

The Bonnyman Gazette

Monthly Detachment Newsletter

www.mclknnox.org

February 2009

Commandant's Corner



-by Jeff Tegzes

Greetings, Marines!

Thanks again for allowing me to serve another year as your Commandant. I know that I speak for all of the officers elected when I tell you how honored and humbled we all are to serve and how much we appreciate your help.

With hardly a pause, we have hit the ground at double-time this year. Our 2009 Marine Mud Run is on track to begin registrations by 1 March - keep an eye on our website for more information. It is not too early to begin lining up sponsors if we are going to match last year's success. We are aiming for 1,400 registered runners this year - all registered on-line.

Young Marines are looking at
(Continued on page 3)

Bonnyman Gazette items are due to Editor Virgil Young (call 675-4004 or e-mail to vlyoung@chartern.net) by the 15th of each month.

SE Division Convention in Gatlinburg 5-7 March

Sevier County Detachment #1206 is hosting the 63rd SE Division Convention at the River Terrace Resort and Conference Center in Gatlinburg from 5-7 March 2009. We understand that the Marine Corps League National Executive Director and other national dignitaries are scheduled to attend. There will also be a well-stocked "Ships Store" available so if you need to re-stock your supply of Marine gear, don't miss it. A hospitality room will be available with your favorite beverages and snacks, as well. For you Devil Dogs, the Devil Dog Growl will take place on Friday afternoon - you need to be there no later than 1600. If you are up for promotion within the Devil Dogs, you need to attend this session.

The registration deadline is already past but if you can drive up for some of the activities, you'll certainly be welcome, as long as you are registered. Registrations are being handled by Steve Ellis Tours in Pigeon Forge. In addition to lodging arrangements, the tour company can provide discount prices on many of the popular entertainment venues in the area.

The SE Division business meetings will take place on Saturday, 3/7/09, and the final banquet is that evening. The registration/banquet package is only \$50.00 if you just want to go up for the day. Call Steve Ellis Tours at (800) 953-7469 if you've not already made your plans to attend.

As the largest Detachment in the state, we need to have a good turnout at the convention to show our support for the Sevier County Detachment - remember, we'll need their support for the Department Convention we're hosting in June.

Detachment/Auxiliary Meeting on 2/24/09

The next monthly meeting will be at the Navy Operational Support Center/Marine Corps Reserve Center, 2101 Alcoa Hwy., on Tuesday, 2/24/09, beginning with a social hour at 1730.

The business meeting will start at

1830, when we'll discuss the SE Division Conference, the upcoming Easter weekend Safety Break, the Rifle Shoot in May, the Department Convention in June and other activities. Don't miss it.

Odds & Ends

2009 Department Convention -

Our Detachment is hosting the 2009 Department Convention from 19-20 June at the Holiday Inn Select off the Cedar Bluff Exit of I-40. Registration information has been sent to all the other detachments in the state but a lot of work remains to be done in the six months before the convention. Contact one of the officers to see how you can help.

Rifle Match Scheduled for 30

May - The 2009 MSgt. William H. "Bill" Gerst Memorial Rifle Match will be held at the Volun-

ter Range in North Knoxville on Sat., 30 May. Again this year, we'll be shooting on the 300-yard bullseye target from the 200 yard line. The costs will be the same as last year; there is no cost if you just want to come out to watch (or perhaps cheer on the participants?) More information will be provided in the future about authorized rifles, availability of M-1 rifles and ammunition from the gun club, start times, etc. Questions about what rifles will be allowed, and who will be able to shoot for the tournament trophy, are still being discussed. If you have questions about the shoot, contact Marine Doug Cal-

vert at 482-3736.

Date Set for 2009 Marine Mud

Run - Saturday, 19 Sept., is the date of the 2009 Mud Run so mark it on your calendars. We've decided to have it at the same location as in the past and have already met to discuss how to solve the parking and race bottleneck issues that cropped up last year. We believe we'll be able to eliminate those problems this year. We've set a target of 1,400 runners this year, 200 more than last year, and will require that they register on-line - that will simplify our paperwork and save a lot of time, as well.

