

To: Membership, Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc
From: Leanna L. Dietrich, Commandant
Subject: Spring Staff Meeting Report
Date: 19 March 2011

Congratulations!!!! Overall, the Toys for Tots programs and other holiday programs were a success. The winter is here but we still have a lot of work to do in our Communities.

As you all know Tom Corbett was elected Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We are all anxiously waiting to hear his announcement for the position of Adjutant General of Pennsylvania and the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs. We will post the news on the Department website as soon as it is available to us.

The Pennsylvania War Veterans Council set their legislative goals for 2011. We are asking all Veterans Service Organizations to help us educate our legislators on the need for this legislation when the bills are introduced.

- Act 66 – Full funding for maintaining current program and expand outreach
- DAV Transportation Network - Full funding to maintain current services (\$350,000)
- Small Games of Chance – Support a bill similar to former HB169 for “not for profit” organizations only
- Real Estate Tax Exemption – Change the existing legislation to calculate the income level on “household” income instead of only the “veteran” income and to include the spouses of DICs and KIAs
- To include Armed Forces distinction on Commonwealth issued photo identification on license, etc.

As you all know “Don’t Ask; Don’t Tell” has been repealed. The Marine Corps League’s official position is posted on the Department Website and is available at the staff meeting. Please remember that everyone is entitled to their personal opinions and they are “personal”. While we might not agree with what our legislators did in Washington, we must abide by the rules set in place. The Commandant of the Marine Corps has stated on various occasions that the Marine Corps will abide by the law.

The President of the United States has signed into law improvements to the Post 9-11 GI Bill. Among the provisions are:

- Paying for “on the job” training, some flight training, apprenticeship programs, correspondence courses
- Adjustment to housing allowances
- Stipends for books and supplies for active duty personnel
- Reimbursements for National admissions testing such as SAT, ACT, GMAC, LSAT

The Department attended the VA Healthcare VISN 4 Assistance Council meeting. One of the major topics was Suicide Prevention especially among Iraq/Afghanistan veterans. Risk factors are depression,

psychiatric disorders, history of attempted suicide, genetic link/family link, impulsivity (especially use of alcohol, drugs) and aging. Stressors are personal relationships in crisis, financial or job issues and family or health issues. Warning signs are increased risk factors or stressors, thinking or talking about harming or killing self, appearance of hopelessness and withdrawal, self-destructive behavior. If you know of anyone who needs assistance please encourage them to call 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

We did receive some good news from National Headquarters this week. The Department showed an increase in paid membership, 72 more paid members than last quarter. The MAL listing for Pennsylvania residents is down to 29 members. Great Work Marines! We can not rest on our laurels There are still many members who have NOT paid their dues. We MUST personally contact our member who have NOT renewed. We NEED your help.