



The Straight Scoop

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



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Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday in February!!



Commandant's Letter ~ February 2023

Greeting Marines, Associate members, Navy FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains:

The 'Call to Action' – during war or peace, the call in each person's heart is to fight for freedom and to protect our families and our country. Hundreds of thousands have answered that call when they joined and became Marines. And many have continued to answer the call, this time to serve their fellow Veterans by joining forces with other Veteran Marines and Veteran servicemen and women in the Marine Corps League, VFW, VVA, American Legion and other Veterans organizations. For decades it has made a difference when they (*You*) work together to support each other, and to secure Veterans' benefits for service-related medical conditions – to cover presumptive conditions caused by exposure to Agent Orange or contaminated water... the needs seem endless, and the work is so important! Every member needs to help with Member Retention and to recruit new members so that the League can continue to thrive and support the needs of our Veteran community.

We recently took part in the Veteran's Visibility Day at the State Capitol; due to distance and weather and health conditions, not every Detachment could be represented – but a good number were and again, we answered the call to be there. It was a great day, and those who participated did a great job!

Now it's time to answer another call – to step up and take a position (elected or appointed); your Detachments should hold their elections in the next couple of months. Every member needs to participate in the success of their Detachment; if not, they're participating in its possible failure. Show your support for the League and your brothers and sisters. Get more involved; learn a new leadership role; help your Detachment stand out in your community so that other Veterans will want what you have and will be encouraged to join us. Every member is important, and every member can help make a difference. It's up to each person.

Remember to check on our widows and our members who are homebound during these cold winter months. Cards, letters, phone calls, and especially visits are important. Let them know they aren't forgotten.

My best, God bless and Semper Fidelis,

Mike

Chaplain's Corner

“The Lord declares, I will raise up your offspring... He is the one who will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” 2 Samuel 7:11-13

While working for my Detachment, one particular role was offered to me. Part of me really wanted to do it, but there was something holding me back. I realized the position was not for me – I knew that another member would really shine in that role.

In the Bible King David had a desire to build a temple for the Lord, but it would not be his job. He was a man of war and would not be suited to building a temple (1 Chronicles 28:3). This job would be given to his son, Solomon. But God did not leave David without a promise. He promised to establish his house forever.

Throughout our lives many opportunities are presented to us. Some are meant for us, and some will be for others. In prayerfulness we can discern which is which. It may be hard to let an opportunity pass us by, but there are times when we need to step aside so someone else can shine. This is true when we come to election time in our Detachments... sometimes it's good to remain in a position – even for many years – but sometimes it's good to let another member take a leadership role and have a chance to shine and grow our Detachments.

And don't worry – God will not leave us empty-handed. The opportunities that are intended for us will be all the sweeter and more meaningful.

Father, help me discern Your will so that I will know what is for me. Thank you that what You have for me is best, as I grow in my service to You, my Country, the League, and my Detachment.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Marines, If you're not yet registered to attend, Do It Today!!

Don't miss out on the Midwinter Conference

Mid-Winter Conference:

2/23/2023 – 2/25/2023 (check in 2/22, check out 2/26) 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 \$151.35 (inclusive of 15% tax & \$3 resort fee) and includes buffet breakfast for two (2) and garage parking. Offsite garage parking is \$14 per day per entry **IF YOU'RE NOT STAYING AT HOTEL** (each time entering garage each day). Valet Parking is \$30 per day. Please make your room reservation directly to the hotel.

Don't forget it's Salute to Hospitalized Veteran week February 13-17, 2023

The Chapel of Four Chaplains - February 3, 1943 is the date that four Army chaplains, George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington lost their lives. The Chapel of Four Chaplains memorializes the courageous act of these four Army Chaplains who gave their life jackets to others when the troopship USAT Dorchester sank after being torpedoed on February 3, 1943 and honors the 672 men who perished. This is the 80th Anniversary of the attack on the USAT Dorchester; we should never forget.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains is a national nonprofit organization, founded in 1947, which recognizes and encourages cooperation, brotherhood, and selfless service. The work of the Chapel is sustained solely by the cooperation and contributions of friends who share in the dedicated spirit of the Four Chaplains. Many of the members in our department are recipients of the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award.

The Chapel is a lasting tribute to those four Army chaplains who lost their lives 80 years ago on Feb 3, 1943, when the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed by a German submarine.

The Chapel will soon be mailing out donation requests to every member who has been inducted into the Legion of Honor, asking for their support in keeping the Chapel of Four Chaplains vibrant. The Chapel's motto of "Unity without Uniformity and the recognition of "ordinary people who do extraordinary things" continues to be manifested in so many ways all over the country, and to so many people.

Please consider supporting the Chapel with a donation and mail to: The Chapel of Four Chaplains, 1201 Constitution Avenue, The Navy Yard, Building 649, Philadelphia, PA 19112-1307.

