



The Straight Scoop
Department Newsletter of the
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 1224
Athens, OH 45701-1224



Volume 13, Issue 11, November 2020

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY USMC NOV 10, 1775 - 2020 -- 245 YEARS

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE

Thank you to all our veterans for your service to your country



Welcome to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains and Associate Members:

Another month has passed and we are still under the Covid-19 virus. The only change is the spread seems to have gotten worse recently.

The Department Adjutant/Paymaster Patti Leib and I went to the Capital Bldg. in Charleston to pick up a check from the assistant Chief of Staff to Governor Justice. The Governor has given all of the Veterans organizations in the state \$5,000 to help with their financial situation since they are unable to do fundraisers due to Covid-19. The Department of WV MCL received \$105,000. This covers \$5,000 to each of our 14 Detachments plus the Department, 5 MODD Pounds and 1 MODD Pack. This is a tremendous boost to all of our members and will help keep us afloat in the coming year. Use it wisely as we don't know what the virus will do in 2021.

We still have some Detachments skating on thin ice with low membership numbers. Remember all membership dues are due by August 31 and on September 1st those members who have not paid their dues are in arrears and therefore are not covered by the National Insurance policy.

This past Friday evening, I participated in a Mideast Conference call with MED National Vice Commandant Roger Ware, Mideast Adjutant Frank Mathers, the Commandant of Delaware as well as the Commandant of Virginia Dave Glasgow, Earl Ruff Commandant of Maryland, Patti Leib Adjutant/Paymaster of West Virginia, Jerry Bain Senior Vice of West Virginia and several other participants. Various subjects were discussed such as:

- 1) how Detachments are required to send their bank account numbers and their routing numbers through their Department Adjutant-Paymasters so they can submit them to National. This will allow National to disburse the Paid Life Member interest to each Detachment's bank accounts electronically.
- 2) Detachment Judge Advocates must go through their Department Judge Advocate on issues that arise, and the Department Judge Advocate needs to go through the Division Judge Advocate rather than directly contacting the National Judge Advocate.
- 3) If the Detachment ROI's (Report of Officer Installation) are not sent in on time then the Detachment is not covered by the National Insurance policy until this is done.
- 4) The PLM Audit page sent to each Detachment needs to be examined and audited to assure that all members listed are alive; the Commandant and Paymaster must sign the Audit and send it to the Department Paymaster.
- 5) Annual Corporate reports must be updated each year on the Secretary of State of West Virginia website. A copy of the confirmation page needs to be submitted to the Department Paymaster.
- 6) An annual IRS990N must also be completed online within 5 months after the end of your fiscal year. Contact Adjutant-Paymaster Leib if you need assistance; she submits 990's and Annual Corporation Reports for several Detachments – yours may already be on her list, but if you'd like for her to do yours, please let her know.
- 7) Not submitting either of these items (ACR and IRS990N) can cause your Detachment to lose your Tax-Exempt Status or ability to conduct business in the State of WV. Do Not Delay in complying!

Don't forget the Quarterly Meeting January 16 at the American Legion Post 23 in Point Pleasant hosted by MGM Detachment 1180. Meeting starts at 10:00 hours with the Department Officers meeting at 9:30 hours. The ladies of the Detachment prepare an excellent meal.

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

Semper Fi
Jim Doss, Commandant
Dept of WV
Marine Corps League

Chaplain's Corner Prayer of Abandonment

Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you. I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures. I ask no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all of the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father.

– Blessed Charles de Foucault (Chaplain Frank Armentrout)

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LEJEUNE'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

On November 1st, 1921, John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, directed that a reminder of the honorable service of the Corps be published by every command, to all Marines throughout the globe, on the Birthday of the Corps. Since that day, Marines have continued to distinguish themselves on many battlefields and foreign shores, in war and peace. On this Birthday of the Corps, therefore, in compliance with the will of the 13th Commandant, Article 38, United States Marine Corps Manual, Edition of 1921, is published as follows:

"(1) On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that date many thousands of men have borne that name Marine. In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the Birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.

