



## *The Straight Scoop*

Department Newsletter of the  
Marine Corps League  
Department of West Virginia  
P.O. Box 11828  
Charleston, WV 25339



Volume 12, Issue 12, December 2019

### Department Officers:

Commandant: Scott Kirby, 304-588-0318  
Sr. Vice Commandant: Jim Doss, 740-441-5638  
Jr. Vice Commandant: Jerry Bain, 304-675-1905  
Judge Advocate: Rodney Mayberry, 304-922-2150  
Jr. Past Commandant: Michael McLain, 304-464-5049  
Legislative: Hershel Williams, 304-743-1026  
Chief of Staff: Roger Ware, 304-636-4365  
Web Sgt: Steven Swenton, 304-277-8872  
Aide-de-Camp: Richard Sneigle 304-588-7901  
Aide-de-Camp: Randy Thomas 304-688-8456

Adjutant: Patti Leib, 740-591-8611  
Paymaster: Patti Leib, 740-591-8611  
Chaplain: Frank Armentrout, 304-837-4011  
Sgt.-at-Arms: Greg Irwin 304-704-5758  
Asst Sgt-at-Arms: Jason Lowe, 304-893-2025  
Service/VAVS: Roger L. Estep, 304-380-7930  
Public Relations: Jean Lamb, 304-595-1482  
Historian: Mike Lynon, 304-419-0982  
Asst Aide-de-Camp: Jamie Summerlin, 304-594-0351

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE**

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE**



### COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains and Associate Members. I hope this finds you well. The Christmas season is upon us and I know that we are all very busy. Several Detachments are in the middle of their toy campaigns to help the local families and children in their communities. As we do this, I want to remind you to be very careful on how we are doing business. If your detachment is doing Toys for Tots remember to follow all protocols that are involved. Make this an enjoyable season for all. The Department Fire Team has once again landed. I would like everyone to welcome our newest detachment. The Sgt William B Fulks Detachment 1474 in Hurricane WV. William Miller is the interim Detachment Commandant. Let's all reach out and support those Marines as they build their reputation in their community. I

would like to thank the Fire Team and surrounding detachments that have supported getting this new detachment up and running. Bravo Zulu!

As I said in the beginning, the Christmas season is upon us. My wife and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Take this time to surround yourselves with family and friends and celebrate this special time of year. This is a time to strengthen relationships with those close to you and to fix the relationships that may have been damaged in the past. None of us are getting any younger and to carry a grudge over something that really isn't that important in the grand scheme of things seems ridiculous. Take responsibility (even if you don't think it's your fault.) You would be surprised at the weight that will be lifted off your shoulders. Be kind to one another and always remember those who are serving that can't be home this season.

Please keep all members of our Armed Forces in your thoughts and Prayers as they serve in harm's way.

Semper Fidelis,

Scott Kirby

Commandant

Dept. of WV

Marine Corps League

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### Chaplain's Corner

Lord, we are your people, the sheep of your flock. Heal the sheep who are wounded, touch the sheep who are in pain, cleanse the sheep who are soiled, warm the lambs who are cold.

Help us to know the Father's love through Jesus the Shepherd and through the Spirit. Help us to lift up that love and show it all over this land. Help us to build love on justice and justice on love. Help us to believe mightily, hope joyfully, love divinely. Renew us that we may help renew the face of the earth.

Amen.

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2020 Department of WV Fall Quarterly Meeting will be January 4, 2020 hosted by MGM Detachment 1180 at American Legion Post 23, 100 Second Street Point Pleasant, WV 25550. Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting.

Directions to American Legion Post 23 in Point Pleasant for January 4, 2020 Quarterly meeting:

Come across the bridge over the Kanawha River, turn left at the stop light on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, make another left onto Main Street, and follow it down to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (corner of 2nd St and Main) address is 100 Second Street

Coming in from the east on WV Route 62/WV-2 follow until you are in town and turn left onto WV2 Spur (there is a McDonalds on the corner on your right). Turn left, go two blocks, turn right onto 4<sup>th</sup> Street, go one block and turn left onto Main Street. Follow Main two blocks and the American Legion is on your right.

From Route 7 in Ohio, you cross the Silver Bridge over the Ohio River into WV, take the second right (first one goes to Huntington, second right goes to Point Pleasant), merge onto Route 2 which crosses the Kanawha river, turn left at the light at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, go one block, turn left onto Main Street, go one block and the American Legion is on your right.

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**2019 MCL National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures are on the national site under library-member. The uniform code is listed under the AP section.**

**National site:** <https://www.mclnational.org/>

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### Detachment information

Rust Insurance policy only covers members of the detachment and not family members or volunteers. Only members of the detachment should participate in approved detachment functions, honor guard, fund raising events, civic project.

The annual ROI must be filed for record of those officers covered under insurance bond for theft of \$10,000. Assets over that an increase must be purchased. There is \$1,000 deductible

Incorporation only covers the members against personal liability or debt of the detachment. Non-members are

not covered.

All activities and events must be approved by the members to be effective and included in the minutes; this protects the members against libel under the corporation

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### **2020 Military Retiree, VA and Social Security Pay Increase**

Military retirees, those who receive disability or other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, federal retirees and social security recipients will see a 1.6% increase in their monthly checks for 2020.

