

KEYSTONE LEATHERNECK

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2010

Convention in New Cumberland, PA June 23-27, 2010

Who said winter was a quiet time of year? Obviously it was someone not associated with the Marine Corps League...The weather has fought us at every turn, but the Detachments in Pennsylvania continued on their course and have continued to complete their missions.

Our Winter Staff Meeting was one such example, as was the National Mid-Winter Conference. It was here that National Board of Trustees addressed a growing epidemic in the Marine Corps League: "Delinquent Members". As of 31 December 2009 there were over 10,000 delinquent members in the Marine Corps League, with Pennsylvania accounting for about ten percent of the National membership.

The National Board of Trustees unanimously approved two new missions.

The first mission is to bring the total of delinquent members down by 60% by 30 June 2010. The National Board of Directors is requiring the National Division Vice Commandants to report back every two weeks on the progress being made.

I stated the National Board approved two missions. The second mission is to have every detachment assign a web sergeant on the National website. We realize that some detachments are limited by what they are able to do. If your detachment is unable to assign a web sergeant and would like assistance from the Department Web Team, Detachment Commandants should write to me, request assistance and we will work with the National Web Master to get your site updated.

During the National Mid-Winter Conference, the National Budget Committee reported a loss of anticipated revenue due to the current economic situation. Therefore, the Committee announced they would seek approval a \$2.00 increase in Annual dues at the National Convention.

The Department is sponsoring the Commonwealth's Memorial Day program at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on 30 May 2010 at 1400 (rain or shine). There will be a massing of the colors and we would like to see a sea of Marine Corps League flags in the memorial. Any detachment interested in participating should contact Central District Vice Commandant Gary German.

The National Convention isn't far off and there will be a number of proposed amendments to the National Bylaws to be considered by the body at the National Convention. If one member of your detachment will be attending, please register your full voting strength. The Department will reimburse all Detachments for delegate fees (at the early registration rate) if they register their full strength. Let your detachments' voice be heard. National Convention is where the membership of the Marine Corps League sets policies, amends bylaws and elects the officers for the coming year.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Department Convention in June where we will be honoring all World War II Veterans and setting our own policies and electing the officers for the coming year.

For a more detailed report, please visit our Department Website and click on Commandant's Message.

Semper Fi




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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- MCL Life Membership is still a bargain.
- Show Marine Pride. Put a League License Plate on your vehicle
- Attend the 2010 Department Convention in New Cumberland, PA
- Throw your support behind H.R. 24



For those Marine Corps League members that wish to "Go Life" with their membership, saving money over the years, eliminating having to remember to renew each year, and saving your overworked Detachment Paymaster/Adjutant much paperwork and time, these are the rates, depending on your age:

From January 1, 2009 and thereafter

Up to 35.....\$500.00

Age 36 to 50.....\$400.00

Age 51 to 60.....\$300.00

Age 61 and older.....\$150.00

To become a Life Member, you must already be a "Member in Good Standing". That means becoming a member and paying your initial dues first. Yes, according to the Bylaws, you could join the League, pay your dues and then pay your Life Membership Dues all in the same day.

As a footnote please be aware that some Detachments have set up an "installment payment" plan to allow members to make payments in smaller increments. Please check with your Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster to see if such a plan is in place.

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Sergeant-at-Arms	Ed Baranski	610-261-9086	dex956@yahoo.com

Once a Marine, Always a Marine

Marine Corps League License Plates———\$30.00



PENNSYLVANIA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES

MAKE YOUR CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$30.00** PAYABLE TO "MCL of PA, Inc.".

SEND APPLICATION TO: PAUL F. HASTINGS, PNC
1631 BRIDGE STREET
NEW CUMBERLAND, PA 17070-1174

Application Form MV-904SO (09-04) can be downloaded from the
Department of PA Website

APPLICATIONS SENT (directly) TO THE COMMONWEALTH WILL BE RETURNED TO THE SENDER AND NOT PROCESSED. CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO THE "PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION" WILL ALSO BE RETURNED NOT PROCESSED.

Processing to the Department of Transportation, then to the Bureau of Corrections to manufacture the plate takes approximately six weeks from date of mailing to the Department of Transportation. Applications are mailed in batches of at least 3.

