



HUBERT J FALTYN Marine Corps League Detachment 881

Editor: Wayne Benson

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MAIL CALL JULY 2006



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

The Department of Oregon 2006 conference is now over. Attending from our Detachment was Gunner Wayne Benson, Claudia Acosta, David Turner, Coralee Berwick, and yours truly, Terry Williams. Once again, (and for the second year in a row) our Detachment has been declared to be the leading Detachment in the State. No specific reasons were given, but I can guess that our support of the troops with sunglasses and books, along with hosting the next mid-winter conference, had something to do with it. This will authorize all active members to wear either the appropriate Marine Corps League ribbon, or in the case of active members from last year, the gold star for the second award. Coralee has ordered the necessary ribbons and stars. Thanks to all who helped in all Detachment programs during the last year.

Where do we go from here? We are going to keep on sending comfort items to the troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. We will form our Color Guard which will be a big help to our brother and sister Marines on active duty by representing the Marine Corps in our area in many ceremonial events. We will host the mid-winter conference. We will continue to grow our membership. However, I have decided to not pursue running the Toys for Tots program this year in the Salem area. We simply have enough "on our plate" at this time for the size Detachment that we are. Toys for Tots would be a good activity for next year. If anyone would like to disagree with my position on this, please contact me and we can discuss it.

Dennis Durfee, good Marine that he is, has contacted Kettle Foods and persuaded them to donate snack items for shipment to the troops. Thanks Dennis!

One remarkable thing stands out from the Department Conference in Roseburg, aside from our second receipt of the "Best Detachment" award. In Astoria a new Detachment has been formed in recent months. They already have 40 members. Let's all make a vow to ask a fellow Marine to come to one of our activities and events and add some new members. I find that whenever I wear my Marine Corps League baseball hat around town I get many a "Semper Fi" from otherwise total strangers.

And a big Semper Fi to you all.
Terry



JUDGE ADVOCATE

"Keven Kalara was the first speaker at the Mid-Winter Conference. He's the Veteran's Service Center Manager for the VA Benefits Office in Portland. His office processes veteran claims and compensation and pension claims. The Data Incident where 26.5 million veteran's records were stolen involves all veterans, not just veterans with claims in the system. His office also works with veterans, spouses and nursing homes to make sure the benefits and pensions are processed correctly."

"LtCol Mark Markay was the second speaker and he directs the Marine for Life Program. This program is headquartered in Portland and helps to establish networks for employment between veterans and civilian employers."

"Paula Brown was the third and final speaker. She represented the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and the office is located in Salem. Paula covered many subjects. To name a few - State Veterans' Home Loans; Veterans' Services - Federal, State and local; Oregon Veterans Home; State Educational Aid; and she discussed a variety of legislation matters pending."

Department Elections:

**Commandant - John Woods
Sr. Vice Commandant - Bud Colmer
Jr. Vice Commandant - Terry Williams**

**Judge Advocate - Jim Hewitt
Adj/Paymaster - Loren Otto
Chaplain - Marion Piper**

Semper Fi,

**Coralee Berwick
Judge Advocate
(503) 365-7771**

JR VICE COMMANDANT

We had our first Color Guard practice without weapons, and while we still need several more times to practice before we are ready, it was not that bad. The Weapons, I am happy to report, should be on the way, but before we can use the weapons we will need to clean them and order slings. Then we are going to start working on ordering a Ceremonial Bugle, but the cost is around \$500.00 which we do not have at this time. I will ask Mark to stay on top of this project to ensure we get the slings and Bugle.

Semper Fi

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Thank You Kettle Foods for supporting our Troops

Our next regular meeting is July 12 at the Eagles Lodge, 2771 Pence Loop SE, Salem, Oregon 6:30 PM

