



# The Straight Scoop

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

Volume 16, Issue 6, June 2023

## Department Officers:

Commandant: George O. Gill, 304-377-1345  
Sr. Vice Commandant: Jim McDade, 304-549-5735  
Jr. Vice Commandant: Al Reitz, 304-612-7444  
Judge Advocate: Jim McDade, 304-549-5735  
Jr. Past Commandant: Rick Shank, 304-633-1814  
Legislative: Scot C. Heckert, 304-424-7000  
Public Relations: Jean Lamb, 304-595-1482  
Historian: Mike Lyon, 304-419-0982

Adjutant: Patti Leib, 740-591-8611  
Paymaster: Patti Leib, 740-591-8611  
Chaplain: Frank Armentrout, 304-837-4011  
Sgt.-at-Arms: Allen Miller, 304-379-0731  
Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms: Bob Brusso, 304-514-9212  
Chief of Staff: Roger Ware, 304-636-4365  
Web Sgt: Steven Swenton, 304-277-8872  
Asst Chaplain: Roy Vanscoy, 740-538-1917

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Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday in June

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## Commandant's Letter:



Greetings Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League Members:  
For those who do not know me, my name is George Gill. I was elected the Department Commandant at the 2023 State Convention on 20 May 2023. I am a member of Cpl Walter L. Mann Detachment 1065 in Jackson County. I have served in various elected and appointed officer positions in the detachment since May 2001 including two different tours as Detachment Commandant for three years each. I served almost 12 years active duty in the Marine Corps. I reported to Parris Island on June 1969 and got out in December 1980.

We elected a new slate of officers this year and we hope to have a very successful year.

James McDade from Cpl William B. Fulks Detachment 1474 has moved up from Judge Advocate to Sr Vice Commandant.

Al Reitz from Earl Anderson Detachment 342 was elected to the position of Jr

Vice Commandant.

Warren Bryant from Cpl William B. Fulks Detachment 1474 was elected to the Judge Advocate position.

Past Department Commandant Rick Shank has taken on the position of Jr Past Commandant.

By the time you read this Memorial Day will be over. Hopefully all of our member participated in some type of memorial event to remember those Veterans who have passed on.

My first goal as Commandant is to attend a meeting of every Detachment and talk to their members. I hope to complete this by the end of July. I have been to Hershel “Woody” Williams Detachment 340 meeting on 22 May. I will be going to Herbert J Thomas Detachment 947 on 1 June and MGM Detachment 1180 on 6 June. I will be calling every Detachment Commandant as well. I have also asked the Board of Trustees to call their corresponding officers in each detachment. I hope to see you all in the next couple of months. Semper Fidelis and Gung Ho!

*George*

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### Chaplain's Corner

*Ephesians 4:1* “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

As members of the Marine Corps League, we are “one body,” each with our own talents, skills, purpose and function, working together to the benefit of the whole. Marines, of all people, should show integrity, honesty, and live an honorable life. When we became members, we swore an oath of loyalty; and when many of us became Officers we swore another oath. It would be good for everyone to go back and review these commitments often, to remind ourselves of who we are and how we should conduct our business and our lives. Oh Lord, help us to be all that we can be, to bring honor and glory to You and to our beloved Marine Corps League. Amen.

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### Annual Dues Renewals ~ Paid Life Membership

It’s that time of year! Soon after the Department Convention each year, Detachments should begin collecting and submitting the annual dues of their annual members. The Member Retention Team (MRT) is the main point of contact to accomplish this by sending out letters, post cards, making phone calls, and/or home visits to annual members, reminding and encouraging them to pay their dues ASAP. National gets a bit backlogged with the renewals pouring in from all over the country, so it’s important to submit early and often!

Be sure your Paymaster does NOT hold on to anyone’s dues while waiting for all the others to come in!! It would be great if everyone paid all at once at a meeting, but that never happens – so transmittals need to be prepared and submitted to the Department Paymaster as the members’ dues are received.

