



# TREASURE VALLEY DETACHMENT, NO 878



# Semper Fi Gazette



Volume 16, Issue 36

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

Sep, 2011



Hospitality Night



Train Ride & Western Show

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
and  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY**

**31 July - 5 August**

**2011**

**88<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL**  
*Boise, Idaho*

**NATIONAL COMMANDANT**  
VIC VOLTAGGIO

**NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**  
M. ALICE BLACKFORD

**CONVENTION**

Coeur D'Alene, ID  
Birthplace of  
Pappy Boyington

88<sup>th</sup> Convention  
Honors the Legacy  
of COLONEL GREGORY  
"PAPPY" BOYINGTON

VMF-214  
Black Sheep  
Squadron



Boise Hawks' Game



Basque Dancing



Time To Get Some Golfing In







*"To care for him who shall have borne the battle for his widow and his orphan."*

*Abraham Lincoln*



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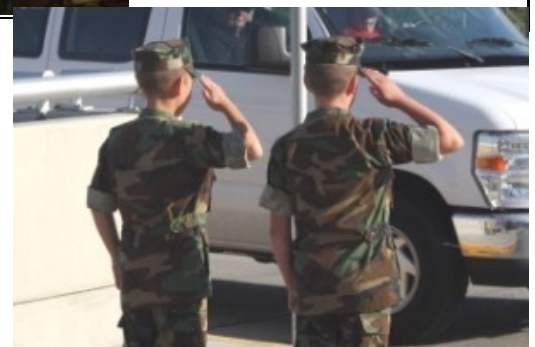
Our Treasure Valley Young Marines at our rescue again. We can always count on our Young Marines to pitch-in and get the job done just like our Big Brothers. Here in these pictures from top-bottom; Young Marines holding banner to wish our League members a farewell on behalf of the Treasure Valley Detachment and the City of Boise, Idaho

Treasure Valley Young Marines showing their professionalism by saluting our Marine Corps League guests and assisting them on their return trip home..... Semper Fi



### Convention Members

Here are three more Young Marines as welcoming aboard and assisting Marine Corps League members arriving for the 88th MC League National Convention



**NOTICE~ Our TVD Website is temporarily under new management. We will keep you posted**

**Notify Newsletter Editor of any changes in your email address, telephone numbers or residency**



First subject, the detachment's annual picnic: On behalf of the detachment, I extend a hearty "Thank You and WELL DONE" to Stan Mehlichick and Jeannie for hosting the detachment's annual picnic. Some 35 members, spouses, and friends enjoyed a relaxed afternoon of conversation, fellowship, fishing, and food on the grounds of Stan's beautiful home. Those of you who have not attended a veterans' event at Stan's Juniper Ranch have missed something worthwhile. What Stan does to support not only the TVD, but all veterans' organizations of the Treasure Valley is above and beyond everything that anyone could wish an individual to do for veterans.

Second subject, the 2011 National Convention: Every detachment member on our email list already knows that the detachment's hosting of the 2011 MCL National Convention was a total success, but for the benefit of those who either do not have or who have not provided us an email address here my summary of our convention hosting work:

In a European country before World War I, a grand party was held to celebrate a military victory. During the evening a young woman approached the general who was in command of the victorious force and challenged him by asking him how he could claim victory when so many others had fought the battle too. He responded: "I don't know who won the battle, but I do know who would have been held accountable had we lost."

The TVD and the MCL owes a great deal to our convention committee director Art Kilton. His calm, steady leadership made a great difference if not all the difference in the TVD's successful hosting of the 2011 MCL National Convention. Yes, he had considerable assistance, but Art Kilton is the person who represented the detachment to the national convention committee. He is the person who established the outstanding working relationship that we enjoyed with the Double Tree Riverside Hotel. He is the person who got the committee the answers it required to do its work and he is the person who made the decisions that kept the committee on track and moving forward. And at the convention banquet, the MCL National Commandant awarded Art the MCL's highest award, the Distinguished Citizen Gold Medal.

