



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
MELVIN M. SMITH DETACHMENT #586  
MCL AUXILIARY UNIT #305  
JIM CHAMBERLAIN POUND #185  
SPOKANE, WA  
May, 2011**



## COMMANDANT'S CORNER

**Greetings Marines, Corpsmen & Associates!**

**This note for the May 2011 newsletter will be the last time I will submit my thoughts as your Commandant. The past 2 years have been an honor and a privilege for me and I want to thank you very sincerely. Without your cooperation and support I would have looked like a clown herding cats. Imagine that.**

**I can not individually thank each of you without forgetting someone. One last story is appropriate however. As most of you know I retired from active duty with the US Army at Ft. Lewis. As I was out processing, I was approached by the VFW Rep and signed up for a life membership on the condition I never attend a meeting. Later on, I became a life member of the DAV, again stipulating I would not be attending any meetings. One day I met Doug Shurtleff at the fair and he invited me to a Marine Corps League meeting. I agreed to one meeting, but told him of my aversion to meetings. When I walked into the room for the first time, I felt like pulling up a footlocker and sharing sea stories with my fellow Marines. I was instantly hooked. The rest is history. Thanks Doug.**

**I'm starting to ramble so I leave you with the only quote from Shakespeare I know:**

**We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;  
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my brother;**

**Now I wish you a hearty Semper Fidelis and prepare to move to the back of the room to sit in the Junior Past's chair and look wise.**

**Jim Bennett**

**Proud to have been your Commandant, Melvin M. Smith Det. Marine Corps League**

# **Semper Fi**

"ONCE A MARINE ~ ALWAYS A MARINE"  
"Official Motto of the Marine Corps League"

Let us take a moment to remember our Navy Bothers, Corpsmen...

**From a Doc's Point of View,**

**As a Corpsman in green and not navy blue,  
I offer this poem from a Doc's point of view.  
We've been honored by stories, poems and such  
By Marines we have served with and respected so much.  
They speak of our honor, bravery and skill,  
And the cry, "Corpsman up!" still gives me a chill.  
When a Marine goes down, what will it be?  
A trache? Tie off bleeders? Start an IV?  
Only one thing is certain as we rush to the scene,  
Our ass will be covered by our brothers in green.  
You see we're adopted, "Sons of the Corps."  
No more "Anchors away" - "Semper Fi" evermore!  
It's true when you're wounded, your life's in our hands,  
And we'll treat and protect you to the very last man.  
For you are our point man, our cover, our shield,  
And we count on your skills all our days in the field.  
Many a grunt laid his life on the line  
To make sure Doc got to the wound in time.  
So, my brothers, I thank you, as all us Docs should.  
It's YOU who make us Corpsmen look good!  
Author is "Doc Hutch"**

A note from our Senior Vice Commandant...

Would you believe that we have members that would like to form a shooting team? YES! After a hearty chat with Doug, our National Marksmanship Marine, I've decided that it's time we get this done and have some fun putting rounds down range. We are looking for anyone that wants to be a part of the team and have some fun. Give me a call and I'll put you on the team. Don't worry about a weapon cuz Doug's got enough for everyone.



Semper Fi  
Hank Melanson  
Sr. Vice Commandant



**From the desk of Doug**

**Greetings to all.**

**This month the information from the "desk" will relate to the entire summer of coffee stops. If you cannot volunteer to be at the rest area and wish to help, you may donate products that will need to be purchased or money, and we will do the purchasing. As of now we need: powdered orange drink, large jars of powdered creamer, powdered cocoa mix, napkins, cookies, cups. We have at present, enough coffee (thanks Jerry Masgai), regular sugar, Sweet and Low, Equal and stir sticks. Coffee will be needed for the final three dates. The dates are listed below, note that we have 4 dates this year due to a DOT scheduling mix up which ended up in our favor.**

**July 11, 12, & 13 (Mon-Tue-Wed) Westbound. Linda is getting a new knee in June and will not be available to assist in opening, closing, set-up & take down.**

