

Kettle Moraine Marine



February 2007

Detachment #1203

Vol 3 Issue 2

The Monthly Newsletter for Washington and Ozaukee County Marines.

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Commandant

John Stern
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Jr. Vice

Commandant

Roger Cross
(262) 675-6965

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Charlie Keller
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Adjutant

Jason Waier
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Jim Krudwig
(262) 689-5409

Chaplain

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Sgt at Arms

Barry Oelerich
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Historians

Jim Krudwig
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Public Affairs

VAVS

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Honor Guard Cmdr

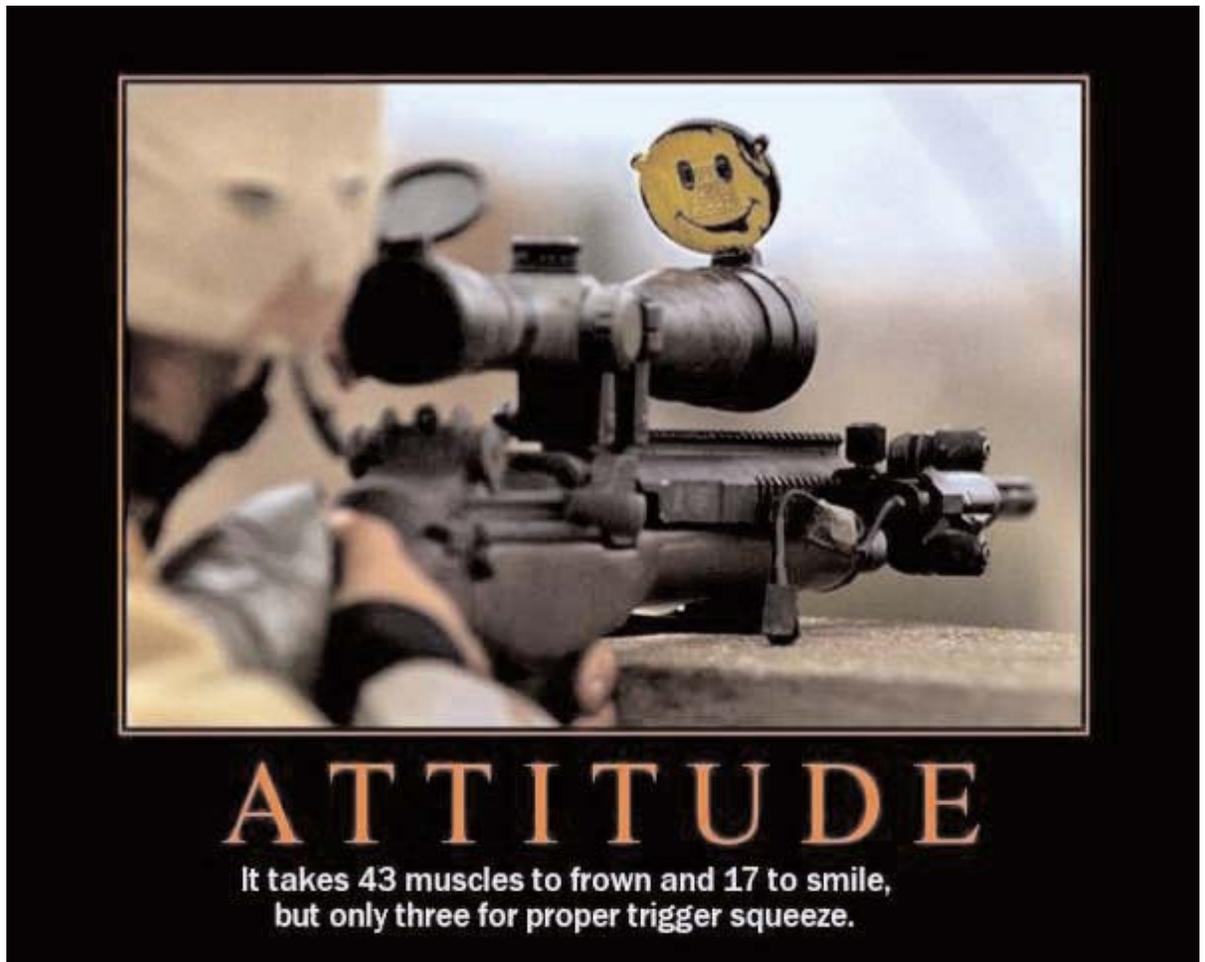
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Jim Krudwig
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**Our next Meeting is 0845 hrs Saturday February 17th, 2007 at the Trenton Town Hall.
Located at 1071 State Hwy 33 East, West Bend Wi 53095.**

Kettle Moraine Detachment 1203, Marine Corps League
Minutes of Meeting Held on Jan 20th, 2007
21 Members present

The Meeting was held at the Trenton Town Hall in West Bend, WI.

