



The



Kettle Moraine Marine

October 2009

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Vol V Issue 8

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**VETERAN'S DAY
2009**

Our next Meeting is at 9am Saturday October 17th, 2009 at the Trenton Town Hall.
Located at 1071 State Hwy 33 East, West Bend WI 53095.

Newsletter Highlights

Cover: From Sgt Grit
Page 3: Minutes of the Meeting
Page 4: "Terrorism and its Effects" by Nicholas Ebert
Page 5: Marine Corps League Mentoring Program
Page 6: John Fleischman, Story of SSgt Breen
Page 7: Report of Officers
Page 10: VAVS

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Chaplain

George Wujcik
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George Wujcik
 (262) 338-8426

UPCOMING DETACHMENT EVENTS (Subject to change)

Oct	17	Sat	0900	Regular Monthly Meeting
Oct	23	1983	0622	Bombing in Beirut, Lebanon
Nov	7			Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc Drinks start at 1700, ceremony at 1800, dinner 1900. Contact 1st Sgt Siquieros at 414-481-3860 for ticket info. Tickets are on a first come come first serve basis, if available at all at this time.
Nov	10			234th Marine Corps Birthday
Nov	11			Veterans Day
Nov	14			Germantown Christmas Parade
Nov	29			West Bend Christmas Parade
Dec	19			Regular Detachment Monthly Meeting

Happy 234th Birthday Marines!
Do not to forget those that have paved the way for us, or those that are paving the way for the next generation of Marines!

NEWSLETTER INFO

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THE KETTLE MORAINNE MARINE Newsletter is normally published prior to monthly scheduled meetings for the information and use of Detachment Members. Articles and letters are invited but the Editor retains the right to edit any submission. Submit typed materials or photographs marked for the Newsletter to the Editor by the first Monday of the month using either e-mail: jwaier@charter.net or snail mail to 2235 Sylvan Way Apt #6 West Bend, WI 53095. Annual donation for ads is \$100 for a single block and \$175 for a double. Half or full page ads are also available.

Editor: Jason Waier (262) 623-1417

See the Newsletter and other Detachment info at www.ketmordet.com

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**Kettle Moraine Detachment 1203, Marine Corps League
Minutes of Meeting Held September 19th, 2009
15 Members Present**

The meeting was held at the Trenton Town Hall, West Bend, Wisconsin. The Jr Vice Commandant called the meeting to order at 0900. The Sgt at Arms posted the colors, opening prayers were said and the Meeting was opened.

Roll Call of Officers

Commandant: Jim Ramage excused	Paymaster: Roger Cross excused
Sr. Vice Commandant: Danny O'Toole excused	Chaplain: George Wujcik present
Jr. Vice Commandant: Paul Bollmann present	Sergeant at Arms: Tim Bertram present
Adjutant: Paul Schleif excused	Historian: Jason Waier present
Judge Advocate: position open	

Other Members Attending

Coulter, Dan	Fleischman, John	Heiman, Carl	Keller, Charles(ex)	Link, Paul
Lucka, Gil	Mathews, Glen	Meeks, Todd	Montag, Fred	Stern, John
Straub, Hugo	Wallace, William			

Reading of the Minutes

A motion was made by Jason Waier to accept the August Minutes as posted in the September Newsletter. Motion seconded by Hugo Straub. Motion passed.

Paymasters Report

Paymaster Roger Cross was not present, but did have a report ready for the Detachment. John Stern inquired if the Scholarship Awardees have fulfilled the requirements for the additional funds to be awarded to them. John Fleischman noted that Nicholas Ebert has submitted his essay (please read it on page of the 4 Newsletter) and Samantha Wollner is working on hers. With no other unanswered questions or comments Paul Link made a motion to accept the Paymasters Report as given. John Fleischman seconded. Motion passed.

Chaplains Report

George Wujcik noted that cards have been sent out to Barry Oelerich's mother-in-law, Gil Lucka, Dan Coulter, and the Chaplains' brother in law, who is recovering from triple bypass surgery. Dan Coulter Thanked the Det for the card and get well wishes he received while laid up. The Det was glad to see both Gil and Dan at the Meeting.

