

Message from Commandant October 2009

Marines, Associates and Friends,

I hope that this month's newsletter finds you all in good health and enjoying some of the cooler fall weather that we are having. It has been a long, hot summer to say the very least!

Each year around this time, I am reminded of the anniversary of the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon on October 23, 1983. This is particularly important for me because the BLT that was attacked that morning was my old unit, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines. This cowardly act ushered in a new strategy of warfare that is harder than ever for our brothers who are serving to prepare and train for. No longer do we face an enemy that wears a uniform and greets us on a designated battlefield; now we must fight a foe that sends their women and children to do their bidding for them as suicide bombers. Please keep the families of these fallen Marines and Sailors from Beirut in your prayers, and also the families and service members still serving our great nation.

We held our joint-veterans picnic on September 26, along with the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars of Wake Forest. If you missed it, then you missed a howling good time. There was a disc jockey, plenty of great food, and games for the adults and children alike. There was a threat of rain but the Supreme Commandant held it off until we were done. Mike Seybert and Tommy Skellion (of the Legion) coordinated everything and did an outstanding job! This will become a yearly event, so make plans to attend next year.

The next big event that we have on our calendar will be the Toys-for-Tots kick-off dinner to be held at 6:00 pm at the Forks Cafeteria in Wake Forest on October 13. Please make plans to attend, and to participate in our efforts for Toys-for-Tots this year. With the current state of the economy, it will be more important than ever for us to have a successful Toys-for-Tots campaign this season. If you and your family have been blessed and are looking for a way to give back, this is it!

The Nominating Committee has completed their search for proposed 2010 officers and are prepared to present their slate on October 13. We will hold an abbreviated meeting at the American Legion hall after the Toys-for-Tots dinner and beginning at 8:00 pm so that they can make their presentation. The floor will also be opened for any further nominations. I would like to remind everyone that any nominees must be in good standing (dues paid up), have proof of service on file with the Adjutant, and be willing to serve. The election will follow in November, and the installation in December.

As I understand it, many of us still have not turned in our money and/or tickets for the raffle. This is partly because of some miscommunication on where or who to turn the tickets in to. Please get them to Bob Peters and he will check your name off his list as having turned them in. Lets all please either sell the tickets that we were mailed or purchase them ourselves. This will enable us to help other vets and do other fun things like the picnic that we just hosted. If you are not able to purchase or sell the tickets, please return them to Bob so that he can mark you off his list and redistribute them to others to sell. Please drop them in the mail to Bob if you are not able to get them to him otherwise.

The Senior Vice Commandant reported last Saturday at the Staff Meeting that the detachment sponsored Marine Corps Ball is now at break-even point on tickets being sold, so everything that comes in after this point will be profit. The chair, George Cattelona, says that any profit will go to the Marine Corps Wounded Warriors Battalion. Please see George or Frank Kildea for your tickets and help make this Ball a huge success!

Take care of yourselves and see you at the Toys-for-Tots dinner!

Semper Fi,

Mark Byrd
Commandant