



# The Virginia Marine

The Department of Virginia

Marine Corps League Newsletter

www.virginiamarines.org

Fall 2010



## Department Officers

Commandant

**BRUCE STEELEY**

Sr. Vice Commandant

**JIM JONAS**

Jr. Vice Commandant

**LEE TAYLOR**

Judge Advocate & Historian

**RUDY GARCIA**

Adjutant

**ROY SMITH**

Paymaster

**RON MACE**

Sgt-at-Arms

**HANK ZARTMAN**

Chaplain

**JOHN BAILEY**

Junior Past Commandant

**MIKE H'EBERT**

Web Sergeant

**RUSSELL WYATT**

Legislative Officer

**JOHN BONNELL**



## Commandants Message

Greetings Marines

I used to be surprised when on a recruiting drive to hear many prospects state that they had never heard of the Marine Corps League. Then I realized for many years that I too was unaware of its existence. It took a Brother Marine to reach out to me and convince me to join the League. That was several years ago and it certainly turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made. As I travel around the state and attend your detachment meetings I am amazed at how dedicated the majority of our members are to the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League. Again I challenge each and every one of you to reach out to Marine you know and encourage them to join the finest veterans service organization in the world.

Another question I'm often asked when recruiting is "what kind of things does your detachment do?" Fortunately my home detachment is very active in our community and I can easily answer that question. How would you reply to that question? Are you active in your detachment or do you just pay your dues and never show up at meetings or functions? I know some members aren't able to attend because of health issues, etc., but many Marines show up, get sworn in and we never see them again. Does that happen in your detachment? Do you make them feel welcome? Do you act in a professional manner? Do you encourage them to get active? Do you have a mentoring program to help your new Marines get acclimated to your detachment? If the answer is yes then you are 100% on board. If you answered no to any of those questions then perhaps it's a problem that we need to address. Once we get a new member in the detachment it is paramount that we retain this Marine and keep them active. Remember Marines always rise up to any challenge. "Improvise, Adapt and Overcome!"

On a more positive note I want all of you to know how proud I am of all the things you continue to do in your respective communities. In this newsletter alone we have our Marines in Chesapeake conducting a Marine Day Celebration and our Richmond Marines holding fundraisers to fly the flags at the Virginia War Memorial. Many others go unreported, such as Mickey Finn giving financial support to an injured Marine down on his luck. We're doing a lot of positive activities out there. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication to the League. See you in Staunton.



## ***From The Senior Vice Commandant***

The 64th Convention of the Department has come and gone and our 2011 Convention will be a milestone of sorts – The 65th Convention of the Department of Virginia. There's months to think about it and then to execute. I'm hoping the hosting detachment will start early, plan it well, promote it, and make it the best Convention in the Department's history.

On another note I would like to thank our detachments for electing me as this term's Senior vice Commandant. Having served as the Department Adjutant for last 5 years, the Senior Vice post will be a change for me but I am looking forward to it with keen anticipation as we head toward the Department's 65th Anniversary. I am confident our newly elected Adjutant, Roy Smith will serve the Department well.

I would also like to add my thanks and appreciation for being recognized as the 2010-11 Department Marine of the Year. As the Department MOY, I automatically became the Chairman of the Department Marine of the Year Society. As such, I want to encourage all detachments to start thinking about your submissions for this award for next year. In future newsletters I will cover the details of properly submitting candidates for the Department MOY.

As we move through this term I will be using The Virginia Marine Newsletter, emails, letters and occasionally phone calls, to communicate with our detachments. I'll also be making visits, as time and coordination will allow, with as many of our detachments as reasonably possible to give assistance our newly elected Department Commandant, Bruce Steely.

Our next Department gathering will be the Fall Staff Meeting, which will be hosted by the Stonewall Detachment. Make plans to attend. I will encourage the host detachment to get the details out as early as practicable so everyone can budget their time and finances to be able to attend. Let's see a substantial increase in attendance at the Fall Staff Meeting.

Keep your detachments active, work hard on recruiting and retention, and never lose sight of our mission.

Jim Jonas

Senior Vice Commandant,





### ***From The Judge Advocate***

The 87th Marine Corps League National Convention is history. For those of you who did not attend or weren't able to attend, it was a good convention and a fun time was had by all. The Department of North Carolina did an excellent job of hosting the convention. The 88th National Convention will be in Boise, Idaho on July 29 – August 6, 2011.

