

WMA Liaison Report
June 12, 2008
PDD Katherine Van Gorder
<http://wmapa2.org>

Activities and accomplishments during the fourth quarter of 2007-8 include:

Apr: The trip to Quantico, the Marine Corps Museum and Bethesda Naval Hospital was a huge success, but mostly for the MCL. The Pron-Seton Detachment was to join us in our planned event and ended up being the predominant presence, with only two of our WMA members able to attend. Check our web site for photos of the trip. (<http://wmapa2.org>)

Attended the National VAVS Advisory Committee meeting in Orlando and discovered many ways to fulfill our commitment to helping veterans other than hosting a bingo or an outing. They also stressed the importance of registering every bit of volunteer activity with the VA Facility and becoming certified by that facility to assume even more volunteer activities. The VA values each hour of volunteer service at \$18.75, which add up to a considerable sum nationally, and helps support their annual budgets as “matching funds”. Pat Cody and Kay Croll have been a big help in implementing the WMA record keeping and reporting process.

May: Members of all three PA Chapters participated in Memorial Day events and activities in communities including Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, Bethlehem, Lansdale, Reading, Pottstown, Lancaster, Gettysburg, and others in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia Counties.

There were two “A Hero’s Welcome” events supported by PA-2 members to welcome two Marine veterans home on leave from deployments in Iraq; one in April in Pottsgrove, and one in Collegeville in May. These events are sponsored and presented by the *A Hero’s Welcome* organization mentioned in previous Liaison Reports. This organization, founded by the Granddaughter of the late George Hyland, Life Member of the MCL and Past Commandant of the Valley Forge Detachment, is going to be ever more in need of our support in the MCL, since Sharon Hyland Keyser, Founder, returned to OCS on May 30 to complete her officer’s training previously interrupted by injury. We are looking forward to attending her graduation in August.

WMA also supported the MCJROTC Awards ceremonies in all Pennsylvania schools with certificates, presenters and some with cash awards.

With planned strategies already in motion, an effort to host a recruiting event in the Tioga County area was observed with zero success. Had the local newspapers not already run articles announcing the plan, it would have been called off for lack of support from the MCL and no responses to date from other Women Marines who might be in the area. We plan to try again at a future date, hopefully with full cooperation of the Marine Corps League to bring in a new Detachment, or build up membership in an existing Detachment.

June: Efforts to revive PA-1 have been gaining momentum having had two meetings to date for strategizing and reorganization. They are looking for members to come forward for nominations to hold leadership positions at the next meeting on Sunday, July 13, when there will be elections and installations. A commitment to support the VAVS program at the Lebanon VA Hospital has been initiated with plans for an afternoon Bingo on Sunday, June 15. If you know of Women Marines in the Gettysburg-Harrisburg-Lancaster part of the state, the Susquehanna Valley Chapter invites them to join with them to further the joint goals of the Marine Corps League and the Women Marines Association.

PA-2 also supported the WWII Air Show at the Reading WWII Airport Museum, sharing a table with the R M Butterweck Detachment, and continues to support the Spring City VAVS with the Friend of a Veteran program.

The Fewer, The Prouder, The Women Marines.
Respectfully Submitted,
PDD *Kathy Van Gorder*