



PINEYWOODS POOPSHEET

“Stay Connected, Stay Involved, and Make a Difference Through *Your* Marine Corps League”
Inaugural Edition!

Pineywoods Detachment 1189
Marine Corps League

Volume 1, Issue 1
July 2007

Detachment Installs New Officers



State Commandant Bernie O’Dell and State Sgt.-at-Arms Ron Tomonelli paid a return visit to East Texas and the Pineywoods Detachment to install the newly elected officers for the coming year.

In ceremonies conducted 7 April, O’Dell swore in Commandant Roger Crone, Sr. Vice Commandant Dan Singletary, Jr. Vice Commandant Dennis Bradford, Paymaster Harley Holloway, Judge Advocate Phil Devlin, and Chaplain Billy Duke. Unable to attend were Adjutant Will Lane and Sgt.-at-Arms Bennie Benavides.

Before departing, our honored guests agreed to return again soon.



Seated left-to-right, : Dennis Bradford, Roger Crone, Dan Singletary. Standing left-to-right: Bernie O’Dell, Phil Devlin, Billy Duke, Harley Holloway, Ron Tomonelli.

July Meeting:

7th

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

We are collecting e-mail addresses from all members for communications purposes. If you have one, please make sure Adjutant Will Lane has it ASAP.
Thanks!

Lowe’s Donates Gas Grill for Raffle!

Sheri Bludworth, Administrative Manager, and the crew at Lowe’s Home Improvement Warehouse of Nacogdoches have demonstrated their patriotism and kindness. They are the first to support the Detachment by generously donating a Weber Spirit E-210 gas grill valued at \$299.00 for our inaugural raffle.

The grill has two stainless steel burners rated at 26,000 BTU per hr. input, crossover ignition system, porcelain-enameled cooking grates, Flavorizer® bars and shroud. It also has center-mounted thermometer, black-painted cast-aluminum end caps, and 528 sq. inches of cooking area. To make the best use of all its capabilities, it comes with its own cookbook!

The drawing will be held at the 1 September meeting. Some lucky winner will take it home in time to enjoy a Labor Day cookout on this new grill thanks to Lowe’s and *your* Marine Corps League!

All members may pick up raffle tickets at the meeting 7 July. Proceeds from the raffle will be used for East Texas needy veterans as well as this year’s Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Thanks Lowe’s!



Detachment Officers Attend State Convention



Dennis Bradford, Past National Commandant Helen Hicks, Roger Crone, and State Commandant Bernie O'Dell pose for the camera at the recent State Convention.

Pineywoods Detachment Commandant Roger Crone and Jr. Vice Commandant Dennis Bradford attended the recent Marine Corps League 2007 State Convention held in San Antonio 7-10 June. The visit provided the opportunity to meet with other Leaguers from around the state who have more experience and different views on a variety of subjects from fundraising to recruiting.

Helen Hicks, Past National Commandant, said, "I am so glad to see you [Pineywoods] here. I have been watching you to see how you have been doing since I was there [in Nacogdoches] to present your detachment charter."

Her enthusiasm could be felt everywhere as approximately 150 delegates from around Texas attended the affair held in the El Tropicano Hotel on the banks of the San Antonio River overlooking the River Walk.

Marine Quote: "The deadliest weapon in the world is a MARINE and his rifle!"
Gen John Pershing, U. S. Army

Membership Dues Blues

Due to a recent increase in National dues, it was necessary to increase Detachment dues. The increase saw new membership dues rise to \$33.00. Cost of renewals is now \$28.00. State Commandant Bernie O'Dell reports that there are no plans to increase state dues at this time, so the rates should be stable for the foreseeable future.

Although we have a nucleus of dedicated and committed members, we, like most volunteer groups, have an on-going problem with the recruitment and retention of members. There are several of our members who have not renewed their dues. Failure to pay dues not only impacts the member, but also affects the detachment. Ability to implement programs and raise funds hinges on having the manpower to staff our efforts. Without our members, we are powerless. It is vital to the Detachment that all members pay their dues on time. If a member is behind, up to two years, per National By-Laws, merely pay the dues in arrears and all is well. After two years, the member must re-apply as a new member. If you are not sure of your status, check with **Paymaster Harley Holloway or call 559-5571 ASAP!**

If you are interested in paying life dues, you are encouraged to do so because we all benefit from our life members. A table showing current as well as the new 2009 rates can be found on page 4. The increase is substantial, so do not wait!