Forty-one (41) proposed changes to the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures were brought up before the assembled body for approval. Nineteen (19) of the proposed changes were approved and accepted; twenty-two (22) were rejected. The issue of the khaki shirts was closed out. Khaki shirts as part of the Marine Corps League uniform are not authorized to be worn by the members at any time. A proposal to raise membership dues by two dollars was also rejected.

The word is out from our new National Commandant Vic Voltaggio. The two critical items on the agenda at present are the Delinquent Members List and the Uniform Code. The Uniform Code should not even be an issue because we do have a uniform code. There are some, who are violating the bylaws by wearing non-regulation uniforms and, by doing so, have caused a division within the ranks. The members who abide by the Uniform Code want to know why those who violate the Code are still doing it. This subject has been brought to the attention of the membership by the Past National Commandant, the Executive Director and members of the Board of Trustees, but has fallen on deaf ears. Violations will no longer be tolerated. We have a Uniform Code, and it will be enforced.

The Detachment Commandants are hereby given notice that sanctions will follow any violations that are reported. The sanctions could be a suspension of the charter, charges against the perpetrators or a wide variety of other scenarios that are in play. Let there be no mistake: The Uniform Code will be enforced.

All Detachment Officers should read, understand and be very familiar with the By-Laws and Administrative Procedures. Understand the chain of command and know you are in it, and follow the chain of command. Keep everyone in the chain informed and **communicate with each other. As officers, you are held to a higher standard and it's every officer's responsibility to enforce the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures and to take corrective action when required.**

Semper Fidelis

Rudy Garcia



## **Legislative Officer's Report**

Marines

I hope you have been receiving the E-mail information I send to your Detachment Commandant or Legislative Officer regarding Veteran Affairs. These announcements are released periodically by the Virginia Department of Veteran Affairs and are meant to help communication with veterans. One of our national problems is communication with the veterans who may not read a newspaper, be around other forms of information, or just don't get the word.. My effort is to provide information to help you communicate with these veterans you may know or be acquainted with.

Along these lines, I appeal again to Detachment Commandants to appoint a Legislative Officer that I can communicate with directly. For the few detachments that have not yet provided a name, please send me his name and e-mail address. Thanks for your help. I hope to talk to representatives of all our detachments at Staunton in October.

Semper Fi.

John Bonnell

mcljbon@cox.net



## **MCL Calendar**

### **Fall Staff Meeting– October 8-9, 2110.**

Hosted by the Stonewall Detachment. Meetings at the Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center in Staunton, VA. Located at 152 Fairway Lane, I-81, Exit 225. (1-877-859-5095.)

There will be a social held Friday October 8, beginning at 6pm. We will be having an auction with some very unique items offered, and the Department of Virginia Ladies Auxiliary will be having a 50/50 drawing.

On Saturday October 9, the Staff Meeting and the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting will be held beginning at 9 am. Following the Staff Meeting, the Devil Dogs Growl will be held.



**ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2010.**

## Report Of The MCL Auxiliary



**Members of the MCL Auxiliary are presented with a new seal  
at the Mideast Division Conference**

Hello, Ladies -

After a sizzling summer, we can look forward to a little crisp in the air for fall; just don't think about what follows fall!

The convention has come and gone. Our next stop is Boise, Idaho for 2011, then on to Mobile, Alabama for 2012. If you were fortunate enough to attend this year, please share your info with your fellow members. We have a new National President. She is Alice Blackford of Tennessee.

Our department secretary, Shirley Keyes, is still in sidelined in Australia with a badly broken ankle. Hopefully, we will have her back soon. In her absence, our department treasurer, Betty Mace, has volunteered to fill in. Kudos to Betty!

Our next department meeting will be at the Stonewall Detachment in Staunton on October 8-9. It would be great to see some new faces there. If information is needed, contact me at haa9@aol.com.

I was able to attend the convention this year, and came away as Mideast Vice President. Cindy Marshall graciously agreed to be my assistant. The Vice President position has been vacant for 2 years. My goal is a simple one, to keep communications open between the Mideast departments and our new national president.

