

Leatherneck News

Upcoming Events

- 4 July 2009—Pike County Independence Day Parade, Otwell, Parade starts at 10:00 AM
- 9 July 2009 – Marine Family Support Group meets at the Jasper American Legion 7 PM
- 16 July 2009—Ball Committee meeting, 6 PM Jasper American Legion
- 16 July 2009—Regular Meeting of the Detachment, Jasper American Legion, 7 PM.
- 1 August 2009—Second Annual Fallen Heroes Bass Tournament, Patoka Lake
- 2 August 2009—Strassenfest Parade, 1 PM
- 2-8 August 2009—MCL National Convention, Rochester, MN
- 21-27 August 2009- American Legion National Convention, Louisville, KY
- 20 September 2009—Holland Parade; 2 PM
- 11 October 2009—18th District Volunteer Firefighters Parade, Haysville.

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Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

Detachment Fares Well at State Convention

The 2009 Department of Indiana Annual Convention, hosted by the James P Farber Detachment, was held at the Radisson Hotel in Indianapolis, June 5-7 2009. Representing the Detachment was Commandant Englert, Senior Vice Commandant Moriarty and Chaplain John Wagner.

Kicking off the Convention was the Joint Opening ceremony held Friday evening with the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary Members in attendance. Business meetings kicked off bright and early on Saturday Morning with reports given by Department Officers and Detachment Commandants.

The election of Department Officers was particularly noteworthy for the Detachment as

three members were elected to Department Offices. John Wagner was elected to the position of Department Chaplain, a position he has filled since appointment at the Fall Conference. Dave Englert was elected to the position of Department Junior Vice Commandant, and Patrick Moriarty was election to the position of Vice Commandant, Southern Division. Pat also continues to serve as the Department Chairman for the Crumbo Scholarship. The election of three officers from one Detachment is significant, especially given the size of our Detachment.

Saturday afternoon was filled with commit-

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Forty Random Acts of Kindness

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Northwood Retirement Community, formerly known as Good Samaritan Nursing Home. As part of their anniversary the employees there took on the task of performing “40 Acts of Random Kindness”.

One of their acts of kindness was a “casual Friday” fundraiser with funds donated to the employees choice of organizations. The Marine Corps League was an easy choice according to Kathy Kugler, who had contacted the Commandant to present the donation.

Commandant Englert and Senior Vice Commandant Moriarty visited the employees of the Community on the 3rd of June to receive the donation and to present a certificate of appreciation. The employees noted that they had read about the Detachment in some of the news releases in the paper and thought that the Detachment provided a much needed service.

One of the highlights of the visit was a chance to meet and speak with a Marine of WWII vintage, Ollie Troth. Mr. Troth served the Corps in

the Pacific theater with stops in New Guinea, Papai, and Okinawa. Proud of his Marine Corps, Ollie was grateful for the visit from fellow Marines and sported a USMC cap. (See picture, page 2).



3 June 2009—Employees of Northwood Retirement Community with Commandant Englert. Kathy Kugler (seated) proudly displays the Certificate of Appreciation presents to her and her staff.

Commandant's Corner

Parades, parades, and more parades! For those of you who haven't been with us on a parade yet, our season begins with the Independence Day Parade in Otwell. Typically we have a Color Guard (either ours or the Active Duty Marines), a parade vehicle, sometimes with a trailer for longer parades, and a group of walkers and candy passer-outers. Since their beginnings, the Marine Family Support Group has joined us on every single parade and form an important element of our group.

Parade uniform is Dress Blue Trousers/White shirt for Color Guard and those walking with the Color Guard. Red polo with cover and dark trousers or shorts depending upon the weather for Regular and Associate Members. Attire for MFSG members is at their discretion.

Our Birthday Ball Committee has been hard at work putting together a fine event. Most of the crucial decisions have been made but the devil is in the detail. At this time the committee is busy getting quoted bids on everything from photographs to Dee-jays. Once all of the bids are in and costs can be more firmly estimated, a ticket price will be determined. At that time, but no later than the end of August, invitations will go out to members of the Detachment and MFSG only. Members will be free to invite others on their own accord, but are responsible for inviting them and collection their ticket price. At the end of September, an invitation to the general public will be made to fill remaining seats. Seating for members is only reserved until the end of September.

Once again, we've had a significant number of our members sick or hospitalized. I'm happy to note that several of our members have made a point of making visits and phone calls, but we can always do better. Reports of sick or in distress are part of the regular meetings but should be part of our daily lives. Please do let myself or any one of the other officers know so that we can get the word out!.



3 June 2009—Mr and Mrs. Ollie Troth enjoy a visit by Commandant Englert and Senior Vice Commandant Moriarty at the Northwood Retirement Community.

2009 Department of Indiana State Convention

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tee actions. The scholarship committee approved a total of eleven applications providing recipients with a total of nearly three thousand dollars in scholarship grants. Eligibility for the Crumbo Scholarship is for a current Regular or Associate Member of the Department of Indiana Marine Corps League or Marine Corps League Auxiliary OR the Spouse, Child or Grandchild of a current Regular or Associate member of the Department of Indiana Marine Corps League or Marine Corps League Auxiliary. Information and application forms are available on the Detachment website.

For the third year in a row, the Detachment took top honors, once again receiving the Department of Indiana Americanism Award. This award is given to the Detachment in recognition of contributions and outstanding service of any nature in the field of Americanism that has significantly brought credit upon the U. S. Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League, and the Naval Service. The award consists of a plaque and a red, white, and blue streamer.