Starting Today, Veterans Are Getting Life-Changing Assistance, And It Won't Cost a Dime

American veterans struggling with suicidal thoughts are now eligible for free emergency medical care. The Department of Veterans Affairs announced in a [news release](#) Friday that all veterans can receive emergency suicide care at its facilities starting Tuesday. The care will be provided free of charge. Veterans won't need to be enrolled in the VA's system to receive care, either.

The care is intended for [veterans](#) who find themselves in a suicidal crisis. The rule entitles veterans to 30 days of inpatient care at a VA facility or 90 days of outpatient care. "Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve – no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they're enrolled in VA care," VA Secretary Denis McDonough said in a statement. "This expansion of care will save veterans' lives, and there's nothing more important than that."

The new coverage will apply to the 9 million veterans who are not enrolled in the VA system, the news release said. Veterans will also be eligible for federal reimbursement for care at a private facility, according to [NBC News](#).

The legislative basis for the new care policy is the [Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment Act](#), signed into law by then-[President Donald Trump](#) on Dec. 5, 2020. Veterans who served 24 months of active duty or those who spent 100 days or more in a combat zone qualify for the benefit, according to the VA news release.

In the United States, veterans have much higher suicide rates than the general public. Veterans died by suicide at a rate of 31.7 per 100,000 in 2020, nearly twice the rate of non-veteran American adults at 16.1 per 100,000, according to a [VA study](#). Some estimates indicate that as many as 44 American veterans take their own lives every day, according to the [Military Times](#).

The frequency of the problem has made it [an increasing priority](#) for the Department of Defense and care providers

for [veterans](#). If you or a Veteran brother or sister you know is in crisis, share this information with them and get the care and help they need and deserve. Don't let another Veteran give up and die. Not on our watch!



[VA Wants to Reduce High U.S. Veteran Suicide Rate - North Carolina ...](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)

Commandant Mike McLain and Sr. Vice Commandant Rick Shank want to thank all the Members who participated in the Veterans Visibility Day at the State Capitol in Charleston January 24, 2023. It was the largest group of Veterans to ever take part in this event, and you made us proud!



(Note: we have two WV Delegates to the House of Representatives in our League – Jim Butler, Point Pleasant Det 1180 and Scot C. Heckert, Parkersburg Det 1087. Gentlemen, Thanks for continuing to serve our State and communities!)

ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATIONS ARE COMING UP!!

It's time to elect your Detachment Slate of Officers for the coming year. Elected Officers are: Commandant, Sr. Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant, and Judge Advocate. Only Regular Members (Marines) are allowed to fill these positions and vote for the Slate of Officers. Elected Officers and the Jr. Past Commandant make up the Detachment's Board of Trustees.

Appointed Officers may include: Jr. Past Commandant, Adjutant-Paymaster (or an Adjutant and a Paymaster), Chaplain, Sgt at Arms, Chief of Staff, Historian, Marine for Life, Public Relations, Aide de Camp, and Legislative. These Officers are appointed by the Commandant with consideration by his Board of Trustees.

Descriptions and duties of these Officers positions can be found in the Detachment Guidebook; each Detachment should have a copy of this available to their members, and it can be found on the National website at:

https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Detachment_Guidebook_MCL.pdf

There are also many Committees that members can serve on such as the MRT (Membership Retention Committee) typically consisting of the Jr. Vice Commandant, Paymaster, and one other member. The MRT is responsible to keep in touch with ALL members of the Detachment, and to work with unpaid members to bring them up to date and in good standing. The MRT should also assist with checking on homebound members, widows, and visits to members in the hospital or care facilities.

Other Committees may include the Detachment Pistol Raffle Chair, in charge of distribution and collection of Department Pistol Raffle tickets and funds; Awards Committee, in charge of nominating and writing up the nomination forms for Detachment, Department, Division, and National Award Nominations (nominations still need to be voted on by the Members). Audit Committee, usually the Judge Advocate and two other members that may or may not be Officers – responsible to Audit the financial records of the Detachment (including all bank statements, Paymaster Reports, comparing with Transmittals and Monthly Minutes); Aide de Camp, Boy Scouts Chair, Marine 4 Life, Professional Development, Armorer (if your Detachment has Ceremonial Rifles), and Department Conventions/Meetings Chair should your Detachment host a Quarterly Meeting or Department Convention.

Before your new (or continuing) Officers are Installed, your Detachment must do an Annual Audit (confirmed or copied to the Department Adjutant), and Detachment Property Inventory, confirming items, location held, and person responsible for its care (also confirmed or copied to the Department Adjutant). Typically, Installations take place 30 days after the Election, to provide time for these audits to be conducted. They may also be conducted in advance of the Election, if your Detachment holds both the Election and Installation at the same meeting.

