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Department of South Carolina MCL News & Comments

Department Officers begin work



The members of the **Department of South Carolina, Marine Corps League** have begun their work year for the coming year.

At the first Department Quarterly Meeting on 27 October, the elected officers announced their planned projects for the coming year. Department Commandant Gene Wilbur has the hope of getting every detachment interested and active on the department level. Over the years, there have been a few detachments that have not really participated in the programs and decisions of the department. Commandant Wilbur plans to change that.

Senior Vice-Commandant John Horton has said that he is available to assist the Department Commandant with his projects. The Senior Vice is also charged with chairmanship of the Awards Committee, and

has asked that all recommendations for awards be sent to him. A new form for that purpose should be available at the January Quarterly meeting. Any nominations for Marine of the Year will not be made on this form, but in narrative form, as in the past.

Junior Vice-Commandant Herb Bailey has already begun work on materials that will help both the department and detachments with their recruiting of new members. At the January Quarterly Meeting, Junior Vice Bailey will hand out computer CDs with recruiting spots that can be run as free public service announcements on local radio stations. His future plans include public service announcements for TV stations. Last year, we lost two of our detachments because of low membership. Commandant Wilbur strongly hopes that the efforts of Vice-Commandant Bailey will

prevent the loss of any more of our detachments. Each detachment must have a minimum of fifteen paid regular members as of June 30, each year, to be considered a functioning detachment. Our goal in the future is to have a minimum membership of twenty members for a new detachment to charter, in hopes of having no more detachments to fail.

Department Judge Adjutant Archie Sweet proposed two changes to the Department Bylaws at the October Quarterly Meeting, and asked the members to submit any proposed changes they felt were needed. The changes proposed by the Judge Advocate allow the Department to hold its convention between April 1st and July 31st, in compliance with the amended National Bylaws.

63rd Annual SE Div. Conference March 5th - 8th

The Southeast Division of the Marine Corps League will hold its 63rd Annual Conference March 5th through 8th in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The convention hotel will be the River Terrace Resort & Convention Center in downtown Gatlinburg.

Detachment 1206 of Sevier County Tennessee is hosting the Conference, and information and web links are available on the internet at both the Detachment 1206 and Department of Tennessee web pages. The booking info can be found at web page <http://www.mcldeptn.org/>. Booking info is also available through Steve Ellis Tour & Receptive at 1-800-953-7469.

Although the registration fees and room costs seem complicated as written on the provided registration form that you can download online, a simple phone call to Steve Ellis Tours will clear it up. It would be best to have your preferred credit card in

hand when you call. They take care of your hotel reservations, conference registration, banquet ticket, and even the optional tours in one phone call. Entrée options for the banquet are Prime Rib, Roasted Half Chicken or Grilled Salmon.

On Thursday, March 5th, the Registration, the Hospitality Room, the Ship 's Store and the General Business Meeting will open. Thursday evening, an optional Black Bear Jamboree Dinner & Show are offered, for only \$39.00 per adult, 1st child per adult is free, \$10.00 for each additional child.

Friday, March 6th will see the Registration, Hospitality Room, and Ship's Store open again, and the Business Meetings will continue. During the day, there will be shopping opportunities for the spouses and any members wishing to skip the business meetings, since our hotel is

located in the center of the shopping area of Gatlinburg..

Friday evening, another optional entertainment and dinner trip is offered. For only \$43.00 per adult and \$27.00 per child, you can attend the Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show. Both, the Black Bear Jamboree, and Dixie Stampede prices include the Transportation, taxes and gratuities.

On Saturday morning, registration will open, the business meetings will continue, and the Ship's Store and Hospitality room will be open. There will be transportation provided to the shops of nearby Pigeon Forge for anyone interested. Most of the spouses should enjoy this option, since there are dozens of outlet stores located in the area. There will be a Growl of the M.O.D.D, at the conference, also.