The record of our Corps is one which bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the Battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war and in the long eras of tranquility at home, generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas so that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

In every battle and skirmish since the Birth of the Corps, Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term "Marine" has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.

This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the Corps. With it we also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our Corps from generation and has long been the distinguishing mark of Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "Soldiers of the Sea" since the founding of the Corps."

Recruiting and Retention

It's a typical stereotype image associated in locations where veterans gather: a place to retreat and share kinship with men who became close because they stood side by side in conflicts like the *Vietnam War*, or met in veteran outreach programs.

But it's not the image the next generation of vets wants people to think of. As we attempt to change the image that most older veterans portray younger veterans indicate it's time to go back to a grassroots campaign of family-oriented programs and community service.

The Marine Corps League, like the military itself, must shift and offer more personalized, tailored positions that give prospective members or those thinking of leaving the Marine Corps League a sense of purpose and belonging.

At some point in time, the MCL and other legacy service organizations, switched from being a community-centered focal point to being an exclusive social club. And that is switching back.

Post-9/11 vets find themselves more closely aligned to the League's founders, the *World War I* era service members who were on a mission to give back to communities, build partnerships with local and state organizations and foster programs geared toward camaraderie and family events.

While the League has always maintained a responsibility to its purposes, those efforts at some point became less prominent. The image of a bunch of old guys sitting around complaining about the VA and swapping war stories was born.

They're fighting against their own perception of what the MCL is because the MCL is not a bar and they're fighting against the public perception because that's all they've done for the last several decades. There's most positive growth across the country in communities where the members are active and gaining exposure. Participating in numerous military themed events and civic activities is a huge aid in recruiting more members.

While old members are dying off, the young Marines aren't interested, as the Marine Corps League has lost its appeal. Acknowledging there has been the long-standing stigma of WWII Veterans verses Vietnam and today's Veteran, we need to close this gap because each vet has something different to offer either to their Detachment or to his or her community.

Standing up a new detachment is especially promising because they offer a fresh start and can be whatever they want to be. A lot of people think that they have to have a building. You can do it anywhere, really. Your home, a local community facility, a room at the library, a Denny's or Golden Corral, a classroom at the school, shelter house at a park (during good weather) – most anywhere just have to have a place to host your meetings. It could be a virtual community through online video conferencing. It could be via face book or other social media.

Many Detachments have had to resort to virtual meetings during the pandemic, so meeting in person each and every month is not mandatory; our electronic age can fulfill the meeting requirements quite well.

There is a larger, long-term strategy to bringing in new members and the MCL is long overdue to incorporate more targeted conversations and marketing efforts to recruit and retain members. The MCL needs to capitalize on the talents of the people that we're recruiting.

The recruitment conversation can come down to picking a demographic, and it comes down to a question of, for lack of a better word, talent management and engagement.

The Defense Department has moved toward tailored messaging to a generation skeptical of service. The League have a struggle with talent management, where we have people that want to come in and do good work, they want to continue serving, but we haven't trained ourselves as an organization to identify and put those people in the right position.

Retention is also a huge problem for similar reasons. If you don't capitalize on the skill set or the interest of the veteran, they're not going to renew. They won't want to come back. They can't get what they are looking for out of this organization, which we should be offering.

You have to ensure that you're providing something that is satisfying for all the members of your detachments across all demographics and generations. You really have to re-inflate that sense of purpose and direction so people know that what they're doing is making a difference. We have to engage them and get them into a committee where they are productive.

One main reason many of the younger Marines do not join is because they have a family and there's a need to share time with them. The department had been going through a tough phase, but reinvigorating family time cookouts, fairs, and a little something for everyone became the catalyst it needed. The family is important and doing things where they can interact helps them see the benefit of belonging and helps fulfill the social aspect. It's also about the outreach work within our mission of taking care of veterans and their families, widows and orphans and strengthening our community. When we do events and activities where our members physically participate, it helps bond them to our League and the community.

