



Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Inc.

APRIL 2011 NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



To: All Members of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary
From: M. Alice Blackford, National President

A Unit President was discussing the status of her Unit's membership. "We all have Life Members who are getting older, some have difficulty walking and others find it difficult to drive at night due to vision changes or do not want to be out by themselves at dark. Our main problem is getting younger members. If we don't we are going to fold."

How many units are seeing this same scenario? Share your creative ideas on how to increase participation at meetings. Poll your members. What would help them to make attending easier and more interesting? Are e-mails, texting, face book, etc. eliminating the need to meet and socialize? Are members who do not have these social media being left out of the loop?

Other military organizations are experiencing the same problem. If you have answers on how you increased your membership and participation I will be glad to share them in a future issue.

If you think the Roster of Officers never changes, please let your Unit, Department or National President know you are willing to volunteer for an office and committees. Know the duties of that office and perform to the best of your ability.

This letter is a full one. Study how to write the changes you propose and meet the deadline for the proposals to be in at headquarters. These proposals will be mailed to the Units, Departments and Past National Presidents. If all is in order it will help us accomplish our business at the National Convention. The minutes to the Mid-Winter Staff Conference are included in this issue.

Lancaster Cap Company is closing down. Please hold off ordering any covers until a new vendor is announced.

We are entering Spring and a season of renewal.
Let's carry this over into our Auxiliary.



Semper Fi,

M. Alice Blackford

M. Alice Blackford

E-mail: aliceb1322@comcast.net

National Web site:

<http://www.nationalmcla.org>

National Marine Corps League Auxiliary can earn a donation every time you search the Internet and shop online!!!

Go to: www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx

Type: Marine Corps League – Auxiliary (Fairfax, VA) in the space asking "Who do you want to support?"

GoodSearch & GoodShop





By Laws and Administrative Procedures

**Submitted by
National Judge Advocate Deborah Evans**

The attached sample forms are to assist any member who wishes to submit a By Law or Administrative Procedure Amendment to be considered at the MCLA National Convention to be held in Boise, ID, August 2011. It is not required that you use these forms. They are offered for your convenience and as a learning tool. These forms have space for all the information that is required, as well as space for information that will assist the voting members to understand what the intended amendment is, why the amendment is being submitted and what the change will entail.

Before drafting an amendment, please read the MCLA National By Laws, Article Eight, Section 800 and the MCLA National Administrative Procedures, Chapter Ten, Section 1015 and 1020. If this is done first, it will be easier to understand the information requested on the sample forms.

Reproduce as many of the forms as you need locally. Remember that there is only to be ONE amendment on each form and that the information that is added to the sample form must be TYPEWRITTEN and sent in triplicate. If a particularly long amendment is being proposed, the required information may be continued on the back of the form or on additional pages, always being sure to note that it is "Page 1 of 2" or "Page 2 of 2," etc.

Please remember that Robert's Rules states, "In order to give the organization the greatest freedom to act within its objective, bylaws should be made no more restrictive nor more detailed in specification than necessary." Be careful not to make a suggestion that is so restrictive that it may harm the future good of the organization. And, try never to propose a change to the National By Laws and/or Administrative Procedures simply because of a personality conflict arising from the actions of one or two individuals.

This information should be of assistance to you if you will read it and share with others in your Units, Departments and Divisions. It is not meant to answer every question nor list every step in the amendment process. Please use the chain of command if you need additional assistance.

The following is offered regarding amendments for the National By Laws:

DATE: Must be at National HQ 90 days before the start of the National Convention. This year May 2, 2011.

TO: National Headquarters

FROM: Name of Member, Unit and Department
Helpful to have title, address, phone number, fax number and e-mail if available

SUBJECT: Fill in applicable Article #, Section # and Sub-Section #
Adhere to requirement of **all** information being typewritten with **Three (3) copies** sent

CURRENTLY READS: Fill in exact wording, as it presently reads in current, up-to-date copy

AMEND TO READ: Fill in exact wording you would like to have delegates vote upon

BRIEF EXAMPLE: “Change third word in second sentence of first paragraph.”

RATIONALE: Reason you feel amendment should be adopted

The following is offered regarding amendments for the National Administrative Procedures:

DATE: May be submitted prior to Convention so members can discuss with Delegates but may also be presented at convention

TO: National Board of Trustees

FROM: Name of Member, Unit and Department
Helpful to have title, address, phone number, fax number and e-mail if available

SUBJECT: Fill in applicable Chapter #, Section # and Sub-Section #
Adhere to requirement of **all** information being typewritten with **Three (3) copies** sent

CURRENTLY READS: Fill in exact wording as it presently reads in current, up-to-date copy (can be seen on National Web Site)

AMEND TO READ: Fill in exact wording you would like to have delegates vote upon

BRIEF EXAMPLE: “Change third word in second sentence of first paragraph.”