Soon, we will be ushering in the holidays once again. Please keep me informed of special efforts your units make for veterans or the community.

Please forward to me information such as your current roster and list of officers, especially Unit President.

As always, keep in mind those who remain away at war.

Semper Fi,

Andrea Watson, President

## ***The History Of The Department of Virginia Detachments***

*submitted by John Bonnell*

*Many thanks to our Legislative Officer John Bonnell and Marine Wayne Serapata for providing the following history of our Department. The information presented is from many different sources and is not intended to be 100% accurate. Many of the detachments have come and gone, some merged, some have changed their name, and thankfully many are still with us. I hope you enjoy reading and learning about our past as much as I did.*

*Bruce Steeley, Editor*

The following is a listing of the various detachments that have come and gone in the Department, and in many cases are still active as of September 2010. In the following listing, I assigned (a guess) the Pvt. Burrell D. Hodges in Norfolk as the first organized unit, since Marine Robert Singer of that detachment, was the first elected Department Commandant, 10 January 1947. Detachments did not have unit numbers until the 1980's. (\*\* denotes detachment no longer in existence.)

### **Richmond, 10 January 1947.**

An organizational meeting to form the Department of Virginia was held in the Jefferson Hotel. Robert Singer, Burrell D Hodges Detachment, was voted the 1<sup>st</sup> Commandant of Virginia. Called for August Convention.

### ***Pvt. Burrell D. Hodges Detachment, Norfolk. \*\****

Chartered prior to January 1945?

### ***Herbert G. Smith Detachment, Newport News. \*\****

Chartered prior January 1945? In July 1948 was listed as the second largest detachment with 203 members. 1979, 85 members; 1980, 20 members. Merged with John A. Lejeune Detachment, 1982.

### ***John A. Lejeune Detachment (JAL), Portsmouth. \*\****

Chartered prior to 1945? Probably one of three original detachments to form the Department. Hosted the first Department Convention and Election of Officers at the Hotel Portsmouth on 29 August 1947. They had 180 members 1951. The Ladies Auxiliary folded in 1952. Had 11 members in 1980. Some members helped form the new Virginia Beach Detachment in 1976. Merged with H.G. Smith Detachment, in 1982.

***Tull-Deeton Detachment, Alexandria. \*\****

Chartered prior to June 1947. Probably one of the five founding units of the Department. Hosted first Department Staff Meeting, 30 October 1948, in Alexandria. Formed Ladies Auxiliary, 16 March 1949. Detachment in trouble, no meetings, no election, no permanent meeting place, commandant traveling. Given 30 days to hold elections. Unit was disestablished September 1990.

***Arlington County Detachment, Arlington. \*\****

Chartered, 5 June 1947, with 15 members. Probably one of the five founding units of the Department. Arlington County Detachment name selected because, after a study, no Marine native of Arlington County was prominent in Marine Corps History. During 1948, 1949, and later, membership and low attendance was a recurring theme. To improve attendance the second meeting was a social event, and meeting time was changed to 2030. 1949 Concerns that officers were not attending meetings and low membership turn-out. In 1950 meeting attendance and membership was low, aggravated by Korean war call-ups. The idea was considered, and dropped, to merge with **Tull-Deeton Detachment**. Arlington Detachment merged with **Tull-Deeton**, July 1959, but in May 1965 again became independent. Disestablished - ?

***Roanoke Detachment, Roanoke. \*\****

Active about 1947. Unit mentioned as in trouble, March 1952. Probable cause was reserve call-up for Korea. Disestablished ?

***Halsey-Kool Detachment, M. B. Quantico. \*\****

March 1952. Not Chartered. For some reason a coordination problem occurred with HQ Marine Corps League and the Detachment was never formed or chartered.

***Doggett-Cloe Detachment. \*\****

Location not known. Listed in the delegate for 1964 Department Convention with 16 members. Four members, 1965. Disestablished ?

***James M. Slay Detachment, Richmond. (Active)***

Chartered, 17 April 1964. Chartered with 23 members; 41 members, July 1968. Slay has continuous operation from 1964 and is the senior detachment in the Department. Marine James T. Baylor, a charter member of the unit, was Department Commandant, 1964-1965.

**Blue Ridge Detachment, Lynchburg. \*\***

Chartered, 1968. Disestablished, 1972.

