



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



**Volume 14, Issue 10, October 2021**

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**Commandant's Letter for October 2021**

The fall September meeting is over. I tested positive for the Covid-19 Virus three days before the Department meeting so I was unable to attend. Senior Vice Mike McLain ran the meeting and I heard it went well.

The National Vice for the Mideast Division Ric Thomason from North Carolina attended the meeting and presented our Jr Past Commandant Scot Kirby with the National Marine of the Year Award. Congratulations Scott, for an Award well deserved!

I represented the Department at two funerals last month; one for Dexter Owsley from Detachment 947 South Charleston and the other for the son-in-law of Huntington Detachment 340 members Stan and Jane Legge, who was also a Veteran.

Remember the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Department is coming in 2023. So far there has only been one design turned in for the ribbon, medal, and challenge coin design competition. The winning design will be selected at the January Spring meeting, so get your ideas submitted soon. All the information on this competition was included in last month's Straight Scoop and will appear in this edition as well.

Some Detachments have not been sending in their monthly minutes or paymaster reports to the Department Adjutant Patti Leib or Department Commandant, and some send them in very late. This is a requirement in the Department Bylaws; and hopefully this compliance issue will be corrected. The major reason the Commandant needs the Detachment's meeting minutes is to make sure there were no mistakes made at the meeting so corrective action can be taken before the Minutes are officially approved at the next Detachment meeting. This protects the Detachment Commandant as well as the Detachment. Everyone makes mistakes and so long as it can be acknowledged as a mistake and corrected it is to the benefit of everyone. Also, it lets the Department Commandant see all the activities the Detachment is planning and allows the Department Commandant to plan possible visits to a Detachment's activities.

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

Semper Fi

Jim Doss, Commandant

Department of West Virginia

Marine Corps League

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### **Chaplain's Corner**

O God, our Father, deliver us this day from all that would keep us from serving you and from serving our fellow human beings as we ought.

Deliver us from all coldness of heart; and grant that neither our hand nor our heart may ever remain shut to the appeal of someone's need.

Deliver us from all weakness of will; from the indecision which cannot make up its mind; from the irresolution that cannot abide by a decision once it is made; from the ability to say no to the tempting voices which come to us from inside and from outside.

Deliver us from all failure in endeavor; from being too easily discouraged; from giving up and giving in too soon; from allowing any task to defeat us, because it is too difficult.

Grant unto us today the love which is generous in help; the determination which is steadfast in decision; the perseverance which is enduring unto the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

– William Barclay

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### **Professional Development Training**

#### **WV Required reports following Officer Installation**

*The following reports are required for all detachments and (as indicated) where they should be sent:*

Prior to any detachment meeting, an agenda or Ritual should be made, and these are some things that will help you manage your detachment. First look back over your past detachment minutes and pull forward those items that were not completed. Take a look back to last year for the month you are holding your meeting now and see if any items or events are reoccurring this year and add them into your agenda. Solicit input from all your officers prior to your scheduled meeting and include these into your agenda as appropriate. At your first meeting after your installation, add the following reports into your monthly meeting minutes as this will help you track your reports and have a ready reference for your future meetings.

Financial Audit and Property Inventory should be conducted before Installation; verification sent to Department Adjutant prior to Convention, by April 30 every year, even if no Officers change.

Triennial Certification of ceremonial rifles every 3 years (only required for detachments having rifles).

Copy of Monthly Detachment Minutes must be forwarded to Department Commandant and Department Adjutant following every meeting as per Department Bylaws.

Paymaster Report due each membership meeting and this includes all receipts and expenditures, and includes the most recent monthly bank statement. It should also include the status of your unpaid members and what has been done to contact them. The Paymaster should utilize the current National Quarterly roster and indicate those members who have paid their annual dues and use for reference. This Membership update should be sent to the Department Jr Vice Commandant Monthly, submitted by the Det Membership Retention Team and Det Jr. Vice Report of Officer Installation (ROI) completed and mailed to Department Adjutant. This is required to receive the insurance bond coverage and for submitting your delegates to the National Convention, and is required every year even if no Officers change.

Letter to Bank to change signature cards adding new Commandant and Paymaster after a motion to make change approved by members. A copy of the Det Minutes showing this vote should accompany the letter and should include bank name and account number(s).