The annual Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) is smaller than the 2.8% increase from last year but in line with the historical increases seen over the last ten years.

The 1.6% increase means that you will get an additional \$16 for every \$1,000 in government benefits you receive.

Disabled veterans will also get a bump. The average [VA disability check](#) will go up about \$2 per month for those with a 10 percent rating, and \$49 for those rated at 100 percent.

Military retirees and VA beneficiaries aren't the only ones who benefit from the COLA increase. Civil Service retirees, and Social Security recipients will also see the 1.6% jump in their monthly checks as well.

For Social Security recipients, the monthly increase will mean an extra \$12 per month for the average beneficiary.

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### **2020 VA Compensation Rates**

Single	Veteran with spouse
10 percent - \$142.29	\$142.29
20 percent - \$281.27	\$281.27
30 percent - \$435.69	\$487.51
40 percent - \$627.61	\$696.70
50 percent - \$893.43	\$979.79
60 percent - \$1,131.68	\$1,235.31
70 percent - \$1,426.17	\$1,547.07
80 percent - \$1,657.80	\$1,795.97
90 percent - \$1,862.96	\$2,018.41
100 percent - \$3,106.04	\$3,279.22

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### **Blue Water Navy listing for all ships for VA claims**

The below listing contains all the ships that are approved for anyone who served aboard a vessel during the time frame listed. It is highly important when filing for VA claims as the specific ship and time frame must be referenced for any claim submitted. The link below contains all the ships approved. Please pass on to anyone you know who might have served off the coast of Vietnam and in the coastal waters. within the 12-mile continental shelf limit.

New content on va.gov regarding Blue Water Navy.

Here is a link to FAQs on the BWN page:<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-Vietnam/>

They're located under "Learn more about this change in law, and how it may affect you:"

[Fact sheet: Blue Water Navy Veterans and Agent Orange \(PDF\)](#) [Frequently asked questions: Blue Water Navy Veterans and disability benefits \(PDF\)](#)

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## **VA Claims Assistance How to Use New Tool When Filing Disability Claims Online**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is transforming the way Veterans learn about and apply for benefits earned, through a new video tutorial completed in October highlighting the digital Disability Compensation Benefits Claims tool released earlier this year. Built with Veterans, for Veterans, an iterative development process that incorporates user testing and human-centered design principles the tool is now available allowing Veterans with previously filed claims to have more control over submissions and represents an innovative leap forward in VA services "The Disability Compensation Benefits Claim tool lessens the administrative and paperwork burden for Veterans, and shortens the processing time line for benefits claims," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This innovative tool, along with the companion tutorial video series, represents VA's commitment to providing Veterans quality service through digital transformation."

The accompanying five-part video tutorial series is accessible on VA's Office of Information and Technology (OIT) YouTube page. The tutorials describe steps Veterans can follow to complete disability compensation claims applications online using the new digital tool. The videos feature:

- ☐ An overview of the online tool's user-friendly platform, and its efficient functionality that streamlines the claims submission process.
- ☐ Log-in instructions for starting the process of filing a disability benefits claim, and how Veterans can track existing disability compensation claims.
- ☐ Instructions on how the tool automatically checks the Veteran's record to find out if there is an active intent to file date already pending.

Visit the full tutorial series ([https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/EDU\\_Training.asp](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/EDU_Training.asp)) for instructions. Click here for more information about disability compensation

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## **Professional Development Training**

### ***Duties of the Senior Vice Commandant***

The Senior Vice Commandant is second in command of the Detachment. This officer should be a logical successor to the Commandant and is therefore required to be fully familiar with the Commandant functions through his/her term of office. Many of the duties described below are the same or similar to those of the Commandant. The SVC should be familiar with the duties of the Commandant, and be prepared to be the senior chairperson for projects/committees deemed important by the Commandant. As second in command, the Senior Vice Commandant's role is critical to the Detachment in terms of officer support and in accepting major responsibilities for meeting Detachment objectives.

#### **A. Characteristics and Traits**

- Refer to the Characteristics and Traits of the Commandant.
- Ability to train and support junior officers and staff.
- Project leadership capabilities in assuming responsibility for committee and project assignments.
- Ability to support Commandant and complete Commandant assignments on short notice.
- Familiarization with Commandant functions, officer functions and activities and Detachment programs and activities.

#### **B. Narrative of Job Accountability and Responsibilities**

1. Assistance and Support to the Commandant In many respects, depending on the size and number of activities of the Detachment, the relationship between the Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant is a team

effort. It is helpful when these two officer positions have complementary skills that can be shared in achieving the Detachment's goals and in administering the affairs of the unit.

One objective of the Senior Vice Commandant's (SVC) position is one of preparation for the office of Commandant. In achieving that objective, it is important for the SVC to be integrally involved in all the affairs of the Detachment and to take on, specific tasks assigned by the Commandant.

Of prime importance is assisting the Commandant in the completion of tasks that are important to the Detachment. This may include taking on jobs as directed, providing specific skills not inherent with the Commandant and/or assisting in the two-way communications between members and officers.

## 2. Chairs Committees as Requested by the Commandant

Committees and projects chaired by the SVC should be significant and important to overall Detachment operations. As an example, some Detachments assign the financial responsibilities of budget, revenue generation, expense control and financial stability to the SVC as a finance, or ways and means committee. The SVC works in conjunction with the Paymaster and other officers/members in developing, monitoring and identifying revenue sources (which may include fund raising events and solicitation for donations).