**Aug 5, 6, & 7 (Fri-Sat-Sun) Eastbound. This is the weekend of the National Convention in Boise so plan accordingly. We will be back Thur PM to setup.**

**Aug 22, 23 & 24 (Mon-Tue-Wed) Westbound.**

**Sept 19, 20, 21 (Mon-Tue-Wed) Eastbound.**

**The set-up takes place on the day prior to the above listed starting days at about 10 pm (2200 hours) sometimes a little earlier. Take down is at 9pm (2100 hours) or a little earlier on the ending day listed above. Linda may or may not be available on the 3 later dates depending on how her therapy goes.**

**Sign up sheets will be available at the monthly meetings in May and June. If you can't make the meetings and wish to volunteer call me at home (328-5837) and I will give you the days and times that are available.**

**In closing, the Pappy Boyington Devil Dogs are raffling a Model 1911 .45 caliber pistol, to raise funds to cover their expenses for the National Convention Grand Growl. Both Randy and myself will have tickets available at the May meeting if you are willing to take a chance. If you buy and win and don't want or need the gun you can donate it to the Detachment and we will raffle it off again to raise funds for our Detachment.**

**Your thought for the month (back to athletes): Football commentator Joe Theismann: "Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein".**

**Semper Fi!**

**Doug**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- May** 11<sup>th</sup> VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.  
12<sup>th</sup> MCL/MCLA Meeting, 19:00 - TBD, VFW Post 51.  
14<sup>th</sup> MODD Growl at Perkins off Argonne & I-90, 08:00 - 10:00.  
21<sup>st</sup> Navy Week, Breakfast at the VFW Post 51, 09:00 - 12:00.  
21<sup>st</sup> Armed Forces Parade, Downtown Spokane, 19:00 - 23:30.  
30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Ceremony, 10:30 to 13:00, Lunch to follow at VFW 51 for \$7.00
- June** 8<sup>th</sup> VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.  
9<sup>th</sup> MCL/MCLA Dinner, Officer Installations & Awards, \$5.00 for all you can eat Pizza & Salad, at 18:30 - TBD, VFW Post 51. Families welcome! New Members too!  
12<sup>th</sup> USMC Family Day at NOSC, 12:00-16:00, Bring your family to share some time with our "P" Battery Marines & Corpsmen.  
17-19<sup>th</sup> Dept of WA Convention in Yakima
- July** 11, 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> Coffee Stop, Westbound I-90 at Sprague. We need volunteers to open & close.  
13<sup>th</sup> VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.  
14<sup>th</sup> MCL/MCLA Meeting, 19:00 - TBD, VFW Post 51.  
16<sup>th</sup> MODD Growl at Perkins on 5903 N. Division 08:00 to 10:00.
- Aug** 5, 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> Coffee Stop, Eastbound I-90 Sprague. This is National Convention week, so please volunteer to set up...  
10<sup>th</sup> VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.  
11<sup>th</sup> MCL/MCLA Meeting, 19:00 - TBD, VFW Post 51.  
22, 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> Coffee Stop, Westbound I-90 at Sprague.
- Sept** 8<sup>th</sup> MCL/MCLA Meeting, 19:00 - TBD, VFW Post 51.  
14<sup>th</sup> VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.  
19, 20 & 21<sup>st</sup> Coffee Stop, Eastbound I-90 Sprague.





MEMORIAL DAY is May 30 and our Detachment is getting ready to take time for remembrance. We need volunteers to be at our many events that day. We have our regular Ceremony and the Eastern Washington Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake.

Please consider giving your time at one of these events so far as your circumstances permit. Call Randy at 998-9031.

The Melvin M. Smith Detachment, Marine Corps League, Spokane, WA, along with Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 51 will conduct a Memorial Day Ceremony at Fairmount Memorial Park Cemetery, 5200 West Wellesley at 11:00 AM, Monday, May 30, 2011.