The Commandant called the meeting to order at 0910. The Sgt at Arms presented Colors and the Chaplain said the opening prayer.

Roll Call of Officers

Commandant: Tim Bertram present
Sr. Vice Commandant: John Stern present
Jr. Vice Commandant: Roger Cross present
Adjutant: Jason Waier present
Judge Advocate: Charlie Keller excused

Paymaster: Jim Krudwig excused
Chaplain: George Wujcik present
Sgt at Arms: Barry Oelerich present
Historian: Jason Waier present

Other Members in Attendance

Bollmann, Paul	Brewer, Glen	De Laurier, Gil	Fleischman, John	Heiman, Carl
Korth, James	Krause, John	Lorenz, Jerry	Lucka, Gilbert	Moericke, Rollie
Montag, Fred	O'Toole, Dan	Schleif, Paul	Straub, Hugo	Wallace, William

New Members

New Member Gil DeLaurier Jr. and charter Member James Korth were sworn in.

Guests

There were no guests present this month.

Reading of the Minutes

With no corrections to the December Meeting Minutes as posted in the January Newsletter, Dan O'Toole made a motion to accept them as written. Motion seconded by Paul Bollman. Motion passed.

Paymaster's Report

The Paymaster was at the Dept of WI Marine Corps League Meeting in Cottage Grove, so the Adjutant passed out copies of the monthly financial report. The Adjutant briefly went over the report and stated if there were any questions pertaining to it Members should contact the Paymaster and he could answer them. With no questions or comments Gil Lucka made a motion to accept the Paymaster's Report as written. Motion seconded by Paul Bollmann. Motion passed.

Chaplain's Report

The Chaplain had nothing new to report.

Correspondence Received/Delivered

The Adjutant passed around the Certificate of Appreciation received from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, a Thank You received from the Zablocki VA Hospital for the donations made in the December Christmas with the Vets program, a Thank You from the Salvation Army for the donation made to them, and a newspaper clipping from the Milwaukee Journal pertaining to the funeral for Capt Kryst who was killed in Iraq. The KetMorDet Honor Guard participated in the memorial ceremony. Roger Cross turned in a bill for the Det. plaques that he had purchased.

Report of Standing Committees

Honor Guard: Held practice immediately following the Jan Meeting.

Flag Presentation Team: Scheduled for Feb 9th at St Frances Cabrini School in West Bend and Feb 15th at 1330 at Holy Trinity School in Kewaskum. Sign up sheets were available for both dates. Contact George Wujcik with any questions.

Scholarship: Nothing new to report. The KetMorDet scholarship application is printed in the January Kettle Moraine Marine Newsletter.

Quartermaster: The Det still needs a volunteer Member to fill this position. Contact Tim Bertram.

VAVS: The Det still needs a volunteer Member to fill this position. Contact Tim Bertram.

PAO: The Det still needs a volunteer Member to fill this position. Contact Tim Bertram.

Uniforms: Roger Cross has received info on prices and styles of jackets for the KetMorDet daily wear red winter jackets that will be available for Members to purchase. This was discussed at the Dec. Meeting. Roger has been on vacation in Africa and has not been able to sort through all of the packets. He will report back in detail at the Feb. Meeting.

Newsletter: Bios are needed. It is quick and painless to get yours completed. Contact Jim Krudwig and he will quickly walk you through it. Members were reminded that the 2007 Newsletter ads are needed. Any Member who gets three ad blocks will receive the NEW red KetMorDet t-shirt. Dan O'Toole, John Fleischmann, and Jason Waier have all qualified to receive their red t-shirts for getting three ads.

Care Packages: John Stern continues sending out more care packages to the troops whose returned notes show that they have been very appreciative when receiving the boxes. This is a good project for KetMorDet using the Rose Distribution Funds to purchase items for the troops.

Old Business

Carl Heiman was presented with a plaque for being selected Kettle Moraine Detachment's "Marine of the Year." Congratulations to Carl and thanks for all the hard work and dedication. Although he is 76 years old, Carl has missed participating in very few of the KetMorDet fundraisers, Color and Honor Guard functions and Flag Presentations. The Adjutant passed out copies of the revisions to the By-Laws as approved and during the Dec Meeting. In an attempt to shorten the Meetings, Officer Reports will be printed beforehand in the Newsletter, which Members should receive in the week prior to the regular Monthly meeting. If there are any questions, please see the appropriate Officer or bring it up at the meeting.

New Business

Nominations were taken for the 2007-2008 Officer positions. They are as follows:

Commandant-John Stern

Sr. Vice Commandant-Don Erdman

Jr. Vice Commandant-Glen Brewer

Judge Advocate-Charlie Keller

Paymaster-Roger Cross

Adjutant-Jason Waier

Chaplain-George Wujcik

Sgt at Arms-Barry Oelerich

Co-Historians-Jim Krudwig and Jason Waier.