Correspondence Received or Delivered

The Mason family has once again made a \$500 donation "to help the Detachment in all that you do. It is wonderful to see your care for our troops and your involvement in your community. Thank You Judy and Michael Mason." Jason Waier noted that in the past the Detachment has sent the Masons' a Certificate of Recognition for their generous donations. Jason made a motion to get them a plaque for this unselfish donation. Paul Link seconded the motion. Motion passed. The Masons' live in IL and are affiliated with the Detachment through their friend, Charlie Keller.

The Marine Corps League Foundation can issue a "Certificate Honoring the Memory of deceased Members" for a donation of \$25-\$74.99, or for \$75-\$249.99 it is issued in an Oak frame, and for donations of \$250 and up it can be mounted on a plaque. Please contact a Marine Corps League Board Member at 703-207-9588, or at www.mcleague.org.

The Dept of Wisconsin has sent out their newsletter and was on hand for the Members to read.

The Camp Lejeune Water Study has issued its findings. Copies can be acquired by contacting Jason Waier, or go online at www.nationalacademies.org/morenews/20090613.html.

The Marine Corps League has sent out guidelines for starting a Mentoring Program to help foster recruiting and retention efforts. It can be found on page 5 of this Newsletter.

Questions have been raised as to the worthiness of the Care Packages that are sent out by the Det. as there is not a lot of feedback from the Marines that receive them. A letter was read by Jason Waier that should reaffirm the Det that although we do not always hear from the recipients the ones that are able reply are very grateful for them.

Dept of Wisconsin will be holding the Fall Conference at King Veterans Home in King WI on October 3rd at 2 pm.

Continued on Page 8

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Terrorism and Its' Effects

By: Nicholas Ebert

Eight years ago, at approximately this time of year, our nation was attacked by terrorists. Before that time, acts like the one on September 11, 2001, were not thought about nearly as often as they are today. Every morning when I woke up, I thought about my day and what was going to occur during that day. However, it all changed for the worse when terrorists flew airplanes into The World Trade Center. All of a sudden people had to think about so much more than the average person should have to worry about. Now people have to worry if their building is big enough or important enough to be attacked. The average American's life is now just a little bit different because of the attack. Not to mention those lives that were altered far more because of the loss of a loved one. My heart goes out to those whose lives will never be the same. The changes it's had on my life are far less important.

The attacks of September 11th altered my life in small, yet important ways. I have a girlfriend in Florida, and because of the attacks, flying has become stressful when it's time for me to make the trip. I now have to get to the airport two hours early because should something not go correctly for me or another traveler I could be late. When I go, I have to be very careful what put in my carry-on bag because the last thing I need is to have a problem when trying to pass through security.

Something as simple as a letter opener could be seized from my possession and would likely draw attention and questioning. It could be seen as a weapon or sharp object that I planned on using to overtake a plane. Something like that really shouldn't have to be an issue.

On another note, I'll discuss



another affect that terrorism has had. For example, my family hunts and we used to be farmers. A common and useful tool was always a pocketknife. The attacks of September 11th are believed to have been done with small knives. Now, when a person may be in a bigger building, or definitely if you were to accidentally carry your pocketknife onto a school property or

maybe even a church, people would become uneasy. In the case of a school, you might even receive a fine. With the lack of trust between unfamiliar people as a whole, society becomes more on edge. As a result, people are given the benefit of the doubt, less and less. All this distrust and uneasiness is due largely to terrorism and it is making people think that an attack could come from any person who is in the wrong frame of mind at any time. I am proud to say that our country is working hard to lessen terrorism and trying to make its' citizens feel safer.

Some people might say the troops in the Middle East are a waste and that we will never accomplish our ultimate goal. Well, those people may very well be right to say that we will never end terrorism completely. However, is it not a good idea to give a deterrent or to eliminate potential threats prior to them accomplishing terrorist acts? It is my opinion, that every potential terrorist attack that is stopped makes it all worth the effort and even the money. Innocent lives are precious and should be kept safe. If we have any possibility of protecting them, we should try our best to do so. Our military goes to work every day and risk their lives to protect not only US citizens, but also the citizens of Iraq and even Afghanistan. I find it hard to believe that anyone would claim that to be a bad thing. I am thankful for the efforts of our military to keep terrorism at bay.