RATIONALE: Reason you feel amendment should be adopted

EFFECTIVE DATE: The statement at the bottom of the page is as required by Chapter Ten, Section 1020.

BY LAWS CHANGE FORM

DATE: (no later than May 2, 2011)
TO: National Headquarters, Marine Corps League Auxiliary
8626 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031-2135
(Fax 1-703-207-0264)

FROM:

SUBJECT: In compliance with Article Eight, Section 800 of the National ByLaws, Marine Corps League Auxiliary, I hereby submit, in triplicate, typewritten form, the following amendment to:

ARTICLE:
SECTION:
SUB-SECTION:

CURRENTLY READS:

AMEND TO READ:

BRIEF:

RATIONALE:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES CHANGE FORM

DATE:

TO: National Headquarters, Marine Corps League Auxiliary
8626 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031-2135
(Fax 1-703-207-0264)

FROM:

SUBJECT: In compliance with Chapter Ten, Sections 1015 and 1020 of the NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, Marine Corps League Auxiliary, I hereby submit, in triplicate, typewritten form, the following amendment to:

CHAPTER:

SECTION:

SUB-SECTION:

CURRENTLY READS:

AMEND TO READ:

BRIEF:

RATIONALE:

This amendment, if approved by the voting delegates in Boise, ID, will become effective August 5, 2011.

2011 MID-WINTER STAFF CONFERENCE

February 10, 2011

Pre-Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by National President M. Alice Blackford. National Chaplain Barbara Nobile read an opening prayer.

The Board Members introduced themselves, along with Assistants and Past National Presidents. Peggy Tuohy will represent Rocky Mountain Division.

The Color Bearer and Banner Bearer have resigned and the President needs two members to represent the Auxiliary at Memorial Day in 2011.

Rogene Hackbarth has resigned as the POW/MIA Liaison. Jackie Hunter made a motion to delete the position from the roster. Connie Sexton seconded. Motion carried.

On the roster, the family of Virginia Hanson has requested she be deleted from all rosters and correspondence.

Pat Owens, Financial Advisor to the Auxiliary, was admitted to the meeting. He read the details of the PLM account, the General Fund and gave a final analysis of the accounts. He said the Life Member Account is in good shape because only the interest is used and it is a blocked account.

President Alice spent some time with the Administrative Assistant before this meeting. She was hired March 13, 2010 and presently works part time – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. at \$15 per hour for 24 hours per week. Alice read the performance report of Lynn Foster and she feels she is doing a good job but needs better technique for handling transmittals. Jackie Hunter feels that Membership questions need to start going through the Jr. Vice President rather than National Headquarters. It was generally felt that membership questions should stay at National Headquarters, since they should be handled by the office. The secretary is looking for a new computer that will be faster and more efficient. Peggy Tuohy suggests that Lynn Foster not send back transmittal forms when the transmittal has been submitted via the interactive form.

Lynn Foster was admitted to the room. Midwest, Northeast and New England are missing transmittal copies. The Board Members introduced themselves to Lynn.

For the PNP's, a request has been received from PNP Joyce Orr to send her a copy of the original application, a photo and short bio, noting PNP's term of office. Her address is Joyce Orr, PNP, 3113 S. Charmwood Dr., Port Huron, MI 48060.

President Blackford shared a photo of a Vanda Orchid that is the official flower of the MCLA.

In February 1998, the National Presidents pin was appraised for \$695. It has been reappraised for \$2,800. It is the responsibility of the National President to care for the pin and to pay any expenses involved with repair or replacement. It is recommended that the President insure the pin under her homeowner's policy.

A discussion was held regarding giving the present Commandant of the Marine Corps' wife a life membership in the Auxiliary. She would be given a member-at-large. Sam Dressler made a motion to offer a life membership to Mrs. Amos and if accepted, make her a member-at-large. Deborah Evans seconded. Motion carried.

The Ships Store hours are 7:30 – 9:00 a.m., 12 – 1:15 p.m. and 3 – 5 p.m. on Friday. On Saturday the store will be open from 7:30 – 9 a.m.

A question was asked regarding the Unit President Pin. Does the member receive a second Unit President Pin if she has previously been the Unit President of another Unit? It was generally felt only one pin should be worn and perhaps a gift given from the second Unit.

