



# CAPITAL COURIER

Vol. 15 No. 3

KEEPING MARINES INFORMED THROUGHOUT THE LANSING AREA

AUGUST 2006

## Capital Detachment News

### COMMANDANTS COMMENTS

I am pleased to report to you that our Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye event was a great success. We sold 656 tickets at \$15.00 each and the auditorium was filled with music lovers of all ages. This event was successful because of the event chairman, China Marine Lloyd Remus. Come to the next meeting to hear the financial report on the event. I want to personally thank Lloyd for his hard work and point out to our Detachment Marines that he is a shining example of what we can do when we set our minds to the completion of a task. I would be remiss if I did not include thanking Bob Porter for the event as well, since without his help in printing the posters and tickets our success would most likely have been very limited. We worked well with the American Legion Browne/Cavender Post #148 on this event and seeing them working alongside us and with us made me feel proud of both organizations and it proved that joining forces can work for all. A special thanks to those from both organizations that served as ushers and helpers at the event. I received many nice comments from those attending about how wonderful it was to attend an event where they were treated

to such a warm reception and got as much help as they did with their physical needs.

We will be completing our committee assignments at the next meeting, and we still need help with several of them so please call me if you can give us a hand at 517-676-4437.

We will be very involved this year in the Toys for Tots drive, due to Charlie Company being deployed. We could use more help, therefore I encourage you to contact our Toys for Tots chairman, Detachment Senior Vice Commandant, Cedric Hamiel and get on his working list. We will be involved in the Silver Bells in the City event again this year and will have the Red Caboose at the corner of Michigan and Washington, with help from the Lansing Board of Water and Light. Again this year we will have Marine Stan Lyon with his restored 1952 Studebaker 6X6 MARINE troop carrier there to haul the Toys down to the Salvation Army storage facility. Last year we did not reach our goal of filling it completely and hope to get it done this year.

I want to inform all of our members that we really need to increase our efforts at recruiting and retaining new membership into the Detachment. I say this for

several reasons. First, the Marine Corps League does not have a seat on the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Council, since we do not as a Department meet the membership requirement set when the Fund was established in 1946. Second, we need to organize more Detachments in the State and get those Marines who live in our State to join with us and help with our veterans programs. We have always, as Marines, been able to do more with less, but until we get more help in this area we can never compete on a level playing field. I have heard many Marine veterans say I did my share and now all I want is to be left alone. I believe they deserve peace and quiet, but they need to fully understand that without them as members we will never be able to successfully complete the mission laid out by our Marine Corps League founding father General John A. Lejeune.

At the State convention this year I had the privilege of introducing our Detachment Iwo Jima Marine Conrad Taschner. Connie went in with the second wave at Iwo and that makes him special to all of us. But what makes Connie doubly special is his involvement in our League. He never hesitates to volunteer for a job and even though he can not at times because of physical problems, do all

*continued on next page*

that he would like, he is never the less a shining example of what we need from all of those Marines in our State who are not involved. Our veterans service offices and officers are doing a great job but have not had an increase in their budget for the last six years and did not get one again this year. Remember they are the ones we turn to when we need the help of the Veterans Administration and if you have ever tried to travel that road without help it's like stepping into a mine field. There is only one way to get the help of our State and Federal Senators and Legislators and that is to show them that we have the numbers in membership to sway elections.

This is why we need those State Marines who are not with us now to join and help! WE DO NOT NEED EXCUSES AND ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE! THE JOB IS STILL THERE TO DO. EVEN IF THEIR NOT STILL IN UNIFORM THEY ARE STILL MARINES WE MUST HAVE THEIR HELP NOW. SO GO FIND THEM IN YOUR AREA AND GET THEM ON BOARD. I want to congratulate those members of the Detachment who are taking on jobs with the Department.