2009-2010 Detachment Officers

(with contact phone #)

Commandant

Jeff Tegzes (865-988-6247)

Junior Past Commandant

David Hatfield (865-577-7303)

Senior Vice Commandant

Lee Rhinemiller (865-458-2550)

Junior Vice Commandant

Lloyd Morris (865-717-9250)

Adjutant

Virgil Young (865-675-4004)

Paymaster

Laimon Godel (865-690-1272)

Chaplain

Leroy Brown (865-806-2837)

Judge Advocate

Bud Fitzgerald (865-966-5879)

Sergeant-at-Arms

Vacant

Detachment Officers Installed at January 2009 Meeting

The slate of officers nominated by Junior Past Commandant David Hatfield at the January 2009 monthly meeting was elected without opposition. Elected to serve for the upcoming year were the following: Commandant - Jeff Tegzes; Senior Vice Commandant - Lee Rhinemiller; Junior Vice Commandant - Lloyd Morris; Judge Advocate - Bud Fitzgerald; and, Paymaster - Laimon Godel. All of the officers were sworn in by Department Commandant David Cates shortly after the election. The "Election of Officers" form has also been forwarded to na-

tional MCL headquarters so their records are up-to-date.

With the exception of one position, all of the appointed positions are filled by the incumbents: Adjutant - Virgil Young; and Chaplain - Leroy Brown. The only open appointed position is that of the Sergeant-at-Arms. Marine Josh Burnett, who held that position last year, has taken a job which will make it very difficult for him to make it to the meetings. If you are interested in filling this vacant position, contact Commandant Tegzes to voice your interest.

Young Marine Report - by Unit Commander Virgil Young

Over the last month, we've basically been focusing on preparations for this year's recruit class. Our NCO leadership meeting went very well and we were able to select a very good group of 12 YM NCOs to serve as our Young Marine Instructors for the Recruit Class. They will be under the able leadership of YM MSgt. Benjamin Brott, who was selected as the Senior YM Instructor. We also made a change in our Unit First Sgt. billet - YM GySgt Patrick Lawson was placed into the billet effective 1 February after YM GySgt Nick

Hedge, who will be graduating high school this May, served extremely well in the billet for the last year.

Thanks to a lot of good "word-of-mouth" advertising from our Young Marines and their parents, as well as some exposure through the Phil Williams talk radio show on WNOX, we've had a tremendous response regarding recruits for the 2009 Recruit Class. We signed up 51 recruits after our parent orientation meeting on 14 Feb. and others after another, smaller orientation meeting on

19 Feb. I anticipate that we will have about 70 recruits this year so we'll have a very busy spring! The 2009 Recruit Class will have its first Training Day on 7 March and will have its graduation on 2 May.

Planning continues for our visit to MCRD, Parris Island, SC, in early June and for the Regimental Encampment/Drill Competition we will host in mid-Sept. We will also be sending 7 YM to national leadership schools at Camp Pendleton as well as to several other up-coming leadership schools.

Commandant's Corner (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

a big recruiting year judging from the turnout at the parent orientation briefs last week. I hope that you got to hear Virgil Young give us great visibility on "the Phil Show" last week talking up the Young Marines and the Marine Corps League.

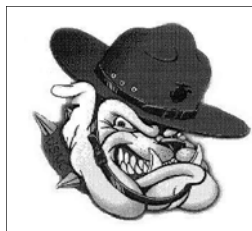
Our big building project at the Veteran's Nursing Home will begin to pick up speed when we get approval from the state for our pavilion design.

At the last meeting we started a signup for work areas to plan for our convention in June and there are still areas that need your help.

Fortunately we have what should be a fun event coming up soon at

the Southeast Division Conference in Gatlinburg. I hope to see as many of you Leaguers, Auxiliaries, and Dogs as possible in Gatlinburg. See you there!

Semper Fidelis, Jeff Tegzes



Membership

We've received one new application for membership since the last meeting: Marine Gary Schmitz, 12146 N. Fox Den Dr., Farragut; served 1/60-1/64; recommended by Marines Ted Scotese and John Denton. We'll vote on his application at the 2/24/09 meeting. We were sorry to see a transfer request from Marine Hugh Schoonover. He and his wife, Edith, have moved to Kentucky and has hooked up with a detachment there - we'll miss them both.

The following are members due for renewal in the near future:

Mar. - Jim Burnett, Josh Burnett, Brian Groenhout, and Coleman Spitzer.

April - Gerald Crosby.