Chairing a finance committee assumes responsibility for evaluating, developing and monitoring revenue sources and determining the expenditure needs of the Detachment; developing and maintaining an annual budget (which is a guideline and formulation of operations and programs in dollar terms) for revenues and expenses; spearheading donation sources for Detachment programs and activities; evaluating and reporting on financial standing (with Paymaster) and actions required on a periodic basis (at least quarterly).

The SVC might also be directly or indirectly involved with public relations and press/media releases that advertise and promote the Detachment and its programs and establishing contacts for the affairs of the Detachment. In addition, the SVC can communicate with members on ideas and suggestions and identify potential issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Detachment officers.

Another potential responsibility for the SVC is to be responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of Detachment operations and determining improved methods and ideas for enhancing the overall capabilities of the Detachment. In effect, the SVC may be accountable for developing ideas and programs, which will assure the continued relevance of the Detachment and the Marine Corps League to current members and potential members. This is an opportunity to review and suggest strategic plans that involve organization structure, programs and activities and ideas that further promote the significance and effectiveness of the Detachment. This might include surveys of members and potential members and discussion groups to air problems and identify new goals.

While the SVC might take on specific projects for specific purposes, the primary focus for his/her leadership should be on general requirements and needs that have a broad impact on the entire Detachment. The selection to specific committees and projects should be based on capabilities and/or learning requirements. The same leadership functions are required as those of the Commandant.

## 3. Presides in Absence of Commandant

Being second in command, the Senior Vice Commandant will be called upon to perform on behalf of the Commandant when the Commandant is unable to preside at meetings, or attend events. For this reason, it is important that the SVC be current on issues, procedures, objectives and requirements normally handled by the Commandant. The SVC should be able to step into the Commandant's role with minimum difficulty or disruption.

Some of the roles the SVC may be called upon to perform include presiding at Detachment general meetings, officer meetings and committee/project meetings. The SVC should be familiar with the requirements of the Commandant in these areas and be able to effectively use Robert's Rules of Order, other parliamentary procedure and the Marine Corps League Ritual.

In addition, the SVC may be called on to deliver presentations or meet with other contacts that are handled by the Commandant. The SVC must be prepared to meet contingencies that arise by the absence of the Commandant.

#### 4. Other Duties:

May include: • Training of Detachment officers and project/committee chairman.

- Assistance and support to Detachment officers in meeting their specific objectives.
- Assimilating Detachment reports on operations, finances and project results for presentation to officers and members
- Preparation to succeed the Commandant at the expiration of his/her term of office, if he/she so wishes.

#### 5. Awards

• What are the awards? Enclosure (4) of the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures covers what each detachment should know about Marine Corps League Awards, e.g. who can issue or recommend and why the awards are given. Explanation of medals, ribbons and awards is given in the Uniform Module of the Professional Development course.

6. In Summary: The Senior Vice Commandant's position is important to the Detachment for three general reasons: (1) To assist and support the Commandant; (2) to prepare for succession to the Commandant's office and (3) to back up the Commandant when absent.

The SVC should be a major contributing force to the success of the Detachment. He/she should provide knowledge and influence in assuring the achievement of the Detachment goals and operational objectives.

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### **Board of Trustees**

All Officers serving in elective offices must be Regular Members in good standing and have attended their regular or special meetings of the Detachment in which they are elected to serve. If an officer fails to attend two consecutive, officially called meetings of the detachment, they can be removed from office. Each officer is to take possession of those materials previously in the possession of the officer they replaced and they will turn over all materials in their possession to their successor.

Every Detachment should have an ongoing officer training program within their own detachment. Every current or prospective officer should have a working knowledge of the National and Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures and of their own Detachment Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order. The Detachment Commandant and Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster or Paymaster will be bonded by a commercial crime policy paid for and administered by National. The bond limit will be in the amount of \$10,000 with deductible of \$1,000.

Each detachment is governed by its elected officers (Board of Trustees) and upon incorporation the Board members are the controlling body of the detachment. Each member of the Board of Trustees has the special duty to act in good faith with reasonable judgment for the interest of all its members and to examine all aspects of the detachment business including adherence to procedures, financial reports, submission of reports and substantiated expense accounts. To do otherwise is break faith with the membership at large and risk personal liability. Full transparency of financial records is imperative for the benefit of the membership.

The Board members must ensure that proper administrative, clerical and financial functions are being performed as necessary by all elected and appointed officers. This includes knowing their detachment EIN number, Charter date and Incorporation date. It also includes: holding staff and monthly meetings and keeping minutes, electing officers annually between October and May and ensuring the Report of Officer Installation (ROI) is submitted, filing of the IRS 990N as soon as possible after June 30 yearly, the audit and completion using the National June 30 detachment membership roster of all Paid Life Members (PLM), Detachment has a Web Sgt and functioning web page, recruitment and retention of members and the filing of Annual Corporate Report prior to July 1 annually. The submission of all membership dues transmittal and completion of the Paymaster Report each month. The responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are not only limited to these duties but all other that arise. They must be proactive to ensure their detachment officers complete all administrative and financial duties as required. If the board members include the following in their Detachment Monthly Membership Meeting and detachment web site Locator Page; it creates continuity and serves as a reference for some of the recurring administrative duties. Changes can be made as duties are completed and these should be included in every detachment meeting minutes.