Michael Baylous, a US Marshall and Detachment member, was interviewed in connection with the 13 missing children found in West Virginia. A joint operation between the US Marshall Service in the southern district of West Virginia and the southern district of Ohio found 45 missing children, 13 of them in West Virginia. The Operation was called Operation Autumn Hope. Michael Baylous credited the numerous small law enforcement departments and agencies who worked as part of the CUFFED task force and helped with details on the investigations.

Michael stated that criminals think they can come into rural West Virginia and hide out. He said, "That may work for a little while, but West Virginians know their neighbors and when we see something suspicious, we're going to report it." He also said you can go to the US Marshall website and get tip apps and to report tips.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating Michael and his team on an excellent job.

Semper Fidelis,

Randy Thomas

Commandant

Det 340, MCL

(See article below)

NEWS

Thirteen missing children found in West Virginia

By [MetroNews Staff](#)

October 28, 2020 - 1:48 pm

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A joint operation by the U.S. Marshal service in the southern district of West Virginia and the southern district of Ohio netted the location of 45 missing children. Thirteen of those missing children were found in West Virginia as part of what was called Operation Autumn Hope.

U.S. Marshal for the Southern District West Virginia Mike Baylous said his office joined the operation in neighboring Ohio to increase the size and scope of the operation.

"We had a few, but we also had leads from other states. We decided instead of having our own operation down the road, since we are a small district, we would just with southern Ohio. It was very successful," Baylous said Wednesday on MetroNews "Talkline."

The 13 children discovered in West Virginia included three reported missing in San Bernardino, California who were located in Beckley. They had been taken in a parental dispute. Three other children, located in Jackson County, were reported missing from Ohio. One child missing from Richmond, Va. was located in Princeton.

According to information released by the Marshal Service, three children who had been reported missing in Lawrence County, Ohio were also found in Lawrence County, Ohio. There were also three children missing from southern West Virginia. Two of those children were located in Kanawha and Putnam counties. The third child was found in Princeton and in that case had been missing for less than six hours.

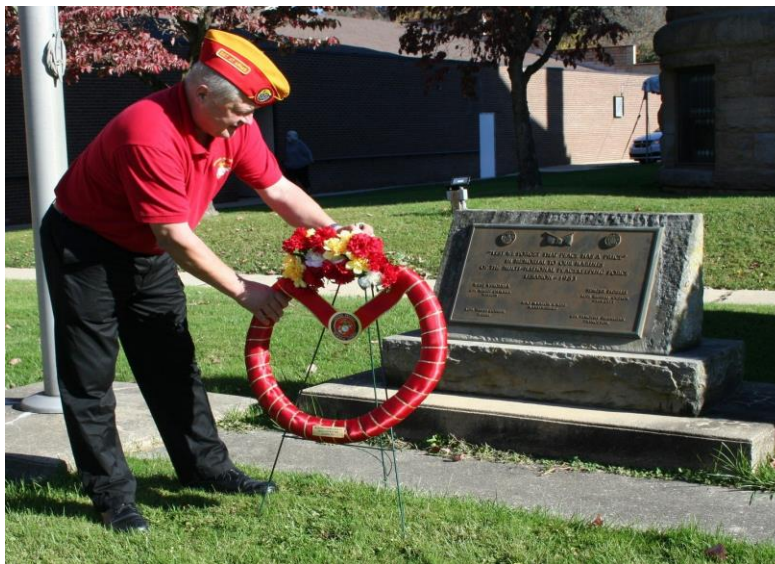
"Some of them were runaways. A lot of them tend to be a domestic situation where a parent or relative kidnaps them and some of them are kidnapped by strangers.

