

Marines, Associates, Friends,

When we were younger and in school, the 1st day of April was always referred to as "April Fool's Day." "It is one of the most light hearted days of the year, yet it stems from a serious subject—the adoption of a new calendar. Ancient cultures, including those as varied as the Romans and the Hindus, celebrated New Year's Day on April 1. It closely follows the vernal equinox (March 20th or March 21st). In medieval times, much of Europe celebrated March 25, the Feast of Annunciation, as the beginning of the new year. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII ordered a new calendar (the Gregorian Calendar) to replace the old Julian Calendar. The new calendar called for New Year's Day to be celebrated Jan. 1. Many countries, however, resisted the change. In fact, some European countries held out for centuries (Scotland until 1660; Germany, Denmark, and Norway until 1700; and England until 1752). In 1564, France adopted the reformed calendar and shifted New Year's day to Jan. 1. However, many people either refused to accept the new date, or did not learn about it, and continued to celebrate New Year's Day April 1. Other people began to make fun of these traditionalists, sending them on "fool's errands" or trying to trick them into believing something false." April Fool's Day Has Serious Origins "Fools" ignored the new calendar by David Johnson.

Speaking about calendars – the Senior Vice Commandant says that he now has a calendar completed with all of our fundraising events listed through the end of the year. Frank plans to disseminate the calendar at the next meeting and via e-mail and the web site. Please look the calendar over and let him know when and where you might be able to help. The next big event will be Meet in the Streets on May 2nd, and many of you have already signed up for that... but we could still use more help, so please get on the list.

I am very pleased to tell everyone that the Raleigh Gun Show was a huge success even though its coordinator, April Cates, had little time to prepare for it. She along with Kevin Hughes, David Hochstrasser and George Cattelona sold many raffle tickets and handed out many recruiting cards. Additionally, they had a donation jar there for Wounded Warrior Regiment of Camp Lejeune and raised just over \$750.00 in that. David plans to hand deliver the check to the Wounded Warriors himself while he is in Lejeune for a 1st Battalion, 9th Marines family day picnic.

If you ride by the Wake Forest Farmers Market any Saturday between now and November, you will see the Senior Vice Commandant and Bob Cubillas (Coffee Shop Bob) there raising money and recruiting for the detachment. Please stop by, say hello, and offer to help if you can. I salute the effort of these two fine Marines; they are the workhorses of the detachment.

In closing, I would remind you all that we have our next detachment meeting on the second Tuesday of this and every month at 1900 (1800 dinner). I hope to see you all there!! Our attendance has been great at these meetings, and we have a lot of fun. If you are just visiting for the first time, we will even feed you a free meal!

God Bless & Semper Fi,

Mark Byrd
Commandant
April 2009