If members want long sleeve shirts from the Ships Store, they should pay in advance for a special order. Perhaps someone could take a photo of the new shirt to put on the internet.

Who is responsible for the MCLA message board? Ruth Moyses is monitoring the board but is not happy with the responses members are receiving. Ruth suggests that since all the officers are available on the website, the questions should be addressed to the appropriate officer. Sidney Minchin made a motion to remove the Message Board from the MCLA website. There were many seconds. Motion carried.

President Blackford made a recommendation on the advice of the National Comptroller to hire a student for four hours a day three days a week at not more than \$8 – \$10 per hour and they could do some of the manual routine work to free Lynn for secretarial duties. A discussion was held. It was generally felt that the Secretary would be unable to train someone when she is very busy with her own work.

A discussion was held on Life Memberships. Money is being lost processing cards.

The Department Presidents Council needs to be changed to "Presidents" Council. The Auxiliary meeting will start at 10:15 a.m.

Judge Advocate Deborah Evans reminded everyone that questions should be first directed to the Unit Judge Advocate, then the Department Judge Advocate and finally the National Judge Advocate. By Law changes and additions must be mailed via Certified mail return receipt requested. Changes must be sent in triplicate to National Headquarters with "By Law Change Enclosed" noted on the outside of the envelope.

Karen Aune handed out revised Delegate Forms for the Board to review. She also has starter packs.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 10:50 a.m. by National President M. Alice Blackford. Chaplain Barbara Nobile read the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Sr. Vice President read the Purpose of the Auxiliary and the Jr. Vice President read the eligibility. President Blackford declared meeting officially open.

Department Presidents and first time attendees were introduced. The Secretary called the roll of Board Members. Rosemary Bressler filled the chair of Rocky Mountain Division Vice President Lana Perry.

The Minutes of the Pre-Board Meeting were read. Corrections were made. Minutes stood approved as corrected.

President Blackford read her report followed by reports from National Sr. Vice President Gerri Tuohy, National Jr. Vice President Jackie Hunter, National Judge Advocate Deborah Evans and Jr. Past National President Caroline Ruhmshottel. Carol Smith presented Caroline with her Memory book. National Comptroller Gloria Lutz read her report followed by the report of National Chaplain Barbara Nobile.

President Blackford said she spoke to the League regarding reports to Congress. They advised they no longer submit a report to Congress but are required as the parent organization to keep a copy of Subsidiary Organizations 990 on file at Headquarters. The additional reports required relating to our activities are kept by the League in the event the League is required to show and prove what they and their Subsidiary Organizations actually do that would qualify us to continue to be tax exempt under the IRS rules and regulations as a 501(c) (4) organization.

There was a discussion regarding part time help in the office. Jackie Hunter asked if Lynn Foster was asked her feeling on this. Lynn Foster currently is working 24 hours but could work 28 hours if needed. Caroline Ruhmshottel commented that it is up to the Board to solve any issues happening in the office. Karen Aune made a motion to have the Board of Trustees allow Lynn Foster to hire a part time assistant for a maximum of three days a week for four hours a day at a maximum wage of up to \$10 per hour. Connie Sexton seconded. A discussion was held. Gerri Tuohy asked if Lynn Foster was given the opportunity to work additional hours to solve the problem. Tracey Killinger feels the Administrative Assistant should not have the power to hire. Jackie Hunter said the Lynn Foster told her that she would be willing to work additional hours. Karen Aune amended her motion to say "provided Lynn Foster does not want to work the additional hours – the Board be allowed to bring in someone for a maximum of 12 hours per week at a maximum wage of up to \$10 per hour. Connie Sexton amended her second. Dotty Sanning, Midwest Division Vice asked if the President would talk to Lynn to see if she would be willing to take on the additional hours. A hand count was taken on the motion. There were 14 in favor – none opposed. Motion carried. To recap – the Board agreed that Lynn Foster could bring someone in for a maximum of 12 hours per week at a maximum wage of \$10 per hour. The person could be a student from a local college.

The meeting recessed for lunch. National Chaplain closed the Bible.

The meeting continued at 1 p.m. The National Chaplain opened the Bible. Chief Devil Dog Phil Ruhmshottel was escorted to the podium. He presented Madam President with a check in the amount of \$1,000 for Operation Little Angel and a check in the amount of \$1,000 to the National Hide of Devil Dog Fleas. He was escorted from the room.

Sam Dressler read a short report on airfare to the National Convention in Boise, ID.

