



The Straight Scoop

Department Newsletter of the
Marine Corps League
Department of West Virginia
P.O. Box 11828
Charleston, WV 25339



Volume 3, Issue 12, December 2010

Department Officers:

Commandant Roger Ware, 304-636-4365 Adjutant/Paymaster George Gill, 304-377-1345
Sr. Vice Commandant John Nanny, 304-233-5289 Chief of Staff Richard Given, 304-965-3541
Jr. Vice Commandant Owen Stout, 304-595-2675 Chaplain Frank Armentrout, 304-837-4011
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Department Financial Report

Marine Corps League, Department of West Virginia Hershel "Woody" Williams
Scholarship Foundation:

22 Oct 2010 beginning balance: \$12,529.55 Deposits: \$800.00 Interest: \$3.25

22 Nov 2010 ending balance: \$13,332.80

Please send all donations to John Nanny, P.O. Box 2121, Wheeling, WV 26003-0234.

Marine Corps League, Department of West Virginia General Account and Paymaster
Report:

20 Oct 2010 statement beginning balance: \$4,301.77 Deposits: \$70.00

Debits: \$0.00

20 Nov 2010 statement ending balance: \$4,371.77

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

IRS Tax Forms:

Individual and business taxpayers will no longer receive paper income-tax packages in the mail from the IRS. These tax packages contained the forms, schedules and instructions for filing a paper income-tax return. The IRS is taking this step because of the continued growth in electronic filing and the availability of free options to taxpayers, as well as to help reduce costs. In October postcards were to be sent by the IRS to individuals who filed paper returns last year and did not use a tax preparer or tax software. The information will explain how to get the tax forms and instructions they need for filing their tax year 2010 return. The forms and instructions will be available in early January 2011.

--Corps Values

Why are U.S. Marines considered the world's premier warriors? Why? What puts the

Marine Corps above the rest? Other military services have rigorous training and weapons of equal or greater lethality. So, why do U.S. Marines stand head and shoulders above the crowd? The truth lies in the individual Marine. He (or she) did not join the Marines. Roughly 40,000 try each year. Those who survive the crucible of Marine basic training have been sculpted in mind and body. They have become Marines. Once he has earned the title and entered the Brotherhood of Marines, a new warrior must draw upon the legacy of his Corps. Therein lies his strength. In return, the strength of the Corps lies in the individual Marine. The character (often defined as "what you are in the dark") of these warriors is defined by the three constant Corps Values: honor, courage, and commitment.

Honor: Honor requires each Marine to exemplify the ultimate standard in ethical and moral conduct. Honor is many things; honor requires many things. A U.S. Marine must never lie, never cheat, never steal, but that is not enough. Much more is required. Each Marine must cling to an uncompromising code of personal integrity, be accountable for his actions and hold others accountable for theirs. And, above all, honor mandates that a Marine never sullies the reputation of his Corps.

Courage: Simply stated, courage is honor in action -- and more. Courage is moral strength, the will to heed the inner voice of conscience, the will to do what is right regardless of the conduct of others. It is mental discipline, an adherence to a higher standard. Courage means willingness to take a stand for what is right in spite of adverse consequences. This courage, throughout the history of the Corps, has sustained Marines during the chaos, perils, and hardships of combat. And each day, it enables each Marine to look in the mirror -- and smile.

Commitment: Total dedication to Corps and Country. Gung-ho Marine teamwork. All for one, one for all. By whatever name or cliché, commitment is a combination of (1) selfless determination and (2) a relentless dedication to excellence. Marines never give up, never give in, never willingly accept second best. Excellence is always the goal. And, when their active duty days are over, Marines remain reserve Marines, retired Marines, or Marine veterans. There is no such thing as an ex-Marine or former Marine. Once a Marine, always a Marine. Commitment never dies.

The three Corps Values: honor, courage, commitment. They make up the bedrock of the character of each individual Marine. They are the foundation of his Corps. These three values, handed down from generation to generation, have made U.S. Marines the Warrior Elite. The U.S. Marine Corps: the most respected and revered fighting force on earth.

Duties of Detachment Commandant

It shall be the duty of the Commandant to set the example for other officers and members and preside at all meetings of the Detachment Board of Trustees. The Commandant together with the Board of Trustees shall have direction and control of the executive and administrative functions of the Detachment. He will ensure that the administrative chain of command is followed in the Detachment thus forwarding all correspondence through

the Department. In addition, the Detachment Commandant shall:

(1) With the Detachment Paymaster or Adjutant/Paymaster or written appointed custodians, have custody of all funds and property of the Detachment subject to the supervision of the Board of Trustees. The Detachment Commandant may assign the care, custody of the Detachment funds to deposit and/or withdraw funds for the good of the Detachment. The letter of authorization shall be maintained with the Detachment Financial records for audit purposes. Jointly sign all Detachment checks with the Detachment Paymaster or Adjutant/Paymaster.