Annual Corporate Report will be completed ONLINE after Officer Installation on the WV Secretary of State website at cost of \$25.00 (Copy to Department Adjutant-Paymaster, or done by the Department Adjutant-Paymaster. If changes occur later in the year after the initial filing and an additional report is filed, there is another \$15.00 fee to the Secretary of State. If ANY of your Officers change during the year, this and a revised ROI are REQUIRED.

Department Convention Report from Detachment for Quarter ending April 30

Submit delegate list to the department convention host detachment for all attendees.

Letters mailed to all dues paying members in June & July informing them that their dues expire August 31. These letters should come from the MRT (Jr Vice, Paymaster, and one other member, and/or Adjutant)

National Convention Delegate Registration Form mailed from detachments that have members attending National Convention

Annual IRS 990N efile due after June 30 or within 5 months after fiscal year expires (Dept Adjutant-Paymaster can advise you when your fiscal year ends and when your IRS990-N is due and can assist you with filing)

Paid Life Member (PLM) Audit June 30 on Audit Form, must be submitted to Department Adjutant-Paymaster no later than November 30. Make sure you do not count the Paid Life Members who are DUAL Members in your Detachment. National often includes them on the secondary Detachment instead of their home Detachment so for proper credit to the home Detachment, line through any dual members listed on your PLM Audit Roster.

Dues transmittals are submitted (when members pay their dues) to the Department Paymaster as all dues expire August 31 yearly. DO NOT hold onto dues! Send a transmittal every time you receive dues! **Always** use the most current version of the transmittal found in the Library on the National MCL Website. National frequently changes and updates the transmittal form, so it is important to look for the current form on the website. If you need assistance in locating the Profile numbers for your Detachment and members, contact the Department Paymaster.

Department Quarterly Meeting Report due September and January, sent via email to Department Adjutant. This is a joint effort report done by the Detachment Commandant, Jr Vice, Paymaster, and Adjutant.

Death notices are filled out and a dues transmittal form coded NOD for \$0.00 is sent to the Department Paymaster for submission to National HQ and copied to the Department Chaplain and Asst Chaplain. This should be coordinated with the Detachment Chaplain and Detachment Paymaster to keep the Transmittal numbers in proper order and sequence.

The detachment adjutant should maintain best business practices and keep a file of all your reports in a fiscal year folder, i.e., 2010, 2011, 2012, etc. and back up files on at least 2 or 3 flash drives for safety, kept in different locations such as your meeting place, the Commandant's home, and the Adjutant-Paymaster's home.

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## **Incorporation of Detachments**

Detachments should incorporate within the State of West Virginia as an IRC 501 (c) 4 non-profit organization with their own Employer Identification Number (EIN) under the Marine Corps League's Group Exemption Number 0955. This allows the Detachment to operate, establish a checking account, collect monies for membership and activities, to collect charitable donations for detachment programs, to obtain a permanent business certificate and to act as a corporate entity for sales and other activities, with associated tax benefits for a non-profit entity. Incorporation protects the Officers and members of the Detachment, and by the same measure establishes the limitations for the organization in doing business as a non-profit organization. Therefore, only members shall represent the Marine Corps League.

To avoid any legal ramifications of membership in the MCL, National HQ requires each detachment to file for corporate status within two years of receiving their charter. A correctly formed and operated Corporation shields each individual member of the League from becoming liable for the satisfaction of any court issued judgment. Officers of the Detachment have an ethical and fiduciary responsibility to make decisions in good faith that will bring no harm to the Detachment, and they can be held accountable for their decisions.

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## **Insurance -Rust Insurance**

The National Headquarters provides blanket insurance coverage for Detachments in the commission of Detachment activities and events. The statement of insurance coverage is available from the Department Commandant or National Headquarters by the end of October in each calendar year. As stipulations in the coverage may change annually, the Detachment must request a copy and review the coverage statement regarding Detachment meetings, events, parades, and other activities. The insurance provided normally takes care of events, parades, and other activities in which the Detachment members "participate" but does not provide coverage for the Detachment or its members as "sponsors" of an event. Make a donation to support these activities instead of sponsoring them. If you do sponsor activities where potential injuries may occur, purchase the insurance rider. Try to avoid events that serve alcohol but if you do, ensure you purchase the insurance rider. The policy also excludes any injury to participants in athletic events or other sports nature activities. The insurance is designed to protect the Detachment against claims alleging negligence that causes injury to third parties (person(s) other than members) -- it does not cover suits brought against a member by another. Read over the policy and if not sure about additional insurance call National HQ. Keep a copy of the current insurance policy and hold a discussion prior to planning an event that may not be included in the policy. The Detachment will only have Marine Corps League members represent the Detachment.