Jeanette Pisani of the MCL said the Auxiliary is 75% in compliance of supplying the EIN numbers. When communicating with the League, the Auxiliary must refer to their EIN since the League does not have the Unit name.

In the Pre-Board Meeting a discussion was held on the Message Board. Only six members in the room have looked at the message board. The message board will be shut down.

Lynn Foster said that mcla.com and mcla.net are coming up for renewal this year. The cost is \$300 per year. Jackie Hunter made a motion to let .net and .com expire and not renew. Caroline Ruhmshottel seconded. Motion carried.

In order to get a faster turnaround on Charter applications, please mark on the outside of envelopes that they contain charter applications. Enclosures are on the website listed under forms.

Jackie Hunter gave her Membership Report and issued 100% certificates.

Evelyn Joppa read the Headquarters Project Report. Total money received to date is \$3,642.23, giving a check for \$3,592.23 to be presented at the banquet.

Jeanette Guise read a report on Ships Store sales.

Forms Chairperson Karen Aune spoke on revised and new forms. It was noted the fee for the MCL magazine is not \$3, it is \$10. Tracking sheet will be included with starter kits to keep them flowing along.

The Bible closed for a break. Chaplain opened the Bible.

Glen Barry Evans was escorted to the podium and held a workshop on Roberts Rules of Order. He is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians. It was noted that a motion can be changed up until the time the President states the motion to the body. At that time, it must be handled by the body. He was escorted from the room.

Jeanette Guise announced that the Ships Store will remain open after the meeting.

Karen Washabaugh said that the Flea of the Year is Dorcas Simpson and Twila Gensel was the 2009 Flea of the Year. There are Flea items for sale in front of the Devil Dog Store area.

Tonight at 7:11 the Operation Little Angel event will be held.

A discussion was held on the new Delegate/Alternate Form. The current form will be used in Boise. It was not the Forms Committee intention that the new form be used for this year. The new form will be used after a By Law change is made.

Ernie Lutz, MCL National Marine for Life Liaison and Ken Ductor VSO Program Coordinator were admitted to the room. They discussed and distributed information on the Wounded Warrior Regiment.

The meeting recessed.

February 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by National President M. Alice Blackford. Chaplain Barbara Nobile read the opening prayer followed by a salute to the flag. The President asked if anyone in the room knew where the opening of the prayer "Dear Lord and Father of all Mankind" came from. The hymn is referenced in our Ritual on page 7. Since no one knew, the prize was presented to Chaplain Nobile for researching at request. Chaplain Nobile presented her prize to Donna Jean Peterson in celebration of her birthday.

President of the Department of Florida Wanda Russell was presented a Charter for the Jack Ivey Unit.

Evelyn Joppa said a raffle is being held on a necklace and earrings. A total of \$3,842.23 has been collected for the Headquarters Project.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read. Corrections were made and the minutes stood approved as corrected.

Bryson Allen, President of the MCL Foundation, was admitted to the room and escorted to the podium. He read the report of the Foundation. The average turnaround time for a check to be mailed is six days. He is hopeful the scholarship checks will be \$500 this year. His e-mail address is brysonallen@sbcglobal.net. It can also be found on the MCL website under the Staff Roster. He was escorted from the room.

Gerri Tuohy read the report of the Department President's Council.

National Commandant Vic Voltaggio was escorted to the podium. He said he is very supportive of the Auxiliary. There is a professional development program on the MCL website with a module for the Auxiliary that can be downloaded.

Bob DeLong of the New England Division presented a check for \$500 for the Operation Little Angel program.

Barbara Nobile read the report of Operation Little Angel. The charity in Boise is The Women and Children's Alliance and the gifts will be given on Monday during the meeting. She recognized her committee.

Jeanette Guise reported Ships Store sales in the amount of \$2,608.73 yesterday.

Rosemary Bressler read the VAVS Report and presented 100% attendance certificates. As of July 10, there were 233 regular volunteers with 8,215 hours and 1,085 occasional volunteer hours for a total of 9,300 hours at 69 VAMC facilities.

Karen Washabaugh, Legislative Liaison, read a report on the happenings of the Legislative Committee. There are sample letters on the Auxiliary website that can be sent to congress in support of programs. The Marine Corps League sets the committee agenda but members are welcome to set their own agenda.

National President Alice Blackford was escorted from the room to visit the League and National Sr. Vice President took the podium. National Executive Assistant Lynn Foster was introduced to the assembly.

Joan Devlin has uniform blouses for sale for \$20, two in size 18 and one size 20.

Rogene Hackbarth read the report of the Uniform Committee. She read a recommendation for a cover change to be presented at the National Convention.

