



A.M.

MESSAGE TO ALL DETACHMENTS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMANDANT

During the Third National Convention of the Marine Corps League held in Philadelphia, Pa., on November 10 and 11, 1925, it was decided that the league should by some proper procedure raise the sum of \$6,000.00 through its members and friends to be applied toward the support of the Belleau Wood Memorial Fund.

It appears that Mrs. John Carroll Frazer has been instrumental in founding and maintaining the Belleau Wood Memorial Fund because she has enlisted the financial aid of such parties as Colonel Thompson, of the New York Yacht Club, and others who have consolidated their donations now amounting to \$6,000.00. They have not only purchased the actual battle ground but have contracted to build an improved road to lead directly from the main highway over to the woods. This road will be finished about the first of May, when it will be dedicated by General Pershing, U. S. Army.

Mrs. Frazer, because of her age, feels now that the Marine Corps League should interest itself in this historic site. The national commandant feels that the Marine Corps League, being the only organization representing both active and inactive Marines, should relieve Mrs. Frazer of this responsibility.

It is planned to have an ex-Marine, preferably one who has lost a limb in the battle of Belleau Wood, act as caretaker and guide for interested parties desiring to visit this historic spot. It is also planned to have him live on the grounds for such a period, as is decided by the association and that he be given a salary which will permit him to live in proper fashion. Later on it is planned to erect an arch, one side of which will bear the names of the organizations that participated in the battle of Belleau Wood, and the other side to bear the names of those who lost their lives in this action.

The fact that the league has been offered this plot of French territory which was actually purchased by Mrs. Frazer and also that she has made certain improvements thereon should be a tremendous incentive to continue this noble cause. The Belleau Wood Memorial Association was incorporated several years ago and holds a charter awarded by Congress, so there is no question as to the propriety of our carrying on this work. We should feel highly honored that this opportunity is accorded us, since it will give the league the distinction of being an organization which owns a plot of French soil, and consequently we should feel particularly proud to own a spot which is so sacred in the memory of the Marine Corps.

In conclusion, it is strongly recommended that you call a meeting of your detachment for the express purpose of deciding upon and notifying this office as to what you consider the best method of continuing this splendid assignment.

JOHN A. LEJEUNE,

Major General, U. S. Marine Corps,
Nat. Commandant, Marine Corps League.

LEAGUE NEWS AND COMMENT

Special attention should be given to the National Commandant's message appearing above.

At the convention in Philadelphia the National Commandant explained the purpose of the League thoroughly. He said: "It is an organization for past, present and future Marines."

Unlike the American Legion, the Marine Corps League is not exclusive. The Legion is for men of the World War. Marines are in all the wars, and, therefore, all Marines of all wars are eligible for membership if they served honorably. The National Commandant pointed out, however, that the Marine Corps League is and should be composed principally of ex-Marines, and should be ruled by them. The League must find and solve its own problems. There is much good that it can do, and the best way to further its progress is for it to set out to do something worthwhile. This binds its members together in a common cause.

Most of the members of the Marine Corps League are familiar with the purpose of the Belleau Woods Memorial Fund. It is to complete the purchase and upkeep of the Belleau Woods Battlefield in France.

Starting February 1, 1926, and continuing to and including April 1, 1926, THE LEATHERNECK will set aside twenty per cent. of all subscription funds it receives during that time from the Marine Corps League, and will give this sum to the National Adjutant of the Marine Corps League, to be placed in the Belleau Woods Memorial Fund.

Lauchheimer Detachment

of Baltimore is one of the first to pay its 1926 dues.

Richmond, Va.

S. L. Marable is reorganizing the old Richmond Detachment. Marines interested should communicate with him at 509 West Franklin Street, Richmond, Va.

Lawrence, Mass.

John F. Manning has been ill, but promises a League detachment there.

Brooklyn

Sergeant-Major Thorpe has sustained his reputation as a Go-getter by writing

in for more membership cards. This detachment has 188 members now. Looks as though they plan to consolidate the Marine Corps there.

Albany, N. Y.

Is stepping out. Sergeant May is working with Captain Fay, of the Reserve, and the poetic combine promises a large detachment.

Erie, Pa.

Colonel Magill Detachment, at Erie, writes us a newsy letter. By temporary appointment from headquarters, they have presented Dr. William J. Magill, of Erie, brother of the late Colonel Magill, with honorary membership in the detachment. This outfit will meet on the 8th of February at a banquet given by Commandant Rhea at the Lawrence Hotel, to formulate plans for 1926. All members will get together and each will be asked to say something. February the 20th is already marked off the calendar of this detachment as a day of meeting, at which time they plan to have several speakers of national prominence. This meeting will be the occasion of their public installation of officers, and will be conducted with merit and dignity, as the date is the anniversary of Colonel Magill's demise in Philadelphia two years ago. Invitations have been forwarded to the National Commandant, wife and son of the Colonel. All members of the Erie outfit have work before them as upholders of the law, for Major Sterrett has recently been installed as sheriff of Erie and has promised to call on each member as a deputy.

Omaha, Neb.

Have received their charter. They are now one of us officially.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Has sent in five new membership cards just to start the year right. This outfit is outgrowing the possibility of meeting at each other's homes. Clubrooms are now being looked for, and it is expected that they will find quarters in a few weeks.

Jackson, Miss.

First Sergeant Peden has been doing great work in the way of organizing an outfit down in Jackson, Miss.; application for charter was approved on the 10th of this month. They start out with ten members.

David Kilduff Detachment

Has sent in its dues, also, and among its member list we find some new names. Good work.