

# Leatherneck News

## Upcoming Events

- 12 February 2009 – Marine Family Support Group meets at the Jasper American Legion 7 PM
- 19 February 2009— Meeting of the 5K Run Committee, 6:15 PM.
- 19 February 2009—Regular Meeting of the Detachment. Jasper American Legion, 7 PM. **NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION**
- 7-8 March 2009—Department of Indiana Spring Conference Holiday Inn, Terre Haute. Hosted by Joseph A. Bray Det. #471
- 17-19 April 2009—National Central Division Conference, Neenah, Wisconsin. Hosted by Winnebago Detachment.

## Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

### The Rite of Initiation

As a prelude to the January meeting, a formal ceremony observing the rite of Initiation was conducted. Officiating the ceremony was Senior Vice Commandant Pat Moriarty, Judge Advocate Chad Mehringer, Chaplain John Wagner, and Commandant Dave Englert.

(Below, l to R) Mike Hadley, Jeff Speedy, and Adam Mitchell accept the oath as Associate Members in the Detachment.



(Above) Marine Edward Herzog accepts the oath of membership from Commandant Englert.

The Initiation Ceremony is a serious matter requiring a dignified and unrushed setting. Members, both Regular and Associate pledge to conduct themselves in a manner in which they are active in the affairs and mission of the Detachment. Each also pledges to refrain from sectarian and political debate or activities while conducting the business of the Marine Corps League.

### Membership Chairman's Roll Call

"Let's Round 'em Up, and Herd 'em In"

As we are all aware, membership numbers are vital to the success of any organization.

It is imperative that we, as a detachment, not only maintain, but increase our membership rolls so as to allow our numbers to be counted among the legislative proceedings via the National Committee when proposing or presenting new agendas to the governmental bodies for upgrading, updating, or amending laws that might benefit our nation's veterans, or men and women currently serving in the military.

It is becoming an increasingly difficult battle with legislators to maintain the status quo of all military benefits both past and present, not to mention the possibilities of future cuts or denials of hard earned benefits our men and women so aptly deserve.

'NUMBERS DO COUNT' when we go to bat for those benefits.

Increasing membership is not the sole responsibility of the membership chairman or committee, but rather that each and every individual from the Commandant on down to the very newest mem-

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## Commandant's Corner

Like many organizations, numbers ebb and flow, sometimes due to events beyond our control. This month, our Junior Vice, Ed Herzog writes to remind us to work on that which is within our control. Ed has taken on the daunting task of retention and recruitment with a vengeance and has shown the determination and spirit to get the job done. The job is not just Ed's, though. Each of us are responsible for maintaining and growing our membership. I know that if I meet someone that is eligible and willing to join, I have an enrollment form with me. Do you?

You'll note on the schedule of events that the first meeting of the 5K Committee will be on the 19th, just prior to the regular meeting. Membership on the committee is open to all volunteers and is greatly appreciated. Though we have 4 years under our belt, I'm sure we'll find this year's run to have some unique challenges.

During the February meeting, the call for nominations will go out. Those seeking office or those wishing to nominate someone to fill an

office are asked to be at the meeting. Those currently filling offices will be asked if they will continue to serve in positions for which there are no nominations.

I would be remiss not to recognize our elected Officers, some of whom have held office for a great number of years. Their dedication to the Detachment is commendable and is responsible for the smooth operations of the Detachment. It is their hard work which keeps the gears turning!

The Calendar of Events provides upcoming conferences which are open to all members. If your circumstances allow, I highly recommend attending a conference or convention. They're a great way to meet fellow Marines and to learn more about the Marine Corps League. If you would like information on registration and reservations for any of these conferences please email or call me. I'll provide info on the State Convention ASAP.

## Marine Corps History—The Marine Corps War Memorial

The Marine Corps War Memorial stands as a symbol of a grateful nation's esteem for the honored dead of the United States Marine Corps. Although the statue depicts one of the most famous incidents of World War II, the Memorial is dedicated to all Marines who have given their lives in the defense of the United States since 1775. Shortly after Associated Press news photographer Joe Rosenthal's inspiring action picture of the Marines raising the second flag on Mount Suribachi was released, Sculptor Felix W. de Weldon, then on duty with the Navy, constructed a scale model and then a life-size model inspired by the scene.

The three survivors of the flag raising, Rene A. Gagnon, Ira Hayes, and John Bradley posed for Mr. de Weldon, who modeled their faces in clay. All available pictures and physical statistics of the three Marines who gave their lives were assembled and used in the modeling of their faces.



The figures were originally molded in the nude so that the strain of muscles would be prominently shown after clothing was modeled on the struggling figures.

Steel framework, roughly duplicating the bone structure of the human body, was assembled to support the huge figures under construction. Once the statue was completed in plaster it was carefully disassembled into 108 pieces and trucked to the Bedi-Rassy Art Foundry, Brooklyn, New York for casting in bronze. The casting process, which required the work of experienced artisans, took nearly three years.

After the parts had been cast, cleaned, finished, and chased, they were reassembled into approximately a dozen pieces and brought back to Washington by a three-truck convoy. Erection of the Memorial on the edge of Ar-

lington Cemetery near the Virginia's approaches to Memorial Bridge was begun in September of 1954. It was officially dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on November 10, 1954.