Another key contributor was our immediate past Commandant Arnie Strawn. Arnie not only selected Art to become the committee director after John Walker departed, but he continued as a member of the convention committee board of directors serving as a bridge between John Walker's directorship and Art Kilton's. Arnie also persuaded Wiebold Ford to lend us without cost other than insurance the three vans that we used to transport convention attendees during the convention, and he also persuaded Union Oil to furnish us 300 gallons of fuel for those same Wiebold Ford vans. Those savings become money the detachment can use to support the Young Marines and various veterans activities.

Danny Eddy of the Double Tree and Lisa Edens, Boise Convention and Visitors' Bureau were both key players in convincing the national convention committee and the attendees of the 2009 national convention to vote and select Boise as the host city and the TVD as the host detachment for the 2011 convention. In fact, it was probably Lisa Eden's presentation that convinced the convention that it should select Boise. During the convention Lisa used her influence to arranged a tour of BSU's blue turf, which was a big hit with the dozen or so conference attendees who were interested in seeing the BSU football field. Support and cooperation from the Double Tree Hotel, and especially Danny Eddy was superb. The direct evidence of the MCL's appreciation of the hotel's effort is reflected by the National Commandant's presentation of certificates of appreciation to key members of the hotel staff. Moreover, in unsolicited comments to me, three senior MCL leaders told me that in their experience with national conventions, awards to the supporting hotel were unprecedented.

Behind the scenes and for the duration of our convention preparation period, Bob Lee worked effectively with Art and our web page consultant to ensure that our web page functioned effectively. This was no small task and it required both his expertise in such matters and many hours of persistent coordination with our contractor.

Katey Speegle's (Presenting Boise) ability, flexibility, and willingness to work with our activity vendors when we were unable to encourage conference attendees to sign up for events by our established deadlines were commendable. Katey literally worked with vendors up to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to make the activities happen. Were it not for her determination and patient understanding of our situation, many conference attendees would not have been able to participate in our planned entertainment activities. And we cannot fail to mention Mikki Mosell, who was responsible for executing Katey's plan. She skillfully dealt with numerous unforeseeable matters that presented themselves as the entertainment events unfolded.

Bill Sawyer and Vicki Lindgren's operation of the Ship's Store was superb. We were exceptionally fortunate when Vicki stepped forward to recruit, train, and organize our ship's store volunteers, and to get her husband and his company involved. Walter Lindgren worked in the ship's store and had his company provide some of our signage at no cost to the committee. The Ship's Store volunteers made the convention for a good number of attendees because many of them waited until they arrived to sign-up for activities. Their procrastination made it a frantic first day for the ship's store staff, but they handled all requests as though they had been working in the store for a long time.

In the same do-what-needs-doing vein, Harold Kwan diligently stayed in the Ship's Store taking Cougar Hunt Sweepstakes donations, and Jack Cunningham patiently oversaw the silent auction desk. They were rather like sentries assigned to a remote post and performed their self-assumed positions in the best tradition of Marine sentries on duty. ⇒⇒⇒

Our volunteer drivers repeatedly went out of their way to accommodate the requests of convention attendees to include using their personal vehicles to transport people when the vans provided us by Dan Wiebold Ford were in use on other runs.

The Treasure Valley Young Marines (the Boise Airport crew), and YMs from the 6<sup>th</sup> Division encampment (the hotel crew), which was conducted concurrently with the convention won the undying appreciation and admiration of all who observed them. The YMs at the airport made the all important positive first impression. Walt and Maggie Modler, and the rest of the adult supervisors of the YMs have done and continue to do superb work with the young people in their charge.

Stan Meholchick's and his son's Juniper Mountain Outfitters, offer to provide the Cougar Hunt Sweepstakes was our biggest fundraiser success, but a good part of the success was Stan's personal involvement contacting people across the nation and pushing them to make their contributions.

Very important was Bobby Lee's initiative to sell us the M-1 Rifle that we raffled off early-on. The proceeds from that raffle provided us the vital money required to meet our expenses for several months.

Skip Nakashima's initiative to have us contract with Golden West Publications to sell convention book advertisements was essential to that part of our fundraising effort. Skip knew of Golden West from his work with them when he was President of the Idaho Peace Officers Association. Golden West provided us the advantage of having professional telephone fundraisers to help sell ads for the TVD. We would not have done nearly as well selling ads on our own.