Baylous credited the numerous small police departments and other small law enforcement agencies which worked together as part of the CUFFED task force and helped with details on the investigations.

"U.S. Marshal Service has been the experts since 1789 when it comes to tracking people down," Baylous said. "They think coming into rural West Virginia they're going to be able to hide out. That may work for a little while, but West Virginians know their neighbors and when we see something suspicious, we're going to report it to authorities."



Members of Detachment 956, from left, Greg Irwin, Department Jr Vice Commandant, Chaplain Judy Gum and Past Department Commandant Roger Ware stand near a bridge in Whitmer, Randolph County renamed in honor of US Army soldier Sgt James Armentrout listed as MIA since May 18, 1951 in Korea. Not pictured is Judith Ware, Adjutant.



Det. 956 of Elkins places a wreath at the Beirut Bombing Memorial on the Randolph County Courthouse lawn in observance of the 37th anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, which claimed the lives of 241 Americans, including U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Cosner of Elkins. MCL Department of West Virginia Junior Vice Commandant Greg Irwin, a close friend of Cosner, pays his respect at the monument bearing the names of five West Virginians who died in the Oct. 23, 1983, bombing including Cosner, Cpl. Mecot Camara of Hinton, Lance Cpl. Russell Cyzicle of Star City, Cpl. Timothy Runnigan of Princeton and U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Martin Kees of Martinsburg. Killed in the bombing were 220 Marines, 17 Navy medical personnel and four Army soldiers in the largest single-day loss of U.S. Marines since the battle of Iwo Jima in February 1945.

Subject: USMC Corporal William Bradley Fulks Memorial Bridge

Woody,

It was great seeing you this afternoon. I'm glad we were able to get this sign updated to include rank and branch of service in memory of Cpl William Bradley Fulks.



Also - thank you for letting me take that Slingshot for a spin!

Best Regards,
Delegate Daniel Linville
West Virginia House of Delegates, District 16
Vice Chairman - Committee on Technology and Infrastructure
Capitol Office: 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East Room 216
Charleston, WV 25305
Telephone: (304) 340-3277
PO Box 475
Milton, WV 25541

Whitmer Bridge Renamed for Korean War Vet

Elkins Marine Corps League Detachment 956 Commandant Roger Ware, foreground, and Past Detachment Commandant Greg Irwin, background, fold an American flag during a ceremony Saturday to rename the new Whitmer bridge in memory of U.S. Army Sgt. James Shellace Armentrout. Armentrout, a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was 20 years old when he was listed as missing in action on May 18, 1951, following combat action in Hangye, South Korea. On Dec. 31, 1953, he was declared as presumed dead. The bridge dedication also featured the Missing Man Table Ceremony, in which a small table with a setting for one symbolizes the absence of a service member who is a prisoner of war or is missing in action and cannot be in the company of family and friends. A sixth-grade student's research project about her ancestor declared missing in action during the Korean War was the catalyst for efforts to rename the new Whitmer bridge in the soldier's memory.





HUNTINGTON DETACHMENT 340
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 152
HUNTINGTON, WV 25706

October 16, 2020

The Huntington Detachment #340 Marine Corps League is compiling recipes for a cookbook fundraiser to benefit the Fisher House located at the Hershel "Woody" Williams' VAMC in Huntington, WV. As you may know, the Fisher House provides free temporary lodging for the families of hospitalized Veterans and is the first one to be built in West Virginia.

We invite you to join us in supporting the Fisher House by submitting a recipe in your organization's name, as well as individually, should your members or friends choose to provide a recipe to support this patriotic cookbook.

In addition, we offer you the opportunity to honor the name of a loved one that has served or is currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. We will proudly display his or her name, rank, and branch of service on the cookbooks Patriots' Page for a donation of \$5.00 each name.

When submitting the recipe as an organization or as an individual, we ask that you please provide the following information in your email to us in the event our committee needs to contact you should there be any questions: the organization or persons full name, mailing address and phone number.

