

The Bonnyman Gazette

Monthly Detachment Newsletter

www.mclknox.org

June 2009

Commandant's Corner



-by Jeff Tegzes

Greetings, Marines!

Like many of you, I am relieved and satisfied to have completed the mission of hosting the 2009 Department of Tennessee Convention. You can rest assured that your efforts were worth the long hours that many of you put in to make the convention a resounding success. Not only did we show a great bunch of Marines and ladies a great time in Knoxville, we did it without breaking the bank. The numbers are still being crunched, but I am confident that we will show a nice return on the investment of our time and energy. It was especially gratifying to have a guest of honor in General Harvey and Nancy who have ties to Knoxville. They brought tremen-

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

Ride in the 1st Fourth of July Parade in America at Gatlinburg, TN

Once again, our Detachment and Auxiliary will participate with the Marines from "D" Company and the Young Marines in the first 4th of July Parade in America - it will kick off at 0001 in the morning of July 4th. We will have our Detachment float in the parade with our lights blazing and patriotic music playing.

If you have not ridden before, you will be of people lining the parade. All know our float the 30 June meeting we do know we'll float carrying the Co. and the Young have a float and a they'll also carry ner. Our group of rousing welcome



den in the parade be-amazed at the number streets cheering on though we don't number yet (come to to learn the number), be positioned with the Marines from "D" Marines, who will marching unit - our Detachment ban-floats always gets a from the crowd.

The floats will be staging for the beginning of the parade along Route 321 (East Parkway). If you'd like to help put the float together, be at the parking lot of the Gatlinburg City Hall (across from Food City) about 1800. If you just want to ride in the float, park at the Little House of

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Detachment/Auxiliary Meeting on 6/30/09

The next monthly meeting will be at the Navy Operational Support Center/Marine Corps Reserve Center, 2101 Alcoa Hwy., on Tuesday, 6/30/09, beginning at 1730.

During the business meeting we'll discuss the results of the Department

Convention, the Gatlinburg 4th of July parade, the July 4th Weekend Safety Break, the 2009 Mud Run, the Detachment Picnic, and other activities.

Don't miss it!

Odds & Ends

July 4th Weekend Safety Break - We'll be at the I-40 Rest Stop again over the up-coming 4th of July weekend - from Friday, 3 July (the Federal holiday) through Sunday, 5 July. Since it's only a 3-day weekend, we won't need as many volunteers but please sign up at the 30 June Detachment meeting to work at least one shift.

2009 Marine Mud Run - This year's Mud Run on Saturday, 19 Sept., is rapidly approaching. We still have time to get out and contact possible sponsors for the race. We already have a few sponsors,

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

Bill Ackerman (865-806-9868)

including Coca-Cola for drinks, but we need many more. Sponsor forms showing the various sponsor levels and what the sponsor receives for his or her support are available for downloading from our website.

Life Memberships - This month, two additional members paid for life memberships, saving themselves from ever having to worry again about annual dues payments. As a result, we have 80 members who are currently Permanent Life Members (PLM). To become a PLM, you have to be a current member and you must pay the appropriate fee for

your age group: Age 0-35 - \$500.00; age 36-40 - \$400; age 41-50 - \$400; age 51-60 - \$300; and, age 61+ - \$150.

If you're interested in becoming a life member, contact Adjutant Virgil Young at 675-4004 or just send in your check made out to the Marine Corps League to the Detachment PO box - he'll take care of the rest.

Annual Picnic - Our annual Detachment/Auxiliary picnic is scheduled for Sunday, 27 September at the Lenoir City Park. We'll give more details about the picnic later this summer.

Rifle Shoot Results

The 2009 MSgt. William H. "Bill" Gerst Memorial Rifle Match was held at the Volunteer Range on Saturday, 30 May. We had 15 shooters, including 10 MCL members shooting for the trophy.

Out thanks go to Coordinator Marine Doug Calvert for doing another good job organizing the shoot.

The top two League shooters were tied with a score of 262 but

Associate Member Gary Miller had 3Xs and Jeff Tegzes had no Xs so Gary had the top score.



Marine Jim Williams was third with a score of 240. Sharpshooter medals went to: David Hatfield (1st), George Helton (2nd), and Leroy Brown (3rd).

Marksmen medals went to: John Lambert (1st), David Cates (2nd), and Roy Ashley (3rd).

Young Marine Report - by Unit Commander Virgil Young

We've been very busy over the last month. 52 YM showed up to help put out flags at the State Veterans Cemetery before Memorial Day and we also had a large turnout at the Memorial Day service in Farragut. I was pleased to see the large crowd at the Memorial Day Service - I thought it went very well.

On 6 June, some of our YM helped wheelchair-bound veterans from the Atchley State Veterans Nursing Home make their way around the Island Home Airport for a veterans celebration of service.