While these Members have been nominated for the listed positions, ANY Det. Member in good standing can be elected for any of the positions. If a Member chooses to vote for another Marine other than those nominated, he should enter another name as his vote. You should vote for whomever you feel is best suited for the position, not just because they were nominated. Ballots will be accepted from 0830 to 0845 prior to the Feb 17th 2007 meeting. The ballot box will be closed and a count taken and the Meeting will start. Members must be present to vote.

The Commandant said that fundraising dates should be set up now so that the "good dates" are not all reserved by another group. Paul Bollmann stated he would check with the Germantown Walmart and Pick-n-Save, John Stern will inquire at the West Bend Walmart for the July 4th weekend and sometime in August. John Fleischman stated August 11th is already set for the Kewaskum Piggly Wiggly brat fry. The Commandant said that he would contact Cal Racine to check on setting up a Memorial Day fundraiser at Walmart and Piggly Wiggly in Saukville.

The Marine Corps League Central Div. Conference "Winter Meeting" will be held in Moline IL April 13-15, 2007. All Detachment Members are welcome to attend at their own expense.

Roger Cross said he had received some correspondence indicating that a new Det was trying to be started in Cedarburg/Grafton. The Commandant stated he had already contacted the State Commandant, Tim Baranzyk, about this. He had been told that it is unlikely that it would happen. The Commandant will contact the Judge Advocate and see how this may be covered in the KetMorDet By-Laws. He will contact Tim Baranzyk again to let him know and also pass on to him invitations to those Marines looking to start a new Det to join the KetMorDet ranks.

Meeting Closed

With no further business to be conducted, the Commandant gave the order to close the Meeting. The Sgt at Arms retired the Colors, the Chaplain gave the closing prayer, and the Sr. Vice Commandant thanked all for attending and asked that they secure new members. The Meeting closed at 1007 hrs.

The next meeting will be held at 0845 hrs on February 17th, 2007 at the Trenton Town Hall. Ballots will be accepted from 0830-0845 hrs. Mail-in ballots will not be accepted at any time. Replacement ballots will be available prior to the Meeting for those that are lost or forgotten. They are also available online along with a list of the Duties for Officers positions at www.ketmordet.com

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Waier, Adjutant

THOSE DAMN MARINES...

By LtCol David W. Szelowski USMCR Retired

I wonder how many times during Operation Iraqi Freedom that the phrase "damn Marines" was uttered? Even in the best of times, Army and Air Force officers have been heard muttering some epithet about Marines, invoking either heaven or hell. Interestingly enough, we Marines find it all rather reassuring and, at times, amusing.

Most of the time, Marines do not go out of our way to be obnoxious; we are just doing what Marines have done for over 231 years. A good example is the fact that Marines always raise the American flag over mountains or cities they have conquered. From Mt. Suribachi to the City of Hue, to Kuwait City to Baghdad, U.S. Marines have raised the Stars and Stripes in the latter examples, much to the chagrin of high headquarters. You don't get these kinds of problems with the Army. So what is about the U.S. Marines that they stick U.S. flags on everything and do more with less, a less that is either old or an army hand-me-down? We call it Esprit de Corps, but it goes deeper than that.

We learn and maintain myths of the past, which also means living up to those historical examples. Marine Corps boot camp is the longest of the services; it is where we mold young men and women into the mythical image called a Marine. You can be in the Army, you can join the Air Force, but you become a Marine. All of the other uniformed services have songs; the U.S. Marines have a hymn. The basic pattern of Marine uniforms comes from the late nineteenth century; our emblem "the Eagle, Globe and Anchor" has remained largely unchanged since 1868. The buttons on our dress blues, whites and greens date back to the founding of our Corps. The Marine Corps is the only service that requires its officers to carry a sword, whose pattern dates back to 1805.

I think that the path of being a Marine was established long ago. On the 10th of November 1775, the Marine Corps was first established...in a tavern. To this day, no matter where in the world, Marines celebrate the founding of our beloved Corps, much to the confusion of the other services.

A few years ago, a congresswoman from Colorado felt that the Marine Corps was radical and extreme. She contended that the Marine Corps was not politically correct, nor did we seem to be part of the Department of Defense's transition to a "kinder and gentler" military. She was correct, and the Marine Corps took it as a compliment.

But the proof is in the doing, and during Iraqi Freedom the Marines demonstrated what Marines can do. I watched with some amusement as a reporter asked a young Lance Corporal about being in Iraq and under rifle fire. "Love it, Sir" was his response. The reporter was taken aback and asked, "No, really." The Marine then tried to explain that this is what he was trained to do, he looked forward to doing it and was now happy to be doing it. No doubt in boot camp he was told that he was "a minister of death praying for war." Contrast that with the poor U.S. Army Apache pilots who said that if they had to take life, they would do so reluctantly. You are either a warrior or you are not.