Officer Installation date:	EIN:	Detachment Charter date:	Incorporation date:
Locator page last update:	PLM Audit:	990-N-efile date:	Annual Corporate Report filed:
Financial Audit date:	Rifle Inventory Report:		Annual Property Inventory Report:
Membership totals:	PLM:	Total Paid:	Total Unpaid:

It is the duty of the Detachment Board of Trustees to manage the detachment administrative, clerical and financial procedures. It is necessary to ensure that all requirements are completed to maintain your detachment charter and to protect your detachment membership.

The Guidebook for Detachment Officers and the MCL Ritual are excellent references to help gain more knowledge of the procedures necessary to function within your detachment. They can be purchased from the National Semper Fi store or copied from the National website. Every officer should know what the duties are for all other positions in the detachment.

Each officer should maintain a copy of the Detachment Board and meeting minutes for reference while they serve his/her tour. A good way to see what your Detachment has been doing over the past couple years is to read over these minutes. Read all you can about what your Detachment has been doing over the past few years. Talk with members and see where the Detachment is going or what ideas can you throw into the mix to help grow the Detachment. Every officer must be well versed in the duties of all other officers within the detachment. Every member of the Board should be held accountable to their ethical and fiduciary responsibilities because they serve as a corporate officer too. No individual member of a Department shall serve in more than one position on the Board of Trustees

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### **VA Disability Ratings Protected**

Certain VA disability benefits are considered Protected Ratings, according to the VA (though others say the term “protected” is a misnomer). This is where it helps to be able to find and read the appropriate regulations or find an expert who can help you through the task. Protection is covered Under 38 CFR 3.951 and 38 CFR 3.952. The present rules are:

- ⌚ 5-year rule: If the rating has been in effect for 5 years, it cannot be reduced unless your condition has improved on a sustained basis (The VA must have documentation supporting this is a permanent improvement).
- ⌚ 10-year rule: A service-connected disability rating cannot be terminated if it has been in effect for 10 years. Compensation can be reduced if evidence exists that the condition has improved. The sole exception is if the VA can prove fraud, in which case the VA can terminate the benefits.
- ⌚ 20-year rule: If the rating has been in effect for 20 years, it cannot be reduced below the lowest rating it has held for the previous 20 years. The only exception is if the VA can prove fraud. Measure the 20-year period of 38 CFR 3.951(b) from the earliest effective date of the combined or individual evaluations.
- ⌚ 100% rule: The VA must prove your medical situation has materially improved and as a result, you are able to perform substantial work.

What do these protected ratings mean? Basically, if you have had a VA service- connected disability rating for 5 years or more, the VA must prove your condition has improved on a sustained basis before they can reduce or terminate your disability rating. After 10 years, the VA can only reduce your rating; they cannot terminate it (absent proof of fraud). And, after 20 years, your rating cannot be reduced below the lowest rating you have held for the last 20 years. These distinctions are important because some ratings can vary over the years, based on the medical condition.

For example, let’s say you have a knee injury that warrants a 30% disability rating when you complete your initial VA evaluation. After 5 years, the VA cannot reduce this rating below 30% unless they can prove the injury has healed on a sustained basis. If it has improved to the point the injury warrants a lower rating, or the injury no longer exists, the benefit can be reduced or terminated. After 10 years, the benefit can no longer be terminated, but it can be reduced if the VA can document substantial sustained health improvements. After 20 years at that rating, your benefit can no longer be reduced below its lowest rating or terminated (unless there is proof of fraud).

The 100% rule is much more difficult to have decreased. The VA must prove your health has materially improved, and you are now able to perform substantial work. If all of your injuries still leave you unemployable, then it is likely your benefit will not be reduced. Most veterans with a 100% rating have one or more major service-connected medical conditions, and possibly additional multiple less-severe injuries. The VA must prove the veteran is able to perform substantial work even with this assortment of medical conditions.

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### **Department Officer Nominations**

Department Sr Vice Commandant Jim Doss is Chairman of the Department Nominating Committee. The following Department Officers will be elected during the Department Convention in Elkins WV on May 16, 2020. Commandant, Sr Vice Commandant, Jr Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate. Nominations for these positions can be submitted to Sr Vice Commandant Doss commencing January 2020. Floor nominations will be taken at the Department Convention.

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**Hershel “Woody” Williams Scholarship Foundation Applications** Foundation Chairman John Nanny has mailed out applications to every detachment Commandant in the Department. The applications may be reproduced as needed. The Foundation normally awards four scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00. This is a one-time scholarship so prior recipients are not eligible. The deadline for applications must be postmarked no later than March 15th, 2020. Please assure that all portions of the application are completed, all requested materials are included and proof of eligibility from the local Marine Corps League is verified. The application includes additional information required to complete and submit the application properly. Paying attention to detail is necessary in submission of an application. In the seventeen years since the Scholarship Foundation was instituted, 128 scholarships totaling \$110,000 have been awarded.

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### **Department Awards**

Department Awards Chairman Randy “Doc” Thomas will send out nomination forms for the following department awards after January 2020. Detachments should be considering those individuals who they desire to nominate for one or more of these awards. All nominations must be postmarked by March 30, 2020 to be considered.