This essay was written by Nicholas Ebert as part of of the Scholarship Awards Program.

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THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MENTORING PROGRAM!!!!

The Mentoring Program was devised so that All Detachments and Units can incorporate it into their ongoing Recruiting and Retention efforts.... It is cost free and it works! The following steps are easy to follow and in a short time you should see measured results.

- 1. Create a strong bond between the OLD and the NEW.**
- 2. Develop in new members a feeling that they too are a part of the Unit.**
- 3. Encourage and increase open communication among the members.**
- 4. The member that brings a new member into the Unit should be that Members "Mentor" until the new member feels comfortable.**
- 5. The Detachment Commandant shall assign the duties to the Junior Vice Commandant to administer this program and keep close watch on the Progress of the program.**

ALL MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE PART IN THE MENTORING PROCESS.

DO NOT FORGET THE MEMBERS THAT ARE INCAPACITATED FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER...SHOW THEM THAT THEY ARE STILL PART OF THE UNIT THE MENTORING PROGRAM FOR THE MCL

Among the basic tasks of every Detachment in the Marine Corps League is Recruitment and Induction of new members. The purpose is to promote growth of the League and its subsidiary units.. Only in this manner can the organization prosper.

Until recently, the league struggled to increase its overall members on a sustainable track. We lost members as fast as they were sworn in. There were and are reasons for this. A number of our Marines passed on, some became less active due to health or medical issues, and many left because of inactivity within their detachments.

These are all viable reasons, but they can all be countered with good reasons

why the membership should and could sustain their numbers even with the scenarios suggested above. We lose more members for one reason and one reason only. "They don't feel included in the social fiber or culture of the detachment." I receive letters and e-mails on a daily basis voicing these same concerns. This is where the "Mentoring Program" enters into the equation.

If you examine this closely you will find two major concerns... First is the "Fading Away" of many older members. The second is the loss of new members. Both situations must be addressed. Following are suggestions aimed at improving the "communication gap" we seem to have.

The fact that we are vigorously building a detachment we can be proud of should stimulate greater interest among area Marines to want to belong. This is good! In order to build upon this renewed interest it is proposed here that the detachment develop a "Proactive Approach" to the induction of its new members and in an effort to reach out to our members who are either temporarily or chronically unable to take an active role in the detachments programs.

In an effort to grease the wheels, so to speak, it is proposed that the detachment initiate the "Mentoring Program" that will match up "Old Salts" with our new recruits as a way to ease them into foil membership in the detachment. At the same time, it is also proposed that we initiate programs within the detachment to reach out to our brother and sister Marines whose ability to get around is restricted.

GOALS

- A. Create a bond between old and new members so new members will feel more accepted into the mainstream of the detachment.*
- B. Develop in new members a stronger feeling that they, too, are part of the team that is your detachment.*
- C. Increase the retention rate and active participation of old and new members in the activities of the detachment*
- D. Encourage and increase open communication among the membership.*

PROGRAMS

A Mentoring Program for the induction and integration of new regular and associate members into a detachment.

- 1. All prospective Regular members of the detachment shall be assigned a*

"Mentor" prior to their induction. All prospective Associates should be assigned two "Mentors."

- 2. Once the inductee has been accepted and sworn into the Detachment, his or her sponsor should immediately assume an active role in assisting the new member in his or her introduction into the formal and informal programs of the Detachment*

- 3. If possible, the sponsor of the new member should be the Mentor. No member shall be required to mentor more than two new members at a time.*

- 4. If at all possible, the mentor and new member should live in a relatively close proximity geographically.*

- 5. The mentor relationship should continue until the new Member feels it is no longer needed.*

- 6. The Mentoring Program shall fall under the jurisdiction of the Junior Vice Commandant.*

HOMEBOUND BUDDY PROGRAM

Along with the Mentoring Program, we need to develop a system for maintaining contact with Marines whom, for a myriad of reasons, are having difficulty getting to detachment meeting and other functions. These men and women probably started the detachment and kept it operating through some difficult times. They now find themselves unable to keep up the pace and are in danger of falling out of the ranks. Many of them have begun to lose contact with the league and even the community at large.