There was a 10 minute recess.

The Bible was opened and the meeting continued. Gerri Tuohy read the report of Marilyn Loeven, Liaison to the Chapel of Four Chaplains.

Gerri Tuohy read the report of Web Master, Meg Krebs. There were 23,900 hits to the web site.

Gerri spoke about insurance coverage. Get a form filled out from Rust Insurance and send in. It's available on the website under Rust Insurance Agency.

Dottie Sanning asked if the Chair of the Committees can have a link to directly contact them.

Ruth Moyse, Web Site Monitor, said it could be a possibility.

National Judge Advocate Deborah Evans read a report on Submitting By Law and Administrative Procedure Changes. There are sample forms to be used. All proposed By Law changes must be received at National Headquarters prior to May 2, 2011 or 90 days prior to the National Convention. An addition to the By Laws or Administrative Procedures is handled the same way. An Administrative Procedure change may be presented at the National Convention and does not need a 90 day notice.

Deborah Evans asked members to look at the Sew Much Comfort website. They take new garments, cut them apart and put Velcro closures on them so wounded troops can dress and undress easier. Their website is www.sewmuchcomfort.org.

Peggy Tuohy, National Convention Liaison, gave the report of the 2011 National Convention to be held July 29 – Aug 7 in Boise, Idaho. Convention hotel is the Doubletree Hotel – 2900 Chindon Blvd., Boise. It is 2,800 feet above sea level. Their direct line is 208-343-1841. The rate is \$86 per night plus 13%. Breakfast included. Free internet access.

The President of the Women of the Chapel was admitted to the room to accept Operation Little Angel gifts.

Two proposals have been received for the 2013 convention – one from St. Louis, MO and one from Grand Rapids, MI.

Gerri Tuohy recessed the meeting until 1 p.m.

The Chaplain opened the Bible and the meeting resumed. The President thanked the members for attending breakfast with her.

President Blackford and the National Comptroller met with the Administrative Assistant to talk about her working full time. She does not want to work full time but has agreed to work four additional hours per week.

Carol Corley, Memorial Fund Chairperson, read her report. There is a total in the fund and CD of \$10,620.90. All requests for assistance are kept confidential.

Karen Washabaugh, National Big Flea, reported that a Grand Scratch is planned in Boise.

Sam Dressler made a motion to accept all the officer's reports into the record. Seconded by Jackie Hunter. Motion carried.

A discussion was held on whether to have Operation Little Angel held at both Mid-Winter Conference and again at National Convention. Jackie Hunter said she approached the OLA committee on the question of two functions per year. She feels maybe too much is being asked of members.

Peggy Tuohy said that the League sends out labels, cards, tote bags and note pads and does not feel that two functions are too much. Janet Voltaggio asked if it wasn't the Units that started the program. Ruth Moyses suggested that it be brought up at National Convention to get the Units and Departments feelings on the question.

National Judge Advocate Deborah Evans said that Sew Much Comfort will accept donations of new clothing.

Karen Bressler said that after Merveena Wing passed away, she is having trouble transferring the bank account out of Merveena's name. A discussion was held but no one was able to solve the problem.

President Blackford was escorted to the podium along with MCL Executive Director Mike Blum. General Gray asked him to share that the MC, MCL and the Semper Fi Fund need support. Anything that denotes the Marine Corps emblem must be approved by the Marine Corps. If there is an event having more than 200 people, the Unit must get a rider from Rust Insurance to cover the event. At the Museum of the Marine Corps, there was just opened last year a very small chapel on the hill in Semper Fidelis Park, and a memorial for Chesty Puller will be dedicated and the MCL will sponsor the installation of the statue. The money to pay for the statue will be derived from the year end fund raiser from the League.

Jackie Hunter said that approximately 1/3 of the membership is life members. Money is being lost printing Life Membership cards. Deborah Evans made a motion for National Headquarters to retain \$40 of the Life Membership fee instead of \$20 on new Life Members only. Jackie Hunter seconded. Discussion was held. Why not keep \$30 rather than \$40 since the amount being lost is only \$7 per card. Dotty Sanning discussed the possibility of Units and Departments returning interest checks. Did it make any significant change? There were 185 Life Member interest checks issued and \$707 has not been claimed by Units or Departments. Deborah Evans rescinded her motion to keep \$40 out of the Life Membership fee. Jackie Hunter rescinded her second.

Peggy Tuohy, Budget Chairperson, asked for and was given permission to rewrite the proposal to raise dues \$2 and to have that presented to the body in August. She also requested permission to reorder 100 Thank You pins.