DEPARTMENT HEART & SOUL AWARD is presented in recognition of this Marine Corps League member’s outstanding spirit and enhancement of the mission and principles of the U. S. Marine Corps and Marine Corps League from May 2019 to March 2020

COMMANDANT OF THE YEAR AWARD is presented in recognition of this Marine Corps League member’s outstanding leadership and guidance in meeting all department and national guidelines, policies and procedures from May 2019 to March 2020

DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY AWARD is presented in recognition of this Detachment’s outstanding public relations contributions and community involvement from May 2019 to March 2020

DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM AWARD is presented in recognition of promoting patriotism, citizenship, participating in parade activities, and observing all traditions of U.S. Marine Corps and Marine Corps League from May 2019 to March 2020

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER AWARD is presented in recognition of this Marine Corps League member’s outstanding administrative and fiscal practices and procedures in the Marine Corps League from May 2019 to March 2020

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER AWARD is presented in recognition of this Marine Corps League member’s outstanding service performance and volunteer work to veterans and their dependents from May 2019 to March 2020



DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AWARD is presented to Detachment\_\_\_\_\_in recognition for publishing an outstanding newsletter that conforms to the National Newsletter guidelines from May 2019 to March 2020

DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION AWARD is presented in recognition for displaying outstanding principles and purposes of the U. S. Marine Corps and Marine Corps League from May 2019 to March 2020

DEPARTMENT RECRUITER OF THE YEAR AWARD is presented in recognition to this Marine Corps League member for recruiting the highest number of new Marine Corps League members for the period May 2019 to March 2020

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### **Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year Award**

Scott Kirby, President, Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year Society will be sending out an announcement for the 2020 Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year after January 2020. Detachments should be considering and submitting a member for nomination for this prestige award upon receipt of the announcement letter. All nominations must be postmarked by March 1, 2020 to be considered.

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### **2020 MCL Mid-Winter Conference February 27 – March 1, 2020**

**Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel 777 Waterside Drive**

**Norfolk, VA 23510**

**(757) 622-6664**

**Fact Sheet Room Rate: \$129 + tax**

**Tax Rate: \$14% Resort Charge: \$3.00**

**Parking: Complimentary Self-Parking if staying at hotel, otherwise its \$13 per day.**

**Valet Parking is \$26 per day**

**Breakfast: Complimentary 2 per room daily Internet: Complimentary High-Speed**

**Banquet Dinner: \$50 max inclusive**

**Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 1-800-325-3535**

**and mentioning the Marine Corps League Mid-Winter Conference**

**All reservations will be charged one-night room and tax deposit at time of confirming reservation.**

**This deposit will be applied toward your final bill.**

**If you cancel within the cancellation period, the deposit will be refunded.**

**Cancellation period is from time of making reservation until February 10, 2020.**

***Any cancellations after February 10, 2020 will forfeit the one-night deposit***

**Marriott Reward points can be earned with the group rate**

**This is a smoke free hotel, any smoking in non-smoking rooms will incur a \$200 cleaning fee.**

**Each room has a mini refrigerator**

**On site restaurant next door to the Waterside District featuring restaurants and bars.**

**Hotel is 3 blocks from downtown mall, and 6 to 11 miles, depending on route,**

**from Norfolk International Airport**

**Shuttle service will be arranged at a later date, stay tuned**



Members of Det. 956 sort toys in preparation for their annual Toys for Tots distribution slated for Dec. 18-19 in Elkins. From left are Paymaster Greg Irwin, Commandant Roger Ware and Chaplain Judy Gum. Not pictured is Adjutant Judith Ware.

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### Pending Calendar

2020 Department of WV Fall Quarterly Meeting will be January 4, 2020 hosted by MGM Detachment 1180 at American Legion Post 23, 100 Second Street Point Pleasant, WV 25550. Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting.

2020 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference will be Feb 27 – Feb 29, 2020 at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside - 777 Waterside Dr, Norfolk VA 23510. group code: MCL Phone: (757-622-6664) Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy. \$129.00 per night + prevailing tax (currently 14%) Resort Charge: \$3.00. Please make your room reservation direct to the hotel. Reservations made by calling the hotel or 1-800-325-3535 and mentioning the Marine Corps League Mid-Winter Conference Breakfast: Complimentary 2 per room daily. Internet: Complimentary High Speed. Banquet Dinner: \$60 max inclusive. Parking: Complimentary Self-Parking if staying at the hotel.

2020 Department of Maryland Convention will be 7-9 May 2020 at Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842. 410-524-7777 Mention 'Marine Corps League' to get group room rate. Fri AM - Opening Ceremony. Fri PM -Pack Growl. Sat AM -MCL Meeting. Sat Night -Banquet More details to follow.

2020 Department of Delaware Convention will be May 9, 2020 Heritage Shores Golf Clubhouse, One Heritage Shores Circle, Bridgeville, Delaware 19933. Lunch will be served. POC- Frank Mathers, Commandant Department of Delaware, [mcldeptdecommandant@gmail.com](mailto:mcldeptdecommandant@gmail.com), 301-520-8051

2020 Department of West Virginia Department Convention will be May 15-17, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Express, 50 Martin Street, Elkins, WV 26241 hosted by Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment #956. Room rate \$100.00 per night. Phone: 304-630-2266.

