Commandant's Corner

Elmer Buckley, Dept. of Texas Commandant

Marines, this is an appeal to all of you to support the Department of Texas Marine Corps League fundraiser - the “South Texas White Tail Trophy Buck Hunt,” which has a minimum value of $3,500.

First prize is a two-day hunt for one to include javelina, cat, feral hog, etc. The hunt will be on a 7,000 acre private lease known as Las Tres Hermanas (the three sisters) Ranch in Webb County, Texas. The hunt is donated and guaranteed, and will be scheduled for the convenience of the winner during deer season (November, December or the first part of January). Escort, etc. will be provided. The winning ticket can be sold, given away, or whatever.

Second prize is $1,000 and third prize is $500.

The proceeds go to cover the second and third prizes plus contribute to the Department, Young Marine Fund, Cam Posey Scholarship Fund, Southern Division Fund, and each entity that sells tickets ($5 per ticket to each selling Detachment, Pound, Auxiliary, etc.).

Tickets are $25 each. I am personally committed to sell 100 tickets, so I challenge you to sell them to businesses, corporations, and others within your community to help your fellow Marines and your Department of Texas.

* * * * *

The Young Marine Committee is now “official,” with the following members having been recently appointed:

E. C. Green • Ken Henry
Helen Hicks • Steve Stephens

Coming Attractions

Marine Corps League & Auxiliary Southern Division State Conventions

- Department of Arkansas
  Little Rock, Arkansas
  27-28 May 2000

- Department of Texas
  Wichita Falls, Texas
  1-4 June 2000

- Department of Oklahoma
  McAlester, Oklahoma
  9-10 June 2000

Marine Corps League & Auxiliary National Convention

- New Orleans, Louisiana
  12-20 August 2000
How're We Lookin'?
Al Kotrla
Dept. of Texas Sr. Vice Commandant

At the Southern Division Conference on 11 March, Helen Hicks presented a training session on Marine Corps League uniforms. This is a brief review of that session.

First of all, buying and wearing uniforms of the League is not a requirement of membership. But if you do wear a MCL uniform, wear the proper uniform and wear it as prescribed by the bylaws. Some of the most common misfits of the MCL uniform I see are the mixing of different uniforms. Specifically, (1) the Dress Blue trousers with red stripe are not to be worn with the red blazer, (2) the sunburst color emblems are not worn with the red blazer, (3) we do not mix MCL ribbons with DOD (Marine Corps) ribbons and badges, and (4) there are only a few devices that are appropriate for wear on the red blazer (and a lot of pins, medals, etc. being worn are not on the list). Members have told me they think the blue trousers with red stripe looks better with the red blazer. That’s an opinion and it may be so (I don’t agree) but it’s not the prescribed uniform. I don’t think any Marine would fall out for formation wearing a mixing of USMC uniforms and tell his/her 1st Sgt. they are wearing that because they think it looks better. Not more than once anyway. Bottom line is, “If you’re not wearing the prescribed uniform, you’re out of uniform!”

On another matter about uniforms: The Marine Corps Dress Blues uniform is not a prescribed uniform of the Marine Corps League. It’s a Department of Defense uniform authorized for wear by United States Marines and should be worn only as directed by DOD uniform regulations. Former Marines (not retired) may wear the uniform of their highest honorably held rank only at very limited ceremonies and occasions. Marines should check the DOD regulations about the appropriate times and places where they may wear that uniform. Membership in the Marine Corps League does not authorize members to wear Marines’ uniforms.

Now there will be those among us who say we’re not in the Corps anymore, and we are not here to stand inspection, and so on and so on. But I’ve gotta submit to you that “yes we are.” For as the public sees the least of us, they see all of us. Their observations are not of “that guy, Al Kotrla,” but rather they see “that guy in the Marines’ uniform,” which really brings home another reality. Like it or not, and we better like it, we represent the Marine Corps, not only to the general public, but to the Marines of the Corps as well. How can we expect the public and the Marine to respect us if we can’t even look as good as a high school JROTC unit? If we’re going to trumpet the words “Once a Marine always a Marine” and “Semper Fidelis,” then we should be prepared to walk the walk as well as we talk the talk. So I ask you, “How’re we lookin’?”

