

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

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DECEMBER 2009

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

Philadelphia VA Medical Center Getting \$40 Million Facelift

by David Gambacorta
Philadelphia Daily News

The Philadelphia VA Medical Center is about to undergo a huge face-lift - and quite a few nips and tucks, too.

About 40 renovation and construction projects totaling \$40 million are scheduled to unfold at the West Philadelphia center, on University Avenue near Baltimore Avenue, during the next 18 months, said **Dale Warman**, a spokesman for the Philadelphia VA.

Chief among the projects is a \$6 million remodel of the center's emergency department, which is being funded by the federal stimulus package.

The number of exam bays in the emergency department will double to 20, and a separate area for vets with behavioral-health problems is to be established.

Work on the emergency depart-

ment, which is expected to begin in a few weeks, should take about 15 months to complete, Warman said.

The upcoming construction work forced VA officials to relocate several clinics to other spaces.

"The women's health clinic is being moved to a much bigger space, which is great," Warman said, noting that the VA is seeing a rise in the number of female veterans it treats, as scores of women return from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Besides the emergency department makeover, other planned projects include: an \$8 million, 100-space parking garage, which will be built next to the medical center; the construction of a new dental lab; the installation of a second MRI; and improvements in audiology services offered to veterans with hearing loss.

For more information, visit www.philadelphia.va.gov.

Holiday Dinner Plans Set for Dec. 13

The Central Bucks Detachment "Holiday Dinner" will be held on Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Waterwheel Inn on Old Easton Rd., in Doylestown (Cross Keys).

Cost of the event, which begins at 5 p.m., is \$30 per person and will feature a buffet-style dinner with cash bar.

Dress is formal/semi-formal.

Reservations can be made by contacting **Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones** at 215-908-1094 or: benjaminjones1@gmail.com.

He needs to provide firm numbers to the restaurant.



CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636
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Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
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7:30 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
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COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Hello Marines,

We have completed most of our Detachment functions for the year except two: one being our upcoming Holiday Party and our "Toys for Tots" collection at the next Detachment meeting.

The Holiday party will be held at the Waterwheel Restaurant on Dec. 13. More information will be available elsewhere in this newsletter. And, at our next meeting, **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** will be collecting toys for the "Toys-for-Tots" program and it is requested that you bring in any new unopened toys. Bob will then deliver them to the local "Toys-for-Tots" center.

On Oct. 25, the Beirut Memorial Ceremony to honor those killed in the Marine Barracks bombing in Beirut, Lebanon in 1983 was held. It was very well attended and again the All Divisions Detachment did a fine job putting this event together. **Marine Anthony Verrecchio** and I represented the Detachment at this event.

The 234th Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day are in the books and I hope everyone got a chance to participate in these events in some way.

I was able to attend the MGySgt John W. Zaengle Detachment birthday ball on Nov. 6 and the Tun Tavern Detachment birthday ball on Nov. 7. A great time was had by all.

I'd also like to congratulate **Marine Ken Murray** on being selected as our Detachment "Marine of the Year."

I'd also like to remind everyone that it is not too early to start thinking about our Detachment elections coming up in March.

We need to get more Marines involved in the operation of the Detachment and stepping up is an excellent way of achieving that. This is my third year as your Commandant and would like to see the position change hands this year. I believe the long term vitality of the Detachment depends on all Marines and Associates involvement. So, please give this some serious thought and contact **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller** with your interest.

Remember our next meeting on Dec. 9. Hope to see you there.

Semper Fi,

Jim Powell



"TOYS FOR TOTS"
AT
DECEMBER 9 MEETING

NOVEMBER DETACHMENT MEETING



M I N U T E S

The regular meeting on the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held November 11, 2009, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 15 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant, and Sergeant-at-Arms. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee and Budd Pearce, Past National Northeast Division Commandant and Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth, and Past Commandant and Department Southeast Division Vice Commandant Bill Miller.**

The **Minutes** of the October Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The **Paymaster's Report** by the Adjutant/Paymaster and was unanimously accepted.