Hotel registration deadline is April 29, 2020. Free parking and continental breakfast 6-10 a.m. Banquet \$30 and will be buffet style. POC is Roger Ware 304-636-4365 or [rrware@yahoo.com](mailto:rrware@yahoo.com). **Please do not call the hotel to make your reservations as** Detachment 956 will make reservations when you send them your payment. Once your payment is received your name will be given to the hotel under the Code MCL. This is to take advantage of the tax-exempt status. There is a flyer attached which can be used for advance registration, hotel and banquet.

2020 Department of North Carolina Department Convention 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be June 12-13, 2020 at the Hilton Charlotte University Hotel, 8629 J M Keynes Dr., Charlotte, NC 28262. 833-238-5101 Hosted by Pfc Bruce Larson Detachment #1242 and Charlotte Detachment #750

2020 Mideast Division Conference will be June 19-21, 2020 hosted by Dept of Virginia at Holiday Inn, 5655 Greenwich Road, VA Beach, VA 23462. Room rate \$120 plus 14% tax – total \$138.80, 1-800-567-3856 or 757-499-4400 – (dial 0) use code: MED. You can start your reservation after July 12, 2019.

2020 MCL National Convention will be August 10-15, 2020 at Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, 100 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL, 32118 Phone: 888- 217- 5507. Room rate: \$145.00 includes tax, Wi-Fi, parking and breakfast. **Reservation open on Monday August 12, 2019 at 10 AM EST.**

2021 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference February 24– 28 2021 Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, 777 Waterside Drive Norfolk, VA <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/orfsi-sheraton-norfolk-waterside-hotel/> Group Code: MCL Phone: (757-622-6664) Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy. \$129.00 per night + prevailing tax (currently 14%) Please make your room reservation directly to the hotel.

2021 Mideast Division Conference hosted by the Department of Delaware 16, 17, 18 April 2021 Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center (Oceanfront) 1 Baltimore Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971 Phone: 800-422-0600 | 302-227-2511 <https://atlanticsandshotel.com/> Room rate \$105.00 plus fees. Discounted breakfast, parking included.

\*\*\*Reservation may be made now by calling 1-800-422-0600, refer to the **Mideast Division Marine Corps League Block #9579** arriving Friday, April 16, 2021. **Reservations are open.**

2021 MCL National Convention will be August 6-14, 2021 at Wyndham Springfield City Centre, 700 E Adams St, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Room rate is \$129.95 with tax included. Free breakfast, free parking and WiFi. Pet friendly. [wyndhamhotels.com](http://wyndhamhotels.com) Phone. 217-789-1530

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### Department of WV MCL Detachment Commandant's Report

2020 Department of WV Regular Meeting will be held on January 4, 2020 hosted by MGM Detachment 1180 in Point Pleasant, WV Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting. Lunch will be served by the Detachment.

The uniform code has been modified for the department regular meetings as members can wear polo shirts and black pants, with fore and aft cover. The uniform code must be followed for the Department Convention.

Department Regular Meeting Reports Sept 14, 2019 to Jan 4, 2020 Detachment Commandants. The Dept. of WV requests that each detachment Commandant or appointed representative attend the department regular meeting to submit their detachment report. In the event that attendance by your detachment is not possible, please contact the Department Commandant to be excused and mail or email a copy of your report to the Dept. Adjutant/Paymaster Patti Leib before the date of the regular meeting. Bring 15 copies of your detachment report to set out on the reports table for other detachment Commandants and Officers to view. Ensure the Dept. Commandant, Adjutant/Paymaster, Sr. Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant, Judge Advocate and Chaplain get a copy of your report.

Professional Development training classes will be conducted during this meeting. Commandants are advised to bring their Adjutant/Paymaster or Adjutant and Paymaster with them for the training. Dept. Adjutant-Paymaster Patti Leib will be available for one-on-one training or specific assistance with Transmittals, IRS 990's, Annual Corporation Reports, Paid Life Member Audits, Record Keeping, etc. after the meeting.

Use the following when submitting your reports:

#### Membership and Retention Team:

List number of paid life members: paid members: total paid: and total unpaid as of Dec 31, 2019

Do you have a roster of every member that includes mailing address, phone number, date of birth, and email address? Do you have an accurate data base for all members?

Does your detachments MRT report membership totals in your business meetings and list the unpaid members.? How do they contact the unpaid members? How often do they contact all members.

How many new members have joined your detachment since Sept 2019 and has each new member been assigned a mentor?

What recruiting events has the detachment conducted since Sept 2019?

Do you send your monthly meeting minutes to those members who do not attend meetings and to the Dept Adjutant?

Has your Jr Vice Commandant contacted or been contacted by the Department Jr Vice Commandant concerning membership?

#### Board of Trustees:

Is your BOT proactive. Have you delegated duties to each of them so they can help your detachment function as a business entity.

Are all your detachment events, fundraisers and activities approved by the membership and included in your meeting minutes.

Are you ensuring that only members perform those events and activities due to the insurance coverage is only for members.

Are any potential conflicts or misunderstandings discussed in membership meetings and resolved before the meeting is adjourned

#### Paymaster:

Does your Paymaster have a report at each meeting of all receipts and debits and all they listed in the report.

