commandant, judge advocate, and adjutant/paymaster. Appointed billets are sergeant at arms and chaplain.

Elections are held during the Department Convention.

DEPARTMENT MARINE OF THE YEAR (MOY): Gordon Williams is heading our committee to nominate a detachment member as department MOY. The criteria established by the Department Commandant, Brad Robinson is: Nominations must be based on specific accomplishments of the past year, and include evidence of the nominee's community service apart from detachment activities.

Other matters to consider include obstacles overcome in order to performing his or her work, the number of new MCL members

sponsored, and other information that would support the recommendation. **If you know a detachment member who may be a candidate then notify Gordon Williams at 286-9972.**

YOUNG MARINE BOOT CAMP GRADUATION: March 19, 2002, 7:00 PM at the Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Training Center. Please notify John Dean at 331-7851 if you plan to attend.

DETACHMENT HANDBOOK: I have completed the detachment handbook and will either deliver you a copy at the March meeting or mail you a copy if you are not at the meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STATE CEMETERY DESIGN AND REVIEW COMMITTEE: The Department Commandant appointed Tom Butler to this committee on February 22, 2002. WELL DONE TOM!

Donation to the Detachment General Fund: Bill Johnson donated \$100.00. THANKS BILL, YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED!

NOTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The business meeting opened at 7:25 PM following the memorial for Bob Daly, and closed at 8:40 PM.

The **adjutant/paymaster** reported that we have just over 1000 Marine Roses available from a previous fund raising event that we need to sell. Following discussion it was agreed that we should sell them on Memorial Day at a location to be determined.

Tom Butler reported on the **State Cemetery Committee's activities**. The process of purchasing additional land from the adjacent Dry Creek Cemetery is underway. The Legislature appropriated \$120,000 for that purpose. Additional land is needed because some of the Veterans Cemetery land is on steep grades and not usable as burial sites. Tom also reported that the committee was firmly

against permitting the burial of non-veteran "Idaho Heroes" as some state senators had proposed. The committee supports permitting burial of a veteran's spouse and certain children depending on their age and disability status, but does not support the burial of divorced spouses. Finally, a reciprocal burial protocol with neighboring states will be sought in order to permit family convenient burial site location; e.g., burials of a Lewiston veteran in a nearby Washington state cemetery, etc.

Gordon Williams reported that nationally, **the MCL leads all other veterans organizations with 109,000 hours contributed to veterans' homes.**

The **annual camp out/picnic** was discussed and members present voted to hold it the first weekend in June in Idaho City. **Ken Ohls** agreed to take charge of making the arrangements.

Detachment Handbook. I reported that the detachment handbook was complete and ready for printing. An objection was raised regarding the inclusion of summaries of both the national and department bylaws in the handbook on the grounds that when the detachment bylaws were written they were based on national bylaws; therefore, the national and department summarizations are essentially redundant. It was also argued that since detachment members normally focus on the detachment matters they have little interest in national and department bylaws. My position is that as members of a larger organization; i.e., the Marine Corps League, members should have basic information about the League readily available to them. Discussion followed, then a motion was made and approved that the detachment commandant should be responsible for the handbook's contents.

Scholarship Committee. I reported my discussion of the scholarship committee with its last known chairman, Monte MacConnell, who told me that he resigned from the chairmanship early in 2001, and that Bob Smith; the previous commandant

was to have appointed a new chairman. Roy Jost recommended Skip Nakashima for the chairmanship; however, during the discussion that followed Roy's recommendation, Mike Meade stated that he had been appointed chairman; but that he did not have a written record of the appointment. It became apparent that the question of who was or should be the chairman could not be resolved during the meeting so I tabled the matter for later resolution.

MCL Rituals. There was a discussion about the MCL Ritual Manual, and of MCL rituals in general. I reported my intent to comply with Ritual Manual guidance. An objection was raised regarding using the Ritual Manual procedure for swearing in new members. Apparently some League members objected to the swearing in process as being too much like joining the Marine Corps. In response to those objections the national judge advocate issued a ruling that if a member had signed the membership oath on the membership application card there was no requirement that he or she be sworn in again as outlined in the Ritual Manual.

Following discussion I announced that as long as I was serving as detachment commandant we would observe MCL rituals. I qualified that declaration by explaining that as I understood the Ritual Manual, we have considerable latitude in choosing how we carry rituals out. However, I also believe

there is a League expectation that detachments will observe the intent and spirit of the Ritual Manual. On the matter of a swearing in ceremony I indicated that I intended to hold the ceremony for new members because I believe that it is an excellent way to bring someone into the League. I also stated that based on the national judge advocate decision I would respect individual wishes; i.e., not to swear in a new member who had signed the membership application and who objected to the swearing portion of the initiation ritual.

Monthly **Green Belt clean up** was discussed, and the detachment voted to discontinue this project.

Fund Raising. An objection was raised over my statement in the February newsletter that the Albertson Card is our primary fund raising device. The argument presented was that since the card's primary purpose is to generate money to support the Young Marines; specifically, the scholarship fund, that my assertion that the card is the detachment's primary fund raising device was factually incorrect, and that I should print a correction in this month's newsletter.

It was further explained that the Albertson Corporation requires that the preponderance of proceeds for these cards go to the support of youth groups. For those who do not know, 75% of the funds received go to the

scholarship fund while the remaining 25% go to the detachment's general fund.

I disagree that a correction is necessary. Perhaps there is a legal point that I am missing or maybe this is simply an issue of semantics, but the detachment has no other consistent fund raising project other than the Albertson Card. Using the card as a source of funds may not be a typical fund raising project such as members selling things or engaging in other activities that adds money to the detachment's bank account, but the detachment participates in this Albertson Corporation program in order to generate funds for the detachment's legitimate purposes; largely, in this case, a scholarship fund. Given that, I continue to view the Albertson Community Partners Card, Treasure Valley Detachment, Marine Corps League version as a fund raising device.

Bylaw change. Mike Meade's proposed bylaw change that you received a copy of with your February newsletter was voted on and adopted. This change moved detachment election from April to March.

Service Officer. Pat Teague reminded us that the detachment needs a service officer. This is an opportunity to learn about veteran benefits and to assist members and other veterans. Anyone interested?

**TREASURE VALLEY DETACHMENT, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
USN-USMC RESERVE CENTER, BLDG. 800, 4078 HARVARD ST., BOISE, ID 83705
PHONE (208) 422-6255 / 6256**

Gary Randel, Commandant938-5171
Andy Hanish, Sr. Vice-Commandant.. 338-0459
Roy Jost, Jr. Vice-Commandant 384-5160

Tom Butler, Judge Advocate.....343-4093
Ralph Elston, Adjutant/Paymaster.....853-7344
Gordon Williams, Quartermaster.....286-9972

Bill Johnson, Chaplain.....384-1844
Brian Barber, Sgt. At Arms.....442-9045

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE YOUR ALBERTSON CARD WHENEVER
YOU SHOP AT AN ALBERTSON'S STORE**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES DURING YOUR MCL
ANNIVERSARY MONTH**