This is the 143rd anniversary of the first Memorial Day established in 1868 by General John A. Logan, Commander in Chief, Grand Army of the Republic. The ceremony will take place at the Iwo Jima Memorial. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to the cemetery's Sunset Chapel.

Our guest speaker will be Randy Shaw, KREM-TV News Anchorman. He spoke at our Department Convention and we look forward to hearing his words of remembrance.

The program will commence at 11:00 AM and will conclude at noon with the raising of the flag to full staff and the singing of "God Bless the U.S.A.". After the ceremony, lunch will be available at VFW Post 51, located at 300 W. Mission Avenue for \$7.00.

Volunteers are still needed to set up and tear down the chairs. Anyone wishing to bring a dish to pass at the luncheon is encouraged to do so.

For additional information or RSVP for lunch, please call Randy at (509)998-9031 by May 23, 2011.

## JUNE'S MEETING AGENDA

### DINNER, OFFICER INSTALLATION & AWARDS

**At 18:30 we will have all you can eat pizza & salad for \$ 5.00. Bring your family or a new member. We will install our new slate of Officers and give out awards to our dedicated volunteers. Come and join us for a good time and camaraderie.**



## Sick List



The usual suspects are doing their usual best. Art Stelting is recovering from a stroke and doing well. Don Crain is feeling well but continues to be in pain. Dave Hamm is recovering from a recent surgery. Gene Zanck is on the mend and in great spirits. Gunner Ray Moon is still at the VA and could use your thoughts to get better.

Call Chaplain Town if you'd like to give him an update on your situation. We'd love to hear how you are doing. You can reach him at 509-489-8407

### The following members have dues renewals before the end of the June:

John Stevens  
Jim Stailey  
Ron Garnes  
Norm Rubin  
Pete Denman  
Ray Miller

John Knighten  
Vincent Dicerto  
Don Peters  
Terry Bush  
George Gilmore

Harford Hanson  
Joseph Polello  
Alan Siguaw  
Manny Esparza  
Art Greene

If you turn 61 this year, you may apply for a Life membership for \$150.00.

You should receive a renewal letter from MCL National with a stamped return envelope with my address. Make checks payable to: **Marine Corps League Spokane**

If you **do not receive** a renewal notice from National, then please send your check to my address: 3924 N. Sunderland Rd., Spokane, WA 99206.



### May Birthdays

**Capt. John Stevens**  
**Larry Bogan**  
**Dick Jamieson**  
**George Richardson**

**Gene Zanck**  
**Bob Garrow**  
**Jim Brown**

**Ken Daly**  
**Kay Morse**  
**Ron Beekman**  
**Pete Denman**

**Congratulations Marines!**

## Marine Corps League Minutes for April 14, 2011

The meeting was brought to order by Commandant Jim Bennett at 19:00. Humor was to be had because the Commandant has been gone for a bit and he reintroduced himself anyone that didn't know him as Randy Ott. He is glad to be back in town and back home.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS** revealed that present were: Sr. Vice, Hank Melanson; Jr. Vice, Pat Rowand; SJA, Jim Brown; Chaplain, Bill Town; Adj/Pay, Randy Ott; Sgt-At-Arms, George Barnett.; Past Commandants present were: Jr. Past Randy Ott, Dick Jamieson, Doug Shurtleff, Dennis Dressler; National; Marksmanship, Doug Shurtleff, By-Laws, Dennis Dressler; Det. MOYs: Bill Town, Randy Ott, Dick Jamieson, Dennis Dressler, Doug Shurtleff, Pat Rowand, Walt McKee; Dept. MOYs, Dennis Dressler, Dick Jamieson, Doug Shurtleff, and Bill Town. Also recognized were WA Pack Dog of the Year, Sr. Vice, Hank Melanson.

**APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Brought forth and introduced was Marcus Poulin, who contacted Marine Ott because he was very interested in the Marine Corps League and the History of the Marines from WWI. He wants to be an associate member as he has a cousin Marine. After consultation, deliberation and a vote, Marcus was sworn in as our newest associate member.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** Published online and mailed. A Correction mentioned by Dick Jamieson that Randy Shaw wasn't the speaker at the National Convention in 2003, but he was the speaker at a Department Convention sometime ago. Motioned to accept as read by Doug Shurtleff. Chaplain Town seconded. Motion carried.