Department of South Carolina Convention

The South Carolina Department Convention is set for June 11th, 12th and 13th of June 2009. The convention Hotel is the Holiday Inn West on the Waterway at Myrtle Beach.

Room rates will be \$100.00 per night, and the banquet will be \$40.00. The Marine Corps League member registration fee will be \$10.00 per member. The sponsoring detachment is Grand Strand Detachment #873.

Registration forms are available now, and each detachment should be encouraging all members to attend. Hopefully, each detachment will have a full slate of delegates in attendance, and at least one alternate.

Each detachment is permitted one delegate and one alternate for each ten (10) regular members of the detachment, or portion of thereof, as shown on the roster from National of March 30. As an example, if a detachment has forty (40) regular members, they could have four (4) delegates (each representing ten votes) and four (4) alternates, or, if a detachment has forty-two (42) regular members, it could have five (5) delegates (four representing ten votes each, and one delegate representing two votes) and five (5) alternates. If the detachment with a total of forty-two regular members has only four delegates in attendance and on the convention floor, it can only vote forty

votes instead of its full forty-two.

Of course, each regular member is entitled to vote his own individual vote at the convention, if he is "in good standing", registered, and present at the time of voting. In that case, one vote will be deducted from the total votes that can be voted by the registered and present delegates of that member's detachment.

Prior to the convention, each detachment will be advised of the number of delegates (and alternates) that it can send to the convention. If you have any questions after receiving the delegate numbers, contact any of the elected department officers, or the department paymaster for an explanation.



" A veteran - whether active duty or national guard or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America", for an amount of "up to and including my life."

I am very proud to be a veteran.

Proposed Dept. By-Laws Changes

So far this year, there are only two proposed changes to the South Carolina Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. All proposed changes must be submitted, at least, ninety days prior to the Department Convention Business Meeting. The deadline for submitted changes this year will be Friday, March 13th.

The first proposed change to the South Carolina Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures is to change Section 200 MEETINGS of the Administrative Procedures to read "The Department Convention will be convened once each calendar year between April 1st, and July 31st unless prevented by national emergency or

other unpreventable cause. Provided that the final day of business at the Department Convention shall not be less than ten (10) days prior to the scheduled beginning of the National Marine Corps League Convention." instead of the present wording that states "The Department Convention will be convened once each calendar year between May 1st, and July 15th unless prevented by national emergency or other unpreventable cause.", and also correct Section 410 (b) to read "The Department shall hold an Annual Convention each year between 1 April and 31 July.", instead of the present wording that states "The Department shall hold an Annual Convention each year between 1 May and 15 July." These

changes to the wording of these two subsections will bring the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Department of South Carolina into agreement with the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures passed at the National Convention held at Orlando, Florida, in August 2008. Department Judge Advocate, Archie Sweet, has proposed these amendments to the current Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures.

If any member wishes to propose amendments to the Department Bylaws, the amendment must be made on the proper form. A copy of the proper form is shown in the Bylaws posted on the Department web site.

Uniform Regulations

Our Department Senior Vice Commandant will be presenting short programs on the proper wearing of the Marine Corps League Uniform at each quarterly meeting. Hopefully, this will remove some of the questions and resolve the ongoing problem of members showing up at meetings, funerals and other events with improper uniforms. One of the first items taken up is the Marine Corps League cover. The MCL cover is the minimum uniform of a

member, and all members are strongly urged to purchase the MCL cover and the EGA device.

The cover should be embroidered on the right side with the member's detachment name. The embroidery showing the detachment name should be centered on the right side, near the bottom edge. If any office is held, the appropriate strip designating that office should be centered between the detachment name and the

pipings on the right side of the cover. If the member is a life member, either the "LIFE" strip or similar embroidery should be worn just below the piping at the right rear of the MCL cover, or the "LIFE MEMBER" strip can be worn just below the piping and centered on the right side of the cover. Nothing other than strips or embroidery indicating a MCL office presently held, and/or life membership, and the round MODD membership patch are permitted.