Marines are mission oriented. Live or die, the most important thing to a Marine is accomplishing the mission. Whether taking the bridge, river or town, accomplishing the mission is the Holy Grail of being a Marine. How the mission is accomplished is not so important, as it is expected of all Marines to accomplish the mission with the tools available. This is probably why we hear that Marines in one engagement were fighting with knives and bayonets. This was hardly high tech, but it was effective. These Marines now have bragging rights, for they have proven that they talk-the-talk and walk-the-walk. I doubt there is a single Marine who is not envious.

Marines are practical, as well. I enjoyed hearing two reporters interviewing each other, one embedded with the Army, the other with the Marines. The reporter with the Army noted that the sandstorm had blown down many of the soldiers' cots. The other reporter countered that the Marines did not have this problem because they slept on the ground. The Marine learns to live with what he can carry on his back. He expects to be moved around on the battlefield via his two black Cadillac's (boots).

If he is lucky and he gets a ride on an Amtrak, so much the better - but it is not expected. At the end of a mission, the priority for cleaning is weapon, then equipment, and finally body. When the other services talk about "quality of life," they are referring to housing, clubs and food. Marines are talking about better weapons, equipment and training. Winning the battle and coming home alive is considered "quality of life."

All of this translates into combat power. In comparison to the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division, The Marines of I Marine Expeditionary Force were lightly equipped. Yet, they battled through the heart of Iraq, fought to the center of Baghdad and then moved off to Tikrit, taking that city as well. The press was so enamored with the Marines that in the final days of the war they even credited the Marines with deeds actually accomplished by the Army. Little wonder we heard "Goddamn Marines!" so often. SO we need to give the Marines some slack when they do something politically incorrect, such as raising the flag or appearing insensitive when killing the enemy. In the field, they look sloppy compared to the Army, but are aggressive in the attack and generally unhappy in the defense. Marines take pride in their work, even if that work is war. We are just Marines and that is what we do.

(Taken from the Internet by Paul Smith. Smitty is a former SSgt USMC who is now a Judge in Wilmington, DE)

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Marine of the Month - Daniel D. Coulter

Dan Coulter was born in Fond du Lac County on Nov 12, 1941 (65) the fourth of eight children. He was raised in the Town of Wayne in Washington County and attended Kewaskum High School. He was awarded seven varsity letters in sports for football, basketball and baseball and received All Conference awards in baseball and football. Following graduation, Dan spent the summer working at Kasten Manufacturing in Allenton and playing ball six days a week, while drinking lots of Old Timers beer. Dan had try-outs with both the Chicago Cubs and Detroit Tigers but was told that he was too light for a catcher (165 pounds) to be assigned to a minor league club. They told him to try again the following year.

As a result of a bet with his fellow workers, Dan enlisted in the Marine Corps for four years on August 31, 1959. He gained 20 pounds while in Boot Camp at San Diego, weighing in at 185 upon graduation. He credits the good chow and training which made him come in 3rd in the physical training tests in his Platoon and 7th in the Battalion. He recalls that things were special when the recruits had a light training day and great chow on the Marine Corps Birthday, Nov 10th, followed by Veterans Day on Nov 11th where the chow was again exceptional. Then his own birthday came on Nov 12th, and he got no slack when the DI's worked the hell out of the troops to make up for those two previous light days.

Following Boot Camp, Dan went through 2nd ITR at Camp Pendleton and took a 30-day leave back home. Because he was making only \$78 a month, he hitch-hiked back to California to his first duty station at MCAS, El Toro. There, he played ball for six months. Dan remained a PFC and was sent to the Radio Telegraph Operator Course for 4 months at the Communications School in San Diego. He was then assigned MOS 2533 Radio Telegraph Operator. One of the Radio School instructors was a sport parachute jumpmaster who talked four of the students, including Dan, into trying it. He made five jumps, three via static line and two freefalls. He remembers being at 2,800 feet looking down at San Diego Bay, North Island Naval Shipyard and Torrey Pines Golf Course. Upon completion of radio school, Dan went home on a 30-day leave and hitch-hiked from Chicago to San Francisco and reported in early at Treasure Island where he spent the days waiting to be flown to Camp Smith, Hawaii. Being the only person in a huge barracks for that month, he would wake up each morning and look out the window at Alcatraz, feeling glad that he was in the Corps and not on that Rock.

At his duty station on Hawaii, Dan had the pleasure of playing on the Base fast pitch softball and basketball teams. He made it on the All-Island Marine fast pitch softball team, which won the All Services Championship. Being a bowler, he mentored a fellow Marine who went on to the Professional Bowlers Association and later the Senior PBA. Dan was assigned to the 1st ANGLICO, which was one of only two such company size units in the Corps. They provided Naval Gunfire Liaison and Close Air Support for the 25th Army Division at Schofield Barracks and SEATO Forces in the Pacific. This duty gave Dan the opportunity to spend six months touring the Philippines, Laos, South Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea and Japan, teaching and training their Army and Marines on how to use and maintain all of the old US radio equipment left over from WW II and the Korean War that was being phased out.

