

Letter To MCA Members

Fellow Members of the Marine Corps Association:

In this, my first letter to you as President of our Association, I am pleased to report that the MCA is in superb condition.

After being away from active participation in the management of the Association for two years, the thing that impressed me the most on my return was the fact that there has been no dues increase. Our dues are still the same as they were when the Leatherneck Association and Marine Corps Association merged in 1976. This, I believe, provides testimony to the quality of management the MCA is receiving and to the excellent support we are obtaining from our members.

A comparison of dues for membership in similar professional associations or military fraternal organizations clearly shows the bargain of membership in the MCA. The choice of LEATHERNECK or the Marine Corps GAZETTE, alone, is worth far more than the cost of membership. Inevitably, dues will have to be increased, but I am confident that they will continue to provide the best value of any similar organization.

The GAZETTE is at its highest circulation in over twenty years, and continues to enjoy steady growth. The magazine has drawn considerable praise from within the Marine Corps community and from a variety of external sources. While certainly no one agrees with all of the individual proposals set forth therein, it provides an outstanding forum for the debate of ideas. I strongly recommend that every officer and staff noncommissioned officer subscribe to and read the GAZETTE each month.

LEATHERNECK circulation is holding firm at close to 75,000. It is very well received, as a survey of the readership tabulated during the past year validated. The majority of respondents to the survey favored leaving the magazine pretty much as is. LEATHERNECK is also quite valuable to the Corps. No magazine comes close to it as an aid to the recruiter or career planner in educating young men and women on life in our Corps.

The Group Term Life Insurance Program continues to fill a need for those Marines requiring additional life insurance. This low cost group term insurance, coupled with the Group Annuity Program, provides the foundation for an excellent family financial program. The program continues to grow, and there are a substantial number of insureds who make plan changes to increase their insurance coverage as their needs change.

Likewise, the health care insurance programs sponsored by MCA are growing, with an increase of some 15% in new insured members in the last year. A modest increase in premiums took effect in June to keep pace with inflation and rising hospital costs. However, some improvements have also been made to the program which we believe, on balance, is the best available CHAMPUS supplement on the market.

We are very proud of our Bookservice which is providing Marines around the world with mail order service for any book in print. The great emphasis placed on professional reading in the Corps today is reflected in the well-stocked and efficiently managed book store in the MCA building at Quantico. It is worth going out of your way to make a special stop to browse and select from the fine book selection on the shelves.

In closing, I want to invite all Marines and former Marines to join and support THE professional association of our Corps. A great deal has been done to enhance professionalism and to help Marines protect their families' financial security. Every Marine can benefit from membership in the MCA.



P. X. KELLEY
General, U. S. Marine Corps
President, MCA