Alice Blackford announced that she will not be running for a second term. Gerri Tuohy announced that she will be running for National President. Jackie Hunter announced she will be running for Sr. Vice President. Deborah Evans will be running for Junior Vice and Karen Aune will be running for Judge Advocate.

Carol Smith will be assuming the Central Division Vice President position. All other Division Vice President's remain the same.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Lynn LaBerge



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Ah, spring is in the air and we are all looking forward to summer and the upcoming convention season. But before we get too busy looking ahead we should look

back at some of the things we have done so well in the last few months.

The Dept. of Colorado MCLA with the assistance of the MCL, Department of Corrections Division of Adult Parole, Community Corrections and YOS were able to raise money and acquire the goods the residents of the Denver nursing home had been asking for. They, under the guidance of their chairwoman Stacy Webber, put together 60 Christmas Stockings filled with candy, chapstick, earplugs, nail files, nail clippers, facial tissue, brush, comb and \$2 in canteen voucher books. The residents and staff were very appreciative of their efforts.

These women also worked very hard to make the Quin Conference in January a fun and informative event. I wish to thank all who participated as I was unable to attend due to injuring my back. I must give a big "Thank You" to my assistant Dianne Warner-Kearney for taking over for me.

The Rocky Mountain Division Conference is being held in Colorado this year and I am sure that the women of the Dept. of Colorado will be there to aid the MCL wherever and whenever they are asked to do so.

The Dept. of Utah has been equally busy. In November of last year many of the auxiliary members along with members of the MCL, our state Governor, Gov. Herbert and 400 active duty Marines attended the Second Annual Ball to celebrate the 235th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps. There were over 600 attendees in all.

The guest speaker was Lieutenant General John F. Kelly. He was a very gracious man who after concluding his remarks took the time to speak to the families of the deployed Marines in attendance. Two of those Marine's mothers are members of the Cpl. Robert M. Sawaya Unit. One, Debra Demke's son, was in the same Unit as the General's son. He was able to give her an update on how they were doing and made a worried mother feel much better.

Unfortunately, two days later he received word that his son had been killed in action. In order to show their respect and support in the best way they knew how the Sawaya Unit decided to start sending care packages to Lieutenant Robert Kelly's Unit, the 1st Marine Division, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (Dark Horse). Debra's son was also a member of that unit and they were badly in need of a morale boost. Since then the Sawaya Unit has shipped 20 boxes. Included in those boxes were over 1,000 letters from John C. Freemont Elementary, a local elementary school who wanted to show the Marines that people here do care. The letters are very touching and tell it like it is. The guys have loved every one!

The Cpl. Sawaya Unit is also involved with the Alzhiemers Unit of the George E. Wahlen VA nursing home. Every three months they have a birthday party for the residents there. They bring a cake and ice cream and spend an hour talking and listening to the men in the unit. Each resident thinks they are there "Just for Me!" At Christmas they even take Santa and Mrs. Claus with them along with some of the member's children. It really makes for a special time for everyone. Each of the Units in the Division is working on new projects for the spring and summer months. We are all looking forward to Department, Division and National Conventions and Conferences. Many of us are working on Little Angel projects for Division Conference. I look forward to seeing what these talented ladies do next. I am proud to be associated with each and every one!

Lana Perry

Lana Perry
Rocky Mountain Division VP



Marine Corps League Auxiliary Programs of Pride

Marine Corps veteran and wife work year-round to recognize service members

By J.R. DUREN, DAILY SUN
THE VILLAGES — Always faithful.

It's a good way to describe the volunteer work of Capital Marine Detachment of the Marine Corps League leaders Chuck and Lynn LaBerge. The Villages couple spends seven months every year organizing the Enlisted Awards Program for the yearly Modern Day Marine Military Exposition in Quantico, Va.

The awards ceremony, which takes place Sept. 28-30 this year, recognizes 12 service members of the Marine Corps and Navy for their outstanding achievements during their service. The ceremony is part of a larger exposition, in which companies exhibit equipment of interest to the Marine Corps.

"It means so much to them," Chuck said. "It is the highlight of their career to go through this ritual."

The LaBerges, who took over the project 28 years ago, work closely with the Marine Corps from February to September, putting in four to five hours per day in the office of their Village of Briar Meadow home.

The planning process, the LaBerges said, is a flurry of phone calls, letter-writing, travel plans and hard work.

Between February and April, they begin to receive the names of the awards winners, as well as a list of companies that will exhibit products at the expo.

"As we get the names, we contact the award winners," Lynn said. "They just can't hardly believe it."