TO ASK QUESTIONS BY PHONE:

CALL PDC HASTINGS : 800-747-1420 or email to: Phasti4321@aol.com

Remember, only the new application *Form MV-904SO (09-04)* can be used. This is the ONLY form that will be acceptable. **Do Not Use the Old Form MV-904SO (02-04)**

The following persons are eligible to apply for

Marine Corps League Pennsylvania license plate:

1. Individuals who are members in good standing of one of the Department's chartered detachments.
2. Active duty Marines belonging to an out-of-state Marine Corps League detachment who have Pennsylvania as their home of record.
3. Marine Corps League Auxiliary Members.

Once a Marine, Always a Marine

2010 Department Convention

**To: All Detachments - Department of Pennsylvania
Marine Corps League**
From: Convention Committee Chairman

The 65th annual Department of Pennsylvania Convention is scheduled for June 23-27, 2010 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center, I-83 & PA Turnpike (Turnpike Exit #242), New Cumberland, Pa 17070. Make your reservations now and tell the hotel you are with the MARINE CORPS LEAGUE.

**Holiday Inn and Convention Center
148 Sheraton Drive, New Cumberland, Pa. 17070
(717) 774-2721 or 1-800-HOLIDAY**

(Make sure you tell the hotel **the Group is the Marine Corps League** and **use CODE: COP**. The code is important or they could book you improperly.)

Room Rates: \$89.00 Single and double
RESERVATION DEADLINE - May 24, 2010

2010 CONVENTION BOOKLET

As in the past, all Detachments are asked to help support the Convention AD Program project. In keeping with past procedures, your Detachment has an opportunity to make some extra money and help the Department at the same time. The size of the Convention book will be 8 1/2" by 11" and the ad rates are:

	Commercial Rate	Detachment/Auxiliary/Member Rate
Full Page	\$100.00	\$ 75.00
½ Page	\$ 60.00	\$ 45.00
¼ Page	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00
1/8 Page	\$ 25.00	\$ 20.00
Booster	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.00

The difference between the Commercial rate and the Detachment/ Auxiliary price is yours to keep as a fundraiser. (For example: if you sell a full page ad for \$100.00, you turn in \$75.00 and keep \$25.00 as yours.)

For any questions, please contact : PDC Paul M. Semanco at 570-429-0537.

MARINE CAUSE...

Marines, this past Thursday, the Marine Corps League sponsored a Press Conference at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington. The purpose of the Press Conference was to kick off the “grass-roots” campaign to get the “Marine Identity Cause” Project signed into law. We had an “all-star” cast of speakers and guests present including Congressman Walter Jones, Senator Pat Roberts, “The Gunny”, R. Lee Emy, General Al Gray, former Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert Magnus, former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Tony Zinni, Lt. General Stephen Olmstead, the League’s Legislative Liaison, Brigadier General Terry Paul former Director of the Marine Corps’ Office of Legislative Affairs, Sergeant “Eddie” Wright a Marine who lost both his hands in Iraq, and others including your Executive Director, a father who had lost his Marine son in Iraq and the Marine Mom who founded MarineParents.com .

H.R. 24 now has 368 co-signers in the House of Representatives. The problem is in the Senate. Senator Pat Roberts (R) Kansas (a Marine Corps Veteran) has introduced the Bill (S.204) in the Senate and it has two co-sponsors to date - Senator Kay Hagen (D) –North Carolina and Senator Richard Burr (R) North Carolina.

The way things work on The Hill is that the House version will be brought to the floor for a vote by Congressman Ike Skelton in early April. It should pass without any problem.

The issue is to get the Senate Armed Services Committee to approve the Senate version and bring it to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

The goal here is to get ALL Marine Corps League members, their family members, friends and all FRIENDS OF THE CORPS to call their Senators offices and tell them “I support S.204 and I want my Senator to support it too”! Tell them you would like an e-mail response on their decision and their position on changing the name of the Department of the Navy to the “Department of the Navy and Marine Corps”. Lastly, ask them what they propose to do to ensure that this bill gets passed into law.