And last but not least were the early-on \$50.00 and greater donations by many detachment members. Those donations along with the money earned from the M-1 Rifle Raffle, and the willingness of certain detachment members, particularly Bill Sawyer and Harold Kwan, to not ask for immediate reimbursement for various items that we sold to raise funds before and during the convention were critical to our ability to meet our initial expenses. Were it not for all of that early generosity we may have been forced to ask detachment members to loan the convention committee money. Had we been in that position this endeavor would have changed in ways that we can only speculate about now, but that's not what happened and we have realized a most positive outcome: Complete success and total mission accomplishment.

WELL DONE to all of our detachment workers and our volunteers who contributed to the detachment's success, which in addition to those already mentioned include: Detachment members and spouses: Ron Blakeley, Chris Christopher, Rich Erickson, Ken Johnson, Roy Jost, Frank and Anita Partridge, and Pat and Nancy Teague.

Volunteers: Jimmy Berkley from Twin falls, Colleen Fein, Cynthia Labrie, Holly Howell, Judy Lynn, Macy Miller, Amy Parish, and Lori and Dan Reading.

Y'all did it right!



Gary Randel

Detachment 878 Commandant



Our Detachment Commandant passing out words of wisdom to the Color Guard



Formation for flag raising, prior to opening of 88th MC League National Convention





## Convention Summary August 31, 2011

The Marine Corps League's 88<sup>th</sup> National Convention has come to a close. This was a first for Idaho. Although held in Boise, July 31<sup>st</sup> thru August 5<sup>th</sup> 2011, there was participation from Detachments throughout Idaho. Our theme was in remembrance of Major Gregory "Pappy" Boyington. Boyington was an Idaho native, WWII fighter pilot with a record of downing 29 enemy aircraft. He was awarded a Medal of Honor by President Roosevelt shortly after being shot down during a combat mission. It was thought that Greg was lost at sea, but he was actually rescued by the Japanese and held incognito at a prison camp. At war's end, Greg was released and upon his return home, he was presented his Medal of Honor by President Truman. It seems that Boyington received his Medal of Honor posthumously and lived to tell about it.

I want to thank Detachment members, Volunteers and Young Marines who helped organize and execute the best Convention ever. The National staff was most laudatory. Frequently commenting on how pleased they were with the special service exhibited by Convention staff. Our planning included having Young Marines at the airport and the hotel, assisting our guests with their luggage. The Young Marines were very enthusiastic, greeting guests immediately and offering to help. It was a great way to get started. The guests were delighted.

Once registered at the hotel, guests began to line up at our Ship's Store. Fortunately we had a cadre of excellent Volunteers behind the counter. Their efficiency and pleasant demeanor carried the day, and again our guests were delighted with the service. We tried to get guests pre-registered for events and meals, but we only had about half the final number signed up prior to the first Saturday of the convention. Nearly 300 people signed up for events and meals on Saturday and Sunday prior to the joint opening on Monday. Because of last minute sign ups, we had to coordinate closely with *Presenting Boise*, our professional events management service. We were able to accept late sign ups although the vendors wanted at least a weeks advance notice so they could plan for a large number of guests. *Presenting Boise* representatives stayed in constant contact with us and accepted requests right up to the day of the event.

The Ship's Store staff did yeoman work, meeting the heavy demands for service. In two days they efficiently handled money, kept accurate records, made up needed forms on the fly, and kept smiling throughout the long days. We scheduled store hours, but demands by guests caused us to adjust and stay late to meet their needs.

Our Transportation crew did an outstanding job. Our three, Dan Weibold Ford donated vans became airport and other event shuttles. Our airport greeting table was manned 10 hours a day. We met guests promptly, handled their luggage, put them in shuttles and swiftly took them to the hotels. We completely filled the Riverside Double Tree and Spilled over into the Red Lion Downtown and the Spring Hill Suites. Many guests stayed at RV parks and a number of people commuted locally. The exact number of guests is unknown, but clearly we had 600 to 650 total. Some stayed for the entire week. Some were here for only a couple of days.

During the week the Transportation crew was available for guests whenever they needed a ride. The vans were at the ready, taking small groups on shopping tours, etc. Occasionally, guests requested a ride when no van was available. The crew responded immediately, even using their personal cars for the task. You can imagine how well this personal service was received.

