



PINEYWOODS POOPSHEET August 2007

Happenings Behind the Pine Curtain

“Stay Connected, Stay Involved, and Make a Difference Through Your Marine Corps League”

Pineywoods Detachment 1189
Marine Corps League

Volume 1, Issue 2
August 2007

August Meeting:

4th

Recruiting: It's Everyone's Responsibility



The single most important ingredient for an organization is its members. No organization can exist without them. That is especially true for the Marine Corps League. Members hold offices, staff committees, and attend events, all in the name and for the benefit of the League. Often difficult, acquiring new members is not a one-man, or even a one-committee, job. It is the responsibility of every member, both regular and associate, to advocate membership in the League. Just as the Marine Corps relies on its recruiters to keep the ranks full so that the it can meet its commitments and fulfill its responsibilities, so too must the League constantly recruit to survive. That effort begins with each one of us, its current members.

Pineywoods Detachment has many opportunities to involve itself in the programs advocated and supported by the Marine Corps League. Moreover, we have identified opportunities for service here in Nacogdoches and the surrounding counties, but it depends upon our members. We can only cover so many bases at once; the more members we have, the more we can do.

Please make every contact with Marines and those interested in the Corps your chance to advance the agenda of the League and the Detachment. To make it easier, recruiting packets may be obtained from Dennis Bradford. They contain a welcome letter, application, and envelope.

Here are some tips to help as well. Obtain the prospect's name and a contact phone number. Try to get a check for the amount of dues, and ask the applicant to bring their verifying document(s) to the next meeting. Offer to pick them up, and don't forget to call them a day or two ahead to remind them. If they do not have their DD-214, offer to schedule an appointment for them with Dan Singletary, the county Veterans Service Officer, to request a copy. Be sure to talk about the League every chance you have.

We must speak with one voice, but we must SPEAK. Remember, the more people see and hear about us, the more interest we will generate. Let's shoot for a 15% membership increase this year. Happy Recruiting!

2007-2008 Officers

- Commandant*—
Roger Crone
- Sr. Vice-Commandant*—
Dan Singletary
- Jr. Vice-Commandant*—
Dennis Bradford
- Paymaster*—
Harley Holloway
- Adjutant*—
Will Lane
- Judge Advocate*—
Phil Devlin
- Chaplain*—
Billy Duke
- Sgt.-at-Arms*—
Bennie Benavides

New Committee

At the July meeting, Commandant Roger Crone created the Awards Committee, which will review candidates for several awards that allow the Detachment to recognize contributions made to the community. Scholarships will also be considered by this committee. The committee will solicit, review and judge candidates for Detachment and League scholarship programs at the local, state, and national levels.

Anyone interested in serving on this or other committees contact Dennis. You may call or e-mail the Detachment too. Your detachment needs you!

Marine Corps History

9 August 1942: With the Guadalcanal airstrip secure after heavy fighting with the Japanese, the 1st Engineer Battalion commenced work on the runway using captured equipment. Three days later, on 12 August, the first plane landed on Henderson Field, a Navy PBV which evacuated two wounded Marines. Nearly 3,000 wounded Marines would be evacuated from Henderson Field during the battle.

18 July 1918: The 4th Brigade of Marines began an attack near Soissons, France, as part of a three-division counterattack against the Germans. In the first two days of battle, the brigade sustained 1,972 casualties. (Entries courtesy: US Marine Corps History Web Pages)



Welcome Aboard, Mineola!

Above: State Commandant Bernie O'Dell presents the charter to Bill Hamby, the Commandant of Mineola Detachment 1278, after which O'Dell swore in all the officers for the coming year. We wish them Good Luck! *Semper Fi!*

Marine Quote: "We're surrounded. That simplifies the problem!" Chesty Puller, USMC

We Have A New E-Mail Address!

Can't remember anyone's e-mail address? Good News! Now you only have to remember one address—

MCLDet1189@hotmail.com. Anyone interested in the Marine Corps League or Pineywoods Detachment can now reach us by using this address.



