



**U. S. MARINE CORPS SUPPORT GROUP
P.O. BOX 84444
SEATTLE, WA 98124-9998**

April, 2009

Dear Marine Support Group Members,

The Support Group annual meeting was held in March where the Board of Directors for 2009-2010 was elected. The officers for this year are: Jim Givan - president, Tom Tomfohr - secretary, Chris Tibbs - treasurer, and returning members LtCol. Whitney Mason, Ed Doyne, Mike Kavanaugh, and new members Chad Timmons and Skosh Torita. Our current financial condition shows \$5080 in operating funds, \$3260 in the sword fund account which will cover sword purchases for this year and a small start on next year's requirements. In addition, we have \$14,426 in CD's, the interest from which underwrite our support of the MCJROTC's. All life memberships are in a CD to preserve the funds for future use.

We continue to support each of the three MCJROTC's with a \$250 stipend to help them fund their activities. Each year we honor the outstanding Marine NCO's from each of the four area commands with an NCO sword and we also honor the outstanding Marine officer graduating from the UW NROTC. A new program at the UW provides a stipend for the outstanding MECEP with the intent purpose of assisting in book purchases. This will be named the Richard L. Bianchino Book Scholarship and has underwriting by new member Vince Santiago of veTrans LLC.

This year, also, we are looking at ways to support the "Toys for Tots" program and assist the 4th LSB in it effort to obtain and distribute toys at Christmas. Specifically, we need a storage site of approximately 4000 square feet for November and December and we will need volunteers to deliver and pick up drop boxes. More on this as the project develops.

Plans are underway for the Marine Corps Birthday celebration. We are targeting an attendance of 300 which expands our 200 plus from last year. One of our goals is to maintain the ability to further expand so that we don't have to turn anyone away. In addition, we are looking at a "Dining In" in July with the feature of starting early enough that we can drive home in daylight. Hopefully this will be an event where you and your spouse or significant other can socialize with fellow Marines at a traditional "Dining In."

Operationally, we are maintaining our website, "wamarines.org," and as this develops Marine activities around the area will be highlighted. A new directory has

been printed and has e-mail addresses added. Directories are available at the check-in table at the luncheons. Please e-mail me or Tom Tomfohr your e-mail address if you have not already done so. Our e-mail addresses are shown below. E-mail notification of events may become a necessary cost cutting measure to preserve our operating funds for purposes other than mailings. We continue to search for new members to broaden our base of support and to bring the newer "old breed" into the fold. Maintaining continuity with our known members remains important and equally important is to have those members participate in Support Group functions and provide the dues and other financial support necessary to provide the services which assist our fellow Marines.

James E. Givan, LtCol. USMC(retired)
President

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