(2) Be responsible to ensure the Annual Report of Officer Installation is completed by the Installing Officer and properly submitted. Will also be directly responsible to ensure all reports are filed as necessary by respective Detachment Officers.

(3) Will be ultimately responsible for the fiduciary nature of all Detachment funds and will ensure that an annual audit of detachment property and financial records is conducted prior to the annual installation of Officers. Will understand sources of revenue, expense control, cash flow and profit and loss information for financial stability of the Detachment. Will solicit funds thorough donations or fund raising events as necessary.

(4) Ensure that all Officers read and have a working knowledge of the National and Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, and their respective Detachment Bylaws and that the Detachment and its members adhere to these Bylaws. Maintain a copy of MCL National "Guidebook for Detachment Officers" for reference and guidance. Officers should have Bylaws training classes and prospective officers should attend a Bylaws Training Class conducted by the Department.

(5) That members of the Marine Corps League represent the Detachment and maintain MC/MCL professionalism during Detachment activities and civic events.

(6) Upon approval of the membership, submit a formal bid to the Department Time and Place Committee to host a Department Convention.

(7) Ensure a copy of the Detachment Articles of Incorporation and Detachment Bylaws are on file with their respective county clerk.

(8) Assign a member as the Detachment Web Sergeant for the Department website listed under National Headquarters.

(9) Conduct all meetings according to the Ritual of the Marine Corps League and be well versed in Roberts' Rules of Order. Ensure that his detachment is represented and has a prepared summary of detachment activities to report during Department Quarterly meetings and Department Convention.

Detachment Meetings

The Detachment should meet for regular meetings on a scheduled basis on the same day and same time once monthly or as necessary as ordered by the Commandant at a place to be designated. All members will be informed of the meeting date, time and location. Special meetings may be called by the Commandant or by the Board of Trustees upon reasonable notice to the members thereof. The opening and closing ceremonies will follow the ritual provided by National Headquarters of the Marine Corps League. A minimum number of members required to transact the regular and legal business of the Detachment is a quorum. The majority vote of those members present is required to approve general business. Officer meetings require that number as indicated in the Detachment Bylaws to conduct business or a suggested minimum of three.

The Commandant should have an agenda that indicates the occurring events and reports. The business meeting will be concise, and will serve to inform members of Detachment activities and affairs, and solicit member ideas, information, and response to activities and reports. The meeting will allow time for introduction of guests and new members, and introduction of all the members. The Detachment is a corporate entity and must be run like a business entity with minutes taken to comply with corporate laws. Copies of minutes from all meetings will be kept in the Detachment's permanent files and copies will be sent to the Department Commandant. Members through their action and/or verbiage will not do anything detrimental to the good order of a meeting. Committees will meet at time and place deemed necessary and nonmembers will be excluded from meetings when conducting official business.

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Fiscal and Finance

The Fiscal Year shall end at the close of business on June 30th of each year. The revenue of the Detachment shall be derived from membership dues and such other sources as may be properly established at regular meetings or by the Board of Trustees. Disbursement of Detachment funds shall be made as approved in current detachment Bylaws. All other disbursements will be approved during normal business meetings. The maximum amount of funds that the Commandant is authorized to disburse without getting general membership approval is \$_____. The maximum amount for the Board of Trustees is \$_____. Donations to non-profit organizations or members in distress can be made by approval of Board of Trustees or during regular member meetings. The Paymaster may reimburse members for approved items upon paid receipts if funds are available. A budget will be established as necessary. No Officer or member of the Detachment shall obligate the Detachment financially in any manner whatsoever without the prior consent of the membership or Board of Trustees.

The Detachment will maintain a checking account and all funds received will be deposited. The Paymaster will draw all checks and ensure proper signatures are obtained. This account will be audited with the monthly bank statement and a report will be given during the general membership meeting by the Paymaster. An annual audit will be conducted by the Audit Committee prior to the Officer Installation.

The annual per capita dues shall be provided for by the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures plus an additional Department per capita dues as determined by the Department Convention. The sum of these two accounts shall be forwarded with every membership application or renewal thereof by the Detachment Paymaster directly to the Department Paymaster who will remit the National per capita dues in each instance to the National Paymaster. The current annual per capita of \$5.00 is effective as of 1/1/2003. A member resigning from membership shall not be entitled to any refund of per capita paid.