Many of the recipients are surprised that they are winners, Chuck said.

"Do you remember that one year that girl squealed so loud it almost broke our eardrums?" Lynn said, turning to her husband. "She was so excited, oh my gosh!"

The LaBerges purchase airline tickets for the winners and, if possible, their spouses or significant others; set up their travel arrangements; shuttle them to and from the airport; and act as their hosts during their stay.

To fund the cost of 12 travel packages, the LaBerges said they write letters to each of the more than 400 companies that will participate in the exposition, asking them to make donations to the awards program.

Lynn said between 20 and 25 businesses commit to donating money, totaling about \$16,000, Lynn said.

Once the winners have been notified and the list of sponsors is complete, the LaBerges print off 500 programs that will be passed out during the exposition.

By August, Lynn said, she's printed out about 9,000 sheets of paper.

The hard work pays off, she said, when the LaBerges meet the winners at the airport the week of the awards ceremony.

"When the guys come off the airplanes and we meet them at



Photo by Mark DiOrio, Daily Sun

Chuck and Lynn LaBerge of Capital Marine Detachment of the Marine Corps League are shown Thursday in their Village of Briar Meadow home. The couple organize a yearly fundraiser to fly service members to Quantico, Va., to participate in the United States Marine Corps Enlisted Awards Parade and Presentation.

the airport, it's all worth it," Lynn said. "It's a worthwhile effort, and the Marine Corps expects us to put all our effort into it."

Chuck, a Marine Corps veteran who fought at Guadalcanal in World War II, said honoring these men and women is a pleasure for him.

"They just can't do this for themselves," said Chuck, who pointed out that some winners are in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. "They can't go out and raise money. So, we do it."

The willingness of today's Marine to go to war is a display of courage that Jack said is amazing.

"You have to give all your respect in the world to these young guys," he said. "These young people are joining and they want to go to combat."

Each recipient first is recommended by one of their leaders. That recommendation runs up the ranks of Marine Corps leadership, Chuck said, until it reaches the commandant and sergeant major of the Marine Corps.

"If you could read their write-ups, you'd be absolutely startled by what these guys have done. Phenomenal," he said.

The awards program includes a parade, a ceremony in which each winner meets the commandant of the Marine Corps and receives the Iwo Jima Memorial Award, and a banquet at the Pentagon City Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

"I'd say that the Marine Corps, without a doubt, is the finest fraternal organization in the world," Chuck said. "No one is any more faithful to a Marine than another Marine. We are a brotherhood that is unbelievably solid."

J.R. Duren is a reporter with the Daily Sun. He can be reached at 753-1119, ext. 9260, or james.duren@thevillagesmedia.com.

Posted in Villages on Monday, February 21, 2011 8:00 am
Updated: 11:55 am.

April 2011 National MCLA Chaplain's Corner

- EVELYN DITTMAN* 11/27/2010, MICKEY FINN UNIT, VA, NO FAMILY
- BETTY HAMEL* 1/6/2011, BRASS CITY UNIT MEMORIAL UNIT, CT
CONDOLENCES TO: ROLAND HAMEL SR., 254 CIRCULAR AVE., WATERBURY, CT, 06705-2114

- GISELA SAUER* 1/7/2011, MOUNTAINSIDE UNIT, MD
CONDOLENCES TO: TOM SAUER, RT #6, BOX 6317, KEYSER, WV 26726

- RUTH V. BARTHEL* 1/21/2011, ALL DIVISIONS UNIT, PA
CONDOLENCES TO DAUGHTER: ANN WINSTON, 2600 SUNDOWN FARMS WAY,
OLNEY, MD 20832

- NANCY MORRIS* 1/25/2011, HERKIMER COUNTY UNIT, NY
CONDOLENCES TO DAUGHTER: KATHLEEN WISE, 2122 COTTONWOOD RD, FOREST, VA. 24551

- PDD DORIS WALKER* 2/19/2011, FLINT UNIT, MI, NO ADDRESS

- SUZANNA G. PEREZ* 2/20/2011, COASTAL BEND UNIT, TX
CONDOLENCES TO HUSBAND: AURELIO PEREZ, 4529 LEON, CORPUS CHRISTIE, TX 78416

- JEAN KRUEGER* 2/25/2011, SOUTH ST. LOUIS UNIT, MO, NO FAMILY

"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord." Psalm 31:25

We have many members who are mourning the loss of their beloved husbands:

Millie Herrington from the Hardware City Unit in CT mourns the passing of her husband of many years, Earl. Cards may be sent to: 20 Carriage Hill Drive, Newington, CT 06111.