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## **Board of Trustees**

All Officers serving in elective offices must be Regular Members in good standing and have attended 60% of regular or special meetings of the Detachment in which they are elected to serve. 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 Headquarters. 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 BOT member 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 to the Department Adjutant-Paymaster, filing of the IRS 990N as soon as possible after June 30 yearly (or the end of your Detachment's fiscal year), the audit and completion using the National June 30 detachment Paid Life Member 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 transmittals, and completion of the Paymaster Report each month. The responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are not 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:      Property Inventory:      Business certificate Date:  
Ceremonial rifle Audit and Inspection Every 3 years for detachments with rifles  
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 detachment Judge Advocate should be included on any audit committee.

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. 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. An effective way to see what your Detachment has been doing over the past couple of 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 Detachment shall serve in more than one position on the Board of Trustees

The Department can utilize their BOT members to assist Detachments in the filing of their required reports. The Sr Vice Commandant can track the ROI and ask for Department Award recommendations from Detachment Commandant. The Jr Vice can track the PLM audits and all unpaid members in each Detachment. The Judge Advocate can track the Annual Corporate Report, IRS 990 N efile and Detachment financial audits. The Sgt at Arms can track the Ceremonial Rifle inspection and audit as necessary and the Annual Detachment Property Inventory. The Chaplain should track all Death Notices and compile a listing.

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### Associate Member of the Year

Associate Member of the Year Award Ribbon has been approved at the National, Division, Department and Detachment levels. This change/addition would be for a RIBBON ONLY. **APPROVED WITH "A" IN RIBBON RATHER THAN AN EGA**

Bronze A Device



Department Ribbon with A Device



**Detachment  
ribbon  
with A**



**device**

### **Recruiting Points**

We as Marines all have the honor of belonging to the premier service organization in the world. One of Marine Corps League primary responsibility is to not only identify, but also to recruit new members.

The first point is to create a list of the important things about the Marine Corps League.

Another point is to enlist younger members to join the League. They bring fresh ideas and energy. We want to attract young people who want to get involved. When trying to recruit new members, talk about the League wherever you go noting work, parties, sporting events, family gatherings and church to name a few.

There is never a place that's inappropriate to talk about the League. The fear of rejection shouldn't stop current members from seeking out new members. I think that people even if they are not interested just appreciate being asked. It's like getting asked to go to a party whether you are going to go or not. There's never a wrong time to ask a potential member to a meeting. You never know when where you will meet your next member.

While speaking to someone about joining the League be sure to emphasize the service aspect of the organization. Being a member provides a pathway to getting involved in the League but also in the community and provides an excellent network to civic projects.

Embracing diversity is another point and be sure to congratulate your new members once they join. Make sure your new members feel wanted and welcome

### **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 is not the image the next generation of Vets want 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 are 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 is the 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 versus Vietnam and today's Veteran 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 must have a building. You can do it anywhere, really. Your home, a local community building... you just need to have a place to host your meetings. It could be someone's house. It could be a Denny's; it could be a virtual community through online video conferencing such as Skype, Facebook, or other social media

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 has 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 create positions, and put those people in the right positions.

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 are not going to renew. They don't want to come back. They can't get what they are looking for out of this organization, which we should be offering.

You must ensure that you are providing something that is satisfying for all the members of your detachment 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 must engage them and get them into a committee where they are productive.

One main reason they do not join is because they have a family and there is 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 the social aspect. It's also about the outreach work with our mission of taking care of Veterans and their families, widows and orphans and strengthening our communities. When we do events and activities where our members physically participate, it helps bond them to our League.

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## How to Respond to a Suicidal Friend

**“How should I respond to a friend who may be suicidal?” Sadly, this is one of the questions we at the REBOOT Alliance are asked most often.**

Your natural inclination might be to ignore your gut feelings and hope someone with higher “credentials” or training will notice if your friend displays any warning signs. But in our experience, it is often a friend or a family member who is most likely to notice suicidal ideations in a loved one. Thus, you are in perhaps the best position to offer help, or at least the first step toward help.