(Optional) Include the name, rank, and branch of service of the person you desire to honor on the Patriots Page. Please send a check for \$5.00 per name made out to Huntington Detachment 340 MCL using the address listed above and indicate it is for the Patriots Page on the memo line.

(Optional) Pre order your copy! 100% of the profits of this cookbook will go to the Fisher House in Huntington, WV. This cookbook will serve as a wonderful gift to someone special and will show your support for a great organization. The cost of the cookbook including shipping and handling will be **\$12.50** each.

For your convenience, we have created an e-mail for you to submit your recipes and names for the Patriot Page, or if you have any questions. The e-mail address is: **det340cookbook@gmail.com**. Please submit your recipes and names for the Patriot Pages no later than **December 1, 2020**. The Cookbook will be ready for distribution before Valentine's Day 2021.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you in this endeavor.

Semper Fidelis,

The Huntington Detachment 340 MCL
Cookbook Committee

POC: Past Dept. of WV Commandant Rick Shank 304-633-1814

EIN# 550638500

Marines

Please read the below email from General Fields. We are getting involved, I need you all to reach out to your Departments and Detachments and start searching nursing homes assisted living, Rehab, Hospitals and any other location that might be housing Vietnam era Veterans and assist in conducting the commemorative ceremony. Sr. Vice Johnny Baker will be spear heading this mission as he has worked with General Fields. Please get on this ASAP and report all progress to the Sr. Vice. He will be reporting to me and General Fields. Thank You and Semper Fi

Dennis Tobin
National Commandant

Dear Sir Commandant,

Thank you for your generous response by which I am very encouraged and moved.

I had no doubt that you would be willing to support these initiatives being carried out on behalf of our veterans and for sure, a grateful nation.

I personally stand ready to lend support to the full extent the Vietnam War Commemoration is able to facilitate.

I have pasted underneath a working document which specifies targeted areas of the nation in which reside our most significant concentrations of Vietnam War period veterans. This information may be helpful to you in determining which Marine Corps League divisions, departments and detachments are best positioned to help with this mission (identifying hospitals, retirement homes and assisted living facilities where Vietnam War period veterans may be resident and to THANK and HONOR them). As COO Bob Borka has advised and I have personally experienced during my travels, the Marine Corps League has considerable work already underway to ensure our sick and shut in veterans are not left behind. Thank you for your leadership in this regard.

We will provide additional information regarding your visit to the Pentagon with the Commemoration's Director, Major General (Ret) Peter Aylward, United States Army; and I am pleased that you have signaled that you will accept his invitation. I am confident that his staff will coordinate with your office to establish a day and time convenient for you and your busy schedule, Sir.

Again, I can't thank you enough, Sir!

Very respectfully,
Arnie Fields
571-302-1887

In regards to Gen. Field's tasking the MCL to go into nursing homes, medical centers, hospitals and other areas where veterans may reside, he wanted us to ensure the Vietnam War commemorative pin was presented to as many Vietnam War Era veterans as possible. He thought by concentrating on areas he listed would help to discover more Vietnam veterans. Due to the fact we cannot get access to these areas because of the virus, please send out to the Division to hold everything in abeyance until restrictions in the virus are lifted. Thanks, and Semper Fi.

*Roger Ware
NVC Mideast Division*

Now Hear This - Please share with all members.

The Mid-East Division will be performing a Chapel of the Four Chaplains Award Ceremony during the Mid-East Division Conference, in Rehoboth Beach Delaware in April 2021. As we prepare for the Mid-East Division Conference, you still have time to prepare letters of nomination for the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award.

Membership in the Legion of Honor (LOH) of The Chapel of Four Chaplains is awarded based on documented acts of selfless service. Selfless service consists of deeds and actions on behalf of others irrespective of their

race, ethnicity or faith. There are many folks whose everyday job responsibilities call for them to serve in a helping/caring capacity. However, the performance of their job responsibilities alone does not qualify as “selfless service”. Selfless service constitutes going the “extra mile” beyond what their job responsibilities call for to serve others.