Marines have a long history of taking care of their own. However, we sometimes lose contact with our old friends and shipmates. That should not be allowed to happen. Unless we take positive action to prevent it, we shall soon lose an important part of our history.

In that light, I propose that the detachment and the auxiliary, under the direction of the detachment chaplain initiate a program to organize volunteers responsible for maintaining contact with fellow Marines and Auxiliary members who-because of age or infirmity-can no longer be as active as they once were.

The volunteers would make regular contact by telephone or e-mail or any other means of communication available. The goal is to improve our lines of communication and regenerate the process of inclusion.

From the Marine Corps League Handout



On September 19th John Fleischman ran a one man brat fry for most of the day at Piggly Wiggly in West Bend. John's determination to help the Detachment raise money shows his true esprit de corps. Although there were a couple



Members that stopped by during the event it was for the most part a one man show. Ooh-Rah John! Thank You for the **Outstanding** effort!

This is to honor my son, a Staff Sgt. of Marines. He died this August of a heart attack at the age of 34. The Medical Examiner said his heart was either damaged by the ambush or he picked up a virus that settled in his heart and the V.A. dropped the ball, in treating him. He left a family, Wife and 3 boys ages 3, 5, and 8. The following story is true, and all he got for the action was a Purple Heart. I just read a story in the Jacksonville newspaper of a Navy Submarine Officer that got a bronze star for doing a good job running electronics that blocked remote detonations of IED's. He didn't get blown up, shot at, or pull injured from the line of fire, but he got a medal. (story continues below...)

SSgt A.W. Breen Ambushed

SSgt Breen was stationed in Afghanistan during 2007, at an outpost with 2 other Marines and in charge of training about 50 Afghan troops and collecting intelligence.

During the spring of 07, they received information on a small Taliban training camp. They set out to attack this training camp in a convoy of 2 Humvees and several trucks. They had to travel up into the mountains on some very rough and narrow roads. As they got into the mountains, the road wound its way up the side of a canyon. The road was way up a cliff, with a sheer drop off on the left, and the cliff extended up and actually overhanging the road on the right side.

As they came to this one section of the road it made a big turn to the left, making an open 'U' that they were on, and the mountain across from them was a steep, sloping, bolder strewn hill across from the road. S.Sgt. Breen radioed to the other vehicles in his convoy that this was the perfect place for an ambush, and if an RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) came in, to hit the gas, and don't stop for at least a mile. SSgt Breen was in the turret of the 4th vehicle, a Humvee. He was manning an M-60 Machine Gun.

Once they were all in the 'U', the Taliban ambush opened up on them. An RPG hit the first truck, and two or three hit the last vehicle, another Humvee. The Afghan troops all stopped and got out of the trucks, and most of

them just ran back down the road.

It turns out that they had been set-up by an Afghan member of the Taliban, that had joined the Afghan army and was an officer. He got sick the morning of their raid, and just couldn't make the trip. He was later found out, and killed by the Afghan Army.

The ambush was one of the worst fights that year in Afghanistan. There were over 200 Taliban fighters ambushing about 50 of SSgt Breen's Afghan troops.

SSgt Breen started firing the M-60 Machine Gun, and was doing so for a couple of minutes, suddenly it stopped working. Looking down at it SSgt Breen saw that it had taken an armor piercing round right in the action, making it useless. He tossed it aside and reached down into the Humvee, and grabbed his SAW (A Hand held Machine Gun) and started firing it. During this time period, his Humvee was hit by at least three RPG's, and his turret was taking lots of hits from the Taliban.

SSgt Breen was firing the SAW, when an armor piercing round hit him in the chest, slamming him back against the turret of the Humvee. His body armor ceramic plate stopped the bullet. SSgt Breen kept firing his SAW, until it suddenly quit. It had taken an armor piercing round directly in the bolt, making it useless. SSgt Breen tossed it down, and drew his 9 MM service pistol and was shooting it at the Taliban, when he was hit in the hand, destroying the pistol, and knocking it out of his hand. The armor piercing round had gone through his right hand.