Dan was promoted to Lance Corporal and then Corporal, graduating from NCO School at MCAS, Kaneohe Bay. During the Berlin Crisis, his unit 1st ANGLICO, spent 10 days afloat, crossing the Pacific to San Diego, and then convoying for another 7 days up to Fort Lewis, WA. Following the Operation at Fort Lewis, Dan was able to catch a hop on a Navy plane to NAS Glenview, IL for a 30-day leave. He eventually hitched his way back to Hawaii, crossing the Pacific. He said that it would take too long to explain how he accomplished this, but if you buy him a beer, he feels that he could write a book about his hitchhiking experiences. Dan was awarded the Good Conduct Medal in Aug 1962 and fired Pistol Expert and Rifle Sharpshooter. When Dan rotated back to the States after his 25 months of overseas duty, he spent his last 140 days in the Corps in an Artillery Battery at Camp Lejeune. He considers that last tour forgettable and had 28 months in grade as a Corporal when he was released from active duty on August 31, 1963. He was never sorry that he had joined the Corps but was happy to get out, as many young first enlistment troops tend to be.

Dan worked for Regal Ware in Kewaskum for two months and then for the next year became part owner of the Hitching Post tavern in Kohlsville. He feels that he could write another book about running a bar. His next job was as an over the road semi-truck driver for ten years. He then went into the real estate business and eventually retired in 1997. He spends the winter months in Tucson, AZ. (It is interesting that as this is being written in January, the TV is showing that Tucson has received nearly a foot of snow today. Very unusual, not what was expected down there.)

Dan served as Supervisor for the Town of Wayne, Past President of the Wash. County Board of Realtors, served eight years as a Director the WI Realtor Association and was a past member and Treasurer of the West Bend Area Chamber of Commerce. He was the Treasurer of Salem UCC Church in Wayne for 20 years. Dan is a life member of American Legion Post #483 in Allenton where he was the Post Commander for 11 years. He is a life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #448, and VFW Post #1393. Dan was the Judge Advocate of the short lived "Moraine Marine Detachment" of the Marine Corps League in Kewaskum during the late 1970's. He is a Charter/Life Member of "Kettle Moraine Detachment #1203" of the MCL. He enjoys the Det's rose distribution fund raising efforts at Brewer games and the area Walmart Stores and has participated on the Det. Flag Presentation Team and Birthday Ball Social Committee.

Dan and his wife, Wendy, will be celebrating 40 years of marriage on July 1st, 2007. They have 3 daughters, Sarah, Jenny, and Rebecca, who all live in the Chicago area, two are teachers and the third is a real estate broker. The oldest, son Jason, is presently in the seminary studying to become a Minister. Dan and Wendy have been blessed with three grandchildren.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Tim Bertram reports: A reminder that you must be present to vote for this year's installment of Officers, so please be on time for the Feb 17th meeting which will start 15 minutes early at 0845. By now everyone should have received a copy of the ballot. Please have it filled out and bring it to the meeting. We will know the results at the meeting, and will have the new Officers sworn in at the March meeting.

Sr. Vice Commandant John Stern reports:

Honor Guard: KetMorDet members provided an honor guard for Army WW II veteran Ray Wenzel at Hartford's St. Killian's Cemetery on Feb 3. (Coldest day of the 2006 - 2007 winter to date, a minus-11 temp with winds @ 15 mph.) The Rifle detail consisted of Marines: Cross, Heiman, O'Toole, Stern, and Wallace. The WI Army National Guard provided flag folding and bugle duties. The deceased's family, when presented with four polished M-1 casings and a "Challenge" Coin, expressed their gratitude to the KetMorDet Honor Guard for providing the Rifle Detail and service.

The **Honor Guard** will again hold an approximate 45-minute practice session immediately following the Feb monthly meeting. We will continue to focus on "Facing Movements". All Det. members are invited to participate. Honor Guard members should bring their Class A uniform shoes and spend a few minutes mentally reviewing the material presented at the last practice. As always there is room for improvement.

Care Packages: Packages continue to be shipped to military personnel in harm's way. We are in need of names, addresses, rotation dates and e-mail addresses of servicemen and women currently serving in a combat environment. The clergy is a great source of names so ask your pastor/priest/rabbi if they know of any military members who could use a KetMorDet Care Package. Members are requested to bring the names and recent magazines of interest to young men, to the regular membership meetings. Give them to the Sr.Vice.

Membership: We are always in need of the names and phone numbers of potential members. As a curious sidelight, two different Det. Members have provided the same name of an individual who expressed to them an interest in KetMorDet. Despite repeated messages to call back, he ignores our calls. Perhaps Members, when possible, should bring interested former Marines to a meeting.

