Nominations should be sent to the National Executive Committee via the National Secretary - Sideshow either directly or via your chapter pres.

Office of the President - 1. The official face and voice of the LMCI in public relations, liaison between clubs, and any outside organization. 2. Signing all documents; New Charters, Disciplinary action i.e. suspension or expulsion, Amendments to By-Laws. 3. Assisting officers in interpretation of club duties. 4. Keeping Regional Presidents informed of significant events and decisions. 5. Controlling the meeting(s) and keeping order (may use the SA). Current President estimates 80 hours of time per month or 20 hrs. per week. These hours include answering e-mails, conference calls, phone calls from officers and members and discussions with those that I have delegated assignments to. Phone calls often continue until 2300 hrs. The shift to regional control has allowed the National Executive Committee to be more interactive with the membership and to better serve them. The chain of command largely works but there are areas that need improvement.

Office of the Vice President - Second in command and assumes president’s duties if he is absent. 1. Assumes the leadership of LMCI in event President is not present (for any reason). 2. Chairing all committees as appointed by the President and reporting their results to the NEC. 3. Supervising club events as required. 4. Assuring adherence to the National By-Laws, National Mission Statement and P&P set forth by the members. 5. Keeping the National President informed of all club business. 6. Maintaining contact with the Reg. Presidents in order to stay current on concerns and events of each region. 7. Working with the NEC to guide the LMCI.

Current National VP - Like Al, when things are going good I can get to bed on time but the job requires 60 to 80 hours of time each month. A sizeable portion of that time is spent reviewing e-mails from members, regions and national officers. Even the winter no ride months in Ohio are filled with enough work to keep me busy on weekends and late at night. I would like to add that if we get involved it usually isn’t a trivial matter but can often involve club relations or serious chapter problems. It is a job you will love but your family will hate. I also hold a state position and I strongly recommend against holding another office in addition to a national office. I have the highest regard for the chapter, state, regional and national officers I have worked with. Just keep on keeping on and like we say in

 Correction from last newsletter - I try to make enough mistakes for everyone to find at least one. The Toys for Tots story should have said the Central FL chapter hosted it and not the Gulf Cost Chapter. McW
The National Convention of Leathernecks 2009

Site of the 2009 Leathernecks national convention will be held at Homestead Suites Hotel, 7444 Mission Valley Road, San Diego CA Tel. 619 299 2292. Rooms are $79.00 and up and there are no rooms blocked and no special code for any special rates. You can contact them by e-mail at MVL@extendedstay.com

The hotel is set up for extended stays and most rooms have a full kitchen with utensils and serving plates, ironing board, data port work station for Internet access, one time fee for wireless but the fitness facility is off-site and may require a fee. There is no mention of a pool on site. You can look at their website by visiting www.homesteadhotels.com/mimisite/accomodations/main.asp?HotelID=76.

Attractions close to the hotel include Balboa Park 5 miles, Beaches 7 miles, Fashion Valley Mall 1/4 mile, Gaslamp Quarter 7 miles and the Stadium, Zoo, Sea World are within 5 miles. For those of you arriving early there is a series graduation on Friday June 12th 2009. Welcome Series 2021 & 2025 Company B as Marines. Times and details of access to base are pending but you know it will be early enough to let the new Marines spend some time with their families.

The meeting begins Saturday January 13 2009 at 0800 sharp. American Legion Post 731 7245 Linda Vista Road San Diego, CA 92111 tel. 858-335-2488

Be there on time, bring your current rosters if you have questions and anticipate the ship’s store will be there as a cash and carry operation. If you plan on bringing items to sell be courteous and let the National Secretary know.

If you are bringing significant others there is a champagne breakfast tour around San Diego Bay that returns early enough to get some riding in on Sunday. A good ride is out through the Cleveland National Park through foothills and valleys laden with the biggest boulders you will ever see. Roads are paved and not heavily traveled but beware the gravel and grit.

If you rent a bike remember that your insurance probably will not transfer from your ride to the rented ride. Think twice about declining the insurance if you rent a bike.

I have asked that a forum topic be established so chapters and regions sending members can exchange cell numbers and anticipate routes. I know that some chapters are traveling with a support trailer for broken downs and extra gear. A number of wives may be flying out and will be able to spend some time together after the boys leave town for the long ride home. It would be extra special for them to get to know one another. Hope to see you in San Diego.

Motorcycle Rentals in and near San Diego CA

Eagle Rider Tours - www.eaglerider.com - They offer Hondas, Harley’s BMW”s as road bikes and claim to have a variety of locations and plans. A quick check of available locations include several in California. Rent one in Northern CA and drive through SoCal to the meeting - then leave it there?

