

## SOUTHEAST DISTRICT QUARTERLY REPORT

To: Department Commandant Leanna Dietrich

From: Southeast District Vice Bill Miller

Copy: Department Adjutant Eric Fussenegger

The period began for me as well as many others on a sad note with the passing of my friend and district assistant Charles "Chuck" Hollon, Jr. Chuck was a dedicated servant to the Marine Corps League as well as the Southeast District and a key player in my operation of the district. I have yet to name a replacement. Chuck also served as a member on the POW/MIA COMMITTEE and spent several years as it's Chairman. I was asked by Commandant Dietrich to find a replacement for Chuck on that committee. I set my sights and zeroed in on a combat veteran of Vietnam from the Southwest District and Conemaugh Valley Detachment, Marine Edward Forster. After seeking permission from the Southwest District Vice to invade his territory, I contacted Marine Forster, offered him the position and he accepted and was unanimously approved by the Board.

I traveled to Pittsburgh to attend the department convention of the American Legion as a delegate from the 9<sup>th</sup> District. It was an outstanding convention, well attended and dedicated to serving the needs of veterans and the survival of the Scotland school. The Southwest District Vice, Jim Walters, was an invited guest representing Commandant Dietrich and addressed the delegation. Jim really had the audience fired up especially the Marines who were in attendance. He did an excellent job of representing the Commandant and the Marine Corps League.

While in Western Pa., I was invited to attend the annual picnic of the Washington County Detachment held at the American Legion Post in Houston, Pa. This is the home detachment of Department of Pa. Judge Advocate Ed Ringer. Since I grew up in that part of the state, it was a homecoming event for me as I got to spend time with family and friends.

In August I attended the 86<sup>th</sup> National Convention and Supreme Growl in Rochester, MN as a delegate from the Central Bucks Detachment as well as an officer of the Department of Pennsylvania. I'm pleased to announce that during this time, my assistant and MODD Pack of Pa. Dog Robber, PDD Jim Powell was appointed to the position of Northeast Division Vice Chief Devil Dog succeeding Bobbie Ann Swain. I know he'll do an excellent job and I wish him well and support him in his efforts.

After returning from the National Convention, my first order of business was to inform all the detachments in my district by mail of the new uniform regulation banning the Khaki colored shirt from any and all occasions. Wow, what an uproar this has

caused throughout the Marine Corps League Community. I've tried to calm down the dissenters by explaining that it's Marine Corps uniform issue and not Marine Corps League's. Also if we don't comply we run the risk of losing the blue trousers and possibly the MC Emblem. Also to refer to Enclosure Three of the National Bylaws.

Lastly, the summer ended with attending my USMC Food Service Association reunion held at MB Quantico. Activities included a formal dinner held at the Marine Museum. What a great venue this is for an affair of this type. The Guest Speaker for the evening was Marine Veteran Staff Sergeant Joseph Lane. I mention this because Marine Lane is a long time member of the Marine Corps League and presently the Commandant of the Lexington Kentucky Marine Corps League, Dan Daly Detachment. Marine Lang saw action in the South Pacific during WWII on Guadalcanal, Siapan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. Joe is well aware of our Department of Pennsylvania and the R.M. Butterwick Detachment in Reading. I was told by Joe that he knew R.M. Butterwick personally and was with him when he was KIA on Iwo Jima at 0140. It was indeed an honor to have met and spoken to this American Hero.

I'm looking forward to our last Department Meeting of the year and the tribute to PDC Dick Brown. I truly enjoyed my years of working with Dick and wish him all the best in his new endeavor as the Northeast Division Vice Commandant.

Things have quieted down considerably since the Department Convention in June during the summer months. Many detachments don't have meetings and resume in September. I will be gearing up for detachment visits as I still have some awards to present. Also the detachments will be electing officers soon and I will be juggling people around to accommodate officer installations throughout the twenty detachments in the Southeast District. I'm fortunate enough to be surrounded with a great group of Assistants and Aide's and other Department Officers that will help out when things really heat up.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Miller  
Southeast District Vice