Again, during this time, his Humvee was hit by another three or four RPG's, wounding SSgt Breen in the face, neck, and arms with shrapnel.

SSgt Breen jumped out into the line of fire and picked up one of the Afghan troops big H&K machine gun, and was firing it single handed with his left hand.

He then, with his wounded right hand, grabbed a wounded Afghan soldier, and dragged him back behind the Humvee. SSgt Breen then went back out into the line of fire and grabbed another wounded troop, and SSgt Breen was again hit in the chest with another armor piercing round, and almost knocked down, but again his body armor stopped the bullet.

SSgt Breen dragged three or four more wounded troops behind the Humvee, and being a combat EMT, he administered first aid to all of them, saving their lives.

At some point during this, SSgt Breen also got on the radio and called in the Marine Cobra Helicopters that came in and saved them.

We know of SSgt Breen's actions because a short time later they captured a video tape from the Taliban. The Taliban Snipers get paid for each enemy they kill, and a big bonus for killing a U.S. Marine. The Sniper that was targeting SSgt Breen had a video being shot for him during this battle. The person running the video said something to the affect "He cannot be killed, he must be a God. Turn your gun on the others, and don't waste your bullets on him."

S.Sgt. Breen was medivacked to a field hospital, and then on back to the USA.

S.Sgt. Breen's Captain later called him and told him that they stopped counting at 70 entry holes where armor piercing rounds had gone into the Turret, and that there were at least another 30 or 40 entry holes in the Turret alone. The Humvee was hit at least 5 or 7 times by RPG's, and totally destroyed.

An Army Major who later saw the Taliban video said that "That Marine should have been put in for a Silver Star Medal. Hell, that is the stuff they make movies about!"

A proud father

Taken from Sgt Grit on line

Report of Officers and Committee Chairs

In order to expedite the regular monthly meeting, all Officers and standing committee chairs are afforded the opportunity to provide their input to the Newsletter by the first Monday of each month. Members are also welcome to submit something. This will enable all Members to review items of interest and reduce discussion at the meetings. Additionally, it provides any Member who is unable to make it to a regular meeting, the opportunity to remain abreast of current Detachment activities. Any submission may be edited and use depends on available space.

Commandant Jim Ramage Reports:

Nothing reported

Sr Vice Commandant Danny O'Toole Reports:

Nothing reported

Jr Vice Paul Bollmann Reports:

Nothing reported

Paymaster Roger Cross:

Nothing reported

Judge Advocate : Open

Adjutant Paul Schlieff:

Nothing reported

Chaplian George Wujcik:

I sent a card to Marine Barry Olerich's Mother in law Joanne Sell wishing her to get well. I told her there are Marines praying for her.

Scholarship forms are available .The requirements include a 500 word theme on terrorism and its effect on us. These should be turned in by May.

FHPT: A mailing has been sent to several schools and nursing homes. Any new places that you may have or know about , I would greatly appreciate the info. I have about twenty more to send out .I need input about two weeks ahead in order to get on the calender and find members to be at the presentations. George Wujcik

Sgt at Arms Tim Bertram Reports:

Nothing Reported

Honor Guard Commander John Stern Reports:

I am currently working on a proposal to present the membership concerning white shirts. Looks as if the membership will have a choice between two versions. The one with the open collar and the one like Jason wore to the Sep Meeting. Big difference in price (\$18 per shirt). Once the membership selects a style we will order three, Med. L, & XL) for members to try on. FHP team, Color, & Honor OIC's will compile a list of folks who are authorized to apply for a shirt. Please come to the Oct. Meeting and give the Det your opinion.

Color Guard Commander Bill Wallace Reports:

We won't be doing the Grafton parade this year on Nov.

29th. It's the last Saturday of deer hunting and we don't have enough interest to fill a color guard. I will concentrate on getting enough members for Germantown and West Bend.

Semper Fi
Bill Wallace

Jason Waier Reports:

Editor:

The Newsletter is still actively seeking more advertisers. Please be sure to contact me at 262-623-1417 if you know of any that would be willing to donate.