The Legion of Honor Award is the most basic and common award. It is given to individuals who perform acts of selfless service in their local community. Often this can be a one-time event such as organizing a clothing, food or fund drive to raise money for an organization or a cause.

For additional information please contact Dept of WV Adjutant-Paymaster Patti Leib for documents.

Semper Fidelis/Frater Infinitas,

Frank Mathers, Adjutant

Mideast Division Marine Corps League

PO Box 903

Ocean View, DE 19970

mclmideastadjutant@gmail.com

Mideast Division Marine of the Year

Section 300 (h) of the National Administrative Procedures outlines the criteria for selection of the National Marine of the Year. Using these provisions, the following Mideast Division MOY recipients are the committee to select a 2021 Mideast Division Marine of the Year. The Chairman is Frank Mathers - Department of Delaware. The other committee members are: Bud Raines - Department of Maryland, Richard Tanner - Department of Delaware, Roger Ware, Mike McLain and Rick Shank - Department of West Virginia and Jeffrey Jones and Rick Thomason - Department of North Carolina. The guidelines in Section 300 (h) (2) of the above reference must be followed for each nomination. Please insert “Division” in lieu of “National”, as appropriate. Any regular member from the Mideast Division can be nominated and the Mideast Division MOY will be presented at the 2021 Mideast Division Conference, April 17, 2021 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Each letter of nomination must be mailed to the above chairman, registered return receipt, post marked not later than March 17, 2021. Mail to Frank Mathers, Mideast Division Chairperson Marine of the Year Committee, 17 Fairway Drive, Ocean View, Delaware 18870. Telephone: 301-520-8051. It must have a cover letter signed by the Commandant and Adjutant or other officers if one of them is nominated. An inner envelope must be addressed to the Mideast Division Chairperson Marine of the Year Committee. A second envelope must be addressed to the Chairperson. It must be sent Certified, Return Receipt Requested for your records, before the postmark deadline. The Marine of the Year Committee will announce the 2021 recipient during the Mideast Division Conference. The above provisions are for 2021 Marine of the Year selection only.

Division Marine of the Year Criteria

This award shall be presented to a REGULAR MEMBER of the Marine Corps League who has rendered service(s) and/or performed a deed(s) above and beyond the duties and obligations required of a member of the Marine Corps League, or a meritorious deed(s) so identified as being within the scope of these rules shall be of such substance that the weight will or shall have brought acclaim and prestige to the Marine Corps League; or has enhanced and/or furthered the concepts of the duties of being a citizen of the United States of America; or a deed(s) of courage or valor without regard for his/her own safety

Letters of nomination must originate only at the DETACHMENT LEVEL. No individual nor any subsidiary unit of the Marine Corps League shall submit a letter of nomination.

All letters of nomination shall include a letter signed by the Detachment Commandant and Adjutant, stating that the nominee for Division Marine of the Year was approved at a regular meeting of the detachment by a majority vote. (In the event a nominee is the Commandant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Senior Vice Commandant and the Adjutant. In the event a nominee is the Detachment Adjutant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Detachment Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant).

Each nomination submitted shall be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to "Chairperson, Division Marine of the Year Society". THIS ENVELOPE SHALL THEN BE PLACED IN ANOTHER ENVELOPE and mailed, certified/return receipt requested, to: The Chairman at the address listed on the announcement.

The member must be a member in good standing and have served at least either an elected or appointed position within his detachment and department. List how many years he has been a member. List his positions and what was the significance of each if any. Is he a Detachment or Department Marine of the Year?

The recommendation should summarize what the member has done in his detachment, and or department. It should be brief and only impact areas where the candidate performed that brought credit upon his detachment and not merely list that he performed the duties expected of his position and or attended meetings. What were the results of any activities he participated in that were above the normal expected duties of his position?