Recent Pictures of Interest



Two former Young Marines who joined our YM Unit at the Nursing Home Christmas Party last December: Brittany Crocker, currently a student at New Mexico Military Institute, and Marine LCpl Stephen Bell, who is currently serving in Iraq.



Former YM (and current Blount County Sheriff's Deputy) Joe McCarter, Jr. with his wife, Britney, and daughter, Evelyn. Joe was in our unit's 2nd recruit class in 1997 and worked his way up to become the senior Young Marine in our unit before his graduation from high school.

Auxiliary Report - by Connie Sexton

Greetings,

I was contacted by Sevier County Detachment about the Southeast Division Conference and we will discuss that at the meeting.

We held our elections at the January meeting and only minor changes have occurred. We will

swear the new officers in at the February meeting.

We will also discuss plans for the upcoming Department Convention in June.

Cookies by Jean Marie Arse-neault.

See you there, Connie Sexton

Chaplain's Report - by Leroy Brown

Greetings, Marines.

I hope everyone showed their love for their sweetheart on Valentine's Day.

We have Brother Marines who are dealing with serious medical problems. I talked with Cecilia Peacock and Jim is not doing well. They have a 2006 van for sale. If you might be interested in buying it, their phone number is 414-7070. Let's keep Jim and Cecilia and our other Marine Brothers and their families in our prayers.

We has a donation of socks for the veterans home, thanks to Marine Chuck Blackmore.

Congratulation to our new officers. Thanks for volunteering. We have a very busy year for our Detachment. Please step up if you are able and be counted.

If I can be assistance call me at 865-806-2837.

Semper Fi, Leroy



Upcoming Activities

March 2009

5th - YM Adult Staff Meeting
 5th-7th - 63rd SE Div. Conference
 7th - YM Drill/Recruit Training Day 1
 16th - Devil Dog Growl
 17th - MCL Officers' Mtg.
 21st - YM Recruit Training Day 3
 22nd - YM Regimental Staff Mtg.
 28th - YM Drill/Recruit Training Day 4
 31st - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting

April 2009

2nd - YM Adult Staff Mtg.
 4th - MCL Dept. Spring Staff Mtg.
 - YM Drill/Recruit TD 5
 7th - MCL Officers' Mtg.
 10th-13th - Easter Safety Break
 18th-19th - Recruit Campout
 25th - Massing of Colors
 - YM Drill/Recruit TD 8
 28th - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting

More Daffy Definitions

The Washington Post once asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting or changing only one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are a few more good ones:

Decafalon - The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

Glibido - All talk and no action.

And, the pick of the lot: Ignoramus - A person who is both stupid and an a__hole.

NEWS FLASH!

Did you know that only those MCL members present at the business meeting at the SE Division Convention in Gatlinburg are allowed to vote? Unlike some other conventions where the Detachment's total membership strength can be voted by delegates, at the SE Conference, only those members physically present can vote. Plan on attending the conference so that your vote can help our Detachment get what is best for our Detachment.

May 2009

2nd - YM Drill/Recruit Graduation
 7th - YM Adult Staff Meeting
 12th - MCL Officers' Mtg.
 16th - YM Flag Sales
 23rd - YM Drill
 23rd-25th - Memorial Day Safety Break
 25th - Memorial Day Service
 26th - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting

Application for Membership
Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment # 924, Marine Corps League
Knoxville, TN

Date: _____

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Home Ph.# _____

Business Ph.# _____ E-mail _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ____ / ____ / ____ Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement ____ / ____ / ____

Type of Application: () New () Renewal Type of Membership: () Associate () Regular

I hereby apply for membership in the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment, Marine Corps League, Department of Tennessee, and enclose \$35.00 for one year's membership, which includes a year's subscription to the Marine Corps League quarterly magazine. I certify that I have served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days, that the character of my service has been honorable, and if discharged, I am in receipt of an honorable discharge. I am attaching to this application proof of my honorable discharge/service (retired military ID, DD-214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, etc.).

(Sponsor's Name) _____

Applicant's Signature

Upon completion, return to your sponsor, or mail application to **→**

LT. ALEXANDER BONNYMAN DETACHMENT #924
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
PO BOX 145
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

(Include your \$35.00 dues payment - check or money order payable to "Marine Corps League" - plus proof of honorable service, which is required by our Detachment.)

The Bonnyman Gazette

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