**OFFICER CORRESPONDENCE:** Doug Shurtleff passed the Great Falls, MT Newsletter. Commandant Bennett passed info on the Cougar Hunt Raffle tickets. Adjutant Ott shared the BSA is holding a Parade for Flag Day on June 18<sup>th</sup> in downtown Spokane. They are inviting all VSOs to attend. They will be retiring 6 48 Star Flags.

**PAYMASTERS REPORT:** Read in full beginning Checking Balance: \$750.77, income \$569.99; exp \$801.73; ending balance, \$519.03; Savings Account: \$1156.43, deposits: \$ .05, expense \$ 200.00, ending balance \$956.48. Paper copy turned into the Commandant, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, SJA, and Past Commandants present. We currently have 111 Members, 60 are life members with Ed Thew becoming our newest Life Member, 51 regular members, 14 members due by the end of April. Motioned to accept as read by Doug Shurtleff. Seconded by Chaplain Town. Approved as read.

**CHAPLAIN'S REPORT:** Report was given by Chaplain Town; OTIS DENNIS is doing ok inside. RAY MOON remains in the VA Hospital and is playing it day by day, and Dee would like him to be in your thoughts. WALT MCKEE was present and doing ok. BILL BORSES is doing well at the nursing home on the north side. KAY MORSE is doing well and travelling, and wishing to be taken off the sick report. KEN DALY is doing great and clear, and wishing to be taken off the sick report. DON CRAIN is holding his own. BILL TOWN reports that he appears to be on the road to recovery. ANN WHITNEY is doing ok and back from traveling. DICK JAMIESON is doing great and wishing to be taken off the sick report. GENE ZANCK was present and looking great. ART STELTING is recovering from a recent stroke. The following Marines/Corpsmen have passed away since the last report: Steve McNash, 62; past member; John Peterson, 86; Roy Brunge, Corpsman; Michael Gillespie; Edward Larsen, 93. A moment of silence was held.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS:** Jr. Vice Rowand passed that Don Peters and his wife are moving to Spokane and are looking forward to becoming more active. Commandant Bennett gave Pat 7 hats to be used as recruiting tools for new members. Bring in a new member and get a hat. Adjutant Ott passed the State of Washington is now current with our membership. Commandant Bennett awarded Doug Shurtleff his National Marksmanship Plaque from the recent Mid-Winter Convention.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**VAVS:** No report, but Chaplain Town told of the Ex-POW remembrance day was held at the VA Nursing unit with Marine Ott, Commandant Bennett and himself present.

**Awards:** None. **Membership:** None. **Coffee Stop:** Doug Shurtleff announced the sign-up rosters will be at the next meeting for the upcoming stops. **Veterans Day:** None. **Calling Committee:** None

**Newsletter:** Adj/Pay Ott asked everyone to consider whether they want the mailed newsletter on the most recent newsletter with a note that if you don't want to contact him, then they will be removed from the mailing list. Troubles still continue on the website for updating but things are looking good.

Chaplain Town shared that the members he is in touch with truly enjoy the newsletter. Commandant Bennett brought Adj/Pay Ott up to the front to give him another hat because he's not busy enough. The hat was actually a USMC ball cap. **Americanism:** None.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Breakfast:** April 16<sup>th</sup> is our next event from 0900 to 1100. Volunteers needed and spread the word.

**Toys for Tots:** None.

**Homeless Veterans:** None. Commandant Bennett spoke highly of Sr. Vice Hank Melanson for taking charge while he was away in AZ. He awarded him a USMC Ball cap.