Once Installed, the Adjutant prepares the Report of Officer Installation (ROI) and provides it to the Installing Officer for his/her signature, then signs it him/herself, mailing the original to the Department Adjutant PRIOR TO APRIL 30th each year. Your Detachment should keep a copy of the ROI and all other Documents in a safe location and should also keep copies of files electronically on flash drives given to the Commandant with updates quarterly. The fillable ROI form can be found on the National Website Library at:

ROI_Detachment-051421.pdf (mcleaguelibrary.org)

REPORTS: (*Also, see page 15*)

We almost have 100% receipt of Detachment Quarterly Reports that were due January 7, 2023. If you have not submitted your Quarterly Report for the period September 17, 2022 through January 7, 2023, you may still submit it to Adjutant Leib. We are trying a fillable form to make it easier to complete; it can be found here:



1 Fillable Det Qtr
Report January 2023.1

We are also very close to having 100% of the Annual Detachment Reports due to National by February 7th. If you have not submitted your report to Adjutant Leib, you may find it here:



Detachment-Annual-
Report (1) (2).pdf

This report is IMPORTANT. We missed the deadline last year – we don't want to do that again! Keep this form in your schedule of Annual Reports as it will be due every year by the end of January for the prior year ending December 31.

After your Detachment has installed your Officers, you need to submit your Annual Corporation Report to the WV Secretary of State. This is done online at the following website: <https://business4.wv.gov> or you may access it through <https://onestop.wv.gov> It's not hard to prepare or submit this report, and Adjutant Leib will help you with this. There is a \$25 fee to file online, and paper submissions are no longer accepted. Every Detachment must file every year, even if you don't change Officers. Any Detachment that fails to file three years in a row will lose their ability to do business in WV and have to apply again. If you file late (after June 30), there is also a \$25 late fee. Save your Detachment's money and file on time. If you have to make changes during the year, there is also a \$15 fee to file the change(s).

From: Mitchell, Kimberly M. **Subject:** VSO Notification: PACT Claims Prematurely Adjudicated
Good afternoon, We wanted to ensure that VSOs were aware of this situation and what VBA is doing:
Background

- Upon passage of the PACT Act on Aug. 10, 2022, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) issued immediate processing guidance to all Regional Offices (ROs). This was followed-up with more detailed interim guidance on Sept. 9, 2022, which provided procedural steps to processing PACT Act-related claims
- Guidance advised claims processors to hold claims that could not be granted under current authority until January 2023 when full PACT Act processing would begin.
- Claims processors were instructed to continue to use the existing authority if able to grant.
 - The existing authority allowed only for granting decisions of asthma, sinusitis, and rhinitis (ASR) to include rhinosinusitis.

Analysis

- A review of the PACT Act decisions dated after August 10, 2022, identified 17,563 prematurely decided claims across all Regional Offices (ROs) through December 31, 2022.
- While some of the decisions may have been correctly decided, the notification that went to Veterans did not include PACT Act language as required by law.
- The discovery of these prematurely decided claims were found under a compliance review – ensuring claims were properly processed – not a quality review. At this time, VA does not know to what extent decisions may change.
- Moving forward, VA will conduct random in-process reviews to ensure quality measures are met.

What's VBA is doing to Correct Course

- VA will review and correct if, necessary all prematurely decided decisions from Aug. 10 to Dec. 31, 2022.
- VBA's National Work Queue will redistribute all claims requiring review by Jan.31, 2023.
- VBA will monitor and provide oversight of all premature PACT decisions through completion.
- Veterans will only receive notifications if review shows the claim needs further development, such as an exam, or the review overturns the premature decision, which we anticipate will occur in only a small number of claims.

Talking Points: Rejected claims submission on [VA.GOV](https://va.gov)

- VBA has identified roughly 31,000 Veterans who have had claims rejected by processing errors upon submission to va.gov since November 2018.
- The system did not notify Veterans of the failed submission.
- This is a technical issue that affects 75 claims per week or about .008 percent of all claims submitted.
- A system fix will be implemented January 25, 2023 that will prevent further rejects and ensure claims are appropriately routed for processing.
- VBA does have all the data of failed claim submissions, including, names, claim numbers and contentions of the Veterans who attempted to file and is currently working on a plan to review and begin processing all rejected claims. We will share progress once we implement this plan.
- VBA is committed to ensuring all these claims are addressed.

Have a great rest of your day.