California Motor Sports - not much on the web but you can reach them at 619-264-0802. Located at 6161 Radio Drive San Diego CA.

RND Motorsports - 1405 Morena Blvd San Diego CA 619-276-7263. Website isn’t live yet but you can call. Not sure if the web is all that isn’t live.

American Dream Motorcycle Rentals - 2263 Pacific Coast Highway 619-233-9452. A search shows only reviews and no active website but call to check.

Street Eagle - they don’t show a rental in San Diego but in Tucson and Phoenix - fly in there and rent and ride to SD CA. www.streeteagle.com

DJ’s Motorcycle Resources - this is a webpage that lists rental bikes across the country. A comprehensive list - http://harleys.com/cgi-bin/listings/mdb/filter.pl?selregion=usa

If the hosting chapter doesn’t send me something for the next issue I will try and list repair shops next issue.
Prospecting and Probation - Purpose

Probation is not an initiation, as you would find in a fraternity. It is instead a period of time that is sustained until the person, in every sense, conducts themselves with the respect that is mandated to be a Patchholder.

It is a time in which: The attitude is conditioned so that he/she; displays a sense of responsibility and respect toward the patch holders of the club without which they will not develop a sense of respect for the group.

He/She is educated in basic MC protocol and etiquette. He/She is given time to develop the habits that are basic to good security and good Communications.

To get into the habit of participating. To become accustomed to trusting the judgment, at times blindly, of those patch holders who will someday be his or her brothers and sisters.

The list could go on but the point here is to demonstrate that the probationary period has definite objectives and that a person will go nowhere in the club if he/she is not aware of this and does not apply themselves to those ends. It’s not possible to make a checklist of what is expected from a person in all cases. There isn’t any formula for success, but a key is ATTITUDE AND RESPECT. Everything else can be learned in time, but a person’s attitude comes from the heart.

- Editors Note - A failure to correctly prospect anyone coming into the club for any reason is like French kissing through a blindfold. Sooner or later it is going to get ugly. There are no exceptions and no excuses for not prospecting anyone coming into this club. Unless you want to be categorized as a “Mail Order” club - everyone prospects. “Nobody prospected in boot camp.”

Participation

A Patchholder will not discuss any club business whether it’s about membership numbers, club events or any member’s personal information with anyone outside of the club.

A Patchholder is a Patchholder 24 hours a day 365 days a year - whether or not they are wearing their colors. Everything a Patchholder does or says affects the club.

A Patchholder also understand that if they get out of line, they are subject to be counseled for their own good and for that of the club. Wearing a patch is more than getting together for good times. It also means getting together for other times too.

Being a Patchholder constitutes a lot of work. Being a Patchholder is a commitment to a lifestyle of not looking to be helped but looking to help others in your club.

A Patchholder should be looking for ways to give rather than receive. It is an idealistic lifestyle - and despite the effort it should be your goal. Golden Rule of protocol - “Give Respect - Get Respect” Failure can be painful.
Another Request from your editor

I received some advice from FG who at one time authored a few newsletters. His advice included put in a few pictures.

Well I figured that the handsome Marines of the Leathernecks would welcome a place to show off tattoos, wives, girlfriends, events, bikes and even bimbos.

I have received scant input from the membership. There can’t be that many jealous wives out there. Some of you have to have stories, pictures or ideas that once shared won’t land you in the Graybar Hotel - don’t you?

I have lots of stuff from OH over the last years but the last thing I wanted to do was puff up about my own state and chapter.

If I was in the Navy here is where I would whine about “Geez aren’t you fellas and gals going to help me?”

So - as long as time permits I will do the best I can with what little comes in the mail. If you sent me something and haven’t seen it yet drop me a line to make sure I really got it.

Thanks to the webmasters you can now get the newsletter on our website.

These are actual signs on an ice cream parlor in Pennsylvania. Gotta love this guy -

Send your photos or stories to - hellinahelmet@oh.rr.com or hellinahelmet@yahoo.com

2008 Marine Corp Marathon

OHIO ICEMAN

This year, I decided to run the MC marathon in DC. Money raised would benefit - Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund (IMSFF). The IMSFF helps with conversion vans, home modifications and about anything else a Marine and his or her family needs. Families even receive travel and lodging assistance to visit their wounded Marine.

Marathons are long, 26.2 miles is a LONG way to run - being 20 pounds overweight and a 2-pack a day smoker doesn’t make it any easier. What ever happened to plan and practice?

