



# SEABAG RAG.

Marine Corps League Lake of the Ozarks Detachment #1137

June/July 2015

## Commandant's Message

Greetings Marines,

As we approach Memorial Day, I hope each of you are able to visit the resting place of your loved ones that have passed on and to attend one of the many Memorial Services of the season to honor and show respect to those of our military who died in the service of our country.

I was very pleased with the result of our recent pistol raffle at the Magic Dragon Car Show in Lake Ozark. Thanks to Gunny Mac for organizing this event and to each of you that took a part in selling tickets.

We have one pistol left and we will use it for a raffle either yet this summer or in early fall. We will be purchasing additional pistols in the next few months to be used for future fund raising raffles.

The Marine Corps League parking detail at the New Comers/Longtimers Home Show went well. Again, thanks to each one who took part.

Marine Corps League Detachment 183, South St. Louis, has requested assistance in unpacking, setting up, packing up the Vietnam Moving Wall at Soldiers Memorial, Downtown St. Louis. The dates are June 3-8.

If any of you are interested, call Bob Scannell, Commandant Detachment 183 at 314-560-6791.

Our Detachment will assist the Lake Ozark American Legion Post with a Flag Retirement Ceremony Saturday June 13, 1:00 PM at the Lake Ozark Christian Church. Come and watch—or help if you are available.

Veteran's Service Officer, Gerry Hodge, will be at our meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> to speak to us about Veteran's affairs and benefits. If you have any questions or concerns about Veteran's benefits, bring them to the meeting.

06/03-06/08 Vietnam Moving Wall in St. Louis

06/09 Monthly MCL Meeting 6:00 PM Veteran's Service Officer, Gerry Hodge to speak

06/13 Flag Retirement Ceremony with the American Legion Lake Ozark Christian Church 1:00 PM

06/19-06/21 Department Conference – Springfield

06/23 Monthly MCL Meeting 6:00 PM

Semper Fi,

Mike Procter  
Commandant  
Lake of the Ozarks Marine Corps League  
Detachment 1137  
cell 573-286-3990

## COMMENTS FROM THE SENIOR VICE

Jim Hartwick

Marines, I wonder how often, especially in the past few years, you have heard friends, relatives, associates go on and on about how busy they are? Are all of us really all that busy? Or, are we engaged in distractions that keep us from doing some of those things we enjoyed in a simpler life. Computers, cell phones, social media et al can really take up a lot of our time, time that could be spent in simpler pursuits. Do you ever think about just returning to some basic endeavors? You know, a day when you shut off the cell phone, or back away from the computer monitors. I know they can be alluring, but sometimes enough is enough. That's how I'm feeling right now. Yes, I'm busy with work (in my retirement), but I do long for some relaxing time, with friends.

You know, our Headquarters Building is a great spot for a good ole picnic and bar-b-que. We have two bbq pits; a gas grill and a charcoal grill. We have shade trees, horseshoe pits, and lots of room to throw a picnic. I envision something like a Sunday afternoon (after the lake "guests" are heading home) where we 'cue up some pork steaks, burgers, dogs, drink some cold beverages, and just have a good time. I hate the thought that our wonderful building is only used twice a month. I'm not going to mention this again, unless someone brings it up at the meeting in June . . . I have enough "hairbrained" ideas, so I'd like to see if others feel the same way. Looking forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks.

Semper Fi!  
Jim Hartwick

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## Junior Vice

I guess the best place for me to start is to simply introduce myself since many of you probably don't know me. I moved to Lake of the Ozarks about a year ago after an unexpected surgery that will have me out of work for a while. I've had two surgeries since then and at least one more before I can return to work. I was a life member of Detachment #74 in Collinsville, IL and held officer positions including Senior Vice, Junior Vice, and Judge Advocate. For many years my wife and I headed up the Toys for Tots effort that included East St Louis and the surrounding area. I was an active duty Marine from 1996 to 2000, did my boot camp in San Diego, MCT at Camp Pendleton, Computer Science School to become a 4067 at Quantico, VA, and then went on to my first and only duty station in Kansas City, MO. I got out and continued to work for the Marine Corps as a contractor for a while. In 2007 and 2008 I volunteered for a contract with II MEF to go to Iraq and spent most of my time running missions in Ramadi and Fallujah along with many other parts of Iraq. Before moving here I was working for Scott Air Force base. For now I'm enjoying my time off and spending some extra time with my teenagers while I recover and wait to return back to work.

Along with any duties that I'm asked to do as Junior Vice, I will mostly be taking responsibility for the website and newsletter. If you have anything that you would like to see put on the website or in the newsletter let me know. Until I return to work I'm usually available during the day so if you want to get together for lunch or coffee give me a ring!!!