Fund Raising: Sr.Vice has scheduled Rose Distribution at West Bend WAL-MART on June 29, 30, and July 1.

Jr. Vice Commandant Roger Cross: Nothing reported.

Judge Advocate Charlie Keller: Nothing reported.

Adjutant Jason Waier Reports: Marines, as of this writing, I have received no incoming correspondence for the month. All ballots were mailed out to voting Members as of Jan 29th. If you have not received yours, I will have extras available at the Feb Meeting. I have still not heard anything from the Boy Scouts or have I received any names/contacts to get any kind of correspondence to them in regard to the Eagle Scout acknowledgement available to them through the Marine Corps League.

Paymaster Jim Krudwig Reports: I will be leaving office when a new Paymaster is sworn in at the March meeting. Prior to that I would appreciate a couple Members volunteering to conduct an audit of the KetMorDet financial records. Those Members should not be current or past Officers or have been involved in a previous Det Audit.

Arrangements have been made to have 15,000 roses purchased and assembled for the coming year's Rose Distribution fundraisers and to hand out at Flag presentations. In the past, the roses were purchased in Grafton and other places, necessitating multiple trips. The firm printing the labels wanted to increase the cost during the past year. Several other groups did final assembly of completed roses. The West Bend area Threshold group wanted \$.62 each just to assemble the roses with KetMorDet furnishing all the materials. Currently, the Green Valley Agency in Beaver Dam, utilizing impaired folks, has agreed to purchase the roses, print the labels, assemble them, all for about \$.10 to \$.11 each, the same cost that we were previously paying with all that driving around and much time involved. In 2005, a bargain on yellow ribbon brought us enough rolls at less than half price to last our needs for several years. This rose purchase agreement is one less thing that the incoming fundraising committee will have to consider for at least a year.

Several years ago, the Allenton Fire Dept/American Legion raised funds to bring the Cherry Point Marine Corps Band to that community to march in their annual mid-August parade and give a concert after the parade. It was well received. A member of the Allenton organizing group has contacted me several times to ask if I could intercede with the Marine Corps to see if another Marine band could be brought in. Apparently he is having difficulty communicating with the Marine Sergeant who makes such arrangements. I agreed to contact the CO to see if we could get something worked out.

Charlie Keller, representing KetMorDet with the West Bend parade committee asked me last year to see if we could get a Marine band to come to West Bend. It should be noted that these bands are busy, especially on parade dates during Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day weekends. We briefly discussed a joint effort by the Allenton folks, the West Bend parade committee and KetMorDet sponsoring a Marine band coming to the area and participating in the Allenton parade, in mid-August, and having a concert in a West Bend park that same weekend. This is the current thinking and we are working on it. No promises. Will keep you all informed if something develops. KetMorDet would probably do crowd control and our share of the fundraising would be (\$3000 to \$5000) to bring a Marine band to the area.

As the KetMorDet representative, I attended the DEPARTMENT OF WI Marine Corps League winter meeting in Cottage Grove on Jan 20. Also attending, were 29 Members representing 11 of the 21 current WI Dets and one at-large Member. The meeting lasted from 1000 to about 1530 with a break for lunch. Some of the topics discussed were:

The DEPT Paymaster said that the DEPT is on budget and well on its way to an acceptable financial position.

The DEPT Commandant said that he had sent out more than 1100 pieces of mail to all MCL Members around the State of WI in an attempt to get them more aware of and involved in DEPT activities.

The next (spring) DEPT meeting will be at the Voyageur Inn in Reedsburg on Mar 31st. A second day is being considered so that Members can spend some non-business time during the evening establishing camaraderie with other former Marines around the state.

The annual DEPT Conference will be held again at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc on June 8, 9 & 10. WI MCL Members in good standing are welcome to attend any of these meetings. Detachments were reminded that they should submit their quarterly activities report to the DEPT Commandant at least two weeks prior to each quarterly meeting.

The DEPT Commandant has been working with prospective Dets in Crandon, Waupaca, Reedsburg, Burnett Co (has filed for its charter), Richland Center, Pulaski, Wausau, Abbotsford and Green Bay.

The DEPT Commandant thanked the Four Lakes MCL Det (Madison area) for traveling around the state to present Fallen Warrior statutes to the next of kin of deceased Marines. It was suggested that each Det. obtain one of these statutes to present to families of fallen Marines in their area. (The statue cost is approximately \$230.)

There are currently five units of Young Marines (students) with the possibility of one or two more being formed in the state. A Young Marine from WI is one of the six finalists from whom the National Young Marine of the Year will be named during the next YM Convention in San Antonio in May.

The DEPT of WI By-Laws have been under review by a Committee and several sections of the proposed changes were discussed at this meeting. The remaining sections will be considered at the spring meeting and a vote will be taken on the proposed by-laws revision. All Dets should review the proposed changes and voice their findings at that meeting.