Never save the Transmittal form to your desktop to use over and over, as National often makes changes to the form without much fanfare, so you could be using an outdated form with incomplete information. ALWAYS go to the National website at [www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org) and scroll down to the Library (not the Member Library). On the Library you have two choices for the transmittal – the long form and the short form. ALWAYS use the short form as the long form is cumbersome and clunky and not necessary (it just takes up a lot of paper when you print). Use the information on your Detachment Roster to fill in the form with each person’s Member ID number, name, address, phone, email, date of birth, profile number, and the number of years for which they are paying. If the person shows as Delinquent on your Roster, contact the Department Paymaster to find out how many years the member owes. The Rosters no longer show their expiration date, so you have no way of knowing unless you use your own records (and hopefully that would match what National has!) So, to be sure you include the correct dollar amount for each person, verify delinquent members with the Department Paymaster.

## PAID LIFE MEMBERS

National has been warning us for a few years now that they were going to significantly increase Paid Life Member dues, and they are doing that as of July 1, 2023!! If any of your Annual Members want to become Paid Life Members, they need to do that Immediately! National will accept PLMs at the current rates up until the envelope from the Department Paymaster is postmarked no later than June 30. This means you must submit your Transmittals to the Department Paymaster in sufficient time for her to process them and get them mailed out before the deadline. DO NOT WAIT – DO NOT DELAY

The change in rates is included here:

Effective 1 July 2023, the Life Membership Fees will increase as per the following chart:

New Rates:	Current/Old Rates:	Amount of Increase:
\$1,000.00 – 35 years of age and younger	\$500.00	+\$500.00
\$ 800.00 – 36-50 years of age	\$400.00	+\$400.00
\$ 600.00 – 51-64 years of age	\$300.00	+\$300.00
\$ 400.00 – 65-84 years of age	\$200.00	+\$200.00
\$ 100.00 – 85 years of age and higher	\$0.00	+\$100.00

The above Fees are only available if the member's annual dues have been paid and the member is in good standing. Any member desiring to pay their Life Membership Fees at the current rate, must do so and be post-marked by the Department Paymaster no later than 30 June 2023. Any Life Membership payments postmarked after 30 June 2023 are listed above.

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### DEPARTMENT OF WV 2023 CONVENTION/50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The 2023 Department Convention was held in Mineral Wells, WV May 19-20, 2023 and was well attended. We heard lots of good comments on the training sessions/round tables on Friday afternoon, and the food was really good, just as promised. The host Detachment, Commandant Archibald Henderson Det 1087, Parkersburg, negotiated a good rate on the hotel and the accommodations were good. There were 47 Deceased Members recognized this past year (from May 2022 to May 2023) and we've lost more even since the Convention. We didn't sell all the pistol raffle tickets which is disappointing since it also affects the Hershel Woody Williams Scholarship fund, but the auction went very well and helped to make up for the loss of potential revenue on the pistol raffle. Draft Minutes from the Convention are on the Department website for all to review.

**The winner of the pistol raffle is Adam Ockers of Elkins, WV.** The winning ticket was sold by Greg Irwin of the Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956, Elkins. Congratulations to Mr. Ockers and the Detachment!

**Scholarships Awarded (in order by sponsoring Detachment):**

Kyle Wroblewski, Marshall University, Grandfather Ron Wroblewski – Det 340  
Megan Wroblewski, Marshall University, Grandfather Ron Wroblewski – Det 340  
Chloe Armentrout, Marshall University, Grandfather Frank Armentrout – Det 947  
Carlee M. Hupp, Washington State Community College, Grandfather Wayne Fridley – Det 1065  
Melanie Stephens, Liberty University, Grandfather James McDade – Det 1474  
Holly Elizabeth Edwards, Marshall University, Mother Marnie Edwards – Det 1474  
Connor Bruce Edwards, Bridge Valley Community/Technical College, Mother Marnie Edwards – Det 1474