If members need to contact another member, they can use the address, too. Messages will be forwarded to the appropriate person. If that person does not have access to the internet, the message will be passed over the phone.

This new address should simplify our communication problem(s). Remember, 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. You may also call 559-5571 or e-mail MCLDet1189@hotmail.com. Thanks!

Below: Parachutist Jump Wings worn by jump-qualified Marine and Navy personnel.



Chaplain's Corner by Billy Duke

By The Man Who Wrote Precious Lord

THE BIRTH OF THE SONG "PRECIOUS LORD"

Back in 1932, I was 32 years old and a fairly new husband. My wife, Nettie and I were living in a little apartment on Chicago's Southside. One hot August afternoon I had to go to St. Louis, where I was to be the featured soloist at a large revival meeting. I didn't want to go. Nettie was in the last month of pregnancy with our first child. But a lot of people were expecting me in St. Louis. I kissed Nettie good-bye, clattered downstairs to our Model A and, in a fresh Lake Michigan breeze, chugged out of Chicago on Route 66. However, outside the city, I discovered that in my anxiety at leaving, I had forgotten my music case. I wheeled around and headed back. I found Nettie sleeping peacefully. I hesitated by her bed; something was strongly telling me to stay. But eager to get on my way, and not wanting to disturb Nettie, I shrugged off the feeling and quietly slipped out of the room with my Music.

The next night, in the steaming St. Louis heat, the crowd called on me to sing again and again. When I finally sat down, a messenger boy ran up with a Western Union telegram. I ripped open the envelope.

Pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: YOUR WIFE JUST DIED. People were happily singing and clapping around me, but

I could hardly keep from crying out. I rushed to a phone and called home. All I could hear on the other end was "Nettie is dead. Nettie is dead."

When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that night, the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart.

For days I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve Him any more or write gospel songs. I just wanted to go back to that jazz world I once knew so well. But then, as I hunched alone in that dark apartment those first sad days, I thought back to the afternoon I went to St. Louis.

Something kept telling me to stay with Nettie. Was that something God? Oh, if I had paid more attention to Him that day, I would have stayed and been with Nettie when she died.

From that moment on I vowed to listen more closely to Him. But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially a friend, Professor Fry, who seemed to know what I needed. On the following Saturday evening he took me up to Malone's Poro College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet; the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows. I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys.

Something happened to me then. I felt at peace. I felt as though I could reach out and touch God. I found myself playing a melody, once into my head they just seemed to fall into place:

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand!
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn,
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

The Lord gave me these words and melody, He also healed my spirit. I Learned that when we are in our deepest grief, when we feel farthest from God, this is when He is closest, and when we are most open to His restoring power. And so I go on living for God willingly and joyfully, until that day comes when He will take me and gently lead me home.

-Tommy Dorsey

Did you know that Tommy Dorsey wrote this song? I surely didn't. What a Wonderful story of how God CAN heal the broken-hearted! Beautiful, isn't it.

From Leland D. Blackledge

SSA COLA 2008

The Social Security annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2008 may be one of the lowest in the history of the program. This gloomy outlook is from the 2007 Social Security Trustees report dated 23 April 07 that recently forecast the COLA in 2008 would be just 1.4%.

For a senior with an average monthly benefit of \$1044 in 2007 that's a boost of just \$14.60 per month next year. The increase in Medicare Part B premiums, however, could take a substantial chunk if not all of that. But government experts seem unable to say just how much Part B premiums will be in 2008. Part B premiums pose such a problem that Congress was told the estimates supplied in the 2007 Medicare Trustees report are substantially understated. Under more realistic alternate projections based on pending legisla-

tive changes Medicare actuaries say that monthly Part B premiums will increase at least \$7.90, from \$93.50 to about \$101.40 in 2008 for seniors with incomes under \$80,000. Actual inflation and legislation changes that Congress makes prior to the announcement of the 2008 COLA and Part B premium later in the fall will affect the final amounts.