What follows is the training we give our leaders on how to respond to someone who is suicidal. Please note that this advice is not a replacement for helping your friends and family seek professional help.

1. Identify the warning signs. Is your friend or family member demonstrating any of the following behaviors?

- ✓ Talking about suicide or death and even glorifying death
- ✓ Self-isolating from friends and family
- ✓ Increased use of alcohol or drugs (legal or illegal)
- ✓ Starting to give away cherished possessions
- ✓ Exhibiting a sudden and unexplained improvement in mood after being depressed or withdrawn
- ✓ Neglecting his or her appearance and hygiene
- ✓ Acting out of character by inappropriately using or displaying his or her weapon unnecessarily or in an unsafe manner
- ✓ Exhibiting reckless behavior by taking unnecessary risks
- ✓ Use the ACE Method. The acronym “ACE” is an effective way to remember the steps needed to take an active and valuable role in suicide prevention.
- ✓ **“A” stands for “ASK.”** Be direct, and don’t hesitate to ask, “Are you thinking about killing yourself?”
- ✓ **“C” stands for “CARE.”** Show that you care about what the person is saying, you care about him or her, and you are passing no judgement. You won’t be able to solve every problem in that moment, but you may help get past this dangerous episode.
- ✓ **“E” stands for “ESCORT.”** Take the person to get some help from a trained professional, an emergency room at a hospital, a pastor or counselor. Call the Suicide Prevention Hotline together – 1-800-273-TALK (8255). If the person is suicidal, do not leave him or her alone!

2. Remove weapons from their possession if possible.

- ✓ By far, the most frequently used method to complete suicide in America is with a gun. Over 70% of suicides are impulsive acts that occur within one hour of the actual decision to complete suicide. You can understand why a gun is used in so many successful attempts – in most cases, once a person decides to pull the trigger, there is no going back. Therefore, experts have found that the most successful deterrent in preventing a suicide is to restrict a suicidal person’s access to all guns.

Depression or suicidal ideation is not a sign of personal weakness. Those who are dealing with these feelings are not choosing to be depressed, nor are they alone in their battle. Even though they may feel alone as they walk through the dark valley of depression, what they are experiencing is not at all uncommon. Over 16 million adult Americans experience Major Depressive Disorder.

Suicide is the wrong way out of the valley. Let’s all do our part to provide hope and direction to our friends, family, or neighbors who may be struggling

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### **Toys for Tots**

The US Marine Corps has tasked all Marine Corps League units to support area Toys for Tots Programs by assisting with toy collections and transporting them to the nearest distribution point. There are several Toys for Tots local coordinators in WV that are approved to conduct an annual campaign. We have been asked to give as much support as possible.

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### **2026 National Convention in Charleston, WV**

The Department of WV is considering a bid to host the 2026 MCL National Convention in Charleston, WV. Detachments will be asked to support this bid if the Department submits a formal bid. More discussion will be held on this at our 2022 Department Convention in Gallipolis, OH in May. Detachments are asked to discuss this and bring your ideas and questions to the convention in 2022.

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### **VA Community Care and Prescriptions**

If a veteran is authorized medical care via the VA Community Care Program, this information about prescriptions is important.

If a veteran requires any medication while being treated in this program here is what is required for the VA to fill the prescription.

If a local physician writes a prescription for a veteran, it must include when the medication is required. The physician must also be registered within the VA pharmacy in order for the prescription to be filled. The prescription must either be hand carried or faxed to the nearest VA medical center.

If the physician faxes the prescription to the VA, he should include a note when the medication is required and request overnight delivery. The physician must be registered with the VA pharmacy for the medication prescription to be filled. If the physician has not pre-registered, then the pharmacy must contact the physician and obtain credentials, and this often causes a delay in the prescription being filled and delivered.

So, if a veteran is seen by a local contract physician and a prescription is required prior to surgery or following a procedure then be sure the physician registers with the VA and has credentials on file. Have a notation on the prescription when the medication should commence, or the VA pharmacy will treat the prescription as routine in filling and mailing. If the medication is required ASAP, then the physician should note overnight delivery.

If a prescription is written by a physician and then handed to the veteran to take to a local pharmacy, that prescription must be faxed to the VA. Please have the physician make note when the medication is required and that it should be sent overnight if required. Include that note written by the physician with the prescription or have the physician contact the VA himself.