Kim

Kimberly M. Mitchell, Senior Advisor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20420

Department Officer Nominations

Department Sr Vice Commandant Rick Shank is Chairman of the Department Nominating Committee. The following Department Officers will be elected during the Department Convention in Mineral Wells WV on May 20, 2023. Commandant, Sr Vice Commandant, Jr Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate. Nominations for these positions can be submitted to Sr Vice Commandant Shank commencing January 2023. Floor nominations will be taken at the Department Convention. *(See attached letter, page 15)*

Hershel “Woody” Williams Scholarship Foundation Applications

Foundation Chairman George Gill has mailed out applications to every detachment Commandant in the Department. The applications may be reproduced as needed or taken off the Department website. The Foundation normally awards four scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00. This is a onetime scholarship so prior recipients are not eligible. The deadline for applications must be postmarked no later than March 15th, 2023. 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. The online scholarship application can be found on the Dept of WV website and here:

[2022RevScholarshipInstructionsandApplication.pdf \(mcleaguedeptofwv.org\)](#)

Applications must be signed by the Detachment Commandant, Adjutant, or Adjutant-Paymaster, affirming the member is in good standing.

Department Awards

Department Awards Chairman Jason Hunt has distributed nomination forms for the following department awards at the January 7, 2023 Quarterly meeting or mailed them to any Detachments that were not present at the meeting. 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, 2023 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 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY AWARD is presented in recognition of this Detachment’s outstanding public relations contributions and community involvement from May 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AWARD is presented to Detachment in recognition for publishing an outstanding newsletter that conforms to the National Newsletter guidelines from May 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

REMEMBER: It's up to your Detachment to submit members for recognition of their efforts. Encourage your members to participate and excel by recognizing them at the Department Level. If you want any of these forms online, contact Adjutant-Paymaster Patti Leib and she will email them to you.

Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year Award and Associate Member of the Year Award

Stan Legge President, Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year Society distributed the nomination forms for the 2023 Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year and Department of WV Associate Member of the Year at the January 7, 2023 Quarterly meeting in Huntington. Nomination forms were mailed out to any Detachments absent from the meeting or not having a representative present at the meeting to accept the packet. Detachments should be considering and submitting a member for nomination for each of these prestige awards upon receipt of the announcement letter and forms. All nominations must be postmarked by March 1, 2023 to be considered. If you need these forms online contact Adjutant-Paymaster Patti Leib and she will email them to you.

Now Hear This - Request for 2023 Mideast Division Marine of the Year Nominations are open

Please share with all Detachments.

The Mideast Division Conference is 23-24 June 2023. Please do not wait to the last minute to submit your Detachment nomination for the 2023 Mideast Division Marine of the Year. Mideast Division 2023 Marine of the Year Nomination All nominations submitted must be in accordance with the Marine of the Year guidelines.

GUIDELINES FOR MARINE OF THE YEAR

This award shall be presented to a regular member in good standing of the Marine Corps League who has rendered service(s) and performed a deed(s) above and beyond the duties and obligations required of a member of the Marine Corps League.

Letters of Nomination for Mideast Division Marine of the Year shall originate only at the Detachment level. No individual member of the Marine Corps League or any subsidiary unit of the Marine Corps League shall submit a Letter of Nomination other than the nominee's Detachment. The nominee shall be a regular member of the Marine Corps League, in good standing, of the Detachment which submits the Letter of Nomination.

Only officers and/or members of the Detachment submitting the Letter of Nomination will be allowed to submit documents or affidavits on behalf of the nominee being submitted. Any 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 has, been a deed(s) of courage or valor without regard for his/her own safety. The Detachment's Nominee MUST be a Marine, FMF Corpsman or FMF Chaplain to be eligible for Mideast Division Marine of the Year and in good standing. The Nominee must also have their Marine Corps League dues paid up in full in order to be considered as a Nominee (A paid up MCL member is defined as being a "member in good standing").

Finally, your Detachment's Nominee MUST be nominated and voted on by your Detachment's membership. THIS IS IMPORTANT!!! The best way to approach the Marine of the Year nomination process is to start about two months before the Mideast Division MOY packet submission deadline date. Notify your Detachment members that at the regular monthly business meeting, they will select the Mideast Division Marine of the Year Nominee. It is the members' job to think about a Nominee (or Nominees) that fill the description of being a potential candidate. Make sure you put this in your next newsletter as a reminder to all members as well. When the meeting takes place to select the Nominee, follow your Detachment's By-Laws and/or general guidelines as how to vote on or select your one single Nominee. All nominations must have a statement that the detachment members approved their nominee at a regular meeting. *Tip – It is a good rule of thumb to add your Nominee selection to your Detachment's minutes for proof that this was done properly.* Your Detachment By-Laws may also have additional needs so please make sure you read them to ensure you are following your selection procedure to

the letter. Some detachments may not have a section in their bylaws on nominating the Mideast Division Marine of the Year. This is not an issue. If you do, just make sure you have followed the Marine of the Year Guidelines, as discussed above, and you will be good to go.

