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Marine Corps League Detachment 881

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Mail Call
July 2007

Commandant: Wayne Benson

COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Members of Detachment #881 it's official. For the third year in a row we have been awarded " Detachment of the Year" by the Oregon Department. We must be doing something right and I know it's a team effort and we are blessed with having outstanding members who devote their time and hard work to ensure we stay on track with our mission statement.

I want to thank each and every member for being part of our Marine Corps League, Coralee is working on ordering the ribbon or star and we hope to have them by our next regular meeting.

At our next meeting we will be discussing our Annual Plant Sale (Providing I can arrange for the donation) and we are also talking about having a picnic the following day. I would ask that someone step forward to chair the Annual Plant Sale which means making arrangements for the location at the same location as last year then ensure that everything gets set up and signs and schedule times for our members to participate.

I am also happy to report that Coralee received " Marine of the Year". This comes as a result of many hours of hard work and dedicated service to our detachment. Thank You, Coralee!!

For those of us who attended the Oregon Department Convention it was a wonderful time and a real learning experience, every time we attend one of these conventions we learn and we get a little better but we also find out the other detachments experience the very same things we do like recruiting, retention, fund raising and our mission in the Marine Corps League so as we talk with other detachments they share ideas and success stories that we can use to make us stronger and help us continue to build our membership, increase our fund raisers and support our Marines and their families. The next convention is scheduled for February 2008 in Brookings, Oregon I would recommend that you attend if at all possible.

During our July meeting we will set up a nominating committee to start the process of electing our staff for the next year. If you would be interested in seeking an officer's billet please ensure that the committee has your name and the billet you are seeking. The following billets are Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant, Judge Advocate, Sgt at Arms, chaplain, Paymaster and Adjutant. Some of our billets like the Chaplain/Paymaster have been combined and until just recently the Judge Advocate/Adjutant were combined. At this point if you have any interest in any of these billets, please advise the nominating committee. We must have the new officers selected by 1 October which means we will be voting on their selection during our September or August meeting.

I look forward to seeing all of our members during our July meeting.

Semper Fi,

Wayne Benson

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Coralee Berwick

AGENDA FOR June 20th MEETING

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT DENNY'S ON July 18, 2007 AT 6:30 PM. DENNY'S IS LOCATED AT 3155 RYAN DR. SE., SALEM, OR 97301. THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBER IS: (503) 585-8424. THIS DENNY'S IS ACROSS FROM COSTCO. THE CROSS STREET IS HAWTHORNE. The conference room will be open at 5:00 pm for dinner prior to the meeting - for those interested. Uniform for the meeting is: SHORT SLEEVE WHITE AVIATOR SHIRT.

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"The Convention was most enjoyable as the speakers were informative, it was great to see old friends, make new ones and the banquet food was delicious."
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WHAT IS NEW FROM THE DEPT OF OREGON VETERAN'S AFFAIRS: VA Announces \$24 Million in Grants for Homeless Programs

July 11, 2007

WASHINGTON – Homeless veterans in 37 states will get more assistance, thanks to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) selection of 92 community organizations to receive funds for transitional housing this year.

"Only through a dedicated partnership with community and faith-based organizations can we hope to reduce homelessness among veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. "These partnerships provide safe, comfortable housing in caring communities for veterans who need a helping hand."

VA has identified the public and community non-profit groups eligible to receive payments for housing and supportive services to homeless veterans through three VA programs:

- Fifty-three organizations will receive \$10 million to provide about 1,000 transitional housing beds under VA's per diem program;
- Thirty-six groups will receive \$12 million for programs for homeless veterans who are seriously mentally, women, including women with children, frail elderly or terminally ill;
- Three organizations will receive about \$2 million for various technical assistance projects.

The grants are part of VA's continuing efforts to reduce homelessness among veterans. VA has the largest integrated network of homeless assistance programs in the country. In many cities and rural areas, VA social workers and other clinicians working with community and faith-based partners conduct extensive outreach programs, clinical assessments, medical treatments, alcohol and drug abuse counseling and employment assistance.

Much work remains to be done, but the partnership effort is making significant progress. Today, it is estimated that fewer than 200,000 veterans may be homeless on an average night, which represents a 20 percent reduction during the past six years.

More information about VA's homeless programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.va.gov/homeless>.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Salem Marine Corps League Detachment #881 will be holding its 2nd Annual Plant Sale at the Les Schwab Parking lot on Lancaster and Market Streets, Sunday July 15th between 8:30 and 3:00

The Salem Marine Corps League has purchased and sent to our Marines and National Guard Troops over 2000 pairs of Dark Glasses in Iraq and Afghanistan. All funds collected during our sale will go to support our troops and their families.

To view our Detachment and its efforts in supporting our troops you may visit our web site at www.mcleague881.org.

For those who would like to make a donation they may visit our web site and make a donation using any credit card or Paypal.

For more information you may contact.

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