Sick Call: Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized last month. **Marine Dick Weaver's** bladder burst on a plane trip. He is okay now.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported on activities at the Department's Fall Staff Meeting. Major items included changes to the Scholarship Fund and the Department's financial status. He announced Fort Indiantown Gap is seeking Honor Guard members to assist with burials at the installation. A \$150 per day stipend is offered. Anyone interested in participating should contact **PNC Paul Hastings** at 717-774-5892 or **PHasti4321@aol.com**. The Detachment received a "National Junior Vice Commandant's Citation (w/ streamer)" for exceeding our previous year's membership and a "National Certificate of Participation" for our *LISTEN UP!* newsletter. The Commandant reported he and **Marine Tony Verrecchio** attended the Beirut Memorial Anniversary Program in Philadelphia. He announced the resignation of **Senior Vice Commandant Jim McComb**. The Commandant explained that Jim's employment was keeping him from attending meetings and Jim felt it was unfair for him to hold an office in which he could not perform to his own satisfaction. Commandant Powell thanked **Marine Wil Haas** for stepping forward and assuming the Mess Sergeant position and **Marine Jack Gentile** for volunteering to serve as a Detachment Officer, filling the void created by Senior Vice Commandant McComb's resignation.

In the absence of the **Senior Vice Commandant, the Adjutant/Paymaster** reported the Detachment strength at 61 members including 28 Life Members, 26 Regular Members, 2 Dual members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Life Member. Two members are delinquent in paying their dues.

In the absence of the **Junior Vice Commandant,** the Commandant reported on plans for the Holiday Dinner.

Judge Advocate Bill Mickelson reported the Detachment had no known legal problems.

The Public Relations Officer reported the documentary film about the Chosin Reservoir has been completed and is expected to be released next June, marking the 60th anniversary of the Korean War. A trailer for the film can be viewed at www.frozenchosin.com. He reported he and Marine Gary Smith attended the dedication this morning of a Veterans Monument in North Park adjacent to the New Britain Township Building. He set Nov. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the November *Listen Up!*

Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting. **Quartermaster Corey Fisher** had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adopt-A-Highway: The highway cleanup will be held on November 21. More participation from Detachment members is necessary if the Detachment is to continue in the program.

OLD BUSINESS

Toys for Tots--Commandant Powell reported he had communications from the Zaengle Detachment concerning this year's "Toys for Tots" program. He will forward meeting info to Public Relations Officer so he can follow up.

Audit Committee--The Audit Committee consisting of the Commandant, and **Marines Jack and Dave Gentile** will conduct the overdue audit before the next meeting.

2012 Department Convention--Marine Mike Waldron and the Adjutant/Paymaster will represent the Detachment at a preliminary 2012 Convention meeting with the All-Divisions and Zaengle Detachment.

Time & Date TBA.

NEW BUSINESS

The Detachment unanimously decided to hold the Holiday Dinner on Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Waterwheel Inn on Old Easton Rd., in Doylestown.

A further motion was made and accepted to subsidize the individual member Holiday Dinner cost above \$35.

Marine of the Year--Commandant Powell presented the 2010 Marine of the Year medallion to **Marine Ken Murray** for his extraordinary devotion to and support of the Detachment.

Commandant Powell has made significant improvements to the Detachment website. He expects to have all of the planned changes to the Members Page completed by mid-December.

Commandant Powell explained the "Rose Program" which raises funds for charities. He wants the Detachment to become involved in this program for Veterans Day next year.

A motion was made and unanimously accepted to donate \$25 to the "Tree of Lights" program.

A motion was made and accepted to donate \$100 to the *INTELLIGENCER'S* "Make A Christmas" program.

A motion was made and unanimously accepted to donate \$115 to the Doylestown Athletic Association's Boys Basketball team.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chaplain Pearce reminded the members to bring toys for the "Toys for Tots" program to the December Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until December 9 at 7:30 p.m.