The Mideast Division Marine of the Year nomination module attached may be used completely or simply as a guideline to follow for MED MOY nomination submissions using your Detachment's document format that includes:

Cover Letter – Dated and signed by Commandant and Adjutant (If the Commandant or Adjutant is the nominee, A Detachment Staff Officer will sign in lieu of the nominee.)

Background Information – Time held in all MCL positions, etc.

Nominee's Accomplishments- Committees chaired, etc.

Supporting Information – Meetings attended, awards, etc.

Community Service – To include civic organizations, charitable work or deeds of courage or valor.

Send all nomination documents for the 2023 Marine of the Year to the Mideast Division Marine of the Year Chairperson, in an envelope and formally addressed to the "Chairperson, Mideast Division MOY Committee", this envelope will be placed inside another envelope addressed to the Chairperson at the mailing address listed below. Post marked no later than 30 days preceding the annual Mideast Division Conference. Your last day for submission is 24 May 2023. The Nomination must be mailed Certified, Return Receipt requested for your records, before the postmark deadline.

Frank Mathers, Adjutant, Mideast Division
Chairperson Marine of the Year Committee
17 Fairway Drive
Ocean View, Delaware 19970

Please do not wait to the last minute to submit your nomination. Start right away so you have time to do a good job and not miss anything.

Now Hear This - Requests for 2023 Mideast Division Associate of the Year Nominations are open

Please share with all Detachments.

The Mideast Division Conference is 23-24 June 2023. Please do not wait to the last minute to submit your Detachment nomination for the 2023 Mideast Division Associate of the Year.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR This award shall be presented to an Associate Member of the Marine Corps League who has rendered service(s) and performed a deed(s) above and beyond the duties and obligations required of a member of the Marine Corps League. Letters of Nomination for Mideast Division Associate of the Year shall originate only at the Detachment level. No individual member of the Marine Corps League or any subsidiary unit of the Marine Corps League shall submit a Letter of Nomination other than the nominee's Detachment.

The nominee shall be an Associate Member of the Marine Corps League, in good standing of the Detachment which submits the Letter of Nomination. Only officers and/or members of the Detachment submitting the Letter of Nomination shall be allowed to submit documentary proof, or affidavits on behalf of the nominee they submitted. Any 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 has been a deed(s) of courage or valor without regard for his/her own safety.

See these Administrative Procedures, Section 3105 (h) for more information. AP 3105h.

National Associate Member of the Year Society

(1) *Composition* (a) The National Associate Member of the Year Society shall be comprised of all past recipients of the National Associate Member of the Year in attendance at the Annual Convention. (b) The National Marine of the Year Society will help in assisting the National Associate Member of the Year Society to assure adequate Society

members. (c) The Society shall have no less than three (3) members. (d) Each member must be a member in good standing of the Marine Corps League. (e) The National Associate Member of the Year will be chosen by the Marine of the Year society. Detachment, Department, Division awarded, noted in the bylaws same as the Marine of the Year. An Associate Member of the Year Society will be established when a minimum of (3) Associate Members has been established.

(2) *Nominations.* A letter of nomination for the National Associate Member of the Year Award must be submitted in the following manner: (a) Letters of Nominations will only be accepted only from a Detachment. (b) All Letters of Nomination shall contain a statement of certification from the Detachment Commandant and Adjutant stating the nominee, for National Associate Member of the Year was approved by the detachment by a majority vote. (In the event the nominee is the Detachment Adjutant, the Letter of nomination shall be signed by the Detachment Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant). (c) Each nomination submitted shall be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to: "President, National Associate Member of the Year Society." (d) Each Letter of Nomination, so addressed, shall then be placed in a second envelope, and mailed, Certified Mail/Return Receipt Requested, to: President, National Associate Member of the Year Society, c/o Marine Corps League National Headquarters, at their address at that time, and post marked no later than 20 July, preceding the National Convention, at which the nominee is to be judged. (e) The Society will not accept any nominations which was not submitted and/ or received at Marine Corps League National Headquarters as is stipulated herein. (See Enclosure Four (4))

(3) *Duties.* The National Associate Member of the Year Society shall: (a) The President of the National Associate Member of the Year Society shall receive all Letters of Nomination from the National Executive Director/COO Officer of the Marine Corps League, insuring they are all sealed. The letters shall remain sealed until the Society meets at the National Convention. (b) Judge each nominee received from the National Executive Director/COO of the Marine Corps League. (c) Attest by signature of each member of the Society present, that the nominee was Judged. (d) Return, to the National Executive Director/COO of the Marine Corps League in its respective envelope and sealed, the resume of each nominee.