### Memorial Statistics

The figures on the statue are 32 feet high; they are erecting a bronze flagpole 60 feet in length. The figures are placed on a rock slope rising approximately 6 feet from a 10 foot base. Overall height of the statue is 78 feet. A cloth flag flies from the pole.



The M1 rifle carried by one of the figures is approximately 16 feet long, the carbines about 12 feet long. The canteen, if filled, would hold 32 quarts of water.

The figures of the statue are standing on rough Swedish granite. The concrete face of the statue is covered with blocks of polished Swedish black granite. Burnished into the granite, in gold lettering, are the names and dates of principal Marine Corps engagements since the Corps was founded in 1775. Also inscribed on the base is the tribute of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz to the fighting men on Iwo Jima: "Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue." Opposite this, on the base is the inscription: "In honor and in memory of men of the United States Marine Corps who have given their lives to their country since November 10, 1775."

(Continued on page 3)

## Marine Corps History—The Marine Corps War Memorial (Cont'd)

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### The Site



The Memorial site is a seven and one-half acre tract of land bordering the northern end of Arlington National Cemetery, and overlooking Washington, D.C., near the western end of Memorial Bridge. The entire cost of the statue and developing the Memorial site was \$850,000, donated by U.S. Marines,

former Marines, Marine Corps Reservists, friends of the Marine Corps, and members of the Naval Service. No public funds were used for the monument.

For more than four decades, the Marine Corps War Memorial has stood overlooking our nation's capital, joining

other Memorials to honor those who have made this nation great.

### The Flags

The flags raised that day on Mount Suribachi are currently preserved and displayed at the Marine Corps Historical Center in the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC.



## Membership Chairman's Roll Call (Cont'd)

ber on the roster whether they be a regular member, associate member, or a member of the Family Support Group. We must work together as a team, watching, listening and conversing with

potential members of all categories.

As membership chairman I urge you to be my 'eyes and ears' when out and about. If you hear anyone speak of someone's son or daughter about to be discharged from active duty, or know yourself of any eligible veterans who have previously served in the military, try to get their names and as much information about them as possible. Addresses, phone numbers, and parents names are extremely helpful when searching out these potential members. This holds true for possible associate members' as well. Anyone you might think who may be interested in supporting and upholding the ideals of the "United States Marine Corps" thru their participation

in the "Marine Corps League" is well worth pursuing.

I am in the process of implementing several new programs to aid in our membership goals.

The very first "Nite for Marines" is slated to be held at the Dubois County VFW Post 673 in Jasper,

Thursday April 30th, 2009. An evening of dining, dancing, and general all around fun and conversation among our current members is planned so everyone can get bet-

ter acquainted. Generally the only times we get together as a group is for a community service project such as a parade, funeral detail, or Toys for Tots function. This evening will give us an opportunity to be visible within the community, and perhaps bring us new members as well.

In addition we are planning to arrange a "Nite for Marines" and their family members at a Dubois County

Bombers baseball games at League Stadium in Huntingburg, possibly on or about the time they have a

night honoring Veterans.

A membership incentive program, using a point system, has been proposed whereas members will receive points for each newly accepted regular or associate member that is sponsored.

- 3 points will be awarded for a new member (regular, associate, or life.

- 1 point will be awarded for and regular or associate member 'referred' but signed by another member.

- 2 points will be awarded to member signing a 'referred' member.

Should a recruiter encounter someone that is "a hard sell" but yet a good prospect for membership, that

person may be referred to another member, or to the membership chairman, and still receive 1 point when

that person is signed and accepted. Points will be tallied on December 31st. and the top three member recruiters of the year will receive an award. (Awards yet to be deter-

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## **Membership Chairman's Roll Call (Cont'd)**

mined.)

If a former member is listed on the roster as 'unpaid' it will not count as a newly signed member unless that

person has been listed on the national roster as 'unpaid' for a minimum of two (2) calendar years.

The recruiting year will be from, Jan 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 31<sup>st</sup>, and July 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.

Goals will be set by the membership chairman and will be announced at the first meeting of each period.

Providing we meet our goal for each recruiting period, pizza will be provided at the first regular meeting of the new segment.

Once again, I urge each and every one of you to get out and beat the bushes. Let's increase our membership

each and every year for the 'good of the league.'

"Bring me some new members and potential leads..."

"Semper Fi," Ed Herzog - Jr. Vice Commandant

### **Detachment Officers:**

#### **Commandant:**

Dave Englert 812-357-2792

#### **Senior Vice Commandant:**

Patrick Moriarty 812-695-5061

#### **Chaplain**

John Wagner 812-683-4997

#### **Jr. Vice Commandant**

Ed Herzog 812-695-3115

#### **Paymaster and Web Sergeant**

Tina Moriarty 812-695-5061

#### **Adjutant**

Dennis Englert 812-482-2987

#### **Judge Advocate**

Chad Mehringer

#### **Public Affairs Officer**

Steve Lindauer 812-634-9685

#### **Sgt. at Arms**

Allen Fritz 812-683-2192

#### **Historian**

Dave Englert

#### **Quartermaster**

Tim Rue 757-880-3138