We developed such a close relationship with Hotel Management staff that we could enter the executive offices and speak directly to those in charge. Thus we were able to respond quickly and efficiently to National officers, Devil Dog representatives or Auxiliary members requests. Because of the excellent service, National HQ saw fit to present hotel staff with certificates of appreciation. Something they have not done in the past.

Boise, the host city, was obligated to present National with a check for 20 % of the Ship's Store net profit. We did so on Friday night after a hasty accounting of the weeks receipts. National was in such a good mood for the excellent convention organization, that they gave us our check back. Again, something they have not done in the past.

The Banquet on Friday night was terrific. Lieutenant General John M Paxton, Jr. Commanding General II Marine Expeditionary Force and Commander, United States Marine Forces Africa, was the key note speaker. He was kind enough to draw the winning ⇒

tickets for the raffles for the Quilt, Oil Painting, and the Grand prize of the Cougar Hunt. The hunt was donated by member Stan and son Paul Meholchick. The winner of the Quilt and Oil Painting was member Harold Kwan. General Paxton pulled the tickets so there was no inference of error. The winner of the hunt was Troy Kochner of McCall, Idaho. He chose the cash award of \$2,500.<sup>00</sup> instead of the hunt. Gary Randel, Bill Sawyer and Art Kilton drove to McCall to present the check to Kevin. McCall's newspaper, The Star, had a photographer on hand to commemorate the event. In turn, they forwarded the photo and caption to other major newspapers in Idaho.

In summary, thank you to all the people who participated in organizing, staffing and providing the service which earned Boise MCL Detachment #878 well deserved kudos from National officers and others.

Proud of everyone,  
Art Kilton



### ***MEDICARE PREMIUM INCREASE***

For those of you who are on Medicare, read the article below. It is about the monthly amount of money you are going to pay in Medicare premiums in 2011, 2012 and the huge increase you will pay in 2013. It's a short but important article:

Congress will not allow an increase in the social security COLA ( cost of living adjustment ); however, the per person monthly Medicare insurance premium will be increased from the 2009 premium of \$96.40 to \$104.20 in 2012, \$120.20 for the year 2013 AND increases to a wonderful \$247.00 in 2014. Congress also gave themselves a NOTE; ***\$3,000 a month Cost of Living Adjustment***

### ***Plan Could Mean a Smaller COLA***

Week of July 25, 2011

Due to the economic climate of the past two years military retirees and VA compensation recipients have not seen a cost-of-living-adjustment to their pay. The 2011 inflation rate could result in a significant COLA in 2012. However, in an effort to reduce government expenses, the Senate is now considering changing the rules for how COLA is determined. The proposed changes will likely reduce the COLA in 2012 and beyond.

Read the [Military Advantage Blog](#) to learn more.

### ***Military Retiree Pay Dates to Change***

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

CLEVELAND, Sept. 6, 2011 – Paydays for military retirees and those who receive portions of retired pay are changing for the months of September and December, as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service changes its pay schedule to comply with the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act.

The 2011 NDAA requires military retiree pay to be processed on the first day of the month. When that day falls on a weekend or national holiday, the pay date is moved to the previous business day.

This year payments normally scheduled for Oct. 3, 2011 will be issued on Sept. 30, 2011 and payments normally scheduled for Jan. 3, 2012, will be issued on Dec. 30, 2011. For the calendar year 2011, this means military retirees will receive 13 rather than the normal 12 payments.

### ***Checkout Our Upcoming Events***

Checkout page (8) for the list of upcoming events. Please mark your calendars and come on out and enjoy the festivities. We also need volunteers to assist in some of the events. Please contact the Editor or Officers by phone or email for further details. You can get the phone numbers and email from page (2)



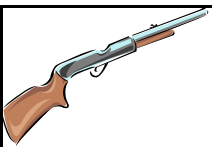
## October Fishing & Parking Lot Cookout

Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> will be a fishing day at Stan Meholchick's. He is seeking volunteers to pair-up with each Home resident who will be the for the day. Show time is 0900 – 1000. Please let me know if you can assist Stan.