**Awards given out at the Convention include:****MOY and AMOY**

2023 Marine of the Year: William Al Lipscomb, Herbert J. Thomas Memorial Detachment 947, Charleston  
2023 Associate Member of the Year: Jerry Smith, Commandant Archibald Henderson Det 1087, Parkersburg

**Department of WV Annual Awards**

2023 Heart and Soul Award: Marnie Edwards, Hurricane Det 1474  
2023 Community Award: Commandant Archibald Henderson Det 1087  
2023 Americanism Award: Ron Wroblewski, Point Pleasant Det 1180  
2023 Recruiter of the Year Award: Scot C. Heckert, Parkersburg Det 1087  
2023 Service Officer Award: Corey Clark, Huntington Det 340  
2023 Adjutant-Paymaster Award: Jim McDade, Hurricane Det 1474  
2023 Department Commendation Award: Hershel Woody Williams Det 340  
2023 Commandant of the Year Award: Richard L. Shank, Huntington Det 340

**Distinguished Service – God, Corps, Country**

Michael Francisco, Commandant Princeton Det 957  
Phillip Johnston, Commandant Parkersburg Det 1087  
William ‘Ben’ Edwards, Commandant Point Pleasant Det 1180

**Distinguished Citizen Silver**

Rick Shank, Commandant, Huntington Det 340  
Enoch Michael Mounts, Commandant, Logan-Henlawson Det 577  
Al Lipscomb, Commandant, South Charleston Det 947  
Roger Ware, Commandant, Elkins Det 956  
Wayne Starcher, Outgoing Commandant, Parkersburg Det 1087  
Jason Hunt, Commandant, Beckley Det 1461

**Distinguished Service**

Gary Roberts, Commandant, Craigsville Det 339  
Al Reitz, Commandant, Morgantown Det 342  
Fred Brunner, Commandant, Wheeling Det 771  
Gary Watkins, Commandant, Ripley Det 1065  
John Stollery, Jr., Commandant, Martinsburg Det 1143  
Jim Doss, Outgoing Commandant, Point Pleasant Det 1180  
Isaac Warren Bryant, Commandant, Hurricane Det 1474

### **Department Commandant's Commendation** *(also recommended by their Det Commandant)*

- \*Jean Lamb, Adjutant-Paymaster, South Charleston Det 947 (the backbone of her Detachment)
- \*Lesa Reitz, Adjutant-Paymaster, Morgantown Det 342 (goes above and beyond for her Det and community, & participates in many events and tasks outside the League)
- \*Judith Ware, Adjutant, Elkins Det 956 (constant support to the Detachment)
- \*Greg Irwin, Paymaster, Elkins Det 956 (supports the Det and keeps it going)
- \*Robert Shafer, Judge Advocate, Craigsville Det 339 (worked tirelessly to hold his Detachment together)
- \*Raymond Vannest, Judge Advocate, Ripley Det 1065 (gives 110% to everything he does with the Detachment)
- \*Isaac Warren Bryant, Commandant, Hurricane Det 1474 (great leadership and support of his Detachment)
- \*Marnie Edwards, Chaplain, Hurricane Det 1474 (gives complete attention and 1000% effort to all Detachment functions)

### **Detachments Recommended for Commandant's Commendation**

- \*Hershel Woody Williams Det 340 - for commendable outreach into the community and membership
- \*Earl Anderson Det 342 – for commendable outreach into the community and supporting youth organizations
- \*Jones-Wolin-O'Brien Det 771 – for work with Boy Scouts of America, Boys State, Gold Star Family Monuments adding the John Nanny Memorial Monument
- \*Cpl Walter L. Mann Det 1065 – for commendable outreach into the community
- \*Commandant Archibald Henderson Det 1087 – for hosting the Dept Convention
- \*Meigs-Gallia-Mason MGM Det 1180 – for commendable outreach into their 3 counties, delivering food to Veterans and widows, and for hosting many Marine Corps Birthday Balls for 5 Detachments
- \*Sgt Mecot Camera Det 1461 – for commendable outreach into the community
- \*Cpl William B Fulks Det 1474 – for commendable outreach into the community

