

June 2008 Commandant's Corner

It's nice to have our newsletter back in publication and I want to personally thank Mark Byrd for stepping back into the role as Editor. I for one understand the reason he had to step down earlier this year and I applaud him for putting his family first. But now that he is back, I know we couldn't be happier.

We have had a successful past few months. We've increased our treasury during Meet in the Street and Six Sundays, even though we were rained out on May 18th. We also saw three new prospective members at our last meeting who came as a result of seeing our booth at Meet in the Street. Several members and some wives participate in placing American flags on veterans' grave the Saturday before Memorial Day at the various cemeteries around the Wake Forest area and we had a respectable showing at the Memorial Day ceremony at the Heritage Veterans' Memorial on Memorial Day where our Color Guard presenting the national colors.

Our Jr. Vice has been working hard on our "Helping Our Own" project, soliciting if any members need assistance and looking outside the detachment to see if there are any Marine families in the area (active, reserve, retired or disabled) need assistance. Once he has located a person or family in need he will present that information to the Detachment so we can decide what we can do to help them.

We are still working on a summer fellowship event

with families (picnic). More details to follow. I've even been given a suggestion from a member recommending we have a couple's diner event at the Legion Hall or some other suitable location.

Our social hour diners have steadily increased over the past few months. Those who have attended have stated they really enjoy having the meal and fellowship prior to the meeting. Ray Gerald and George Catallona really put on a great meal for the price. And the programs we have had after the social hour have been extremely well done. They have ranged from Fred Leenerts' moving presentation on his combat experience in Vietnam to the latest information on what's really happening in Iraq from Sean Lynch. These Marines put on excellent presentations and were assisted by their children working the audio/visual equipment.

The Veterans' Council, made up of representatives from each of the three veterans' organizations here in Wake Forest, has reconstituted itself and is making headway on our joint fundraising raffle. They are proposing a grand prize of a 42 inch LCD HD TV, second prize of a grill and third prize of \$100 cash or gift certificate. More details to follow, but they are looking at a drawing in November during Veterans' Day.

As you can see, we have a lot going on with more to come. We have seen steady increase in our monthly meeting attendance to the point were we may need to move the meeting into the large dining area instead of the meeting area just so we can fit everyone more comfortably. The last meeting we were above 33% attendance from our total membership. Even though our attendance has increased, I'd still like to see even more members show up for the social hour and meeting. As I've said before in previous newsletters, you only get out of the Detachment what you put into it. And as they say, "the more the merrier" so we hope to see you at a future gathering.

Semper Fi
Joe Goodrow
Commandant