Also, Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Parking Lot cookout at the Veterans Home. We will need to be there about 0930 to 1000, in order to be setup and ready to cook at 1100. Please let me know if you can be there to assist.

*Both events are fun and worthwhile, so come on out.*

S/f, Gary



## Fort Boise Gun Show

The detachment WILL NOT have a booth at the Fort Boise gun show this weekend

September 10th and 11th.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered. We will start again when the next show is scheduled.

Rich Erickson

Capt USMC Ret

Treasure Valley Detachment

Marine Corps League

*ORDNANCE the Worlds Second Oldest Profession*



## The Difference Between A SgtMaj and a MGySgt



**MGySgt 6.** When you call the MGySgt at 0100 and tell him that you are heading to the hospital because your wife is in labor, he'll probably say "Alright brother, drive safely and I'll see you in a couple of weeks. Call me to let me know everything went well."

**SgtMaj 6.** When you call the SgtMaj at 0100 and tell him that you are heading to the hospital because your wife is in labor, he'll probably say "Who authorized that? Did the Colonel sign off on that package? Fine! Don't forget about formation in the morning"



## DATES OF INTEREST FOR SEP

- Sep 2, 1945-Japan formally surrendered aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay
- Sep 7, 1903– Marines from USS Brooklyn landed at Beirut to protect American lives
- Sep 7, 1990– The 13th MEU embarked & arrived in the Gulf of Oman, Joining U.N. forces
- Sep 14, 1942–Japanese attacked Guadalcanal's "Bloody Ridge" & were shredded by Edson's Raiders
- Sep 15, 1950– The 1stMarDiv landed at Inchon, Korea & moved to capture Seoul from the North Koreans
- Sep 16, 1942- Birth of the 3rdMarDiv at Camp Elliott in California
- Sep 21, 1951- Cpl Jack Davenport, G Co. 3/5 was posthumously awarded the MOH for throwing himself on a grenade in Korea
- Sep 25, 1942- Camp Pendleton was dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Sep 26, 1915– Horse Marines engaged Haitian bandits near Petite Riviere
- Sep 29, 1812- Seminole Indians ambushed Marines at Twelve Mile Swamp, Florida
- Sep 30, 1969- The 1stMarRegt was presented the Presidential Unit Citation for *Operation Hue City*, in Vietnam



Barbara Baron

Pam Heyob

Ginny Ohls

Taylor Yost

Marilyn Burke

Merikay Jost

Barbara Smith

From all the members of the MC League, Treasure Valley Detachment, we wish you ladies a much deserve

"Happy Birthday."

Thank you for your devotion and service to your husbands and to the Marine Corps

## ***Department of Veterans Affairs***

### ***MAIN ENTRANCE TO BOISE VA CAMPUS WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED***

The main entrance/gate to the Boise VA campus (located at 5th Street and Fort Street) will be closed for construction beginning September 9, 2011. The construction is estimated to be complete by November 1, 2011.

Alternate routes for accessing the Boise VA campus have been identified. Veterans, visitors, employees and contractors accessing the Boise VA campus are being asked to access the VA campus from Robbins Road and Fort Street. Signs will be available to help guide persons interested in accessing the Boise VA campus.

Offices/agencies affected by the gate closure on the Boise VA campus are, but not limited to:

*Boise VA Medical Center*

*Boise VA Regional Office*

*Disabled American Veterans, Service Office*

*Vocational Rehabilitation Offices*

*Idaho Division of Veteran Services*

*Idaho State Veterans Home - Boise*

All offices/agencies located on the Boise VA campus will remain open and operational during all road construction projects.

### ***UPCOMING CALENDER EVENTS FOR 2011***

Sep 17<sup>th</sup> YM Recruit Training

Sep 24<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Olympics

Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, YM Recruit Training

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, Parking Lot Cookout at the Veteran Home

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, YM Recruit Training

Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, YM Recruit Graduation

Oct (Dates?), Gun Show

Nov 5th, Veterans Day Parade

Nov 5th, (Assumed Date) Co "C", 4th Tanks MC Ball

Nov 10th MC Birthday cake cutting at the Veterans Home

Nov 11th, Veterans Day events at the Veterans Home

Dec (TBD), Annual Detachment Christmas Party