



Department of North Carolina MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

February 3, 2010

From: Commandant, Department of North Carolina
To: National Commandant
Via: National Senior Vice Commandant

Subj: **Commandants' Council Report**, National Midwinter Staff Conference

Greetings from the Department of North Carolina Marine Corps League. It is an honor and a pleasure to be serving as the Commandant of the Department of North Carolina for a second term of office. The Department and its staff are very active as are our 57 detachments spread across our great State of North Carolina.

Following the National Convention last August, this Commandant and his staff continued progress toward Goal attainment (see attachment) and expanding the League's presence across the State. In January of 2010 we chartered a new detachment in Dunn, North Carolina, the Crossed Rifles Detachment and on the date of chartering we submitted a new charter application for another detachment in Goldsboro, North Carolina, the Waynesboro Detachment. We have successfully revived two detachments that were inactive. They are functioning very well at this time and are in good standing because of new leadership with a renewed commitment to Marine Corps League principles and purposes.

I attribute this success to our District Vice Commandants (DVC) and the extensive travel of our staff across the state to recruit and retain members of the League. Face-to-face contact with active follow-up is essential. Our Department has 10 Districts and they are evenly divided across the State to enhance each DVC's ability to meet with each detachment in his area at least twice in the past year. Communication being primary, all Detachments meet monthly and the Department has three Quarterly meetings with an annual Convention in June of each year. Our attendance at Quarterly meetings continues to increase and we are anticipating over 250 members plus guests at the upcoming Quarterly meeting on 26 and 27 February in Greensboro NC, at the site of the 2010 National MCL Convention

Primary communications are by electronic media followed-up by active visits by the Department Staff to all Detachments. We are amazed at the amount of community service and service to our Marine Corps that our many Detachments are involved in on a regular basis. Our goal of having a Marine Corps League presence in every community across the state is being realized. The

Commandant and his Staff have made over 80 such visits since August of 2009. Because of our decentralized structure we find it very easy to carry out our mission. I certainly recommend the use of District Vice Commandants in all Departments of the National Marine Corps League.

The Greater Greensboro Detachment 260, led by Commandant Danny Bracken, is making substantial progress toward a successful National Convention at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro in August of 2010. The National Convention Committee, headed up by Scott Matthews, of the Greater Greensboro Detachment meets on a regular basis and they are working very hard to make this convention the best we have ever experienced. Please visit the convention web site at www.mcl2010.org to see progress to date. More will be revealed concerning this great event at the Midwinter Conference by Commandant Danny Bracken and his committee. We encourage all Departments and their Marines to come to North Carolina next August for an experience to be remembered. Marines, it is time to come home for many of you. You will not have any regrets.

I want to thank the National Marine Corps League Toys for Tots Officer and our National Judge Advocate for addressing our concerns for the Toys for Tots (T4T) program. Because of their efforts, the program is more transparent and the Marine Corps League's role in this fine program is much more clearly defined. Our Department's efforts in this area has resulted in increased Detachment involvement with Toys for Tots (T4T). Our Department TFT Officer, Bill Dowdle's efforts resulted in more than 30 Detachments taking on the role of coordinator and increasing the Departments contribution to well deserving families across the state.

The Department of North Carolina was encouraged by the National Executive Director's report on progress to a more enhanced system of communication and the decision by National to upgrade its computer system to enable the League to streamline its reporting requirements including the payment of dues. We are looking forward to seeing this new system in place within the time frame discussed at the last National convention.

Finally, I have an observation to make. For the first time I had the unpleasant task of having to Chair a "Disciplinary Board Hearing". The process was "by-the-book" and the outcome was unpleasant in that the board decided to expel a member from the League. I wish to encourage the constant attention of all members of our League to our Oath of Membership and our Oath of Office if we are to serve as Officers. Problems involving members with other members should always be resolved in the best interest of the League at the lowest possible level. We are Marines and as such we are attentive at all times to "Duty, Honor and Country". We are, from time-to-time, going to have disagreements with each other. Let's strive to settle those quickly and always be "quick to praise and cautious to admonish". No one wins if we have to go to the level of a "Disciplinary Board Hearing".

Sir Commandant, we are proud of our Marines in North Carolina and we are privileged to be members of the Marine Corps League. Our status as League members allows us to give back what was given to us the day we became Marines. I am grateful to be serving God, Country and our beloved Marine Corps and can assure you so are our other 2,700 members of the Department of North Carolina. We look forward to another productive year in our Department and thank you for your attention to our needs.

Semper Fidelis,

Dennis A. Brockland
Commandant