

## General Joshua L. Chamberlain Chapter



# The Companion

The quarterly newsletter of General Chamberlain Chapter of the  
Military Order of the World Wars.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

#### **Staff Planning Meeting**

30 August 2008  
1130 hrs  
Bookland, Brunswick, ME

#### **Chapter Luncheon - Meeting**

20 September 2008  
1130 hrs

Luncheon meeting to be held at  
Verrillo's Convention Center  
Riverside St., Portland

#### **Chapter Commander**

Permanent position not yet  
filled!

### **Region Commander's Report to the General Chamberlain Chapter**

I am now in my second year as Region I Commander, and I have learned much about the nine Chapters within the New England Command. The largest of the nine chapters is the Greater Boston Chapter, which meets in the Union Oyster House in the old part of Boston. This building was established in 1723 and was frequented by Benjamin Franklin when he visited the city in the years around the time of the American Revolution. This Chapter is very productive in its yearly activities.

Our own Chamberlain Chapter is the second largest in Region I with 82 living members, and it has an outstanding record of recruitment for several years. This year, for example, we recruited 12 new members out of the total 16 members recruited in the entire Region I.

The Green Mountain Chapter in Vermont is a good example of a Chapter which is in the process of meeting at Norwich University with a plan to be the Region I center for a new YLC program. If this plan becomes a reality, those MOWW members whose passion has been deeply concerned with the Youth Leadership Conference will have a renewed interest in this almost defunct activity. The plan is so important that it was mentioned at our annual MOWW Conference in Columbus, Georgia. I can assure you it will be closely watched in the weeks ahead, and if it turns out to function well and the problem of liability is minimized or even eliminated for the MOWW Chapters, the Green Mountain Chapter might very well become the prototype for many of the 15 Regions throughout the Country.

(Region Commander's Message continued)

I am pleased to have had Col. George Benjamin as the State Commander for this past year. George is the Past Commander for our Chapter and has made a significant contribution in all the positions and activities in which he has served. Also, among his many attributes, George is a great recruiter. I remember how he convinced me to join the Chamberlain Chapter as well as the Sojourners. Because Col Benjamin wished to step down as our State Commander, I have appointed 1/Lt Peter Stark as the new State Commander for Maine, and because I have a great respect for his leadership as Past Commander of our Chapter, I have appointed him as the Chamberlain Commander as well. I have confidence in his leadership and his dependability.

The Chapter has been through a turbulent period. We are looking for new members particularly those who will be willing to accept positions of responsibility to assist in the Chapter's growth and service. I invite all members to help in this endeavor.

Major Reynald Moreau, who served as a Chapter Commander and as a Region I Commander, is the General Staff Officer for Region I. Rey has been a very active Region I Officer for the past several years and because of his loyal assistance to me for this past year, I have named him this year's recipient of the Klein Award. This award is a Region I award given by the Region I Commander to a person who has been especially helpful to him. It is noteworthy to report that the Chamberlain Chapter has won two other Region I awards, the Small Award for chapter activities and the Robbins Award for new membership.

Although there have been bumps in the road during this past year in our own Chapter as well as others in the Region, there are many indications of progress, and I am confident that the Chamberlain Chapter will continue to grow in membership and that the Green Mountain Chapter, with the help of Norwich University, will develop the YLC program to serve the entire Region I.

## **Chapter News**

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

A letter from the Commander-in Chief, MOWW was recently received by COL Bob Barton, Region I commander. Col. Jim Elmer, Commander-in-Chief, congratulated COL Barton for an outstanding Region recruiting year. Region I was only one of four regions in the country to achieve National's recruiting goal. COL Elmer goes on to say, "As you know, your home chapter was primarily responsible for the increase (in new members)." National is sending a letter of commendation directly to the Chapter.

From June 2007 to April 2008 the Chamberlain Chapter welcomed 12 new members. Region I had a sum total of 15 new members. Chamberlain accounted for 80% of the new members! COL Elmer singled out Chamberlain Chapter for commendation.

As we continue our efforts to provide encouragement to the eight Junior ROTC units in the State as well as the two Naval and one Army senior ROTC units, in addition to our other youth patriotic education effort, it is absolutely necessary that all Chamberlain Companions support the Chapter. Continued individual participation in Chapter activities is key to our future success.

The Chapter has a terrific track record. Let's continue that record by recruiting new members, participating in the Staff Planning sessions, Chapter meetings, and, as always, contributions to the Eberly Patriotic Education Fund are most welcome.

Congratulations to COL Bob Barton Region I Commander and all the Companions of the Chamberlain Chapter for their outstanding achievements during the 2007-2008 year.

## ***Membership***

### **New Members Recognized**

**Welcome to the General Joshua L. Chamberlain Chapter of World Wars!**

| Name                    | Branch            |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| LCDR David J. Billings  | USN               |
| LT Peter S. Black       | USN               |
| CPT Joseph F. Boulos    | USMC              |
| CPT Frank W. Delong     | USA               |
| MAJ Constance E. Hoksch | USAF              |
| Mrs. Evelyn D. King     | Hereditary Member |
| CPT Kaleve E. Kotas     | USA               |
| WO1 Dana E. Lane        | USA               |
| LTC George Philip       | USMC              |
| COL. Harry B. Winger    | Army              |
| MAJ Brian Wirtz         | Army              |
| CPT James Levis         | USMC              |





# Companion of the Quarter

The Region Commander along with members of the Chapter Staff including the editor of The Companion have established that COL George C. Benjamin once again be designated Companion of the Quarter. On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, COL Benjamin will reach a significant birthday. His total dedication to God, Home, Country and this organization has never paled. We are extremely fortunate to have him in our ranks.

## **Colonel George C. Benjamin, United States Army, Retired**

**A great Cavalryman. A great leader. A great Companion.**

Col. George C. Benjamin became a member of this Chapter in Sept 1974. It was approximately four and one half years earlier that he retired from the United States Army after serving faithfully for more than thirty memorable years on active duty. His service in both peace and war was marked by professionalism, dignity, honor and courage.

He brought to our chapter a host of traits and qualities that allowed him to make significant contributions to the operations and functions of this Chapter. He quickly revealed himself to be a team player and a great recruiter of new members. He also served a good number of years as an auditor of the Chapter's Financial Records. He served and exhibited great leadership qualities as the twentieth commander of the Chapter. For the past fifteen years, he has been our Marshall. Over the total years he has been there with his camera to record the picture history of our chapter while assuring that our National Headquarters had articles for publications.

In retrospect, his service to our country during WWII was of such significance that it demands to be remembered concurrently with his service to our Chapter as a companion.

He served primarily in the mounted arm of the United States Army. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Cavalry prior to the beginning of WWII. Lieutenants of Cavalry in the course of their duties followed a relatively simple but highly effective principle of leadership. "Take care of the horses first, then see to the needs of your men. Do all these things before you dare to think of yourself" — His performance of duties propelled him in WWII.

He was assigned to the 5th Armored Division prior to the invasion of France at Normandy. He landed with the division and he fought in all five WWII campaigns in Europe to include the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded a battlefield promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and took command of the 5th Armored Division's Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. The Armored Division's Cavalry Squadron is the eyes and ears of the division. In the Division's advance to contact or exploitation phase, the cavalry squadron leads the division or is on its flank. On many occasions the 5th Armored Division was General Patton's lead division in his attack across France and then Germany. The combat during those days was extremely intense.

Your Chapter extends its total gratitude to you for your outstanding service to our country and to this Military Order of the World Wars.