A visiting representative of the WI Dept of Veterans Affairs (DVA), Jeff Johnson (retired Marine MSgt), explained current changes in that Dept. He appealed to the Dets. to assist the Vets returning from active duty. Some are having difficulty fitting in, finding jobs, etc. Dets should see what they could do to help the new Vets out. Wounded Warriors in particular need the camaraderie of fellow former Marines. It is a slow process and some of the Vets feel that the Dept of Defense has written them off and the VA has not yet picked them up. It is one step at a time as all government agencies work slowly. He recommended that the Dets contact their County Veterans Services Officer (CVSO) to assist these returning Vets. Dets could invite the Vets to participate in their meetings, fundraisers, social functions, etc. The Vets want to feel involved. Dets should have a liaison person for this function.

The DEPT Service Officer, Mark Grams (a former Marine who is CVSO in the Watertown area) said that Dets. that want to recommend a Member for the DEPT Marine of the Year should submit it prior to Mar 16. He also suggested that each Det. ask the CVSO(s) in the area they cover to attend a regular meeting annually to report changes and explain veterans' federal and state benefits. Some of the changes being proposed by the WI DVA include:

1. The property tax credit should be reduced from age 65 to no age requirement for veterans. (Proposed)
2. The 100% service connected veterans disability requirement should be moved down to 30%. (Proposed)
3. Instead of the current requirement for the veteran to have entered the military from WI, they want it changed to 10 years residency. (Proposed)
4. The GI Bill for dependents of disabled veterans is currently 18-25 years; they want it changed to 17-25 and to include part time students as well as the current full time students. (Proposed)
5. Prior to 1975, Vets who worked in State Civil Service could get up to 4 years credit toward retirement. An attempt to change this has been unsuccessful. It will probably be changed to a buy back program to get that extra time.

The DEPT of WI MCL had asked the Service Officer to work on legislation to change the requirement for benefits being that the veteran must have an honorable discharge and not a less than honorable discharge (e.g. General Discharge under honorable conditions.) The Service Officer received no response from State Senators he had approached on this, but did work with several

legislators and their reference bureau. A problem is that there are two different funds involved, the Veterans Trust Fund and the State's University GI Bill. A proposed Bill has been drafted on behalf of the DEPT of WI, entitled LRB 1134/2. It deals with the WI GI Bill tuition for veterans requiring an honorable discharge. It is difficult, as the American Legion wants all benefits from both funds to require an honorable discharge. They feel that the proposed Bill may have unintended consequences which might make a veteran ineligible for some of the available benefits. The only two service organizations that favor this Bill are the MCL and the Navy group. A Motion Passed for the DEPT Service Officer to continue to pursue legislation that veterans must have an honorable discharge to be eligible for either fund.

The MCL Central Division Conference will be held Apr 13, 14 &15 in Moline, IL. The DEPT Commandant will disseminate info on it in a newsletter. A Motion was made and Passed to donate \$40 for a half page ad in the Division Ad Book. The Conference will include Leadership and Paymaster training which may be of interest to some of our Members.

The DEPT Adjutant said than any MCL Member in the state can be added to the e-mail list of general info sent out to DEPT Officers and Staff. This will allow Members to keep up with what other Dets are doing, proposed DEPT changes, and discussion items. At least two Members from each Det. should be on the address list but any others are OK. Send a note to mgysgt@att.net to be added to the list.

Chaplain George Wujcik reports: Nothing new to report for Chaplain.

Scholarship: Nothing new to report for Scholarship.

Flag Team: Fri Feb 9th at St Frances Cabrini we had a presentation for the students at the school in West Bend. We had another presentation for the students at Holy Trinity in Kewaskum on Feb 15th. A tentative date has been set for a presentation at Peace Church in Kewaskum on May 16th at 1730. It will be for adults with the team invited to share a meal with the members of the church. Sign up sheets for the latter will be available at a future date.

Sergeant At Arms Barry Oelerich: Nothing reported.

LETTERS AND NOTES FROM THE TROOPS

Dear Mr. Stern (Sgt USMC)

The Marines and Sailors of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, The Red Lions, would like to thank all of you for your recent care packages. This means a lot to us to know that our fellow Americans from wonderful towns, such as West Bend, still support deployed service members in the fight against terrorism. To you all, it may seem not like much, but we in the Red Lions appreciated your time and effort.

The Red Lions of HMH-363 fly CH53D heavy lift helicopters. We are normally stationed in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii when not deployed, but our Marines and Sailors come from cities and towns all across the United States with several from the Midwest.