Dept Of Wisconsin Fall Conference:

Marines and Corpsmen

I attended the Dept of Wisconsin State Fall Conference in King on Oct 3rd.

Several key points were brought up in discussion.

Marine Corps League National HQ will be getting caught up to the 21st century and will be doing almost all correspondence via the web within the next year. This will include membership reports, transmittals, and new membership applications.

Although individual Detachments will still have to verify the applicants DD214 before being accepted.

There will be growing pains with this as there is with any large scale overhaul, but when finished it should make things go more smoothly and efficiently. The hope is that membership will grow as many young Marines do not even have checkbooks anymore, and are more willing to pay with a credit card online from the comfort of their home. Again though it will be the Detachments that will need to verify the application requirements. Speaking of which.....

The Application for Membership will soon be changing. Convicted felons or those that have been convicted for molesting children, or have been incarcerated for two or more years will not be allowed to join the MCL. Details are still being worked out with what to do about current members that will be affected by this change.

As stated several times at our own meetings, a Detachment does not survive solely by its numbers of paid members; it survives by its number of members willing to participate. Case in point...There is a Detachment that has been around for as long as anyone at the Conference could remember. It has 51 paid members. It has several thousand dollars in the bank. It has everything that one would think it needs. Well the Commandant for that Det reported at the meeting that due to lack of participation, I.E. no one is willing to become an officer and help lead the Det, or take on any of the responsibilities of the Det., the Commandant has reluctantly turned in the Det Charter to the Dept of Wis for dissolution of the Det. Yes you read that correctly. Because

Continued on Page 9

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Report of Standing Committees

Honor Guard: Nothing new to report.

Color Guard: Bill Wallace had sign up sheets on hand for the upcoming Christmas Parades; Nov 14th is Germantown and Nov 29th is West Bend. If interested in participating please contact Bill Wallace at 262-338-3525.

Fundraising: The Det is in need of someone to take charge of Fundraising. Although the Det has been somewhat successful fundraising this year, a huge opportunity was missed in August as we missed out on the Milwaukee Brewers Rose Dist date on the 16th. Everyone, including myself, thought it was in Oct, but no one followed up by checking for sure when it was. Currently every event is on its own with no chairperson. A single contact point may help in not missing out again on potentially well received events.

John Fleischman conducted a brat fry at Piggly Wiggly in West Bend and will report at the next Meeting.

Uniform: Jason Waier purchased and wore to the Meeting a white short sleeve shirt that could be used to replace the khaki that is no longer authorized for use per National HQ MCL. The shirt Jason was wearing will cost is around \$18. This particular shirt buttons all the way up and has the military creases already sewn in. A "tropical" shirt that is a v neck style shirt is also available for around \$45. Patches are \$4.50 and about \$8 to sew them on. Members are asked to come to the October Meeting and give their thoughts.

Birthday Ball: North Shore Marine has never responded to our invitation to attend our Ball, and we have not been able to secure a guest speaker yet. Fox Co in Milwaukee has invited KetMorDet to attend their ball at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc on November 7th for \$40 per person. Members wishing to go need to contact 1st Sgt Siquieros at 414-481-3860. Emails were sent out Members reminding them that the Fox Co needed a head count by Sep 24th and that any seats left after that date would be first come first serve. There may still be seating available as of this printing, but Members are asked to contact Fox Co for more info. The Members at the Meeting agreed that due to timing and falling attendance it would be a good experience to join with Fox Co this year and not hold a Det Ball.

Old Business

It has been discussed several times before that maybe changing the Meeting date might help bring in more Members to the Meetings. Particularly during the summer months. Instead of having the Meeting on the 3rd Sat of the month, it has been suggested that we meet on the Monday following the 3rd Sat. during the summer only. These dates would be May 17th, June 21st, July 19th, and August 23rd. This will be discussed further at the Oct Meeting. Please come and sound off on this idea. Most members present at the Sep Meeting liked the idea.

<p>This spot is courtesy of the generous donation by: Judy and Michael Mason</p>	 <p>Miller Funeral Home (262) 626-2185 215 Forest Avenue Kewaskum, WI 53040 www.millemartinfl.com LARRY and LOUISE MARTIN</p>
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As the Det continues getting requests for funds from the Marine Corps Historical Society, and questions kept arising whether or not we have already given them a donation, Jason Waier went into the historical files and found that the Det did donate \$300 to the Marine Corps Foundation to help build the Marine Corps Museum.