For more information, please go to: <http://marinecause.com> - (while you are there, please click on “donate” at the top of the page and do what you can to support this effort.)

Many thanks for your help and support. BE A PART OF THIS HISTORY MAKING INITIATIVE!

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NEWS FOR VETS – PA and NATIONAL.....

VA TO REOPEN GULF WAR FILES - The Veterans Affairs Department says it's preparing to re-examine the disability claims of what could be thousands of Gulf War veterans suffering from ailments they blame on their war service.

HEALTH PANEL BEGINS PROBING IMPACTS OF BURN PITS - An Institute of Medicine panel this week began its investigation into possible links between illnesses being reported by Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans and contractors and their exposure to burn pits there.

BILL WOULD PROTECT SURVIVORS FROM FORECLOSURE - Surviving spouses of service members killed in Iraq or Afghanistan would be guaranteed one year of protection against the foreclosure or forced sale of their homes under legislation introduced Tuesday by Rep. Frank Kratovil Jr., D-MD.

NEW PUSH TO PROTECT CUSTODY RIGHTS OF TROOPS - An Ohio lawmaker who has been blocked four times in his efforts to pass legislation to protect deployed service members from losing custody of their children has launched a new two-pronged effort to try to get his proposal into law.

WEB SITE OFFERS SINGLE ACCESS POINT FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS - The federal departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor and Defense unveiled an improved Web site for wounded warriors.

WARS FORCE U.S. MILITARY TO REVIEW BAN ON WOMEN IN COMBAT – U.S. commanders are taking a second look at policies that bar women from ground combat, as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have thrust female soldiers into the thick of the fight.

OPERATION HOMELINK *from Army OneSource Family News* - Operation Homelink provides refurbished computers to the spouses or parents of junior enlisted (E1-E5) U.S. deployed service members, enabling email communication with their loved ones deployed overseas. To date, the nonprofit organization has partnered with corporate donors to link 3,200 deployed Soldiers with their Families using Internet-friendly computers. Regardless of where computers are sent, they are provided to units that are scheduled to deploy overseas in the next 90 days. Operation Homelink does not accept individual requests for computers. For more information, visit the Operation Homelink website at <http://myarmyonesource.com/News/2010/02/OperationHomelink>.

PENTAGON FOCUSES ON BRAIN TRAUMA - Troops caught near a roadside blast will be pulled out of combat for 24 hours and checked for a mild traumatic brain injury, even if they appear unhurt or say they are fine, according to a treatment policy the Pentagon is planning to release.

HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EXPANDS *from Military.com* - In 2009, the Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP) was expanded to provide assistance to wounded service members or Department Of Defense (DOD) civilians reassigned due to medical or rehabilitation purposes or retirement due to their disability; surviving spouses of the fallen; BRAC 2005 impacted homeowners, and service members undergoing a permanent change of station during the mortgage crisis. A new component now allows the program to assist qualified applicants in the direct sale of their homes in two specific ways: reimbursement at closing and government acquisition. For a straight private sale - where the applicant does not have the funds to close - HAP may help. For more information, visit the Homeowners Assistance Program website at <http://hap.usace.army.mil/> or contact your local HAP Field Office that can be found here <http://hap.usace.army.mil/Contact.html>.

US VETS RETURN TO IWO JIMA FOR 65TH ANNIVERSARY - Dozens of U.S. veterans, now in their 80s and 90s, returned to the remote volcanic island of Iwo Jima on Wednesday to mark the 65th anniversary of one of World War II's fiercest battles.

DEPARTMENT MID-WINTER STAFF MEETING, GRANTVILLE, PA



This handsome group is made up of members of your Department Staff and was taken at the Department 's Winter Staff Meeting on January 8 thru 10, 2010.