### **Certificates of Appreciation**

- \*Honorable Michael Honaker, Guest Speaker
- \*Comfort Inn and Suites Hotel
- \*Mary B's Catering
- \*Sean McCollign Catering
- \*Bruce Poole, Poole Law Firm
- \*George Gill, Scholarship Chairman
- \*Sara Edwards, Photographer
- \*Jane Legge, Photography
- \*Scott Kirby, Convention Chairman
- \*Harold Smith, Convention Organization
- \*Phillip Johnston, Convention Support
- \*Scot Heckert, Convention Support
- \*South Parkersburg Jr. ROTC Color Guard
- \*Diane "Momma" Heckert
- \*Debbie McLain
- \*Bobbi Sneigle
- \*Heather Heckert
- \*Sherri Smith

**We are still looking** for a Detachment to host the 2024 Department of WV Convention next May, and one to host the Mideast Division Conference in June. The Department provides support with both of these events, and it builds great relationships and gets you some recognition in your community! You may even gain some new members so please consider taking a turn with one of these events. Contact Sr. Vice Jim McDade via phone (304)549-5735 or by email to [mcdade63@gmail.com](mailto:mcdade63@gmail.com) or Commandant George Gill via phone (304)377-1345 or by email to [gogill@suddenlink.net](mailto:gogill@suddenlink.net) if you want more information or are willing to host.

*(See attached letter here below, from Sr Vice Commandant Jim McDade)*

The Department is looking for a Detachment to host the 2024 Department Convention. No Detachment submitted a bid at the convention and the Board of Trustees has decided to wait until the Fall Conference in September to see if a Detachment will setup and host the convention.

If no Detachment steps up the Department will be in charge of the Convention, and it will be a one-day event just like the quarterly meetings. There will be no banquet and no auction to support The Woody Williams Scholarship; about the only thing we will do is election of Department officers.

We know that hosting a convention is a lot of work for a Detachment to take on but it's one event many members look forward to every year.

If your Detachment is interested in hosting please let me know.

Jim McDade  
Sr. Vice Commandant  
Dept WV  
304-549-5735

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## **Ways to Honor Veterans**

We just celebrated Memorial Day. Did you find ways to do more this year to honor our brothers and sisters who sacrificed to preserve and protect the freedoms we enjoy? Memorial Day is a day to honor and commemorate the ultimate sacrifice that so many brave men and women have made, so it is certainly a day to pay our respects to these individuals, even if that is in death. Memorial Day is also a day to honor the families of these Veterans who are in our communities. There are so many ways to give back even just a little bit of what these Veterans have sacrificed for us, and below we provide you with just a few ideas to get you started. We thank the Lord for our Veterans and their families and hope that they felt honored, appreciated, and loved this past Memorial Day, and every Memorial Day in the future. (Maybe you can try one or more of these suggestions for next year.)

Many veterans, especially from World War II and the Vietnam War, are elderly and many are in nursing homes. Some also don't have family nearby and would surely love visitors, especially on a day that is so important. Find a veterans nursing home in your area and stop by to bring some joy to someone's day and to thank them for their service. It can be lonely for Veterans in nursing homes and long-term care facilities and they love to have visitors. Typically, these people are not members of a Detachment and can easily be forgotten.

There is at least one national cemetery in every state, as well as in Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico. What more appropriate time to visit one of these places than on Memorial Day? And if you have kids or grandkids, what a great opportunity to teach them about history and the truth that freedom is never free. Of course, the most memorable Veterans Cemetery is Arlington, but if you find yourself near DC, take time to go visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and witness the immense burial grounds yourself. It is worth the trip.