New Business

Due to personal health reasons Paul Bollmann will be stepping down as Jr Vice Commandant as of December 31, 2009. Sean Rodriguez has also stepped down due to personal reasons. The Det. is looking for Members to step forward and take over these responsibilities. Please contact Jim Ramage at 262-242-9823 if interested.

There was a lot of trouble in the past with getting savings bonds for new Eagle Scouts and the checks given for them. Roger Cross suggested at the Officers Call that a gift card be purchased in place of the savings bond. Possibly from Cabelas, as these Eagle Scouts would be more likely to be the outdoors types. Dan Coulter made a motion to purchase Cabelas cards to present the Eagle Scouts at their Court of Honor in place of the bonds. Paul Link seconded. Motion passed. Gil Lucka suggested a letter be written requesting a 2 week notice be given for Courts of Honor so that everything can be prepared. Jason noted he would draft a letter.

Good of the League

Jason Waier brought in the award from Capt. McRae (as seen on the cover of the Sep edition of the Newsletter) and the rest of Fox Co that was given to Kettle Moraine Det for its outstanding support of Fox Co. Jason thanked everyone again for helping support our fellow Marines.

Meeting Closed

With no further business to conduct, the Jr Vice Commandant gave the order to close the meeting at 0958. The Sergeant at Arms retired the colors and the Chaplain gave the closing prayer. The Jr Vice Commandant thanked all members for attending and asked that they secure new members. The Marine Hymn was sung in closing the meeting.

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From Officer Reports Page 7

people are only willing to basically pay to say they belong to an organization that organization is folding. A Det's strength is in its members, not in its numbers. This particular Det is not the only one in trouble. It was stated that there are two or three more that are on the bubble. These Det's cannot fill out a "Report of Officers Installation" because they have no one willing to lead them. Please do not let this happen here. It can and does happen.

It is suggested that each Det find a way of getting Det info off of personal computers. If the IRS came in and wanted to audit the Det financials they could come and take Rogers computer without notice and without regard to his info on it. I would think keeping everything on a jump drive instead of the hard drive would suffice, but it was left up to each Det on how this is to be handled. There was quite a lengthy discussion on the subject. Dept of Wisconsin will be purchasing a laptop and web book for the Adjutant and Paymaster. I don't think that kind of money needs to be spent, but it is a subject that needs to be looked at.

It was also suggested that with Nat HQ going online with everything Det's might want to look at some kind of per diem for the officers that will be required to have internet hook up to fulfill their job.

On the Report of Officer Installation a websgt is now required. It is an appointed position by each Det. and is currently filled by myself for KetMorDet.

Any time a donation is made to either King or Zablocki and we wish that money go to the residents and not a general fund it needs to be stated in the "MEMO" line on the check "for resident use". This way it is noted, not inferred, where the money is to go. The POC for Kings Veterans Home is currently Laura Mays if there are any questions.

I did turn in a Quarterly Report of Det Activities:
Elections were held in Feb, and Officers sworn in by the State Commandant in March.

Our Flag History Presentation Team has run several programs at various schools, and civic events. They are currently getting ready to kick off the fall programs.

A Color Guard was requested by the Boys Scouts to help participate in the Blue and Gold event in West Bend.

Held several Rose Distribution Fundraisers and one brat fry. Placed recruitment ads in several tri county newspapers, but have had no luck finding new members.

Donated \$1000 to the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight Program, and smaller amounts to the local Food Pantry and Navy Relief among others.

Along with Badger Det, and North Shore Marine we participated in the Fox Co War Memorial rededication event in Milwaukee. We also sent each family photo albums

and picture cd's of the event.

Participated in the Reclaiming Our Heritage event at the Zablocki VA Center.

Our Honor Guard has been to 25 funerals.

Care Packages continue being sent out to troops in harm's way in Iraq, & Afghanistan.

Our Color Guard has participated in several parades this year, including Jackson, Allenton, and West Bend and look forward to getting out for the Christmas Parades.