**Aluminum:** None **Birthday Ball:** None

**Memorial Day:** Adj/Pay Ott shared the date for this year's Ceremony with the news release. He made a motion for \$350.00 to cover initial expenses for the Ceremony, which the VFW will reimburse us 50%. He also shared about the Eastern Washington Vets Cemetery will be holding a Ceremony. Seconded by Dennis Dressler. Motioned carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:** N/A Coming at June's meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Dennis Dressler stepped forward to introduce the new slate of officers that will be up for voting at May's meeting. They are: Hank Melanson for Commandant, Pat Rowand for Sr. Vice, and Jim Brown for Jr. Vice, with the position of SJA to be taken care of at May's meeting. Doug Shurtleff motioned for a resupply of Bingo chits of \$100. Seconded by Larry Marks. Motion carried. Shurtleff motioned for the upcoming Conventions for us to submit our ads. Seconded by Randy Ott. Motioned carried. Commandant Bennett bragged on our Chaplain for his never ending and much appreciated dedication to our members. He gave him a very beautiful walking stick for being our Chaplain for 27 years.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:** Veterans Court Judge Vance Peterson came to share the new Veterans Court which is a therapy court for our returning Veterans with PTSD/Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). They are looking for Mentors to volunteer to help our younger Veterans who need help to adjust back into society instead of the jail system. If you are interested, please call the leadership to get your name to the Veterans Court. Adj/Pay Ott shared the success of the MCLA Dinner & Auction which raised \$1400.00. Also shared was the care packages to several Marines in theater were greatly appreciated. A late introduction was made for Marine John Fitzgerald who moved from Colville's Detachment. He is requesting reinstatement in the MCL in our Detachment. He gave a brief bio and update for his endeavors for helping Marines and Corpsmen called VITAL. They have a small machinist contract with the DOD.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** May's meeting will be the 12<sup>th</sup>. Preceded by Bingo on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and then followed by the MODD Jim Chamberlain Pound Growl on the 14<sup>th</sup> at the I-90 & Mission Perkins from 0800 - 1000.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting Adjourned at 20:35. There were 24 members were in attendance including 2 guests.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Ott

Adjutant/Paymaster



**Veterans Court is looking for a few good Mentors. They really like Marines & Corpsmen. They also like Soldiers and Airmen, but hey let's put them all to shame and make this happen. They are asking for Honorably Discharged Vets to step forward and volunteer as a mentor for their court. It is a new system just for Vets with various court issues.**

**Judge Vance Peterson gave a great presentation at our last meeting. Let's give them some time and make a difference. Contact Dennis Dressler for more info about the courts and what is involved. 509-477-4905**



**!!!ATTENTION!!! Trailers for sale, not for rent...a bit more than 50 cent.**

Ok, enough of my bad singing...The Detachment would like to offer our trailers to our members before we put them up for sale to the public. We've talked about this for some time and with Spring here, it's time to sell them and let someone put them to good use.

Ideally, we'd like to get as much as possible, but at this point any amount would be great. Use for storage or even a food trailer. The little trailer has a lot of plywood in it and could be modified into a great little hauler.

If you would be interested in them, please contact Doug 328-5837 or Randy 998-9031.

**Your Junior Vice Commandant, Pat Rowand, would like to issue a challenge to all members of this fine detachment. I know you are ready...so...**

***Recruit a new member!***

**If you do this, you will be awarded a New USMC Ball Cap. Hurry! I only have Seven (7) new caps. Our May meeting would be a great time to start. First come, first serve!**



## May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	<b>11 BINGO @ VAMC 7pm</b>	<b>12 MCL/MCLA Business Mtg @ 1900</b>	13	<b>14 MODD Growl @ Perkins on Mission/Argonne 0800 to 1000</b>
15	16	17	18	19	20	<b>21 Navy Week Breakfast at VFW Post 51 09:00 - 12:00</b>  <b>Armed Forces Parade 19:30</b>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	<b>30 10:30 am Memorial Day @ Fairmount Memorial Park or Eastern Veterans Cemetery</b>	31				



Return services requested:  
 Marine Corps League  
 Melvin M. Smith Detachment  
 300 West Mission Avenue  
 Spokane, WA 99201-2366