Detachment Has New Phone Number: (936) 559-5571

The Bradford family finally got tired of pulling the string tight to get a decent internet connection out in Linn Flat, so Dennis and Mary Frances decided to sign up for satellite service, which left a dedicated phone line unused.

Rather than disconnect the line, the Bradfords have donated the number and line to the Pinewoods Detachment for its

use. Now it will not be necessary to share service with the VFW since use of the line was approved at a recent Board meeting. Given that the line is bundled with the other house line, Dennis and Mary Frances will continue to provide the service at no charge to the Detachment.

There is an answering machine

attached, complete with appropriate message, to take information from prospective or current members when they call.

Try it out! Let us know what you think. The greeting is certainly not cut in stone, so if anyone has a different idea, it can be changed.

Marine Corps Birthday

This year's Marine Corps Birthday Ball has been scheduled for Thursday, 8 November, as in the past, will be the Nacogdoches VFW Hall.

Registration and cocktails begin at 6 pm, followed by opening ceremonies at 7 pm and Dinner at 7:15..

MGySgt Benavides has once again signed on to oversee the Pomp and Circumstance in his "Dress Blues, Tennis Shoes, and a Light Coat of Oil!" We do thank him for his commitment to the success of our Ball.

Planning is on-going and the guest speaker has not been determined at this point.

The menu will most likely be similar to previous years, and, given his experience, Roger Crone will handle the military music for the event

Anyone with ideas regarding the favors, silent auction items, etc., please contact members of the Ball committee: Phil Devlin, Dan Singletary, Dennis Bradford, or Bennie Benavides.

We hope to have a good turnout for the 232nd!



Marine Corps Birthday Balls are held every year throughout the world. The picture above shows revelers at a Ball held by Smokey Mountain Detachment 973 of Franklin, North Carolina.

Marine Corps History

12 June 1961: President John F. Kennedy signed a Presidential Proclamation calling for the American flag to be flown at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, "at all times during the day and night." Discussions between the Attorney General's office and Marine Corps officials earlier in 1961 on improving the visibility and appearance of the monument led to the proposal to fly the Flag continuously, which by law could only be done by Congressional legislation or by Presidential proclamation.

28 July 1918: Brigadier General John A. Lejeune assumed command of the 2d Division, U.S. Army in France, and remained in that capacity until August 1919 when the unit was demobilized. He was the first Marine officer to hold an Army divisional command, and following the Armistice, he led his division in the march into Germany. (Entries courtesy: US Marine Corps History Web Pages)

Recent Meeting Establishes Committees

At the June meeting, members agreed with Commandant Crone that two committees were essential to the detachment.

Commandant Crone oversaw the creation of the Birthday Ball and Fundraising Committees.

Working on the Ball are Phil Devlin, Bennie Benavides, Dennis Bradford, and Dan Singletary.

The following people are on the Fundraising Committee. Harley Holloway, Will Lane, Dan Singletary, and Dennis Bradford shall work together to raise the funds necessary for the Detachment to accomplish its goals.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Events You Should Know

Detachment Meetings

2007

4 August
1 September
6 October
3 November
1 December

2008

5 January
2 February
Nomination of Officers
1 March
Election of Officers
5 April
Installation of Officers

Veterans Day Parade

10 November @ 11 am

There is a parade scheduled again for this year. We will have a Detachment presence and float. Dan Singletary has offered a trailer, but we need people to decorate and man the "float" during the parade.

Plan now to be part of the Pineywoods Detachment contingent in the Veterans Day parade in 2007!

Marine Corps League

2007 National Convention

5-12 August
Albuquerque, NM

38th Annual Texas State Convention

1st weekend in June 2008
(tentative)
Corpus Christi, TX

As more information becomes available about these and additional events it will appear in future issues of your newsletter. If you have events of interest to the Detachment, contact the editor.