**Woodbridge Detachment, Woodbridge. (Active)** Chartered, 23 January 1968. Had 124 members, July 1968. Met at a restaurant. Sold beer in the parking lot after meetings to help raise funds. Moved to detachment quarters at Triangle, 26 October 1975. Name changed to **Mickey Finn, #333** in 1983 when Finn died.

**Rappahannock Detachment, Fredericksburg. \*\***

Chartered, 6 March 1969. Disestablished 1979.

**Stonewall Detachment, #330, Staunton. (Active)** Chartered, 1970.

**Central Virginia Detachment, Charlottesville. \*\***

Chartered, 1975., 21 members, May 1980. Disestablished 1987.

**Roanoke Valley, #426, Detachment, Roanoke. (Active)**

Chartered, 12 May 1978.

**Old Dominion Detachment, #505, Falls Church. \*\***

Chartered, 21 April 1982. Charter Revoked, 1 Dec. 1994.

**John A. Lejeune/Herbert G. Smith Detachment, Portsmouth. \*\*** Smith merged with JAL. March 1990, detachment was not active and given 30 days to reorganize. Unit was disestablished September 1990.

**Ary Shire Detachment, Vienna. \*\*** Chartered, 9 February 1985. Disestablished, 1990

**RAM (Richmond Area Marines) Detachment, Richmond. \*\*** Split from Slay Detachment and met in Virginia War Memorial building and worked with veterans at VA Medical Center. Was active about three years. Unit disestablished, September 1990.

**Lynchburg Area Detachment, #759, Lynchburg, (Active)** Chartered, 16 April 1991.

**Bedford Detachment, #843, Bedford. (Active)** Chartered, 10 March 1993.

**Virginia Beach/John A. Lejeune Detachment #332, Virginia Beach. (Active)** Re-Chartered, and re-named, 27 October 1993. John A. Lejeune name was not in use after 1990 and was added to the Virginia Beach name.

**Chesapeake Detachment, #853, Chesapeake. (Active)**

Chartered, 18 July 1993. )

**LtGen Lewis B. Puller Detachment, #890, Winchester. (Active)**

Chartered, 18 July 1994.

**Edward W. Richardson Detachment, #908, Martinsville.**

**(Active)** Chartered, 31 March 1995.

**Long Trang / Carlos Hathcock Detachment, #944,**

**Franklin. (Active)** Chartered, 5 June 1995.

**Southwest Virginia Detachment, #980, Richlands. (Active)**

Chartered, 26 June 1997.

**Roaring Thunder Detachment, #1003, Norfolk. \*\*** Chartered, 8 November

1998. Had many associate members, few Marine members. Disestablished, 15 May 2005.

**SgtMaj James F. Moore Detachment #1062, Callao. (Active)**

Chartered, April 2000.

**John A. Lejeune Detachment, #332, Virginia Beach. (Active)**

Re-chartered for name change, 26 March 2001. Dropped Virginia Beach from name.

**Lake Country Detachment, #1058, South Hill.**

**(Active)** Chartered, 1 June 2001.

**Yorktown Detachment, #1173, Yorktown. (Active)**

Chartered, 12 July 2004.

**New River Valley Detachment, #1190, Radford.**

**(Active)** Chartered, 15 April 2005.

**Loudoun County Detachment, #1205, Purcellville.**

**(Active)** Chartered, 4 June 2005.

**Bradley T. Arms Detachment, # 1256, Charlottesville,**

**(Active)** Chartered, 28 February, 2007

**Middle Peninsula Detachment # 1137, Gloucester,**

**(Active)** Chartered , 24 October 2008

**Rockbridge Patriots Detachment, Lexington, (Active)**

Chartered, May 2010

## Marine Corps League comes through



DEAN HOFFMEYER/TIMES-DISPATCH

Because of state budget cuts, the flags weren't flying 24 hours a day, seven days a week over the Virginia War Memorial on Belvidere Street. A fundraising effort by the Marine Corps League raised money for a year's worth of flags.

# Flags are flying again over Virginia War Memorial

**W**hen you visit the Virginia War Memorial, you can count on being moved by the thousands of names etched on the glass and marble walls.