(4) *Responsibilities* (a) The National Associate Member of the Year Society is responsible for the following: (1) Presenting the Associate Member of the Year recipient at the closing banquet of the Convention. (2) Presenting the Associate Member of the Year Award to the recipient at the next Mid-Winter Staff meeting subsequent to the National Convention. (b) The National Executive Director/COO of the National Marine Corps League will assist the National Associate of the Year Society in the following manner:

(1) Accept all nominations which are submitted in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(2) When the nomination is received at the National Headquarters, the National Executive Director/COO will ensure the following process will be followed: - Date received by National Executive Director/COO - Progressive number in order received - Initials of the National Executive Director/COO

(3) Deliver to the Society President at the National Convention all nominations which were received at National Headquarters. The Society will: - No less than five (5) lines on which the Society members shall attest by signature that the nomination was considered. - Date the Committee returned the sealed envelope to the National Executive Director/COO. - Date the National Executive Director/ COO (by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested) returned the nomination to submitter.

(4) Ordering and purchasing of the National Associate Member of the Year Award. (c) The National Associate Member of the Year Society shall meet annually during the National Convention and may meet during the National Board of Trustees; Mid-Winter Staff meeting if necessary. (1) No meeting of the National Associate Member of the Year Society shall be called during an open session of the Marine Corps League's National Convention or the National Board of Trustee's Mid-Winter Staff Meeting. (d) A member in good standing, as used in this section, shall mean an associate member of the Marine Corps League who is in compliance with Article V of the Marine Corps League's National Bylaw.

(NEW 2021 GUIDELINES FOR THE MIDEAST DIVISION ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR)

This award shall be presented to an associate member in good standing of the Marine Corps League who has rendered service(s) and performed a deed(s) above and beyond the duties and obligations required of a member of the Marine Corps League.

Letters of Nomination for **Mideast Division Associate of the Year** shall originate only at the Detachment level. No individual member of the Marine Corps League or any subsidiary unit of the Marine Corps League shall submit a Letter of Nomination other than the nominee's Detachment. The nominee shall be an associate member of the Marine Corps League, in good standing, of the Detachment which submits the Letter of Nomination.

Only officers and/or members of the Detachment submitting the Letter of Nomination will be allowed to submit documents or affidavits on behalf of the nominee being submitted. Any 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 has, been a deed(s) of courage or valor without regard for his/her own safety.

The Detachment's Nominee **MUST** be an associate in good standing. The Nominee must also have their Marine Corps League dues paid up in full in order to be considered as a Nominee (A paid up MCL member is defined as being a "member in good standing").

Finally, your Detachment's Nominee **MUST** be nominated and voted on by your Detachment's membership. **THIS IS IMPORTANT!!!** The best way to approach the Associate of the Year nomination process is to start about two months before the Mideast Division AOY packet submission deadline date. Notify your Detachment members that at the regular monthly business meeting, they will select the Mideast Division Associate of the Year Nominee. It is the members' job to think about a Nominee (or Nominees) that fill the description of being a potential candidate. Make sure you put this in your next newsletter as a reminder to all members as well. When the meeting takes place to select the Nominee, follow your Detachment's By-Laws and/or general guidelines as how to vote on or select your one single Nominee.

All nominations must have a statement that the detachment members approved their nominee at a regular meeting. Tip – It is a good rule of thumb to add your Nominee selection to your Detachment's minutes for proof that this was done properly. Your Detachment By-Laws may also have additional needs so please make sure you read them to ensure you are following your selection procedure to the letter. Some detachments may not have a section in their bylaws on nominating the Mideast Division Associate of the Year. This is not an issue. If you do, just make sure you have followed the Marine of the Year Guidelines, as discussed above, and you will be good to go.

The Mideast Division Associate of the Year nomination should include the following:

Cover Letter – Dated and signed by Commandant and Adjutant (If the Adjutant is the nominee, A Detachment Staff Officer will sign in lieu of the nominee.)

Background Information – Time held in all MCL positions, etc.

Nominee's Accomplishments- Committees chaired, etc.

Supporting Information – Meetings attended, awards, etc.

Community Service – To include civic organizations, charitable work or deeds of courage or valor.

Send all nomination documents for the 2023 Associate of the Year to the Mideast Division Marine of the Year Chairperson, in an envelope and formally addressed to the "Chairperson, Mideast Division AOY Committee", this envelope will be placed inside another envelope addressed to the Chairperson at the mailing address listed below. Post marked no later than 30 days preceding the annual Mideast Division Conference. Your last day for submission is 24 May 2023.

The Nomination must be mailed Certified, Return Receipt requested for your records, before the postmark deadline.

Frank Mathers, ANVC, Mideast Division

Chairperson Marine of the Year Committee

17 Fairway Drive

Ocean View, Delaware 19970

Please do not wait to the last minute to submit your nomination.



Frank Mathers, MED ANVC

Marines and Associates,

I'm Frank Mathers and I am announcing my intent to pursue the position of Mideast Division National Vice Commandant for the 2023-2025 term of office. The elections of the Mideast Division Officers will take place at the National Marine Corps League Convention in Oklahoma City, OK in August 2023.