Legislative Report
John Rodriguez
Dept. of Texas Legislative Officer

Our elected officials will focus on increasing educational opportunities, better health care, national security and promoting economic development during the second session of the 106th Congress. It is up to all American veterans to make sure that these objectives are followed through. We must also make sure that all legislative issues regarding veterans get the utmost attention.

Congressman Ciro Rodriguez co-sponsored a bill that honors World War II veterans and the Battle of the Bulge. It was a proclamation on honor these veterans’ lives and programs, and activities.

Please continue support with your officials.

Rodriguez co-sponsored a bill that honors World II veterans and the Battle of the Bulge. It was a proclamation on honor these veterans’ lives and programs, and activities.

Please continue support with your officials.

A veteran is a man proud of his flag. He will fight to his death to protect the country for which it stands from those who would dare to dishonor it.”
Awards

Marine of the Year nominations should be submitted by MAY 15TH to Helen Hicks, National Junior Vice Commandant. Helen can be reached via:
► mail: 600 Freeman, Garland, Texas 75040-7759
► phone: 214-635-7121
► fax: 214-653-7010
► E-mail: corpsma@aol.com

Americanism Award: Show your detachment pride by entering a scrapbook exhibiting (with articles, photographs, etc.) the activities your detachment participated in during the past year.

Any questions should be directed to: B.M. Stephens, Dept. of Texas Americanism Chairman, 360 Tejas Drive, Denison, Texas 75020-0824, (903) 465-6060, E-mail: cmtexomadet@texoma.net.

Scrapbooks MUST BE DELIVERED to the Americanism Committee NO LATER THAN NOON ON FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND.

Banquet Tickets

Tickets are $25. Please make reservations by MAY 15TH. Send to: MCL Convention Committee, P.O. Box 1775, Graham, TX 76450-1775. The banquet will be held at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2147 located on Sheppard Access Road, approximately one mile north of the hotel.

Fund Raisers

Drawings for the following prizes will be held at the Texas State Convention:

► South Texas White Tail Trophy Buck Hunt ($25 donation)
► 2nd Prize: $1,000
► 3rd Prize: $500
► “Crossing the Line of Departure” by Jim Ryan - 30”x36” framed and matted print depicting Marines of all eras ($1 donation)
► USMC NCO Sword & K-Bar Knife ($1 donation or 6 tickets for $5)

Banquet Menu

Prime Rib/Grilled Chicken
Baked Potato w/Cheese & Bacon Bits
Green Beans Almondine
Garden Salad w/Ranch Dressing
Rolls  Tea and Coffee  Assorted Cobbler

Guests of Honor

Frank Kish
National Judge Advocate

Barbara Schmitz
National Sr. Vice President, MCL Auxiliary
**Hospitality Room**

The Hospitality Room will be poolside at the Hampton Inn.

**Program Advertising**

Absolute cutoff date for purchase of ads to be included in the program is **MAY** be received by order to be prepared and made ready for. They must be mailed, check or money order made payable to **Marine Corps League Convention**, to P.O. Box 1775, Graham, Texas 76450-1775. Prices are as follows:

- Full Page ........ $75
- Half Page ........ $50
- Quarter Page ... $30
- Business Card .. $25

**Lodging**

Convention Headquarters will be the Hampton Inn, 1317 Kenley Avenue, Wichita Falls, Texas. The phone is (940) 766-3300, and the fax is (940) 723-8226. The room rate for 1-4 people is $56 + city tax. State tax exemption will be granted with a completed form.

**Registration**

Advance registration for Marine Corps League is **$4**. After **MAY 15TH** it will be **$5**.

Advance registration for MCL Auxiliary is $2.50. After **MAY 15TH** it will be **$3**.

**Wichita Falls**

**June 1-4**

**Department of Texas Marine Corps League Convention**

**Luncheon Buffet**

An “all-you-can-eat” Sandwich Bar will be available on Friday, June 2nd, and again on Saturday, June 3rd, at the VFW, for $5 per day. All beverages must be purchased, for an extra charge, from the VFW.