Once again, a member of the Detachment was recognized for his continued contributions to the Detachment and the Department. Chaplain John Wagner was awarded the Department's Individual Member Americanism Award for his fulfillment of his duties as Detachment Chaplain. John is most deserving of this award and rates the wearing of the

Americanism Award Medal.

For their contributions as Department Officers, Department Chaplain John Wagner and Crumbo Scholarship Chairman Patrick Moriarty were awarded the Silver Distinguished Citizens Medal.



6 June 2009 (ll to r) Department Chaplain John Wagner, Department Junior Vice Commandant Dave Englert, and Department Vice Commandant, Southern Division Patrick Moriarty II, display individual and Detachment awards presented during the banquet.

County-Wide Flag Disposal Ceremony, a First

Each year, organizations within the Dubois County Veterans Council take in hundreds of worn, tattered, and unserviceable flags. Disposal of these flags is always performed with the utmost dignity using ceremonies outlined in respective organizational manuals. Over the years, the Council has discussed ways to raise public awareness to the need to remove unserviceable flags



12 June 2009—Representatives of member organizations prepare flags for disposal at the First Dubois County Veteran's Council Flag Disposal Ceremony.

from use. Certainly, many of us have noted flags flying that are well beyond their prime. By holding a dignified event and publicizing that the event was going to happen, it was hoped that more would take note of their flag's condition and take appropriate action.

The ceremony consisted of remarks by Council President Leroy Oser, the chaplains benediction, songs by members of the Jasper High School Choir, the bugle calls of reveille and retreat, and a 3 shot volley. The disposal of the flags was done with reverent silence.



The DCVC President, Vice President, and Chaplain during a performance by Jasper High School Choir members.

Uniform Wear—A Message from our Department Commandant *by Commandant Russ Eaglin*

From our Department of Indiana Convention and after discussions with several about Marine Corps League Uniforms I want to offer the Department Staff and Chairs "My Opinion". My Opinion is just that, I encourage discussion on the topic.

First I recommend that our Department level Officers and Chairs help set a good example by wearing their League Uniform to functions. In wearing the uniform, make sure it is squared away. I realize we are not in the Corps anymore and this is a volunteer organization, but what I am talking about is being and looking Proud. As we go forward and work to grow our Membership, we need to be visible in our communities to attract those new members. Think about it...do you see Marine Recruiters looking sloppy? If they are not in uniform, except for the hair cut how do you know they are Marines or Marine Recruiters?

Our League Uniform is a great tool to be used for actively recruiting new members.

The purpose of wearing the uniform is to continue the proud traditions of the Marine Corps and to promote unity and visibility of the Detachment. The League uniform was designed to be very much like the Marine uniform so that the public perception is that you

appear to still be. Yes, we have become a bit lax as some Detachments are not wearing League uniforms at all or they are wearing polo shirts, etc. instead of the Marine Corps League uniform. While that practice is OK to do at informal events (MODD growls, hospitality, cook outs, social events, etc.), it does not provide an official appearance of the League. After all, we are not the VFW or American Legion where no uniform or polo shirts are a mainstay. When at League Meetings or representing the League at public events (parades, color guard, funerals, Memorial Day or Veterans Day events, etc.) we should always wear the League uniform. Always, Always wear your League Cover as a minimum uniform. Detachment Commandants should specify the uniform of the day in advance of events to give members time to be prepared.

When I joined the League many years ago, I was looking for a way to reconnect with the Corps and it gave me an opportunity to wear a uniform that is very much like that which I wore before. It still gives me that back stiffening proud feeling to be in uniform.

A note: When submitting pictures and articles to National for inclusion in the Semper Fi Magazine your uniform must be according to regulations. If your uniform is not according to regulations the article and picture will not be accepted.

Apply

Postage

*Southern Indiana Leatherneck
Detachment #931*

Southern Indiana Leathernecks
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 184

Once a Marine, Always a Marine

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Uniforms (Cont'd)

As we look at movies, news, pictures, etc. It is very easy to pick out a Marine Leaguer in their League cover and uniform. Recently I was watching "Taking Chance" with my family and it was obvious that the Marine Corps League was there to support the Marine family. In their Marine Corps League uniforms they participated and "appeared" as part of the official Marine Corps presence at the funeral.

As we get a new member, I suggest that we help get them into a League cover ASAP and then start working on the rest of the uniform. Wearing the League cover helps them feel part of the organization and is the minimum level of uniform. Along with getting new members a cover we should also use the mentoring program to ensure retention.

Now before you take me wrong, I do realize that money for uniforms can be an issue. I do not want to exclude anyone because they do not have the uniform. Instead, work towards getting the uniform, piece by piece if need be.

Our training program will have a good segment on just the uniform.

Here is the uniform section of the National Bylaws for reference: http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/pdf/bylaws/UniformCode_2007.pdf

Here is a link to Marine Corps League Uniform Suppliers: http://docs.google.com/Doc?id=ddrkpc38_477f6s26xgx

Detachment Officers:

Commandant:

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Senior Vice Commandant:

Patrick Moriarty 812-695-5061

Chaplain

John Wagner 812-683-4997

Jr. Vice Commandant /Membership

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

Pat O'Keefe

Quartermaster

Vacant