I am presently serving in my second year as Mideast Division Assistant National Vice Commandant. Prior to my election as Mideast Division Assistant National Vice Commandant, I served as Mideast Division Adjutant for four years.

I am the Jr. Past Commandant of the Department of Delaware. I previously have served in Detachment and Department elected (including Commandant) and appointed leadership and support positions. The invaluable knowledge and experience that I have gained while serving under the leadership of the Past Mideast Division National Vice Commandant Bruce Rakfeldt, Past Mideast Division National Vice Commandant Roger Ware and current leadership of Mideast Division National Vice Commandant Rick Thomason have provided me with the knowledge and abilities to serve on the Marine Corps League National Board of Trustees as the Marine Corps League continues to march forward in the 21st Century.

I attend all the National Board of Trustees meetings and keep current on all issues. I attend the Commandant's Corner on the Marine Corps League Facebook via Zoom, to understand from the members what concerns, questions and training may be needed.

I have met many of you while attending Marine Corps League events; National Conventions, National Mid - Winter Conferences, Mideast Division Conferences, Department and Detachment meetings, and other events. If elected, I will be very proactive in my leadership and that of the Marine Corps League as we continue our efforts to recruit and retain members, especially younger Marines. I embrace the current efforts by the Marine Corps League to use all of today's technologies for the betterment of our organization.

I ask for your support and look forward to serving with you as the next Mideast Division National Vice Commandant of the Marine Corps League. I further ask for your support and consideration as the next Mideast Division Assistant National Vice Commandant, Scott Kirby from the Department of West Virginia.

Stay well.

Semper Fidelis, Frater Infinitas

Frank Mathers

Assistant National Vice Commandant, Mideast Division, Chair of MED MOY Committee

mclmedanvc@gmail.com <https://www.mclmideast.com>

Madam/Sir Commandant:

I am officially announcing my intention to run for the position of National Judge Advocate at the 2023 National Convention.

Since joining the Marine Corps League back in 2005, I have appreciated how much we've accomplished as an organization, and I want to give back by volunteering my time to this office to continue our pursuit to becoming even stronger in the coming year. I have recently been asked to rejoin the National Bylaws Committee, which I proudly accepted, and had been a previously active member from 2013-2017.

I am a Past National Vice Commandant for the Mideast Division (2017-2019). Prior to that, I held the position of Assistant Division Vice Commandant (2013-2017). During that time, I worked diligently to open communications, mentor and strengthen Departments and Detachments that needed assistance. I also served as the Department of

North Carolina Commandant (2011-2013), the Department of North Carolina Adjutant (2007-2011) and the Commandant for the LCpl. Alan D. Lam Detachment #1209 (Burlington, NC) from 2006-2008.

As you noticed in my credentials, I have not held the Judge Advocate position at any level within the League. That does not mean that I do not have any experience with that position.

As a Division, Department and Detachment Commandant, I worked closely with those Judge Advocates on many issues. That, in part, is how I gained my knowledge. What I didn't know, was learned by taking the initiative to download and read the Bylaws at the pertinent level. Knowledge alone is not enough though. I believe my level of dedication; communication skills and interpersonal abilities make me a strong candidate for this position.

I understand the responsibilities, and accountability, associated with leadership positions. I have certainly taken into consideration all that will be required of me, as National Judge Advocate, and can say with confidence and certainty that I will work diligently with every Division, Department and Detachment to ensure that this National organization not only grows but becomes stronger. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your consideration. Every Marine Corps League member wants what is best for our organization and for the mission statement that we live by. With your support, I look forward to helping with our continued march of success.

Semper Fidelis,
Bruce R. Rakfeldt
Department of North Carolina

Marines and Associates,

At this time, I would like to share my intent to run for the office of the Assistant National Vice Commandant for the Mid-East Division.

I bring with me the experience in leadership as I have served in every elected position in my Detachment, as well as the positions of Judge Advocate, Sr. Vice Commandant and Commandant of the Department of West Virginia and Chaplain of the Mid East Division.

I was selected as the Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year as well as the Division and National Marines of the Year in 2021. Those were great accomplishments but only because of the Marines that I serve as well as the mentorship that I have received from our current and past Mid-East Division Commandants.

I have seen many changes within the League and will continue to foster those changes and ideas submitted by our membership. My belief is that the leadership serves the membership and not the other way around. I will put myself at the bottom of the organizational chart to ensure that every member's voice is heard and support you in whatever way that I can.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give my thanks and support to our current Assistant National Vice Commandant Frank Mathers for asking me to serve beside him as he runs for the National Vice Commandant position. I believe that Frank is the right choice to lead us into the future. I want to congratulate Rick Thomason for the outstanding leadership of the Mid-East Division over the past two years. Bravo Zulu Rick!