Semper Fidelis,  
Jeremy "Data Dink" Kee

## Chaplain's Corner

Greetings, Leathernecks!

I sincerely hope this finds all of you well and happy! It's pleasantly cool outside, and I just got off work. The family is bedded down for the night, the grandkids are asleep on the living room floor (I think), we've all had plenty to eat and the house is secure. Life is good! Thank God for the many blessings He bestows upon us!

I am sitting here listening to some good bluegrass music streaming live. It's amazing how all the instruments and voices work together to create that "high lonesome" sound and sweet harmony that is so characteristic of the genre. Fiddle...guitar...banjo...mandolin...dobro...bass; all working together—sometimes taking the lead, other times keeping the rhythm, the time, or the beat—the "down-lick on the up-beat" as the late great Lee Mace would say when describing the method. When a group of musicians gets together to form a band, it takes awhile for the music to *meld*, for the different players to find the *groove* that makes it possible for the listener to hear one sound—the pleasing, inspiring, flowing sound of the band and singers performing as a beautifully balanced unit in perfect harmony.

Isn't that what we strive for in the detachment—a beautifully balanced unit working in perfect harmony? Where every member uses his or her individual or specialized skills to add to the harmony of the unit as a whole? Where there are no "stars"—where every member's input and effort is considered equally important and absolutely necessary for the outcome, for the detachment to function as one unit—to *meld*; to find the *groove*? To take the lead when necessary and to support the effort of others when the situation calls for them to take the lead? The detachment is melding well. Let's continue to search for the *groove* that will enhance the performance of the unit as a whole, flowing along in near effortless harmony, with every member performing his or her task masterfully in conjunction with the others.

Please continue to remember Jimmy George and Michelle Cartier in your prayers as they continue the struggle against debilitating disease. Also please pray for the family of Bill Hedrick, who received his final orders recently. Mrs. Hedrick graciously expresses her thanks to all who attended the funeral, and her appreciation for the brief ceremony in honor of our fallen brother.

Hope to see all of you at the June meeting! Until then, please feel free to contact me or any of the detachment officers if a need or a matter arises that may require our attention. God bless you all richly, and keep you in His care until our paths cross once again soon.

Semper Fi,  
Chaps out

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### DETACHMENT 1137 SHOOTING TEAM

If any member in good standing is interested in being  
a member of our pistol team please contact  
either of the following:

Charlie Morris 573-346-5834 [cm2981@live.com](mailto:cm2981@live.com)

Bill Promberger 573-836-2556 [wjprom@gmail.com](mailto:wjprom@gmail.com)

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We have some new Marine Corps Ball Caps (covers) available for only \$10!!  
See Quartermaster John Losito to purchase one!!

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## Adjutant's Corner

### FISCAL 2016 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

On February 2 of this year, the president submitted his FY16 budget to the Congress of the United States for their approval. For those of you interested how it affects active duty and retired Marines, the news is not good. Read on at your own risk.

There are no major cuts or changes in this budget submittal other than the usual erosion of existing pay and benefits. Some of the major facets are as follows:

1. For the third consecutive year, military pay raises will be capped at 1% and out of pocket housing expenses will be increased to each active duty Marine. It also calls for another 4 years of pay caps in the following years.
2. A reduction in the Commissary subsidy that will lead to a 66% loss of consumer purchasing power will be in effect.
3. Tricare, the military health benefit, will require that working age retirees pay for service in military treatment facilities, an enrollment fee for new retirees, and increased copayments and deductibles for users.

Analysts have calculated that a captain (O-3) with 10 years of service and a family of 4 will lose \$6,421 a year, while a sergeant (E-5) could lose \$5,173 a year.

As a reminder, since the budget has been submitted to Congress, this means that the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff have signed off on it. If any of them had serious objections, protocol would have forced them to submit their letters of retirement to the President.

One interesting note as the FY16 budget was being submitted to Congress was made by a senior DOD official when he was quoted as follows: "We are all about our people" he said. Then he added "Dollars we saved in pay and compensation ...help balance out readiness and capability". That is one of the most self-serving statements I have ever heard. Does he understand that without a motivated, well trained force in readiness, your capability goes downhill very rapidly? It is quite apparent which he feels is the most important.

Carl Hubbell  
Adjutant

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### Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Our Auxiliary is looking to expand their unit and asked for help from the league members. Check with your family and other Marines to see if you or they have anyone who would like to join. The Wives, Widows, Mothers, Grandmothers, Sisters, Daughters, Granddaughters, Stepmothers, Stepdaughters, Daughters-in-Law, Aunts, Nieces, Mothers-in-Law and Sisters-in Law of men and women who are eligible for Regular Membership in the Marine Corps League are eligible to join the Auxiliary.