Along with Badger and North Shore we helped Fox Co 2/24 celebrate Family Day at the Reserve Center in Milwaukee. We did receive an award from Fox Co at the event for the "Outstanding Support given to Fox Co by Kettle Moraine Det".

Participated along with Fox Co at the Operation Freedom event at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Our uniform committee is currently looking at different shirts to replace the khaki's that are no longer authorized.

We continue looking for different ways of attracting new members. Next year we will be changing our summer meeting dates from Sat mornings to Monday nights in hopes of getting some new faces. Currently we are looking at other advertising and ways of letting our community know about us.

ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease is now a presumptive condition for Veterans having served 90 days or more on active duty thus qualifying Veterans may receive compensation. Please see the notice on page 10.

The Central Div Conference is April 10th and 11th at the Ramada in Stevens Point, and the Dept Convention is June 25th, 26th, and 27th. Members are encouraged to attend.

There are currently four Honor Flight hubs operational in Wisconsin. Stars and Stripes in Port Washington 262-238-7740, Badger Honor Flight in Madison 608-835-8604, Old Glory in the Fox Valley 888-635-9838, and Freedom Honor Flight in LaCrosse 608-784-1015.

Nik Makaroff is the Dept Judge Advocate and also the Central Div Judge Advocate and was on hand to squash any hear say rumors about the khaki shirts. It was listed on page 23 of the proposed by laws changes and was published prior to the deadline. Its original intent was to keep associate members and aux members from wearing the uniform. An amendment from the floor changed it to what we have today- no one being able to wear them. Although stated in Semper Fi as an overwhelming vote to remove the shirt, it was accepted by a vote of something around 200-175. He assured everyone that the vote was legal, it was printed in time, and that it **WILL** stand.

Respectfully Submitted: Jason Waier



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VA Secretary Establishes ALS as a Presumptive Compensable Illness Cites Association between Military Service and Later Development of ALS

WASHINGTON - Veterans with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) may receive badly-needed support for themselves and their families after the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that ALS will become a presumptively compensable illness for all veterans with 90 days or more of continuously active service in the military.

"Veterans are developing ALS in rates higher than the general population, and it was appropriate to take action," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake said.

Secretary Peake based his decision primarily on a November 2006 report by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM) on the association between active-duty service and ALS.

"We are extremely grateful to Secretary Peake, Congressman Henry Brown and Senator Lindsey Graham for standing on the side of veterans with ALS across the country," said Gary Leo, president and CEO of The ALS Association. "Thanks to their leadership, veterans with ALS will receive the benefits and care they need, when they need them. Thanks to their efforts, no veteran with ALS will ever be left behind."

The report, titled Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in Veterans: Review of the Scientific Literature, analyzed numerous previous studies on the issue and concluded that "there is limited and suggestive evidence of an association between military service and later development of ALS."

"ALS is a disease that progresses rapidly, once it is diagnosed," the Secretary explained. "There simply isn't time to develop the evidence needed to support compensation claims before many veterans become seriously ill. My decision will make those claims much easier to process, and for them and their families to receive the compensation they have earned through their service to our nation."

ALS, also called Lou Gehrig's disease, is a neuromuscular disease that affects about 20,000 to 30,000 people of all races and ethnicities in the United States, is often relentlessly progressive, and is almost always fatal. ALS causes degeneration of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that leads to muscle weakness, muscle atrophy, and spontaneous muscle activity. Currently, the cause of ALS is unknown, and there is no effective treatment. The new interim final regulation applies to all applications for benefits received by VA on or after September 23, 2008, or that are pending before VA, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, or the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on that date.

VA will work to identify and contact veterans with ALS, including those whose claims for ALS were previously denied, through direct mailings and other outreach programs.

To view the entire regulation published in the Federal Register today, go to: www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2008-21998_PI.pdf.

For more information on VA's disability compensation program, go to www.va.gov or contact 1-800-827-1000.

For the latest news releases and other information, visit VA on the Internet at <http://www.va.gov/opa>.

To receive e-mail copies of news releases, subscribe to VA's list server at: http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opalist_listserv.cfm.

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