Getting there proved a challenge too. Three of us were gathered in DC for the event when we got a call that there had been an accident in Ohio. A friend had been killed in an accident and I had to take one of my friends back to OH.

One of her friends died in her boyfriends arms after a Quad accident - the boyfriend was my friend’s brother.

I had been on the road 25 out of 28 hours prior to the marathon – on a diet of jerky and diet soda. But I do eventually get to race headquarters and pick up my race package and then try to cool out at a friends. NOT – I am cramped, crabby and worried about my friends in OH. A restless night prepares me poorly for the day’s run.

Race day, we get up at 0500 and I try to stretch, but the driving has taken its toll. I am so stiff that I have trouble walking. Running is going to be questionable at best, but I made a commitment to everyone that sponsored me that I would finish the run and that’s what I intend to do.

My time was more than an hour over my goal. I finished the marathon and raised over $2,300 for the IMSFF. One of the proudest moments of my life was crossing the finish line at the base of the Marine Corps War Memorial and having a Marine Captain hang the medal around my neck. I mean MARINE PROUD!

By: Bert McKinley - OHIO ICEMAN - Chapter President Joe C. Paul Chapter Columbus OH. Please support the IMSFF - it is a worthy cause. Your chapter can sponsor me next year if you like.
Some call this the domestic version of Agent orange. Some say it is just another group of veterans trying to shake the money tree for government support. Whatever your view the site to learn about this is at https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clsurvey/

The United States Marine Corps urges all who resided at the Marine Corps Base Camp LeJeune from 1957 to 1987 to register to register NOW to receive information and notifications regarding the ongoing WATER STUDY. If you know of any family members or friends that were at this base during that period please encourage them to register.

This population would include all Vietnam era veterans who served in the 2nd Division or any of the support groups housed at Camp LeJeune.

From the website “In response to this effort, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will be sending out letters on our behalf. The IRS has not disclosed any addresses or other tax information and has no involvement in the matter aside from forwarding the HQMC Letter. If you receive a letter from the IRS and are already registered, no action is required. If you are not registered, please click on the Registration link or call our toll free hotline: 1-877-261-9782. If you are already registered and need to update your information, please call the toll free hotline at the number provided.”

The study basically involves specific areas of Camp LeJeune and specific contaminants with a broad range of effects. The contaminants were TCE & PCE and these are industrial chemicals with links to cancer and other systemic biologic effects. These chemicals are or were commonly used as cleaning agents.

The Camp LeJeune water system was constructed in the 1940’s and consisted of more than 100 ground water wells treated at 8 water treatment plants.

The areas and wells affected are listed as; Tarawa Terrace, Hadnot Point, Courthouse Bay, Rifle Range, Onslow Beach, Montford Point and New River. The contamination of individual wells proved not to be important because the USMC rotated the use of wells to maintain individual well reliability. Not mentioned in the study is the common use of portable water containers “Buffalo’s & Blivets) which may have been filled from water contaminated sources.

The study points out that since no one well was in use exclusively the level of contamination at that individual well would not have been the level distributed to end users. There would have been a dilution effect depending on how much non-contaminated water was distributed concurrently with contaminated water.

One could make a clinical study of all this but we are a motorcycle club and I suspect not many of us are scientists - but many of us rotated through those areas during those times.

A Leatherneck MC Story. Name withheld by request - we will refer to the Marine as “D”.

“D” served at Camp LeJeune from 19** to 19** in a support unit attached to the Marine Base. “D” was housed in an area serviced by the contaminated well water for the entire period of enlistment.

“D” began to experience unusual symptoms within a few years of an honorable discharge from the USMC. At first these symptoms seemed random but as time went on they became persistent.

Muscle aches, fatigue, fevers, joint pain, headaches and blurred vision became fairly routine. As with all complaints not easily identified with a specific illness “D” was referred to a psychologist for depression. The symptoms continued and “D” was evaluated for autoimmune diseases. Ultimately the doctors diagnosed a blood disorder and “D” suffered a series of strokes.

“D”’s battle with the VA system is not over. “D” has a partial pension from USMC service but none of it is related to the contaminated water at Camp LeJeune. Because “D” became ill fairly soon after discharge the Social Security benefits are at the minimum level. “D” has registered with the website and is awaiting committee findings but as “D” puts it - “Nobody is in a hurry to help us”

“D” is able to work a few side jobs but must worry about being discovered and losing benefits. “D” also is faced with wondering when the next shoe will drop. Already weakened by a series of strokes “D” is able to ride and enjoy the sunshine and all things Marine but worries that life will be short and the coming years will not be kind.