Please thank all the people from the Kettle Moraine Detachment, for their support, Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A.D. Broughton

Commanding Officer HMH-36

(George Wujcik submitted this unit for Care Package consideration through the Exec Officer Major Thomas Witizak)

Dear John Stern and other Marine Corps League Members,

Thank you for your support and kind thoughts/prayers. Getting an e-mail from home is reassuring, let alone being sent items to support us. To put it mildly, I was very pleasantly surprised to hear from you and hear all the good things that your organization is doing to support troops overseas. The address that you provided will work fine and each of the items you plan on sending will either be used by my Platoon or myself. There is nothing specifically that we need, simply having the support is more than enough!

My current scheduled rotation dates is around 19Jul07. As you know for OPSEC, the exact date cannot be released, but that is the date we are forecasting. Please let me know if there is something I can do for you. Also, please thank each and every one of the supporters and contributors on behalf of me and my soldiers. We are all eagerly awaiting our return and being able to see the friendly faces of Wisconsin again!

Much Thanks!

1Lt Eric S. Beine

THE MARINES
(TV Documentary - Wed. Feb 21st - 2000 Hours on PBS-TV)

THE MARINES, airing Wednesday, Feb 21 2007 8 PM on PBS in Milwaukee, examines the unique "Warrior Culture" of the smallest but fiercest branch of the U.S. armed services. With significant access to Marine Corps training facilities in Parris Island, SC, Quantico, VA and 29 Palms, CA. THE MARINES reveals what it takes and what it means to be a Marine - from the first moments of a recruit's arrival at boot camp.

THE MARINES offers extensive coverage of the often-grueling Marine Corps training, including the Martial Arts Program, confidence course and intense rifle range instruction. The program also demonstrates how the Marines evaluate and shape their future leaders with the rigorous Officer Candidate Leadership reaction course and infamous "Quigley" exercise.

More than 30 current and former Marines of all ranks, authors and military correspondents were interviewed to tell the story of the rich history, traditions and continuing importance of the Marine Corps and the warrior ethos it instills.

"How the Warrior Culture is ingrained and how it sets the Marines apart from other armed services branches are critical aspects of Marine development and understanding," said producer/writer/director John Grant. "This program offers an in-depth and unvarnished look at the rigorous physical and psychological training employed to create this tenaciously loyal, highly skilled breed of combatant ready to defend country and comrade at any cost."

Other segments of THE MARINES focus on the Wounded Warrior Barracks in Camp Lejeune, NC; the new Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, VA; and women in the Marines. The program also travels to the country's largest Marine base in California, where Marines are seen training in mock Iraqi villages just weeks before deployment overseas.

Veterans Benefits

To obtain information on your veterans benefits including medical, school, home loans, etc, contact your County Veterans Services Officer at:

Washington County (262) 335-4457
Ozaukee County (262) 284-8326
Milwaukee County (414) 278-4054

How to Request Military Awards

Marines who have retired or separated before 1999, contact:

Navy Personnel Command (PERS-312D2) 9700 Page Avenue, Room 409 St. Louis, MO 63132

Include your full name, SSN, date of birth, as pertinent information. Veterans are entitled to one replacement set of medals. Send a SF-180 form, available at www.archives.gov Write on the outer envelope "Do not open in mailroom".

How to get a Purple Heart!

A recent issue of a national veterans magazine has an ad from an Air Force crewman who advises that he was flying in a superfortress over California during the Viet Nam War when the plane dropped 8,000 feet, causing his head to hit the ceiling. There were four Army MP's as passengers who witnessed his bump. The crewman is trying to locate those MP's to verify what happened so that he can request a Purple Heart award. - You gotta be kidding!

KetMorDet's Schedule of Upcoming Events

Feb 17	Sat	0830	Turn in election ballots prior to regular meeting.
Feb 17	Sat	0845	Det Monthly Meeting - Trenton Town Hall (Count the election ballots - announce new officers)
Feb 17	Sat	1000	Honor Guard practice following meeting - bring dress shoes
Mar 4	Sun	1130	Tentative - Flag Presentation Team guests at Father/Son Brunch, St Peter's Church, Slinger.
Mar 4	Sun	1215	Tentative - Flag Presentation for Father/Son gathering at St. Peter's Church, Slinger
Mar 12	Mon	1900	Det Officers Call - MPTC West Bend
Mar 17	Sat	0900	Det Monthly Meeting - Trenton Town Hall
Mar 31	Sat	1000	Dept of WI MCL Spring Staff Meeting at Voyageur Inn - Reedsburg - All Members invited
Apr 13-15	Fri-Sun		MCL Central Division Conference, Moline, IL - All Members invited

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The *KETTLE MORAINÉ MARINE* Newsletter is published prior to scheduled monthly meetings for the information and use of Detachment Members. Articles and letters are invited. The editor retains the right to edit any submission. Submit typed materials or photographs to the editor at the above address or by e-mail at mgysgt@att.net

Annual donation for ads is \$75 for a single and \$150 for a double. Half or full-page ads are also available on request.

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