GOODIES FOR THE TROOPS

Peggy Sundling, who continues to send "Goodies to the Troops," has provided a sampling of items which are needed for the shipments. She cautions, "NO CHOCOLATE!" Items include Moist Wipes--with or without aloe (some people are allergic); Beef Jerky/Slim Jims--very popular; Hard Candy--no lollipops; Lotions and Moisturizers; Lip Balm; Chewing Gum; Crackers/Snacks/Granola Bars--in individual packages for easy toting; Fruit Snacks/Raisins--in individual packages; Writing Tablets/Envelopes/Pens; Crossword Puzzles; Magazines--military, automotive, hunting, etc. (used, are fine); Drink Mixes--individual envelopes.

Thanks, Marines, for your continued support!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**THANKSGIVING DAY
26 NOVEMBER**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
9 DECEMBER**

**CHANUKAH
12 DECEMBER**

**HOLIDAY DINNER
13 DECEMBER
WATERWHEEL INN**

**FIRST DAY
OF WINTER
21 DECEMBER**

**CHRISTMAS DAY
25 DECEMBER**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
31 DECEMBER**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY
1 JANUARY**

**WINTER STAFF
MEETING
8-10 JANUARY
GRANTVILLE, PA**

**NATIONAL MID-WINTER
CONFERENCE
11-13 FEBRUARY
FALLS CHURCH, VA**

**SPRING STAFF MEETING
19-20 MARCH
JONESTOWN, PA**

DD-214 NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE

It's official, DD-214's are NOW Online. Please pass it on to other vets.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or (<http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov/>)

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes.

NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from

their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new on-line military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the website.

Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that often occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be

minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service to these requests by eliminating the records center mailroom and processing time. Additional documents and services such as awards and medals eligibility, replacement medals, benefits and claims, health and medical records, etc., can be provided by NPRC upon request.

Please pass this information on to all retired military service members and their dependents and to all veterans you know. Be sure to log on and check out this useful website.

President Signs Veterans Healthcare Legislation

by Army SFC Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON--**President Barack Obama** signed new legislation last month that creates predictable funding for veterans' health care.

The Veterans Healthcare Reform and Transparency Act fundamentally changes how the Department of Veterans Affairs receive health care funding. The reform calls for appropriations a year in advance after more than two decades of regular budget delays, Obama said from the White House East Room.

"Over the past two decades, the VA budget has been late almost every year, often by months," the President said. "At this very moment, the VA is operating without a budget, making it harder for VA medical centers and clinics to deliver the care our vets need."

Obama said that because of budget shortfalls, new doctors, nurses and critical staff aren't hired on time. New health care facilities and programs often are put on hold, leaving veterans to pay the price for the government's neglect, he said.

"This is inexcusable. It's unacceptable. It's time for it to stop," he said. "And that's just what we'll do with this landmark legislation."

The law gives VA more funding predictability so officials can better budget their needs, recruit better-trained professionals and upgrade equipment. Mostly, Obama said, the law gives veterans bet-

ter access to quality care.

"In short, this is common-sense reform," he said. "It promotes accountability at the VA. It ensures oversight by Congress. It is fiscally responsible by not adding a dime to the deficit, and it ensures that veterans' health care will no longer be held hostage to the annual budget battles in Washington.

"Keeping faith with our veterans is work that is never truly done," he continued. "Today's veterans expect and deserve the highest quality care, as will tomorrow's veterans, especially our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Obama pledged his administration would continue in efforts to build a 21st-century VA. Since he's taken office, the White House, VA and Pentagon have been working to "cut the red tape and backlogs," he said.

He noted the administration has invested in mobile clinics to give veterans in rural areas better access, and cited the VA and Pentagon's work to develop a single health care record for servicemembers to make their transition out of the military a simpler process.

Obama also vowed to end homelessness among veterans and praised the success of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which offers qualified veterans better opportunities to attain higher education and training.

"All told, we have made the biggest commitment to veterans, the largest percentage increase in the VA budget in more than 30 years," he said. "As a nation, we'll pledge to fulfill our responsibilities to our veterans, because our commitment to our veterans is a sacred trust, and upholding that trust is a moral obligation."

Prevent Awine Flu - Good Advice from Doctor

Dr. Vinay Goyal is an MBBS,DRM,DNB (Intensivist and Thyroid specialist) having clinical experience of more than 20 years.

The following message given by him, makes a lot of sense and is important for all to know.