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### **Pending Calendar**

**Department of WV Spring Quarterly Meeting** will be January 15, 2022 hosted by Mountaineer Marine Detachment 957 in Princeton, WV Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting.

**2022 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference** will be February 23– 27 2022 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. 2/24/2022 – 2/26/2022 (check in 2/23, check out 2/26) Thursday arrivals & stores are open in the afternoon, Friday opening session & agenda items, Saturday sessions continue

**2022 Marine South** will be March 30-31, 2022, at Camp LeJeune, NC

**2022 Modern Day Marine Expo** will be 10 – 12 May 2022 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC.

**2022 Department of West Virginia Convention** will be May 20-21, 2022, at The Quality Inn Gallipolis, 577 State Route 7 North, Gallipolis, OH 45769. Phone: (740) 446-0090. MGM Detachment 1180 will be the host detachment. Rooms rate: \$85.00 plus tax Banquet includes choice of: Prime Rib \$25, Chicken \$20, or Vegetarian \$20. Dinners include salad, 2 vegetables, rolls, beverage, and dessert. Amenities: Group Rate includes free WiFi, free parking, free cable, free in-room coffee, free breakfast for two guests per room (each additional guest in a room pays \$6) Breakfast is 6 a.m. – 10 a.m. Pre-registration due by April 30, 2022. For information call Jim Doss: 740-441-5638, Jerry Bain: 304-593-9519, or Patti Leib: 740-591-8611

**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: 800-774-1500 code MCL22 Room rate: \$127.00 plus 12.5% Room reservation open 0800 August 16, 2021. Rates good 4 days prior and 4 days after convention.

**2023 MCL National Convention** will be August 14-18, 2023, in Oklahoma City, OK. At Omni Oklahoma City Hotel, 100 W Oklahoma City Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73109, (405) 438-6500 Room rate \$165.48 includes tax. Parking not included but is \$10 per day. Pet friendly with service animals no charge but others is \$165.00 per week. Rate good for 3 days prior and afterwards.

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### **Around the State:**

Wood County Det. 1087, Department of West Virginia, donated and raised a new American flag and a new Marine Corps flag at boyhood home of past USMC Commandant Archibald Henderson near Williamstown, WV. Participating were MCL members Scott Kirby, Wayne Starcher, Phillip Johnston, Jason Lowe, Michael McLain, Jerry Smith and Don Dearth.





September 23, 2021 - Past Department of West Virginia Commandant Rick Shank (Huntington Det. 340) spends some time reminiscing about the good old days in the MCL with Marine widow Linda Fetty at the Woodlands Retirement Home in Huntington, WV. Winter is coming soon. This is a great time to check in with our homebound Marines, MCL Members and their widows, to show them that they are not alone or forgotten, and to ensure they have what they need to make it through to Spring.  
Semper Fi, Ben!!

### **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT CHALLENGE !!!!**

Submit a photo to Patti Leib or Roger Ware from your detachment conducting a welfare check on a Homebound Marine, MCL Member, MCL Widow or Orphan. The photos submitted will be displayed in the November issue of the Dept. of WV newsletter "The Straight Scoop".

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June 20, 2021 - Past Detachment Commandant Ron Wroblewski (Huntington Det. 340) with his wife, Cheryl, celebrating Ron's Aunt Bertha Curnutte's 97th birthday. She is the widow of Ron's Uncle, US Marine Earl Curnutte, and was a Nurse in the Coast Guard. Not only is she a Veteran, but also a Rosie the Riveter! She is now homebound and lives in St Albans, WV.

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National awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the Department of West Virginia at the National Convention in August. This means every Member is eligible to wear the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon Bar. (lease see the award on the following page.) Department of WV Commandant Jim Doss accepted the award for the Department at the Convention in Springfield IL

Semper Fi, and Good Work!!



# Marine Corps League



## Meritorious Commendation

(Unit)

to

## Department of West Virginia

*In appreciation and gratitude for meritorious service in the interests  
of the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps and  
the Marine Corps League for the period 10 August 2020 to 9 August 2021.*



*Authorized to wear the National  
Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon*

*Awarded this 9th day of August 2021*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. [unclear]", is written over a horizontal line.