“D”s advice to all that were there - simple. If you served on Marine Base Camp LeJeune during the affected years register on the website.

If you have been treated for an autoimmune disease or any disorder with multiple seemingly disconnected symptoms advise your attending physician of your exposure to TCE & PCE via drinking water and external skin exposure.

If you served during the affected years and you have children with physical birth defects or autoimmune diseases register at the website and sign up for the forum and news releases.

This is not unlike the denial of Agent Orange, PTSD or Gulf War Syndrome - the only difference is that there is no combat deployment involved - but wives & children were exposed too.
Top 10 Common Winter Storage Mistakes.

10. Starting your bike a couple times a month. Starting your bike will draw the battery down more than it will charge in a short run cycle. Putting heat in your engine in a cold climate will also cause condensation inside and outside of your engine.

9. Keeping your bike in a building that heats & cools with the outside temperature. Any temperature change will cause condensation on your motorcycle. This can be very prevalent in the late fall and spring when outside temperature greatly fluctuate.

8. Parking your car in the same area as your bike. Your vehicle carries salt and moisture in and out of your garage and can cause corrosion in a hurry.

7. Storing your bike in an area accessible to rodents. Mice and squirrels love to nest under the seat and in the fairings of your motorcycle. They can cause extensive damage in a short period of time.

6. Keeping pool chemicals in the same building as your bike. Pool chemicals and even their vapors can be very corrosive to your motorcycle finish.

5. Having electric motors running close to your motorcycle. Electric motors create ozone that can cause dry rot on your tires.

4. Putting your bike away even slightly dirty. Brake dust is an irritant to metal and contains iron bits that trap moisture and cause rust.

3. Using wrong type of cover. A non-breathable cover can trap moisture and cause corrosion.

2. Storing on some types of concrete floors. Concrete floors poured without a vapor barrier under them will allow moisture from the ground to penetrate the concrete and produce a situation similar to parking your bike on a dirt floor.

1. Ignoring your battery. Batteries will discharge naturally over time. Most newer bikes have a milliamp draw from the ECM, radio, regulator and security system that can draw a battery dead in a short period of time. A battery tender will combat these drains and provide you with a longer battery life.

Male Discrimination

We're Not Only Good Lookin'

We'll Kick Your Ass Too
Housing Benefits:
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.
D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans.
State Veterans Homes Board of Managers.

Financial Assistance Benefits:
Tuition Grant Procedure Brief.
Emergency Grants
Michigan National Guard Family Support Funds.

Other State Benefits:
Michigan Veterans Programs 2005
Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans
Automobile License Plates

A recent government study on unemployment showed that the inner city was disproportionately affected. In an attempt to use the skills found in this area the feds looked at NASCAR.

A group of car thieves can strip a car of all four tires in less than 6 seconds w/o any special tools. By comparison Jeff Gordon’s crew required 8 seconds using millions of dollars in tools.

Jeff Gordon was offered tax-incentives to employ the crew from Harlem as a pit crew. Gordon accepted this unusual offer and boldly placed his new crew to work.

One race into the season Gordon got more than he bargained for - although his new crew changed the tires in under 6 seconds - they also changed the paint scheme & the VIN number in 12 seconds then sold the car to Dale Earnhardt for 10 cases of bud, a bag of weed and some pictures of Dale’s wife in the shower.

Do to the success of this program the government plans to expand into the Toyota Truck series this year. Another idea is to put the UAW in charge of the US State Department. Progress is wonderful.

Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Joint Public Affairs Office 3411 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing MI 48906 Phone 617-210-5480 http://www.michigan.gov/dmva

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QUANTICO, Virginia (CNN) -- Motorcycle accidents have killed more Marines in the past 12 months than enemy fire in Iraq, a rate that's so alarming, it has prompted top brass to call a meeting to address the issue, officials say.

Twenty-five Marines have died in motorcycle crashes since November -- all but one of them involving sport bikes that can reach speeds of well over 100 mph, according to Marine officials. In that same period, 20 Marines have been killed in action in Iraq.

The 25 deaths are the highest motorcycle death toll ever for the Marine Corps.

Gen. James Amos, the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, told CNN that commanders are trying to drill down on what "we need to do to help our Marines survive on these sport bikes."

"The Marines are very serious about it," he said.

News you can use in MCB Pendleton - Helmet - Goggles, full finger gloves, hard soles, reflective vest, long sleeves, insurance and registration. That is the minimum to get on base.