The Detachment Commandant and Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster or Paymaster will be bonded by a commercial crime policy paid for and administered by National. The bond limit will be in the amount of \$10,000 with deductible of \$1,000. Checks drawn against Detachment funds shall be valid only if they cover disbursements authorized and jointly bear the signatures of the Commandant and Paymaster. The Detachment financial records should include the Detachment corporation name, address, telephone number and Employer Identification Number (EIN). To assure the financial integrity and credibility of the Detachment, any funds received for a charitable purpose or for a specific purpose will be deposited into the Detachment funds and will be reserved for that respective charity or specific purpose.

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Afghanistan Marine Recommended for Medal of Honor

The Marine Corps has recommended that a former corporal receive the Medal of Honor for braving a hail of enemy fire in September 2009 to pull the bodies of four U.S. troops from a kill zone in eastern Afghanistan, Marine Corps Times has learned.

Dakota Meyer, 22, of Greensburg, Ky., was recommended for the nation's highest award for valor, according to a source with knowledge of the process, speaking on condition of anonymity. Meyer could become the first living Marine recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War. Only one Marine, Cpl. Jason Dunham, has received the award for actions in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he was honored posthumously after throwing himself on a grenade in Karabilah, Iraq, in 2004 to save the lives of fellow Marines.

Seven U.S. service members have received the Medal of Honor in the wars against terrorism, all posthumously. The White House announced in September that an eighth service member, Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, would become the first living recipient of the medal since Vietnam. Meyer was recommended for his actions on Sept. 8, 2009, near the village of Ganjgal in Kunar province. He charged into a kill zone on foot and alone to find three missing Marines and a Navy corpsman who had been pinned down under enemy fire for hours by about 150 well-armed insurgents. Already wounded by shrapnel before braving enemy fire, he found them dead and stripped of their gear and weapons, and carried them out of the kill zone with the help of Afghan soldiers, according to military documents obtained by Marine Corps Times. Meyer said he was unaware he has been recommended for the Medal of Honor, saying he does not feel like a hero and still dwells on what happened that day. He was a member of Embedded Training

Team 2-8 training Afghan forces when the ambush occurred, and good friends with the troops he pulled from the kill zone. He left the Corps in June after his four-year contract with the service expired. “Whatever comes out of it, it’s for those guys,” he said of the recommendation. “I feel like the furthest thing from a hero. I feel like I let my guys down because I didn’t bring them home alive.”

Commandant Gen. Jim Amos told reporters at Camp Pendleton, Calif., that the Corps’ last top officer, Gen. James Conway, made the recommendation shortly before retiring Oct. 22. Amos would not say who had been recommended. “We have a nomination that General Conway signed and forwarded to the secretary of the Navy his last week as the commandant,” Amos said. “I read the citation; I read the whole paper. As you can imagine for something like that, we’re talking binders. I read it cover to cover, and it watered my eyes.” Amos described the Marine as a “great, young courageous” man, and said it is “pretty exciting” to see a living recipient recommended. A spokesman for Amos, Maj. Joseph Plenzler, declined to discuss the recommendation Monday, saying it is Marine Corps policy to handle deliberations over awards internally until the Defense Department makes an announcement. A spokeswoman for Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, Capt. Beci Brenton, declined to comment. If approved by Mabus, the nomination would be pushed to Defense Secretary Robert Gates. With his approval, it would go to President Obama. Traditionally, Marine Corps approval is considered the largest hurdle in the nomination process.

The recommendation adds a new layer to an incident that already was raw with emotion. The ambush made national headlines last year, after a McClatchy News Service journalist embedded with the training team, Jonathan Landay, reported that the troops were pinned down for hours without artillery and air support because it was denied by Army officers at a nearby operations center. Killed in the battle were Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Johnson, 31; Staff Sgt. Aaron Kenefick, 30, 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, 25; and Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class James Layton, 22. A U.S. soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Westbrook, 41, died Oct. 7, 2009, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington from medical complications tied to wounds he sustained in the attack. About a dozen Afghan soldiers in training with U.S. forces also were cut down by gunfire, according to military documents outlining the attack.

Army officials announced in February that “negligent” leadership at the battalion level contributed “directly to the loss of life” on the battlefield that day by refusing repeated pleas for artillery support from U.S. forces on the ground and failing to notify higher commands that they had troops in trouble. Three unidentified officers — likely captains or majors — were recommended for letters of reprimand, potential career killers, but Army officials have not said whether those reprimands were ever delivered. Two investigations were conducted, with the first headed by an Army major in the first few days after the ambush. The second, focusing primarily on command post failure, was overseen by Army Col. Richard Hooker and Marine Col. James Werth in November 2009, military officials said.