#### Adjutant:

Does your adjutant keep monthly membership meeting minutes. Is a copy sent to all your members via email or mail? Is a copy forwarded to the department monthly.

#### Professional Development Training:

Is your detachment implementing Professional Development Training into your membership? Are you using the Guidebook for Det. Officers, Dept. DVD training disc to assist in training? What PDT classes have been

conducted in your detachment meetings since Sept 2019?

What type of training would you like for the dept to conduct during the Dept Convention?

Chaplain's Report:

List deceased members from Sept 2019 to Jan 4, 2020.

Have death notices for these members been filed by your detachment Chaplain and forwarded to the Dept. Chaplain?

Funerals: What was the total numbers of funerals that your detachment participated in for the entire year 2019.

Detachment Awards:

How do you recognize your members? Do you submit recommendations for department awards?

Department Marine Of Year (MOY) and Department Awards:

Is your detachment going to submit a nomination for the Dept MOY?

Is your detachment going to submit nominations for the various Dept Awards?

Dept Convention in Elkins

How many members are considering attending to support the Dept Convention?

How many members are considering attending to support the Mideast Division Conference in Virginia Beach hosted by the Dept of VA?

Americanism and Civic Events:

Summarize your most important activities or significant events.

Detachment Commandants additional Comments:

In this section of your report the Detachment Commandant can make any comments, requests and or suggestions to the Dept. of WV Staff.

Semper Fi,

Roger Ware

Chief of Staff

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Marines,

I am looking for someone to step in and take over as the Committee Chairman of the National Convention Committee. This Marine must be high energy and capable of multitasking to ensure that we conduct a professional and trouble-free National Convention and Conference each year. Must be capable of working with the hotel and convention industry and to make sound and professional decisions for the Marine Corps League.

Qualifications:

- 1- High level, professional business experience.
- 2- Knowledge and experience in the hotel and/or convention business.
- 3- Experience with contracts.
- 4- Freedom to travel.

The position would require travel to potential National conference and convention sites. Working with hotels and convention centers and putting together contracts according to Marine Corps League Bylaws. Preferred to have an endorsement of the Department Commandant. There is no pay involved but travel expenses are authorized as set by the Budget Committee each year. Any questions, contact Bob Borka or myself. Please ensure this is passed to your Marines.

Please send a detailed resume via e-mail (with attachment) to:

COO Robert Borka – [bborka@mcleague.org](mailto:bborka@mcleague.org) (and) National Commandant Dennis Tobin – [nationalcommandant@mcleague.org](mailto:nationalcommandant@mcleague.org)

Semper Fi,

Dennis Tobin

National Commandant/CEO

Marine Corps League



W. Jean Lamb  
Public Relations Officer, Dept. of WV - MCL  
P.O. Box 646  
Cedar Grove, WV 25039  
304 595-1482 -- [llambchop6@aol.com](mailto:llambchop6@aol.com)

I am a coal miners' daughter, raised in the coal fields of Kanawha County. I graduated from Cedar Grove High School in 1960 and was recruited for a clerical position with the US Coast Guard in Washington, DC thus began the unbelievable experience of a lifetime. My approach thru the years to the many, many unusual jobs that I was assigned was to follow the advice of Amelia Earhart -- "The most effective way to do it, is to do it." This saying carried me throughout my career in government service.

#### EXPERIENCE:

- 1960-1963. Clerical/Secretarial staff for the Coast Guard and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.
- The White House (1963-1993). I have an accumulation of 30 years with the White House Executive Office of the President serving as Secretary to President's Johnson's Task force on Government Reorganization, as Administrative Assistant in the Bureau of the Budget/Office of Management and Budget during the Nixon Administration with indirect responsibility for the financial accountability for "Watergate." During the Ford Administration I was assigned responsibility for preparing and producing President Ford's "Presidential Clemency Board Report" involving deserters from the Vietnam War era.

At the beginning of President Carter's administration, I was given a position as Executive Assistant in the White House Administrative Office where I remained until I retired. During the latter years of the Reagan Administration I was appointed as the White Administrative Officer where I retained that title until retirement from the White House at the end of President George Bush's term. Among my responsibilities was the management of a staff of seven with responsibility for White House staff travel, staff payroll, purchasing supplies, paying bills, and presidential gifts, White House supplies that traveled with the staff during a presidential trip, the White House gym and bowling alley, as well as the tennis courts. I was responsible for the White House Conference Rooms in terms of scheduling and set-up particularly when the President and First Lady were in attendance.

- Campaign Staff (1994). After retiring from the White House, I served as Executive Assistant to a former White House staff member running for a congressional seat in Maryland.
- Washington Policy & Analysis (1995-1997). I served as Executive Assistant to the President of an International Oil and Energy Company.
- Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO, the world's largest biotech trade association) (1998-2003). I was Executive Assistant to the President and as well as Special Assistant to the Director of BIO's annual convention.

I official retired in 2004 and moved back to my West Virginia home.

#### BOARDS/ORGANIZATIONS:

- Chairman of "White House Staff Reunion." An event for former and current White House staff to gather together to share experiences and renew friendships from their time at the White House.
- Member of the former Kelly's Creek Watershed Group
- Board member, the West Virginia Center for African-American Arts and Culture
- I am currently a member of the Marine Corps League (MCL) serving as Public Relations Officer for the Department of West Virginia MCL and serving as Adjutant and Paymaster to the Herbert J. Thomas Memorial Detachment #947 MCL.
- Member and Secretary and Treasurer to the Glasgow-Cedar Grove Lions Club.