To help seniors better keep pace with rising costs two bills, both called "The Consumer Price Index For Elderly Consumers Act," recently have been introduced. Representative Charles Gonzalez (D-TX-20) introduced R-1953 with Representative Robert Wexler (D-FL-19) as an original co-sponsor. In addition Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR-04) introduced H.R. 2032. Both bills would tie Social Security COLA increases to the CPI for Elderly Consumers (CPI-E) that tracks the spending patterns of older Americans. By doing so, seniors would see much needed relief in

their monthly checks. For example, a senior who retired with an average benefit of \$460 in 1984 would have received an additional \$10,289 in benefits over the past 23 years had the government used the CPI-E to calculate the COLA. Although the difference in COLAs is modest at first, the effect is cumulative and grows over time. Today the senior who retired in 1984 with a benefit of \$460 receives about \$910 per month. Had the government used the CPI-E however, that person would receive a monthly check that's \$97 higher. [Source: TSCL Newsletter Jun 07]

Be sure to report your raffle sales to Harley so we can track the distribution of tickets. That way we know when to order more tickets if needed.

Veterans Service

Officer

By Dan Singletary

The Texas Legislature voted to insert "One state under God" into the State Pledge.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson is urging all veterans across the country to pin on their military medals on Independence Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and when attending other patriotic events. Major U.S. veterans' organizations have endorsed the effort called the "Veterans Pride Initiative."

Famous Marine Trivia

The trivia question is: "How many Marines have won acting OSCARs?"

The following actors have won Best Actor awards. WWII veteran Lee Marvin won for *Cat Ballou*, Steve McQueen for *Sand Pebbles*, George C. Scott for *Patton*, and Gene Hackman won Best Actor for *The French Con-*

nection, and Best Supporting Actor for Clint Eastwood's *Unforgiven*.

Also, there are many other actors who have been Marines. Don Adams ("Maxwell Smart"), Beatrice Arthur (*Maude*), Bob Bell ("Bozo the Clown"), Hugh Brannum ("Mr. Green Jeans"), Drew Cary, Mike Connors (*Mannix*), Brian Dennehy, Glenn Ford, Scott

Glenn, Clu Gulager, Stirling Hayden, Bob Keeshan (*Captain Kangaroo*), Harvey Keitel, Brian Kieth, George Peppard, Tyrone Power, James Whitmore, Montel Williams, and Jonathan Winters, just to name a few.

Directors include George Roy Hill (*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *The Sting*) and Sam Peckinpah (*The Wild Bunch*). [Information from Wikipedia]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Events You Should Know

Detachment Meetings

2007
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

Pineywoods Fair

10-14 October 2007

At the Convention Center

October 10 3 pm-10:30 pm
October 11 4 pm-10:00 pm
October 12 4 pm-11:00 pm
October 13 11:30 am-11:00 pm
October 14 12 noon-5:00 pm

We have a booth so mark your calendar and sign up for times. This will take maximum effort!

Veterans Day Parade

10 November @ 11 am
Form-up begins @ 8:30 am

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.

ij **Pineywoods Detachment 1189
Marine Corps League**

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



Web Page Update

Will Lane reports that he should have the web page up and rolling by the end of July or the beginning of August. What I have seen is great. Will is doing a fine job.



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.

Life Memberships

The following Detachment members are Life Members of the Marine Corps League.

- Bennie Benavides
 - Dennis Bradford
 - Strimple Coyle
 - Roger Crone
 - Phil Devlin
 - Don Kirkley
 - Dale Koonce
 - Buck Lee
 - James Lee
 - Jack Sanderson
 - Dan Singletary
 - Joe Stewart
- Semper Fi!**



Above: Pineywoods Detachment's first event was the Nacogdoches (A.L. Mangum Airport) Air Show in April 2005. It was cold and it rained, but a good time was had by all.

BIRTHDAYS

The following Detachment members have a birthday to celebrate in August.

- Roger Crone
 - Elmer Jernigan
 - Ed Klein
- Happy birthday and many happy returns!**