They are Detachment Paymaster Phil Zamora (Central Zone Commandant) Detachment Junior Vice Commandant Wendy Zamora (Fund raising Committee and Scholarship Committee) and yours truly Commandant Doug Williams (Department Legislative Director). We now have three Past Department Commandants in our Detachment they are Marine Roy Donald, Marine Ed Eden, & Marine Hugh A. Clarkin. As Legislative Director for the Department I will be encouraging through our Department Commandant all members of the Department to commence a letter writing campaign to their State Senators and State Representatives demanding that they increase the Department of Military and Veterans affairs Budget for our Veterans Service Offices and Service Officers for fiscal year 2007-2008 by at least 18%. We can no longer afford to just sit back and accept the meager handout they grant us each year. We also have a responsibility to meet when it comes to providing for those who will return to us from Iraq and Afghanistan in need of our services. We do not want to see another twelve-year stall as we saw with Agent Orange. I will also ask our Department Commandant to seek out our brother veter-

ans organizations and ask them to join with us in this campaign so we can bring more voices to the table and more pressure to bear upon those who control the purse strings. We cannot and must not loose this fight, or our brother Marines and fellow veterans will suffer. This year we will be holding the Marine Corps Birthday party at VFW Post 701 and plans are under way to make it a great party. As usual, it will start at 16:30 and end when ever and the date is of course November 10, 2006. SOS, Cake Cutting, War Story telling, interacting with old friends and BS are all part of this most important day and I encourage all to attend and have a good time. This year we will have two kinds of SOS, one chipped beef and one hamburger in an effort to please all. So if you have any complaints take it to the chaplain. In closing I would like to ask everyone to sign up a new member and get involved in the operation of our Detachment. We need your input and help to make this the best Detachment in the State.

**Semper Fidelis**  
**Commandant**  
**Doug Williams**

**Capital Courier** is the monthly newsletter of Capital Detachment, Marine Corps League, 840 E. Columbia St., Mason, MI 48854. The newsletter is distributed free to Detachment members. Material presented herein is for informational and entertainment purposes only. Use of advertisement does not constitute endorsement by the Detachment or Department of Marine Corps League. All photos, stories, letters, and advertisements must be received by the 15th of each month for use in the next issue.

Advertising rates are \$20.00 per half-year for Marine Corps League members and \$60.00 for non-league advertisers.



**CAPITAL  
 DETACHMENT**

## Capital Detachment Chain of Command

**COMMANDANT**  
 Doug Williams

**SGT. AT ARMS**  
 Ed Kulpa

**SR. VICE**  
 Cedric Hamiel

**PAYMASTER**  
 Felipe Zamora

**JR. VICE**  
 Wendy Zamora

**CHAPLAIN**  
 Neil Snepa

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**  
 Edd Reeser

**PAST DETACHMENT  
 COMMANDANT**  
 Dale Erion

**ADJUTANT**  
 Bob Porter

**HISTORIAN**  
 Charlie Spagnuolo



## From the Detachment Paymaster

### Marines:

Our Birthday Party is fast approaching and I am in charge of putting the PARTY together if you would like to help with the Birthday Party on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, contact me ASAP, I would like to hold a meeting before our next meeting so we can divide up the workload, call me during the day at (517) 204-4883 or at night at (517) 541-1501.

Now this is to the Women, after the Convention it was decided that we would not start a Auxiliary in the Capital Detachment but we would like all our Wives, Girlfriends, Daughters, Mothers, etc. to join us as Associate Members, we would like to do this now, the cost to join the Detachment is the same as a regular member \$30.00 for the first year and \$25.00 every year after, I am also checking with National to see if Associates are allowed to purchase life memberships,

Now about Life Memberships, on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> the price for life memberships will rise, if you plan on being around for a while, you might consider purchasing this, I have the prices by age on the website or will have them at the next meeting.

And last we now have a Detachment Color Guard, but we need more Marines, contact Marine Tim Scott if you would like to be in our Color Guard, uniform will be White Shirt with epilates (Pilots shirt) Dress Blue trousers and shiny black shoes, I am checking with other Detachments that have Color Guards about where they get most of their uniform items.

Semper Fi Marines  
Phil Zamora

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## **CAPITAL COURIER**

Newsletter of Marine Corps League

**Capital Detachment**

Lansing, Michigan

Meets Fourth Thursday of the Month

**NEXT  
DETACHMENT MEETING  
THURSDAY  
AUGUST 24, 2006 , 18:00  
VFW POST 701  
123 N. ROSEMARY STREET  
LANSING MICHIGAN**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Anyone wishing to put something into the newsletter (advertising, photos, announcements, birthdays, anniversaries, taps etc...) may do so by contacting:

**Doug Williams**

**e:mail:** willi183@msu.edu

**phone:** 517-676-4437

**mail:** 1111 E. Columbia St.

Mason, MI 48854

*Complaints: see the Chaplain*

### **DETACHMENT MEETINGS**

*Thursday, September 28th*

*Thursday, October 26th*

*Friday, November 10th  
Marine Corps Birthday*