Lancaster County, PA, Capt. of the Guard, Jean Hagdgons lost her husband Larry to cancer, card for her go to: 1239 Wabank Road, Lancaster, PA 17603-6846.

Helen Williamson, Larry Nehring Unit member, Des Moines, Iowa, lost her husband, Tom. He will be buried April 15th in the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. Cards for Helen go to: 11150 Greenwood St. #6, Lenexa, KS 66215.

Clem Cardow, Past New England Division VP, mourns the passing of her husband, Bill. Cards of condolence should be sent to her at: 25 Cook Lane, Beacon Falls, CT 06403.

Other members needing our prayers and cards are:

Elsie Amos of the Riverview Unit in Florida. Elsie has inoperable lung cancer but is still taking chemo. Send her greetings at: 10733 Fern Creek Cr. Riverview, FL 33578.

Darlene MacCubbin , Dept. of MO, had surgery on her foot, but is getting around. Cards for her go to: 702 Hwy. T, Leopold, MO 63700.

Lynda Hartwick, Dept. of MO President, had surgery on her arm. Cards for her should be sent to: 34 Bluff Ridge Drive, #1C, Lake of Ozarks, MO 65049.

Donnis Eberley, also of the Dept. of MO, had total knee replacement surgery. Cards for her: 105 Willow Ridge Court, Wentzville, MO 63385-6231.

Beverly Vandershans, also of Dept. of MO, had some outpatient surgery recently. Cards for her go to: PO Box 1685, Lake of the Ozarks, MO 65049.

Joni Cruver, Past SW Division VP Assistant, had neck surgery. They removed three discs and replaced them with donor discs. Titanium plates are to be installed at a later date. She will need six – eight weeks of recovery. Cheer greetings should be sent to her at: 1632 E Aspen St., Cottonwood, AZ 86326-3939.

Mae Gensel, Dept. of PA, was operated upon for kidney stones. Mae would love to get your greetings at her home: 37 Park Drive, New Columbia, PA 17856.

Karen Bressler, who works so diligently in our Ships Store at conventions, underwent partial knee replacement surgery. She did so well she did not need to enter a rehab which she is doing at home. Send her your well wishes: 6500 S. Dayton, Apt. F 107, Centennial, CO 80111-6514.

National Newsletter Editor, Merilyn Evans had a daughter who had surgery recently. Cards for her go to: 808 Sandburg Place, Nashville, TN 37214.

Lynn Foster, our HQ Admin. Assistant, lost her aunt this past month. Cards may be sent to HQ: 8626 Lee Highway, Suite 207, Fairfax, VA 22031-2135.

Nancy Viser, Dept. of Washington, lost her father. Cards of condolence may be sent to: 13934 NW Meadow Ridge Drive, Portland, OR 97229-2385.

Your efforts have been noticed and acknowledged by Hattie Kelley, a WW II Marine, from the Dept. of Washington, who had by-pass surgery. She feels honored and blessed to have received cards from all over the country.

Inda Adams wants to send a special thank you to all her auxiliary sisters who sent cards or offered sympathy in the loss of her sister. She loves you all.

Last but not least, the reason we are all involved in this auxiliary is our Marines. The Lake of the Ozarks Unit has a member who has two sons serving in the United States Marine Corps. Brett 23, is currently serving on a MEU. Bryce, 21, is in San Diego basic training. Sending this mom a note of encouragement and thanks for raising two fine sons would be a boost to her I am sure. Arlene Bowman, PO Box 1685, Lake Ozark, MO 65049.

This was a busy month. I certainly hope I did not miss anyone. I ask that you keep all members in your prayers as well as our deployed military. God Bless each and everyone this Lenten Season.

“They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles’ wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Nobile

PNP Barbara Nobile
National Chaplain

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY
8626 Lee Highway, Suite 207
Fairfax, VA 22031-2135
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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Send your name, address and a \$10.00 check payable to National Marine Corps League Auxiliary to cover postage for one year of issues to National Headquarters, 8626 Lee Highway, Suite 207, Fairfax, VA 22031-2135.

For Submissions:

The Deadline for all articles (that is, in my hands, not in the mail) is the 15th of each month without exception and is strictly upheld. All articles will be subject to both appropriateness (that is interest to all Auxiliary Members, not just one Unit or individual) and to space available (postage costs limits the number of pages).

E-mail your submissions to Merilyn9716@aol.com or postal mail: Merilyn Evans, 808 Sandburg Place, Nashville, TN 37214-4051.

All inquiries are welcome.