List those activities where he was the chairman or committee lead. Examples: Toys for Tots for 15 years and how many toys collected and how many children benefited. Chairman of numerous fund-raising events that benefited detachment or selected charities. What was the total amount generated? Did he teach flag etiquette or flag folding to children, how many classes and how many kids for how many years.

What civic projects or volunteer did he do to enhance the league. If he did not participate as a league member in an event or activity, do not list it. What did he do as a volunteer outside of his detachment for the league? Was he recognized within his community for a project?

The nomination should be a snapshot of the member's achievements and not just listing his MCL awards. Did he attend his department quarterly meetings or convention, Mideast Division Conference, National Mid-Winter Staff Conference, National Convention?

The Division MOY Committee has developed a point system to aid them in their selection process.

Consideration can be giving a point for each event, and a point giving for participation outside his detachment for either serving on department, division or national level and on any committee.

Pending Calendar

2021 Department of WV Fall Quarterly Meeting will be January 16, 2021 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.

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 will be 16, 17, 18 April 2021 hosted by Department of Delaware at 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. **Reservations may be made now.** *Reservation may be made now by calling 1-800422-0600, refer to the **Mideast Division Marine Corps League Block #9579** arriving Friday, April 16, 2021. **Reservations are open.**

2021 Modern Day Marine Expo will be May 4-6, 2021 at MCB, Quantico, VA

2021 Department of Delaware Department Convention and elections of officers will be TBA on Saturday at the Heritage Shores Golf Club, Bridgeville, DE. Note to all. The Club is located on US 13 near the intersection of DE Rt. 404 and US 13. 1 hour north of Ocean City and 40 minutes south of Dover, DE.

2021 Department of Maryland Department Convention will be TBA at the at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842-2745. 1-800-4 ROYALE, (1-410-524-7777) Rooms: \$ Ocean-view/Pool-view. Ocean Front: Includes free continental breakfast. Convention registration and banquet information can be downloaded at: www.deptofmdmcl.org. POC: Department Paymaster Ed Dahling Phone: 410-987-5714 Email: umpire86@aol.com

2021 Department of West Virginia Department Convention will be May 14-16, 2021 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, 2021. 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. **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 will be a pending flyer which can be used for advance registration, hotel and banquet. There is no preregistration fee or ad book.**

2021 Department of North Carolina Department Convention will be June 11-13, 2021 in Charlotte, NC. It will be hosted by Catawba Valley Detachment # 1163

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 Phone. 217-789-1530 Reservations open August 17, 2020. Overflow hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton, 701 E. Adams St, Springfield, IL Phone: (217) 544-8800 Website: doubletree1.hilton.com . Contract rate for MCL starts Aug 31, 2020.

2021 Marine South Expo will be Sept 29-30 at MCB, Camp Lejeune, NC

2022 MCL National Convention will be August 15-20, 2022 at Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, 100 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL, 32118 Phone: 866-536-8477 or 1-800-HILTONS (toll free, 24-hour reservation center); 386-254-8200. Room rate: \$127.00 plus 12.5% tax

Please Note: National is still behind in getting annual membership cards created and mailed out, as they recently purchased a special printer to make the cards themselves. This is taking a bit more time, but at least the cards will go out correctly and not have mistakes on them.

Also, they are behind on sending out the gold Paid Life Member cards - please be patient, but if you have waited more than 3 months and still don't have your cards, please contact your Detachment Paymaster to make sure the Transmittal was processed. Then your Paymaster can contact Dept. Paymaster Patti Leib to contact National.

MRT: Everyone needs to help work on Membership Retention to keep all our members current. Membership is vital to the life and success of Marine Corps League, and our presence in our communities. The pandemic has hit many people pretty hard, so let's stick together and help our brothers and sisters in need. Remember, too, your Department Officers are here to support you - if your Detachment needs training or assistance, let us know!