Sitting for the photo are (from L to R) (back row) SE District Vice Commandant Bill Miller, Chaplain Johnny Gill, Central District Vice Commandant Gary German, SW Vice Commandant Jim Walters, Adjutant Eric Fussenegger, Junior Past Commandant PDC Dick Brown and Paymaster Kathy VanGorder; and (front row) Judge Advocate Ed Ringer, Junior Vice Commandant Gordon Sheriff, Commandant Leanna Dietrich, Senior Vice Commandant Neil Corley, and Assistant Northeast District Vice Commandant Stan Solarczyk

ARRA Opportunities for Veteran Owned Businesses

The PA Department of General Services and PA Veterans Business Advocates Committee welcome you to join us and attend a free workshop for Veteran-Owned Businesses:

- Learn more about the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (ARRA)
- Know how to find ARRA opportunities through the Commonwealth and other organizations
- Explore government programs to help small businesses
- Attend panel discussions on small business resources

VETERANS ALERT Opportunities Now

www.dgs.state.pa.us

Go to "How do I" and click on Certify as a Veteran or Service Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise as Relating to Stimulus → ARRA (Stimulus Projects)

Also visit www.recovery.pa.gov for more information on ARRA in Pennsylvania



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES



Where & When

PHILADELPHIA

The Army Experience Center
1921 Franklin Mills Circle
Philadelphia, PA 19154
February 12, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
(Resource panel and open discussions, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

* HARRISBURG

The Forum Building
Auditorium
Commonwealth Avenue &
Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17125
February 19, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
(Resource panel and open discussions, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

PITTSBURGH

Robert Morris University
600 5th Avenue
6th Floor Lecture Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
February 25, 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM
(Resource panel and open discussions, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM)

ERIE

Gannon University
Waldron Campus Center
Yehl Ballroom
124 West 7th Street
Erie, PA 16501
February 26, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
(Resource panel and open discussions, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Registration & Information

Contact: Kathryn Waters-Perez, Cassandra Nevel

Phone: 717.783.3119

Email: gs-bmwbo@state.pa.us

Registration: www.dgs.state.pa.us (click on "Certify as a Veteran or Service Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise as Relating to Stimulus" and "Events & Workshops Calendar")

PA Department of General Services
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Harrisburg, PA 17125
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www.dgs.state.pa.us

*Note change of location

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DO YOU WANT A GREAT FUND RAISER FOR YOUR DETACHMENT?

The Marine Corps League of PA's Veteran and Youth Raffle is the Program wherein a Detachment can increase funds in their treasury by \$10,000 or more. It is a **Great Program**, not only to increase funds in your treasury, but also to increase your membership and become more visible in your community.

It is a simple program. You only need to find locations within your community where you can set up a table and show your colors and sell tickets to the general public. It is minimally personnel intensive. One member with a detachment cover can be a big difference.

If you really want to give something back to the community, then offer the patron a rose. Roses can be obtained from the National Ship's Store at a reasonable cost and be provided as an incentive to purchase a V & Y ticket at your table.... or offer six tickets for five dollars.

The Program is a major fundraiser for the Department as well. But, think about it, the detachment has no investment in the cost of the program. But, can earn up to fifty cents on the dollar in return by participating in the program.

All detachments should have V & Y tickets. However, the Department Jr. Vice Commandant has more tickets available for your program.

GOOD LUCK AND SELL, SELL, SELL!!!!

All Detachment Newsletter Editors should take note of Department of Pennsylvania M.C.L. By-Laws (Enclosure Two), which spell out the criteria for newsletter recognition at the state level.

Especially note that copies of Detachment Newsletters are to be sent to the Department Commandant, the Department Senior Vice Commandant, and the Department Public Affairs Officer.

Also send newsletters to the Keystone Leatherneck Editor via e-mail or snail mail.

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The **Keystone Leatherneck** is an official publication of the Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League. Newsletter articles, suggestions, and comments may be sent to :

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2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION



Located in Greensboro North Carolina this will be the first National Convention to be held in the State of North Carolina. This state houses the largest population of Marines and Marine Corps Veterans in the USA. The convention will be held at The Sheraton Greensboro Hotel / Koury Convention Center from Sunday, 8 August to Saturday, 14 August, 2010. The reservation block includes check-in on Friday, 6 August, for the "early birds". Be sure and mention "Marine Corps League 87th National Convention" when making your reservations at 1-800-242-6556. We believe you will find The Sheraton Greensboro Hotel / Koury Convention Center one of the finest facilities ever to host our national convention.

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