*Commandant*





Det 1474 presenting the colors at Hurricane High School Band Festival on 9/25/21.  
 From left to Right. Det Judge Advocate Warren Byrant, Det Commandant Will Miller, Det Sgt at Arms Lorn Limanen and Det Adjutant/Paymaster Jim McDade



Det 1474 Adjutant/Paymaster Jim McDade leading the Poca Heritage Day Parade on 9/25/21 (and one more photo at the Hurricane High School Band Festival)

NOV  
**13**

**COMMUNITY VETERANS  
 OUTDOOR STAND DOWN EVENT  
 AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

**Princeton  
 Church of God  
 Saturday  
 Nov. 13, 2021  
 9:00 AM**

GATE OPENS AT 7 AM

FOR INFO:  
 RANDY MAXWELL (304) 324-4822  
 OMAR ABOULHOSN (304) 320-4342  
 MARIE BLACKWELL (304) 888-1215

A Veteran Community Service Event notice sent by Adjutant-Paymaster Tim Murphy, Eastern Panhandle Marine Det 1143, Martinsburg, WV.

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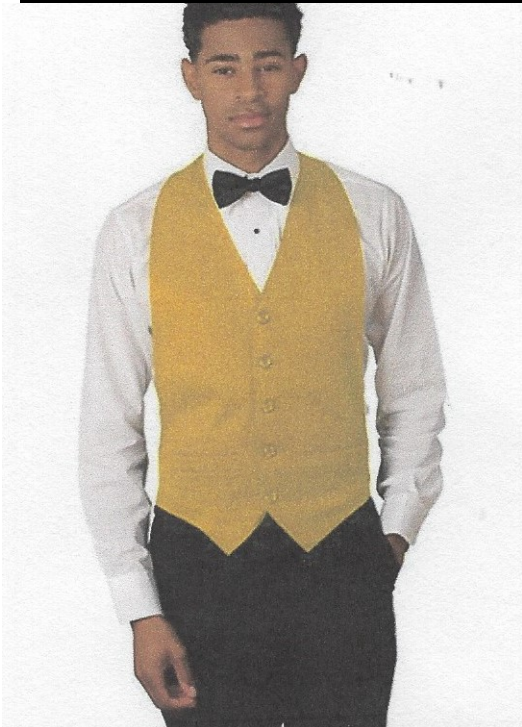
**Subject:** Unisex antique gold backless vest site

Here's that link to get a antique gold backless unisex vest. You would have to have black bow tie vice black tie. I wear the XL as they are adjustable for the neck and waist. The XL is \$26.00, 2XL is \$31.00. The postage is not too much either. Without it, one is just ordinary, but with it...you become suave. You can wear with the red blazer and black bow tie. Looks really good.

[Unisex Antique Gold Backless Vest \( XL\(46-48\) \)](#)

### **Unisex Antique Gold Backless Vest ( XL(46-48) )**

Unisex antique gold backless vest with 5 buttons and 2 front pockets. Adjustable waist and neck. 100% Polyester....



A great addition to your Red Blazer for the Grand Banquet at Conventions!

\*\*\*\*\*

Please read the following letter from General Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt Major Troy Black, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps - concerning the withdrawal of our Marines from Afghanistan. This is an important communication that everyone needs to read and share with your brothers and sisters.





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-3000

18 August 2021

Marines,

As each of us tries to comprehend the speed and scope of events in Afghanistan this week, some may be struggling with a simple question: "Was it all worth it?" We see videos and photos, we read stories that bring back memories for some of us, and it becomes intensely personal. We value human life and we want to believe that what Marines have done in Afghanistan made a difference. While Sergeant Major Black and I don't presume to speak for you or your family, we would like to offer our thoughts so you know where your senior leaders stand.

We both believe – without question – that your service was meaningful, powerful, and important. You answered the call to serve, proudly carrying the torch of so many generations of Marines before you. You put the good of others before yourself. You fought to defend your country, your family, your friends, and your neighbors. You fought to prevent terror from returning to our shores. You fought for the liberty of young Afghan girls, women, boys, and men who want the same individual freedoms we enjoy as Americans. You fought for the Marine to your left and the Marine to your right. You never let them down. You never, ever gave up. You lived with purpose, with intention. Whether you realize it or not, you set an example for subsequent generations of Marines – and Americans – by living our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Was it worth it? Yes. Does it still hurt? Yes.

Since 2001, Marines have served honorably and courageously to bring peace to the people of Afghanistan. You should take pride in your service – it gives meaning to the sacrifice of all Marines who served, including those whose sacrifice was ultimate.

