

To: Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc Members
From: Leanna L Dietrich, Commandant
Subject: Second Quarter mailing
Date: 12 November 2010

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for their participation at the Fall Staff meeting. Both Commandants Council and the Staff Meeting were productive with a great exchange of information. I would also like to thank PNC Helen Hicks for attending our fall meeting.

At the fall staff meeting the Department officially launched its own Facebook page. In the age of “social networking”, Facebook is a popular communication tool with the younger generation of Marines. If you are on Facebook you can search for Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc and become a fan. We are planning to use this page to help launch updates and timely information to our membership. This page will be directing “fans” to our Department website for more detailed information. The Public Relations team is still working on a few aspects of the page. If any detachment is interested in this tool to reach your membership and new members please visit the page and send a message to the administrators and they will guide you through the process. The Public Relations team is also working on the Department all hands newsletter.

Over the summer we were trying to keep you posted on the Commonwealth budget. As you know it has been adopted, but to our dismay the Veterans of Pennsylvania lost over \$15.5 million in Commonwealth funding. The GVOAC offices will cease operations on 31 December 2009. This will increase the burden on County Directors of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Service Officers to provide the outreach services provided by the GVOAC offices. After 114 years of serving the children of the Commonwealth veterans Scotland School for Veterans Children has closed, at least for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

The 2009 Veterans Day Program at Indiantown Gap National Ceremony was outstanding. It was a beautiful fall day and the guest speaker Judge Michael B Mukasey was motivating. I would like to thank the members of the Marine Corps League for coming out to support this event. Especially those detachments who participated in the Massing of the Colors: First Capital Detachment, Bob Smith Detachment, Russel M Butterweck Detachment and Lewis B Puller Detachment. Our Central District Vice Commandant Gary German served as Sgt-at-Arms for the Massing of the Colors. Great job Marines!

The Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day are now behind us; so it is time for us to focus on our Holiday programs. The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is one of the best known

programs for providing holiday cheer to children and their families. We must be mindful of our responsibilities as Marines to work within the proper guidelines of the program. Only those Detachments who have properly registered as an LCO with Toys for Tots or those Detachments working with Marine Corps Reserve Centers may use the name and logo of Toys for Tots. There are many rogue organizations in the Commonwealth who are feeding off the fine reputation of the program and are running similar programs under this name. If you know of such an organization please contact our Department Coordinator James Washington via email at jimwashingtonjr@comcast.net with their information. He will then pass this up the chain to be handled by the Toys for Tots Foundation.

Included in this mailing is the information concerning all Department and National meetings through June 2010. The next mailing will contain all the forms for the Department Convention in June. The information and forms will be posted on the Department website as they are approved. The National Sr. Vice Commandant Voltaggio has confirmed his attendance at our convention and he is looking forward to a lot of fun and camaraderie. Your convention committee has been working diligently addressing some of the concerns from the last convention. Included in this mailing is information concerning the National Northeast Division Conference in March. The conference will be in Scranton and the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania will be hosting the conference. We are asking for your support the conference as the proceeds for the conference will be split between Marine Corps League Scholarship Program, Marine Corps Youth Physical Fitness Program and Marines Helping Marines. The 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps General Al Gray has been invited to attend the conference.

Reminder to all elected and appointed staff: if you want your reports copied for the Winter Staff meeting please forward them to Adjutant or me by 9 December. Any report received by this deadline will be copied for you and brought to the meeting.

I would like to wish all the members of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania and their families a safe and happy holiday season.

As always I look forward to serving the membership and hope to see you all at the Winter Staff meeting at the Holiday Inn in Grantville.

Semper Fidelis and Happy Holidays!