



Once A Marine...

Always A Marine!

FROM: **Richard L. Bollwerk, Commandant, Department of Missouri, MCL**

TO: All Staff and Detachment Commandants

DATE: 5 July 2006

RE: State Convention Follow-Up

Marines:

The Northwest Detachment 180 in St. Joseph did an outstanding job of hosting the 2006 State Convention. The Convention was well attended and although the business meeting ran a little long, I believe we were productive and learned much about what we need to do in the year ahead. On behalf of the Department, I want to thank the Northwest Detachment for all their hard work!

Convention Summary

Your new Department Officers are: (Home Detachment in parentheses)

Richard Bollwerk	Commandant	(Cpl. Mason O. Yarbrough Detachment)
Brad Harbison	Sr. Vice	(Central Missouri Detachment)
Dan Ferrell	Jr. Vice	(Lake of the Ozarks Detachment)
Janice Hartley	Adjutant	(St. Charles Detachment)
Raymond Glynn	Chaplain	(Southwest Missouri Detachment)
Teresa Terry	Judge Advocate	(Lake of the Ozarks Detachment)
John Allquist	Paymaster	(St. Charles Detachment)
Martin Tootle	Sgt. At Arms	(Sgt. Darrell S. Cole Detachment)

One of the issues discussed at the business meeting was the need to review and revise the Department Bylaws. It was recommended that a review committee be appointed and changes or revisions can be ready for adoption at the 2007 Convention. I am enclosing a CD that contains the Department Bylaws. You can also access them on our website: www.momcl.com. Please take time to review them with your staff. If you have suggestions for changes, you can send them to me or bring them to one of our quarterly Staff meetings.

I am in the process of filling appointed positions and selecting committee chairs. As soon as this task is completed, I will send the information to the Department PIO and get it posted on the website.

2006 -2007 Goals

As your new Department Commandant, I would like to see the Department take a more proactive approach to State and National Marine Corps League issues. The Department of Missouri has 16 very active Detachment and the largest membership in the Midwest Division. We should take the lead and set the example for our Division in membership retention, new members, and participation in all Marine Corps League programs.

Also as mentioned during the Convention, I would like to see the Department of Missouri set the example for proper MCL uniform wear. The National uniform regulations were revised last year and are easier to read and understand. There should be no reason for any League member to be “out of uniform”. I will provide additional ideas on this goal at the September Staff meeting.

In addition, I challenged the Department and all Detachments to help support the Marine Corps League Scholarship Fund. The Department of Missouri voted to contribute \$1000 to the fund, and I will proudly present that check, on behalf of the Department, at the National Convention in Boston this August. Please consider adding this issue to your agenda at your next Detachment meeting in July. If you choose to contribute, and wish to have your donation hand carried to the National Convention, send it to me and I will have one of our Department Officers present it on behalf of your Detachment. If you, or a member of your Detachment is attending National, you can make the donation yourself.

Another goal for the Department is to improve and facilitate communications to and between the Detachments. There are 16 very active Detachments with ideas, suggestions, questions and needs. It will be the goal of your Department Staff to meet this issue head on. Through more frequent “Letters from the Commandant”, emails, the quarterly Department Newsletter, and the Department website, I hope that no one will feel that they are “out of the loop”.

For starters, be sure that you have this information close at hand. If you have any MCL questions or concerns at any time, please feel free to contact me in whatever fashion you feel most comfortable. I have voice mail on my cell phone and an answering machine on my home telephone. I stay up late and get up early, so don't hesitate to call.

Contact Information: **Richard Bollwerk**, Commandant
email: rbollwerk@bigrivertel.net
address: 2148 Broadway, Box #150, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
cell phone: 573-979-5450
telephone: **Toll free: 1-888-774-6970** or 573-334-0753

I will make every effort to get back with you within 24 hours of receipt of your communication.

Additional goals and plans for the Department will be shared at the September Staff meeting. Up-to-date lists of Department Staff contact information, as well as Detachment Commandants and Detachment meeting dates and times, will be forthcoming.

The next Staff Meeting will be on Saturday, 9 September 2006, starting at **0900**. The dates of the 2nd and 3rd quarterly meetings will be Saturday, 2 December 2006 and Saturday, 3 March 2007. The location for these Staff meetings will continue to be at the Central Missouri Detachment headquarters in Jefferson City. For those who have not been there yet, from Jefferson City you go west on Highway 50 and take the Apache Flats exit north for 1 block. The building will be on your left. Remember, you can bring as many members of your Detachment Staff as you wish. It is good experience for your future officers and an opportunity to meet with and share ideas with other Detachment officers. I look forward to seeing a full house at the September meeting.

Special Request

I have received the following information and request for MCL support from Commandant Steve Diemler of the Central Missouri Detachment, which I want to pass along. Please consider his request and contact him regarding your level of support.

‘The Marine Corps Silent Drill Team will be performing at a Support the Troops Rally Saturday, August 5, at 1800 on the south lawn of the capitol in Jefferson City. It appears that this particular rally, although organized by the Jefferson City Veterans Council, will be primarily a Marine show. They have requested a firing detail, color guard, and honor guard around the seating area for families of fallen soldiers, and a detail of Marines to lay miniature wreaths as the roll call of fallen Missouri soldiers is read. Col. Jack Jackson will introduce the Silent Drill Team. The Governor has been invited to speak as well, but is expected to pass it to Lt. Gov Peter Kinder as he will be out of state at a conference. This won't be a long winded politician BS event, though, as each speaker will be limited to around 5 minutes. The highlight will be the Silent Drill Team, not the speakers.’

“What I am asking is whether we could get a commitment from Marines statewide to participate in either red coat or dress blues and make this a statewide Marine event. There are currently 56 or 57 Missouri soldiers on the roll call of fallen heroes. If we could have a red coat to lay a wreath for each of them, that would be great. We are not yet sure if the Silent Drill Team will also be doing the color guard, but if not, I'm sure we could get together a four-man flag color guard from the various detachments. Central Missouri can do the firing detail, but if there is enough participation, the firing detail could also be comprised of Marines from throughout the state.”

You can contact Steve in the following manner:

Cell Phone: 573-230-4785 Home Phone: 573-635-7969 Work Phone: 573-634-9197

Finally, I want to thank you for your support at the 2006 Convention. I look forward to working with the outstanding new Department Staff which you elected, as well as with each Commandant and Detachment. There is much work ahead of us, but by working together I know that we will be able to accomplish anything that we set our sights on.

At Ease!

Semper Fi,

Richard Bollwerk

Commandant

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Upcoming Events to post on your calendar:

- 5 August 2006 Marine Corps Silent Drill Team - Jefferson City, MO
- 6 - 11 August 2006 MCL National Convention - Boston, MA
- 20-21 October 2006 Midwest Division Fall Conference - Lake of the Ozarks, MO
Host: Lake of the Ozarks Detachment
- TBA April 2007 Midwest Division Spring Conference - St. Louis, MO
Host: Gateway Detachment
- 8, 9,10 June 2007 Department of Missouri State Convention, Cape Girardeau, MO
Cpl. Mason O. Yarbrough Detachment