



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

AGC(E)04056
September 2, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY INVITEES.

Subj: 2004 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE ANNUAL GRAND BANQUET AND
MODERN DAY MARINE EXPO

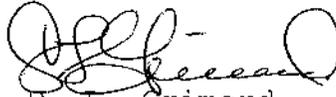
The Marine Corps League will hold it's Annual Reception and Grand Banquet on Wednesday, September 15, 2004, at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. Approximately 500 people people from government and industry, including a number of Marines and other Department of Navy personnel, will be invited to attend the event. It will include an awards presentation. The fair market value of a ticket is \$125/per person.

The Grand Banquet is being held in conjunction with the Marine Corps League Modern Day Marine Exposition, September 14-16 at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia. The Exposition is free to all with proper military identification. Opportunities or benefits available to a class consisting of all uniformed military personnel, whether or not restricted on the basis of geographic considerations, are excluded from the definition of gift at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.203(b)(4). Therefore, uniformed members of the Navy and Marine Corps and their dependents may accept free attendance at the Marine Corps League Modern Day Marine Exposition.

The Marine Corps League Annual Reception and Grand Banquet qualifies as a widely attended gathering under 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2). In addition, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(3)(ii), there is a reasonable basis for supervisors to find that the Department of the Navy's interest in having Department of Navy personnel attend these events outweighs concerns that the acceptance of the gift of free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence the employee in the performance of his official duties. Therefore, supervisors who consider participation by one or more of their employees to be in furtherance of an agency interest may permit personnel whose duties do not substantially affect the Marine Corps League to accept free attendance, including food, refreshments and entertainment furnished to all attendees as an integral part of the event. Employees may not accept travel expenses or free lodging.

Department of the Navy employees whose duties may substantially affect the Marine Corps League should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding this event from their local ethics counselor.

Questions should be referred to your ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Grimord", with a stylized flourish at the end.

D. L. Grimord

Assistant General Counsel (Ethics)