**Transportation**

Bus transportation from the Hampton Inn to the VFW will be provided free of charge for those who desire to use it.
Announcing for Office

- Helen Hicks for National Junior Vice Commandant
- Al Kotra for Dept. of Texas Commandant
- Ken Henry for Dept. of Texas Chaplain
- Steve Bridgewater for Dept. of Texas Senior Vice Commandant
- A. C. Deck for Dept. of Texas Junior Vice Commandant
- Joe Chavez for Dept. of Texas Adjutant Paymaster
- Marie Williams for Southern Division Vice President
- Jacquie Stephens for Dept. of Texas Auxiliary President
- Allie Willey for Dept. of Texas Auxiliary Senior Vice

Dog Doings

Woof Woof...
At the Texas State Convention all Mongrels and Pups will meet with the Mad Dog at 1500 for training and instruction. Bring proper scratchings, by the Poundkeeper. All be complete. Dig up lots of need them!

The Pack Growl for the Military Order of Devil Dogs Pack of Texas will be woofed to order at 1600 and howled at 1800.
Tom Miller will be running for Pack Leader.

Have you seen these Fugitive Fleas?

Be on the alert! They were last seen at the Southern Division Conference in Round Rock, Texas. They are known to cause much itching and scratching. Don’t forget your flea collar and shots!

Uniform Tip

In need of a MCL red jacket? The official vendor for the Marine Corps League is:
Katzin Uniforms
228 Market Street
Newark, NJ 07102
800-201-0500
They provide jackets for men and ladies. Call for prices and payment arrangements.

(As per Helen Hicks: “Guys, don’t wear white socks with your uniform!”)

Contact...

Jerry Daoust
1500 Glenn Meade Dr.
High Point, NC 27265
Jermo@mcldetachments.org
Phone: 336-869-5526
Dept. of Texas Marine Corps League Auxiliary News...

The Auxiliary recently held its Southern Division/Spring Staff meeting in Round Rock, Texas, on March 9th thru 12th. These meetings were conducted by the Southern Division Vice President Marie Williams, and Department of Texas President Jacque Stephens. Plans were discussed for the upcoming State Convention in June as well as Associate Members being accepted into each Unit. Minutes of this meeting will be ready in June. Travel awards were presented to: Coastal Bend Unit - 1st Place, Big D Unit - 2nd Place, and Texoma Unit - 3rd Place. There were 17 Department of Texas members in attendance.

A Flea Scratch was held on Friday evening, June 10th. We welcomed New Flea Maria Ramos, who was initiated and sworn in by Big Flea Jacque Stephens. Money raised was donated to the Leatherneck Foundation. It was voted that the Dept. of Texas Hide have its own flea pin to trade and hand out at conventions. Jacque is working on the design and will have them by the State Convention.

Marie Williams held a workshop on Saturday, June 11th, for all the Units to learn how to fill out Associate Member Transmittals as well as Unit Reports. Marie talked about Units filling out the 990-EZ Short Form to the IRS. This was a very informative meeting and Marie pointed out how important it is that each Unit fill out and turn in all five Activity Reports. Activity Reports are due at the State Convention.

"Member of the Year" will be announced on Saturday night at the banquet during the Convention. If you have a member you wish to nominate, please send her name, unit name and recommendation to me by MAY 15TH. I know there are some very deserving members out there.

This past year has been very eventful for me. I want to thank all Department Officers for their guidance and loyalty. As most of you know, I will be seeking another year as your Department of Texas President. It is with great pride and sincere ambition that I carry on the programs and standards I have set this past year. I appreciate your support in the upcoming election in June.

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Dept. of Texas State Convention 2000

- Bylaw changes will be added concerning Associate Members
- Delegate Forms need to be returned no later than May 1, 2000, to Secretary Marie Williams
- Election of Department Officers will be held

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President Jacque Stephens
“Big Flea”

Your newsletter staff:

Reporters: Elmer Buckley
            Al Kotrla
            Tom Miller
            Bernie O’Dell
            John Rodriguez
            Jacque Stephens

Editor: Juanita O’Dell
Webmaster: Jerry Daoust

Please copy newsletter and distribute to your detachment members
E-mail future articles to: bernie@wf.net