**Pineywoods Detachment 1189
Marine Corps League**

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**"Once a Marine,
Always a Marine"
*Semper Fidelis***



The Pineywoods Detachment will enter the 21st Century by launching its own web-site soon.

Will Lane, among his other jobs both civilian and volunteer, is nearly finished with technical development and hopefully shall have it up and running before the end of July.

Harley Holloway and Dan Singletary are exploring options for getting the Page on the Internet.

Those who have listed e-mails will get the news as soon as the site is open for business. Thanks to all for the hard work!

Life Membership Dues

National Marine Corps League Website

<u>Age Grp</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>As of 01/01/09</u>
0-35	\$400	\$500
36-40	\$350	\$400
41-50	\$350	\$400
51-60	\$250	\$300
61-over	\$125	\$150

To become a Life Member, you must already be a "Member in Good Standing". That means becoming a member and paying your initial dues first. Yes, according to the Bylaws, you could join the League, pay your dues and then pay your Life Membership Dues all in the same day.

The Marine Corps League

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines and former Marines and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

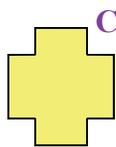
The Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of ALL Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen, who proudly wear or who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor of the Corps. It takes great pride in crediting its founding in 1923 to World War I hero, then Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune. It takes equal pride in its Federal Charter, approved by An Act of the Seventy-Fifth Congress of the United States of America and signed and approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 4, 1937. The League is the only Federally Chartered Marine Corps related veterans organization in the country. Since its earliest days, the Marine Corps League has enjoyed the support and encouragement of the active duty and Reserve establishments of the U. S. Marine Corps. Today, the League boasts a membership of nearly 65,000 men and women, officer and enlisted, active duty, Reserve Marines, honorably discharged Marine Veterans and qualified Navy FMF Corpsmen and is one of the few Veterans Organizations that experiences increases in its membership each year.

The Marine Corps League is headed by an elected National Commandant, with 14 elected National Staff Officers who serve as trustees. The National Board of Trustees coordinates the efforts of 48 department, or state, entities and the activities of over 900 community-based detachments located throughout the United States and overseas. The day-to-day operation of the League is under the control of the National Executive Director with the responsibility for the management and direction of all programs, activities, and affairs of the Marine Corps League as well as supervising the National Headquarters staff.

The prime authority of the League is derived from its Congressional charter and from its annual National Convention held each August in different major U.S. cities throughout the nation. It is a not-for-profit organization within the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c) (4), with a special group exemption letter which allows for contributions to the Marine Corps League, its Auxiliary and subsidiary units, to be tax deductible by the donor.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE PROGRAMS: MARINES HELPING MARINES - WOUNDED MARINES PROGRAM, YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, U. S. MARINES YOUTH PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA , SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM, VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAM , VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM (VAVS) , MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY, MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS, TOYS-FOR-TOTS, MARINE-4-LIFE/ INJURED MARINE SUPPORT PROGRAM, and ANNUAL CONVENTIONS.

The Marine Corps League is a charter member of The Military Coalition, The National Marine Corps Council, Adhoc Committee Navy and Marine Corps Council, the National Veterans Day Committee, and is represented on countless committees and programs serving the military and veteran community.



Chaplain Billy Duke reported that several of our members have been in the hospital recently.

Don Kirkley spent some time in the hospital. Happy to report he is back up to speed and doing well.

Bryan Hatten had an extended stay in the local hospital. Although Medical Center is a modern facility in all respects, I am certain Brian would agree that it surely is not a substitute for home. He recently assured everyone that he is doing better.

Bennie Benavides had bypass sur-

gery and a stent inserted, which caused him to miss several meetings since the first of the year. We were glad to see him return for the June meeting. He reported that he was on the mend, but that his dear wife, Betty, was still not feeling well. We wish her well and both of them a speedy recovery.



Bennie Benavides at the 2005 Airshow



At left: FMF Insignia awarded Corpsmen