Respectfully,

Scott Kirby
Chaplain
Mid-East Division

REMEMBER to check on widows and shut-ins during these cold winter months! Make sure they are okay and are warm and fed; offer to take someone to a doctor's appointment or grocery store. Let's look out for our Marine families - brothers and sisters. A phone call or cheery note is always welcome, too!

Don't forget to sell your Detachment's allotment of Pistol Raffle Tickets to benefit the Department of WV and the Hershel Woody Williams Scholarship Fund! Tickets are \$2 each and easy to sell. Remember, your Det must sell all 300 tickets to be eligible for the \$250 prize to the Detachment selling the winning ticket. The person selling the winning ticket is also eligible for the \$100 prize, even if the Detachment fails to sell all 300 tickets.

Pending Events

2023 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference will be 2/23/2023 – 2/25/2023 (check in 2/22, check out 2/26) Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, 777 Waterside Drive Norfolk, VA <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/orfsi-sheraton-norfolkwaterside-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.

2023 Department of WV Department Convention will be May 19-21, 2023 at Comfort Inn & Suites, 167 Elizabeth Pike, Mineral Wells, WV 26150. Phone: 304-699-0886. Room rate: \$85.00 Free breakfast, WIFI, parking. Rooms have refrigerator and microwave. **Do not call the hotel for room reservations** as they are being booked via Detachment 1087 to use tax exemption. **Contact Don Dearth, 304-481-9595 for rooms, banquet and advance registration.** The banquet rate is \$30.00. Make check payable to MCL Detachment 1087. If you want to use your points or credit card then contact the hotel. They will give you the block rate but will charge you tax. The hotel has 22 jacuzzi rooms so when you call Don Dearth to book your room, let him know if you need an ADA room or want a King bed or want one of those jacuzzi rooms. If you are not sure if you are actually attending, go ahead and book your room, as you can always call and cancel. You do not have to make payment for rooms, banquet and \$5.00 pre-registration now but need to before the cutoff date.

2023 Modern Day Marine Expo will be June 27-27, 2023 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC.

2023 MCL National Convention will be August 14-18, 2023 in Oklahoma City, OK. At Omni Oklahoma City Hotel Resorts , 100 W Oklahoma City Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73109 , (405) 438-6500 Room rate \$165.48 includes tax. Breakfast is included. Parking not included but is \$10 per day per car.. Pet friendly with service animals no charge but others is \$165.00 per week. Rate good for 3 days prior and afterwards. Reservation open August 22 at 0800.

2024 MCL National Convention will be August 11-16, 2024 in Denver, CO at Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center, 7800 East Tuffs Ave, Denver, CO, 80237. 303-779-1234 Room rate is \$167.84 includes tax, parking \$10 per day per car, breakfast not included but host detachment will pay.

DEPARTMENT OF WV MCL NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Marines!

Step up, take the challenge, and run for elected office in the Department of WV Marine Corps League!!!

The Department of WV MCL Nominating Committee encourages all prospective Department Officers to seek out PDT utilizing the 9 lesson plans on the MCL National HQ website: mclnational.com. Gain a working knowledge of your Department, and National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. Ask questions and get the answers from current or past Department Officers that are here to help and advise you on how you can achieve your goals as a Department of WV MCL Officer.

The Nominating Committee strives to find the best members for the job. We are looking for motivated individuals that are active in their detachment and/or the Department. It is imperative that they have personal time to donate to the department membership to complete their duties in a timely manner.

They must possess basic administrative and computer skills as almost every aspect of being an Officer in the MCL is now based on properly navigating the MCL National website. We are looking for team players with good people skills to carry our department into the future. The acronym we follow is T.E.A.M: TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE!

We are NOT looking for individuals that wants to take an office just for the title and prestige of holding that office. DO NOT APPLY IF YOU ARE THIS TYPE OF OFFICER!

The Department of WV MCL elections will be conducted at the end of the general business meeting at the Department Convention on May 20, 2023, if you are interested in running for elected office, please contact me asap!

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Rick Shank
Sr. Vice Commandant
Dept. of WV MCL
Hard-charger@suddenlink.net
304-633-1814

~ Don't forget to check out the attachments to this month's Straight Scoop! There are 5 pages of photos, an important letter from the Department Judge Advocate, and the Department of WV Convention/50th Anniversary registration form and payments are due no later than April 1st (it's not an April Fool's joke!) Get your money turned in to purchase additional coins and ribbons, and if you want mini or large medals (members pay their Detachments, and Detachments pay the Department)

~ Don't forget to send in photos of your Detachment's events and member's activities – let people see what you're accomplishing – you could be the inspiration for another member or Detachment!