

## The 53<sup>rd</sup> CHIEF BARKS AGAIN

The 71<sup>st</sup> Supreme Growl has been put to bed; reports are finished, scratchings written and the Orders history books are closed for the time being. I was pleased to have so many of the initiates come to me after the initiation and Supreme Growl telling me how much fun they had and that they did learn some new Marine Corps history. I extend my congratulations and a hearty WOOF WOOF for a job well done to the Platoon Handlers and especially to the Honorable Mad Dog PDD Wayne Sarapata who put it all together. The willingness of the kennel staff members and the many volunteers who helped meet the Dog House dog power needs was great to see. What a great team!! Your Chief thanks you all and says WELL DONE!!

I will be traveling to Boise in October to sniff out next year's convention hotel; I anticipate that the 72<sup>nd</sup> Supreme Growl, while we most likely will see smaller numbers of Devil Dogs seeking their pedigree, will be as successful and smooth running as the 71<sup>st</sup> was.

Now I'm sorry to say it is time for a few whines. The following was posted 9/20/2009 by the 52<sup>nd</sup> Chief Devil Dog Laurel Hull. I hope you don't mind my plagiarism Laurel; it just fits so well with what I feel a need to say. You might want to go to the Kennel website and read what the 52<sup>nd</sup> Chief wrote about leadership. It applies to us all.

### Am I Really Needed??

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works wxll xxxcpt for onx of thx kxys. I'vx wishxd many timxs that it workxd prrffxctly. Trux thxrx arx 42 kxys that function, but onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that our organization is somxwhat likx my typxwritxr - not all thx pxoplx arx working proprly. You might say, "Wxll, I'm only onx pxrson. It won't makx much diffxrxncx". But you sxx, an organization, to bx xffixnt, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxy pxrson. Thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxxdx, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr, and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson and thxy nxxd mx vxry much."

-- Laurel Hull

As I wrote earlier the 71<sup>st</sup> Supreme Growl was a success because of the TEAM effort; everyone doing their part. Unfortunately, in other areas this is not the case. We are failing on retention of members, 425 members were removed on 1 September for delinquent dues status. We must do better; let's reach for the elusive 6000 membership number. The Order needs to recruit quality members to build the future of the MODD. Performance did improve in funding the passport account. With last minute receipts the Kennel was able to donate \$20,000 to the Brenner Children's Hospital; however, only part of the team showed up. There are several packs and far too many pounds that did not contribute to the fund. This is a bylaws issue, when you attend a Growl you pay one, and only one, big bone for a passport stamp. We could do so much

better with the whole team supporting this very worthwhile project. We can easily make next year's donation \$25,000 with the whole team participating.

Filing of installation reports is another area where we are performing poorly. There are pounds that have not filed a report of officer installation in three or four years. The Kennel Staff must know who the pack and pound officers are to facilitate communication. The KDR has posted a list of reports in the online version of the WOG, check it out.

Dog Robbers, pack and pound, your job is one of the most important. Every so often a member will contact the KDR or some other kennel staff member asking why they haven't received a membership card or why they don't have a card showing their new degree. When we try to find the member there is no record of their membership in the MODD. Someone seriously dropped the ball and did not file the proper paperwork or did not forward it as should be done. If you are a new member or have been advanced to the next higher degree and have not received a membership card within a reasonable amount of time, ask your dog robber where it is.

ARE YOU REALLY NEEDED? Yes you are. Each and every member of the team is needed and needs to do the job they were elected and/or appointed to do.

### **HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2011 DUES???**

Woof woof,

Phil Ruhmshottel  
53<sup>rd</sup> Chief Devil Dog