Of course, the big event during the last month was our trip from 7-12 June to Patriot's Point and



the Citadel at Charleston, SC, and MCRD, Parris Island. We

had 47 Young Marines and six Adult Leaders make the trip. At Parris Island, our unit was combined with 13 YM from the SE TN Unit (Chattanooga) so the single DI assigned to us had 60 YM to deal with. DI SSgt Paul Gravelle did a marvelous job of keeping the YM focused and in a learning mode at all times. It was terribly hot and humid the whole time we were there with a "Black Flag" flying part of every day but we realized again how quickly you become acclimated. It was a tremendous learning experience for everyone.

Commandant's Corner (Cont.)

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dous warmth and class to our convention and I hope that we will see them again.

With our new Department Commandant, Marine David Hatfield, our Detachment continues to have a major voice in the Department of Tennessee. He will be following another of our own, Marine David Cates, who has completed a very successful term as Department Commandant. Congratulations to both of them!

Now that the hard work is over, at least for a while, it is time to celebrate just being Marines again. I hope that as many of you Leaguers and ladies as possible will join me at the nation's first Fourth of July Parade in Gatlin-

burg. If you have not been in our float for one of these parades in the past, you have really missed a spectacular and fun event. I hope to see you there!

Semper Fidelis, Jeff Tegzes



Membership

At the last meeting, we voted to accept the application for membership of Marine Jason West, 1728 Northfield Dr., Maryville (served as enlisted beginning in 1992 and then as officer.) We've gotten no more applications since then.

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

July - Bill Ackerman, Cary Arney, Robert Box, Bill Cole, C.C. Hatcher, David Hodson, Weldon Humphries, Jim Martin, Jack McGivney, Ben Redmond, Dennis Sears, Bill Todd, Mike Wise, and Ken Woods. **August** - John Bell, Charles Cardwell, John Dempster, Steve Fisher, Doug Kahr, Steve Petty, and Ron Sexton (Assoc.).

Recent Pictures of Interest



Commandant Tegzes presents a USMC banner to family of deceased Marine Neil Wilson



Chaplain Leroy Brown leads the prayer at the beginning of the 2009 Memorial Day service.



MGen Al Harvey with the "D" Co. Color Guard that performed at the 2009 TN Department Convention.



Former Dept. Commandant Claire Minie and Marine David Hatfield in the convention hospitality room.



In the butts again...

Auxiliary Report - by Connie Sexton Fourth of July

The Convention is now over. Everyone did a great job, thanks very much ladies. Doris Ekstrom will be the Department Judge Advocate this year and the Child Welfare Committee Chair. I will be Department Junior Vice President for the year. Jackie Reedy will be the new President and Deborah Evans will be Senior Vice President. Doris Ekstrom

was chosen as the winner of the Deborah Evans Award. Congratulations, Dorie.

We have a Safety Break and the Fourth of July program coming up.

See you at the meeting on Tuesday. Cookies by Dorothy Robins.

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Pancakes, 807 East Parkway (on Rte. 321), between 2100-2200 that evening. You'll be right in the middle of the parade staging area and you can join us at our float or we'll pick you up as the float passes that point on the parade route.

Dress in something red appropriate to show your Marine Corps connection and wear your MCL cover. Bring a light rain jacket or umbrella for protection against summer showers.

Chaplain's Report - by Leroy Brown

The Memorial Day Service was a great success with an outstanding performance by the Young Marines. They are a credit to the adult leadership. And also a big thanks to the Marines of the Detachment Rifle Squad who came out and did a great job.

Our I-40 Safety Break over Memorial Day weekend was a success thanks to all who volunteered - and a "Welcome Aboard" to Marine Jim Putman, one of our newer members who

did his first Safety Break. Now we need help with the July 4th weekend Safety Break.

Everybody had a good time at the annual rifle match. It brought back fond memories. I had a reality check when I tried to get in the prone position. Oh, to be younger, skinnier and agile.

Marine Gene Collins says he is doing fine but chemo is a slow process. Marine Jim Ferrell is ailing. Remember them in your prayers.

NEWS FLASH!

At the just-concluded Department Convention, Past Detachment Commandant David Hatfield was elected as the new TN Department Commandant. Marine Jim Kern from the Singleton Detachment was elected as Senior Vice Commandant and Marine Gary Stowell from the Sevier County Detachment was elected as the Junior Vice Commandant. They will serve until next year's convention, which will be held in Jackson, TN in June 2010.

Upcoming Activities

July 2009

2nd - YM Adult Staff Meeting
3rd-4th - Gatlinburg 4th of July Parade
3rd-5th - July 4th Weekend Safety Break
11th - YM Drill
14th - MCL Officers Meeting
25th - YM Drill
26th-31st - YM Regt. JLS (Smyrna)
28th - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting

August 2009

6th - YM Adult Staff Meeting
8th - YM Drill
11th - MCL Officers Meeting
22nd - YM Drill
25th - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting

September 2009

3rd - YM Adult Staff Meeting
5th - YM Drill
8th - MCL Officers Meeting
11th-13th - YM Regimental Encampment (Ten Mile, TN)
14th - Devil Dog Growl
19th - 2009 Marine Mud Run
27th - Detachment/Aux. Annual Picnic
29th - 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.)

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