You also can count on seeing flags representing the various branches of the military flying conspicuously — 24 hours a day, seven days a week — outside the memorial on Belvidere Street just before the Lee Bridge.

Unless, of course, they're not. Local members of the Marine Corps League were taken aback when they drove by the memorial recently and noticed empty flagpoles. They checked with Jon C. Hatfield, executive director of the memorial, and discovered the reason: state budget cuts.

"It's not much of a war memo-

rial if you don't have flags," said Russell W. Wyatt Sr., commandant of the Marine Corps League, James M. Slay Detachment.

So, the group did something about it.

Members held a fundraiser over the summer that featured the Marine Corps Band, and the other day they presented Hatfield with a year's worth of flags: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine flags, as well as special POW-MIA and war memorial flags.

That's a significant contribution. A set of large flags costs about \$2,000, Hatfield said, and the memorial goes through about four sets in a year.

The flags are rotated every month and those that have been flying are taken down, washed and mended from flapping in the wind 24/7. They last for about three month-long stints before

they become too faded and frayed to continue flying.

"These 11,000 names surrounding us here," Hatfield said, motioning to the list of fallen Virginians memorialized at the shrine, "deserve the best."

Until the Marine Corps League came through, the best the memorial could do in recent times was to take the flags down periodically to try to make them last longer. The state-owned memorial has seen its budget reduced by almost 30 percent over the past few years, Hatfield said. The flags got caught in the budget squeeze.

The new flags look good, flying again at the south end of the memorial. The American and Virginia flags fly at the opposite end. It's hard to imagine them not waving in the breeze over this patch of hallowed ground.

"That's what we thought," Clyde Childress, judge advocate for the local detachment of the

Marine Corps League, which is made up of Marines, Marine Corps veterans and Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen who served honorably in the corps. "We're hoping other service organizations will pitch in and provide flags to the war memorial in the future."

At the brief ceremony where they delivered the flags, members of the Marines Corps League also brought along a \$5,000 check for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, which coordinates support services for veterans with stress-related and traumatic brain injuries from service in combat.

The Marines' support of the war memorial and the Wounded Warrior Program is a case, Hatfield said, of "veterans taking care of their own."

• Contact Bill Lohmann at (804) 649-6639 or [wlohmann@timesdispatch.com](mailto:wlohmann@timesdispatch.com). Follow him at <http://twitter.com/wlohmann>.



**BILL LOHMANN**

## Chesapeake Detachment Celebrates Marine Day



Marine Day was celebrated by Chesapeake Detachment #853. Above is a group photo of the Chesapeake Marines, our active duty Marines, local law enforcement, and many other local dignitaries. Well done Chesapeake!



The Color Guard from MARFORCOM presents the Colors during the opening ceremony.

Chesapeake Commandant Bob Fountain receives a Marine Day Proclamation from Chesapeake Mayor Alan Krasnoff and Sheriff John Newhart.



**Roanoke Valley Detachment #426 Installs New Officers**



**Roanoke Valley Detachment Officers for 2010 –2011**

Commandant– Mike Shepherd  
Sr. Vice—Gene Nervo  
Jr. Vice– Erik Kritter  
Paymaster—Jerry DeGraff  
Adjutant– Doug Phillips



Chaplain– Tom Fuqua  
Sgt at Arms– Rock Wright  
Judge Adv. – Charles Allen  
Jr. Past Com. Doug Phillips



**Junior Past Commandant Doug Phillips hands over the reins to newly installed Commandant Mike Shepherd**



**Department Commandant Bruce Steeley presents the gavel to incoming Commandant Mike Shepherd**



**Yorktown Detachment #1173 Officers For 2010-2011**



**Mideast Division Vice Commandant Rudy Garcia addresses the crowd at the Yorktown Detachment Installation Ceremony.**



**Junior Past Commandant Hank Zartman and new Commandant Al Edwards standing tall at Change of Command Ceremony.**

**DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**



(L-R) Department of Virginia Officers Hank Zartman, Bruce Steeley, Rudy Garcia, Mike He'bert and Jim Jonas with General AI Gray the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

General Gray was the guest speaker at the Mideast Division Conference Banquet.



General Gray thanks Hank Zartman after being presented with a Yorktown Detachment challenge coin.



The Young Marines present the Colors at the opening of the Mideast Conference