In February, the military released a five-page summary report of its investigation, void of

many details, including which units were involved. However, a copy of the full report obtained by Marine Corps Times includes first-person statements from more than 35 U.S. troops, describing in grisly detail the chaos on the battlefield and in the operations center, based at Forward Operating Base Joyce and overseen by Task Force Chosin, an Army unit comprising soldiers from 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, out of Fort Drum, N.Y. Investigating officers said at least two service members in the field that day “stand out as extraordinary examples of heroism worthy of the highest recognition.” The names of the troops cited for bravery were redacted from the report, and it is unclear who else may be up for high-level military awards. In a five-page hand-written statement included in the investigation’s final report, Meyer describes attempting to get to his missing buddies with another service member and being turned back by enemy fire at least twice in an armored vehicle equipped with a .50-caliber machine gun. He was wounded by shrapnel after an enemy rifle round hit the vehicle’s gun turret, he says in the statement. Meyer, then 21, went into the kill zone on foot after helicopter pilots called on to respond said they could not help because the fighting on the ground was too fierce, the statement said. He found his buddies in a trench where the pilots had spotted them. “I checked them all for a pulse. There [sic] bodies were already stiff,” Meyer said in a sworn statement he was asked to provide military investigators. “I found SSgt Kenefick facedown in the trench w/ his GPS in his hand. His face appeared as if he was screaming. He had been shot in the head.” Meyer said Monday that he was glad to see the military honor Gunnery Sgt. Johnson, Lt. Johnson, Kenefick and Layton in September with Bronze Stars with “V” device. Kenefick also was posthumously promoted to gunnery sergeant. Meyer hopes the recognition helps the families find closure, he said, even though he has struggled to find his own.

“I thought that once we hit the one-year mark, I’d start dealing with it,” he said of the ambush’s first anniversary. “You hope that storm ends soon, you know?”

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Help Available from Elite Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business

The WV Chapter of The Elite SDVOB Network, is comprised of a growing certified group of WV Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses. (SDVOB) The Elite SDVOB Network is incorporated as a 501(c)(19) non-profit organization. The primary purpose of our organization is to help service-disabled veterans whose desire to start his/her own business and to succeed in doing so. Instead of having a redundant website with the [National Network](#), I would direct you to peruse their website for all pertinent information regarding our organization. In a nutshell we basically are a network of “Verified” Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses who help each other by finding and sharing local, state, and federal contracts. This includes helping new businesses find their way through the maze of setting up to do business with the government. There are many ways that we can make that process easier because we have all been through it. There are other things we do but that is where the focus is. We, of course, will post information pertaining specifically to West Virginia on this site at info@wvelitesdvob.org. 304-651-9567. Wally Howerton, President; 1st Floor Boardroom, Braxton Technology Center, 89 Richard Minnich Dr., Sutton, WV 26601

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Nursing Home Visits

There are many veterans in nursing homes in almost every county in WV. MCL members are encouraged to go visit them over the holidays and offer them some personal holiday greetings and cheer. Your kind words and mere presence make a wonderful impression to these veterans that they are not forgotten. Make a phone call to a veteran who might be homebound over the holidays. Your greeting is often their only Christmas gift. Thanks.

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Calendar of Events

Department Quarterly meeting 10 a.m. Jan. 15, 2011, at American Legion Post 104 on Avery Street in Parkersburg. Department Staff Officers meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. and Pack Growl will immediately follow the Quarterly meeting.

Marine Corps League Midwinter National Staff Conference: February 10-12, 2011 at Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042; phone 1-703-849-9400; fax 1-703-849-8692

2011 Mid East Division Conference will be held in Delaware. Location and date TBA.

2011 Department Convention will be hosted by Jones, Wolin & O'Brien Detachment 771 in Wheeling, May 13-14 at Oglebay Resort & Conference Center.

2011 MCL National Convention Jul 31-August 6 at Doubletree Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho. 1-800-222-TREE or 1-208-343-1871. Room rates are \$86.00 plus 13% tax. Hosted by Treasure Valley MCL Detachment 878, Boise, Idaho.

2012 Department Convention will be hosted by Herbert J. Thomas Memorial Detachment 947 in Charleston, WV at Charleston Marriott.

2012 MCL National Convention Aug 12-18 at Renaissance in Mobile, Alabama in The Battle House Hotel & Spa Mobile and Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel. Tel: 1-800-922-3298 or 251-438-4000. Room rates \$107.00 plus 14% tax. Hosted by P.L. Wilson Detachment 447.

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