Over the coming days and weeks, we encourage you to connect with your fellow Marines and their families – particularly those you served with overseas. This is a time to come together and give further meaning to our motto, Semper Fidelis. Let us remain faithful to our fellow Marines, faithful to our Marine families, and faithful to the memories of all who have sacrificed.

We are intensely proud to serve alongside you as your Commandant and Sergeant Major.

Semper Fidelis,

David H. Berger  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Troy E. Black  
SgtMaj, U.S. Marine Corps  
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps





Sponsor

# MILITARY BALL!



Host

**All Military Services/Retirees/Veterans Welcome**



**\$40.00 per person**

**Guests Invited**

**In celebration of the 246<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the  
United States Marine Corps**

**When: Saturday, 06 November 2021**

**Where: Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, WV  
301 Foxcroft Avenue**

**5:30 Social – 6:30 Ceremony  
Followed by dancing to 11:30**

**Advance Reservations Are Required**

***Price Includes Dinner, Party Favors, Dinner Wine, Dance Music***

**Traditional Birthday Ball Program**

**Commandant's Message**

**Cake Cutting • Guest Speaker • Camaraderie**

**Black Tie  
or Appropriate Business Attire**

**Cash Bar**

**CONTACT:** *Contact: Christine Kain, Commandant, Eastern Panhandle Detachment,  
Marine Corps League - 1-703-675-0130 or Tim Murphy 1-703-980-3878*



## **Department of WV Pistol Raffle Guidelines**

The Department of WV will vote to hold a pistol raffle each year with the winning ticket being drawn at the Grand Banquet Saturday evening of the Department of WV Annual Convention.

The Pistol Raffle Chairman will purchase the pistol raffle tickets after the Dept has voted to hold the raffle.

He will purchase 300 tickets for each Detachment (currently 14 Dets so the total number of tickets will be 4200). These tickets will be distributed to the Detachments at the Dept of WV January Quarterly Meeting.

The Pistol Raffle Chairman will mail unclaimed tickets to the Detachments not represented at the January Meeting, at their registered Detachment PO Box or the mailing address listed on their Roster and ROI. Tickets will be mailed by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested so the tickets can be tracked on the US Post Office Website. It is the Detachment's responsibility to monitor their mail and pick up their tickets in a timely manner.

The cost to purchase a ticket is \$2.00 so the total ticket sales should be \$8,400.00

Each Detachment will be given a MINIMUM of 300 tickets to sell and should turn in a total of \$600.00 to the Pistol Raffle Chairman, along with the ticket stubs; any unsold tickets **MUST** be turned in *no later than three (3) weeks prior to the Convention*. Detachments may not bring any of their original allocation of 300 tickets to the Convention to sell. If the Detachment has unsold tickets 3 weeks prior to the Convention, they must turn those unsold tickets over to the Department Pistol Raffle Chairman, who will either distribute them to other Detachments to sell, or the Dept will sell them at Convention.

The Pistol Raffle Chairman will forward the money to the Department Paymaster, **As He Collects it**. He should NOT hold on to any funds or checks more than 2-3 days (i.e.: over a weekend or holiday weekend).

If a Detachment declines to sell tickets, the tickets should be immediately returned to the Pistol Raffle Chairman via Certified Mail Return Receipt for redistribution to other Detachments who request to sell additional tickets. Until the tickets are properly returned to the Pistol Raffle Chairman and accounted for, the Detachment is still liable for the value of the ticket sales. If the tickets are lost, stolen, or thrown away while in the custody of the Detachment, the Detachment may be held liable for the value of the tickets at the discretion of the Department of WV Department Board of Trustees.

The Pistol Raffle Chairman will keep track of the ticket numbers distributed to each Detachment. Any unsold tickets that are returned to the Chairman and redistributed to another Detachment, will be tracked to the receiving/selling Detachment.

All monies collected and ticket stubs will be sent or given to the Pistol Raffle Chairman. Again, Detachments are liable for, and responsible, to safely return funds, ticket stubs, and unsold tickets to the Pistol Raffle Chairman. The Chairman should keep in touch with Detachments to

assure the sales and tickets are secure. If Detachments have a problem of any kind concerning the raffle tickets and sales, they should contact the Chairman immediately.

Each Detachment should assign one person (usually the Paymaster or another Officer) to track the ticket sales and collect the funds. The Detachment should notify the Pistol Raffle Chairman of the name of the Contact Person from their Detachment, including his phone number, email address and home address.