Det 342 Morgantown, 244<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball  
 Dept. Commandant Scott Kirby, Maj-Gen West, Det 342  
 Commandant Cliff Vangilder. The cake is absolutely  
 gorgeous! And the Color Guard is top notch!





Welcome to our newest MCL Detachment, Cpl William B. Fulks Det. 1474, Chartered Sunday, December 1, 2019 in Hurricane, WV!! Pictured are Dept. Commandant Kirby, Jr. Past Commandant Shank, the parents of Cpl. Fulks, Kimberly Adams and William Fulks, MED NVC Roger Ware, and the new Commandant of Det 1474, William Miller Jr.

Top photo: Doc Thomas, Jim Doss, Scott Kirby, Lorn Limanen, Rick Shank, ??, Will Miller, Jim McDade, Ron Allen, Fred Kuhn, Jerry Kessler, Chuck Cooper, Jerry Bain and Patti Leib. It was a wonderful celebration of the life and sacrifice of Cpl. Fulks; may our Detachment always honor his memory.





244<sup>th</sup> Birthday Balls hosted by Logan Det 577 Danny M. Greene, and Martinsburg Det 1143 Eastern Panhandle Marines. More beautiful cakes and great celebrations! Thank you to Commandant Dave Finley, Det 577 and Commandant Jose Reyes-Torres, Det 1143 and honored guests!





MGM Det 1180, Point Pleasant – Decorating their Christmas Tree in the Gallipolis town square park (you all should make a trip to Gallipolis to see the park in lights!!) and the 244<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball hosted by MGM 1180. Honored Guests attended from Herbert J Thomas, Det 947, South Charleston and Huntington

Det 340. Guest Speaker at the Ball was Ron Wroblewski. Tree decorating: Jim Doss, Roger Martin, Jerry Bain, Cheryl Wroblewski, Susan Paulson (not pictured: Ron Wroblewski) The bottom photo was part of the decorating committee celebrating Chuck Cooper's 29<sup>th</sup> birthday!! Chuck Cooper, Jim Doss, Patti Leib, Cheryl & Ron Wroblewski and Jerry Bain





The Danny M Greene Detachment 577 met with the Future Leaders Program at Logan High School, Logan, WV. The teacher, former Marine Justin Wilcox, was the speaker. Principal Kelly Stanley was impressed that the Detachment took the time to meet with students. The students were involved with this meeting. They had many questions and many wanting to join the Corps in the future. The Detachment provided the cake and the refreshments.

We were invited to return anytime

Those present were:

Commandant David Finley

Sr Vice Michael Mounts

Jr Vice Dannie Hopson

Associate Jackie Mounts. PR



**DEPARTMENT  
OF  
WEST VIRGINIA  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**



**2020 DEPARTMENT OF WV MCL CONVENTION**  
**MAY 15-17, 2020 - Elkins - Hosted by Detachment 956**

Will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 50 Martin Street, Elkins, WV 26241. Hosted by Leland D "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956. **Room rate: \$100.00** includes free continental breakfast, free parking and wireless Internet. POC Roger Ware: 304-636-4365 Email [rrware@yahoo.com](mailto:rrware@yahoo.com)  
To receive the block price, reservations must be booked by **04/28/20**. Make checks payable to Det. 956, MCL to avoid paying taxes. \$5 early registration fee for conference, \$7 at the door.  
**Banquet Cost: \$30.00 Mail** registration fee, hotel room rate, and banquet reservation to:  
Leland D "Crow" Crawford MCL Det. #956, PO Box 852, Elkins, WV 26241.

Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Detachment \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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\$100.00 Hotel Reservation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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**DEPARTMENT  
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WEST VIRGINIA  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**



**2020 MCL Department Meeting Schedule  
Department of West Virginia  
Elkins, WV  
MAY 15-16, 2020**

Friday, May 15, 2020

0600-0945 Breakfast

0900-1200 MCL Registration

1000-1200 MODD Registration

1200-1300 Lunch on your own

1300-1600 MCL Registration

1300-1600 MODD Registration

1300-1600 Professional Development Training

1300-1700 Department Audit Committee

1600-1700 Commandant's Council - Detachment Commandants/Staff Officers meeting

1700-1830 Dinner on your own

1700-2230 Hospitality Room open

1830-1900 MODD Pack Board Meeting\*

1900-2100 MODD Growl of the Pack

\* At call of Department Commandant, MCL; Pack Leader, MODD, PMOY Chairman

Saturday, May 16, 2020

0600-0930 Breakfast

0800-1000 MCL registration

0800-0815 Flag-Raising Ceremony

0820-0930 Memorial Services, all hands attending

0930-0945 Department Budget Committee Meeting\*

0930-0945 Department Nominations Committee Meeting\*

1000-1200 MCL Business Meeting

1200-1315 Lunch on your own

1315-1600 MCL Business Meeting

1615-1640 New Officer Installation & Department Officers' Meeting

1800-1900 Formal Reception

1900 Grand Banquet

\* At call of Chairman for Budget and Nominations Committee