The only portals of entry are the nostrils and mouth/throat.

In a global epidemic of this nature, it's almost impossible to avoid com-

ing into contact with H1N1 in spite of all precautions.

Contact with H1N1 is not so much of a problem as proliferation is.

While you are still healthy and not showing any symptoms of H1N1 infection, in order to prevent proliferation, aggravation of symptoms and development of secondary infections,

See FLU,

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MCL vs. VAMC Over Newspaper

INDIANAPOLIS, IN--Citing guidance from the Veterans Affairs Ethics Center, the Director of Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis continues his position to not return a WW II Era news headline citing "Japs Surrender" to the "Memorial Wall" in his Veterans Hospital. In a follow up meeting, Director Mattice met with leaders of the Marine Corps League's Hiram I. Bearss Detachment to announce his decision. He will instead replace the headline with a more politically correct headline with the same inference. Also, he is looking for other historic documents or items to display in the hospital. Director Mattice noted in an analogy with other WW II headlines hanging on that same wall, that it was permissible to continue to display the term "Nazi" to describe Hitler's German Army, but not "Japs" to describe the Japanese Army, because it is offensive to the

Japanese and not to the Germans. The guidance from the Ethics Center indicated that this was an "opportunity" for Director Mattice to "practice ethical decision making".

Veterans from across the United States are outraged by Director Mattice's action to be "politically correct" with the historic WW II headlines. News accounts have been observed from Alaska to New York citing outrage from the Vets. Veterans ask, "At what point does history and the sacrifices of our Veterans matter more than political correctness?"

The Marine Corps League had proposed a win-win solution of returning the WW II headlines to its proper place with a disclaimer plaque next to it addressing the use of the slur in 1945. But Mattice dismissed it as not achieving a work environment free of hostile or offensive material.

FLU

from Page 5

some very simple steps, not fully highlighted in most official communications, can be practiced (instead of focusing on how to stock N95 or Tamiflu):

1. Frequent hand-washing (well highlighted in all official communications).

2. "Hands-off-the-face" approach. Resist all temptations to touch any part of face (unless you want to eat, bathe or slap).

3. *Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerine if you don't trust salt). *H1N1 takes 2-3 days after initial infection in the throat/ nasal cavity to proliferate and show characteristic symptoms. Simple gargling prevents proliferation. In a way, gargling with salt water has the same effect on a healthy individual that Tamiflu has on an infected one. Don't underestimate this simple, inexpensive and powerful preventative method.

4. Similar to 3 above, *clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water. *Not everybody may be good at Jala Neti or Sutra Neti (very good Yoga asanas to clean nasal cavities), but *blowing the nose hard once a day and swabbing both nostrils with cotton buds dipped in warm salt water is very effective in bringing down viral population.*

5. *Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in Vitamin C (Amla and other citrus fruits). *If you have to supplement with Vitamin C tablets, make sure that it also has Zinc to boost absorption.

6. *Drink as much of warm liquids (tea, etc) as you can. *Drinking warm liquids has the same effect as gargling, but in the reverse direction. They wash off proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach where they cannot survive, proliferate or do any harm.

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

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\$15.00

MCL PATCH



\$3.50

**DETACHMENT
LICENSE PLATE**



\$10.00

To order any of these items or any other Marine Corps League items or Marine Corps items and have them ready for pick-up at the next Detachment Meeting, contact

Quartermaster COREY FISHER

at

ph: 215-822-6898

e-mail: cbquartermaster@aol.com

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"

**Application for Membership
Marine Corps League**

_____ (Date)

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning _____

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Type of Application -- New () Renewal () Associate () Phone (____) _____

E-mail: _____

I hereby apply for membership in the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT**, Marine Corps League, and enclose **\$35.00** for one year's membership (which includes subscription to **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MAGAZINE**).

I hereby certify I have served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days, the character of my service has been honorable and, if discharged, I am in receipt of an Honorable Discharge. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of Honorable Discharge/service upon request.

_____ (Sponsor - where applicable)

_____ (Applicant's Signature)



Remit this form with check or money order (made payable to **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL**)
to: **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, P. O. Box 1372, Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**