The person selling the winning raffle ticket will receive a \$100 award; the Detachment of the person selling the winning ticket will receive a \$250 award, but **ONLY IF THE DETACHMENT SOLD ALL 300 OF THEIR ALLOTTED TICKETS**. If the Detachment sells less than 300 tickets, there will be no \$250 award; the funds will remain in the total funds collected.

Any unsold tickets will be promptly returned to the Pistol Raffle Chairman at least 3 weeks prior to the Convention so they can be redistributed and sold. Any unsold tickets remaining after that will be sold at the Convention prior to the Raffle, and the sales credited to the person selling them and his Detachment, or credited to the Department.

If the winning ticket is sold by a Detachment and they sell all their 300 tickets, the Detachment will receive both the \$100 and \$250 awards.

If the person selling tickets is a DUAL MEMBER and is selling for more than one Detachment, he should clearly note on the ticket stub which Detachment gets credit for the sale.

The cost of printing the tickets, mailing tickets, purchasing the pistol, the \$100 award and the \$250 award will be deducted from the total sales. The remaining profit will be split 50/50 between the Hershel Woody Williams Scholarship Account and the Department of WV General Account. If the Detachment selling the winning ticket does not qualify for the \$250 award, those funds will remain in the profit to be split 50/50 between these two accounts.

Tickets can be distributed earlier than the January Department Quarterly Meeting, at the discretion of the Department of WV Commandant and his Board of Trustees.

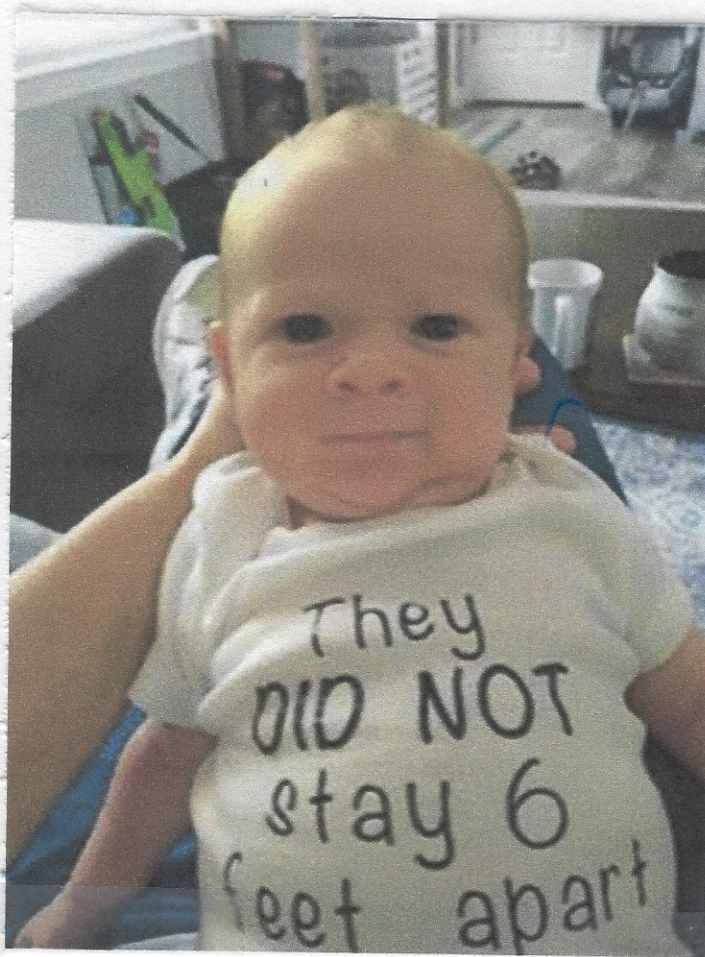
NO changes can be made in these guidelines without the approval of the Board of Trustees or a vote of the Department Membership in a regular meeting.

The Pistol Raffle Chairman will forward all funds to the Department Paymaster but retain all ticket stubs for the drawing. The Pistol Raffle Chairman & the Department Paymaster will each keep a record of all funds received, and they will periodically compare records until all tickets are sold and funds accounted for.

The Department Paymaster will produce an itemized report to the Department Board of Trustees and Membership of the final numbers of tickets sold by each Detachment, funds received, expenses paid and profit split.



Time to lighten up, folks!!



Semper Fi!