There are so many great organizations that seek to help those in the military as well as their families. Why not sit down as a family and budget some money this Memorial Day and choose an organization that you want to

invest in? Whether it's the spiritual or physical needs of active military or veterans that you decide to support, this is a great way to express your gratefulness to those who have served or are serving our country. We just sent a \$500 donation to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – an organization that helps wounded Veterans and many with PTSD to heal... what a worthwhile cause! And don't forget you can always donate to the Hershel Woody Williams Scholarship fund that is part of the Department of WV. I believe Chairman George Gill reported we've given out 155 scholarships totaling \$137,000 since 2000 and another worthwhile cause to also help keep Woody's dream alive! Speaking of Woody, you could donate to a Gold Star Family Memorial Monument currently under construction or help start one in your city/town. That was another of Woody's dreams...

Memorial Day is often viewed as the herald of summer. People use the extra day off to go on vacation or to plan get-togethers and cookouts. While none of these things are wrong, Memorial Day has a richer history. Its observance began after the Civil War, but it wasn't designated as a national holiday till 1971. To read more click [here](#). Memorial Day is important to America's heritage and its legacy, but if we don't teach children about it, the freedoms we hold dear will be that much closer to slipping away. As Ronald Reagan once famously said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We don't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Take the opportunity this Memorial Day to teach your kids and grandkids (or great grandkids)--or someone else's--about this important holiday and its history.

Memorial Day services are held across the country and you can probably find one near you [here](#). These services often include prayer, singing, and time to honor those who have served and given their lives. Even better, invite your whole family and friends to go with you to the service. Another very memorable event for your family or your Detachment is to attend the Memorial Day Program put on at a Military Installation or National Veterans Cemetery. The Cemetery in Dayton Ohio for instance has a military band, guest speakers, an Air Force Flyover and a 21-Gun Salute. It's an unforgettable display of patriotism for families and Veterans to see. If the Veterans Cemetery nearest to you doesn't conduct anything this spectacular, but it could still be just as meaningful.

We are fortunate to belong to this wonderful Marine Corps League organization. Members support each other in so many ways, not just within their own Detachment, but many Detachments assist other Detachments with funerals and events. The League can give Members a continued feeling of the comradery shared while on active duty and a sense of purpose and belonging. Memorial Day is as much for our Members as it is for Veterans we assist and don't even know.

And don't forget: prayer is one of the most important things you can do to remember Veterans and those who are currently serving our country on Memorial Day, especially Marines. And it's something anyone can do. Seek out a Veteran in your community or a military family and let them know you are praying for them. It might even help to write their prayer needs down as a reminder so that you won't forget to pray for them every day, and not only on Memorial Day. And while you're at it, invite that Veteran to join your Detachment. You never know when or where you'll meet your next new member!

## **Continuing Detachment/Department Business**

After June 30, all Detachments are required to file their IRS 990N reports with the Federal Government to maintain your Tax-Exempt Status

### **IRS 990N efile**

All detachment must complete and file an IRS 990 N efile as your reporting period has been changed to the fiscal year ending June 30. Each Paymaster should be prepared to file after July 1 and submit a confirmed report to the Dept Paymaster. Do you need assistance with the filing? If so contact the Dept Paymaster Patti Leib (740)591-8611 or via email to [pattileib024@gmail.com](mailto:pattileib024@gmail.com). She will assist and walk you through the process.

### **VAVS:**

Do you have members in your detachment volunteering in the VAMC VAVS program?

Have you reported your Vol. Hours to the Dept. VAVS Officer Roger Estep? [Restep53@hotmail.com](mailto:Restep53@hotmail.com)

If your Detachment is not currently involved in with a local Veterans Administration Medical Center, find one and start volunteering! If one is not close enough, then look for a local VA Clinic... you can leave brochures, business cards, magazines like the Semper Fi or Leatherneck – or even take snacks, bottled water, or other small promotional items like ink pens with your Detachment's name and address on them to give out to Veterans and potential new members. Don't forget to carry applications wherever you go!

### **Boy Scout Chairman:**

Is your Detachment involved in the MCL Eagle Scout Program?

Detachments should seek out Scout Troops and get involved with them. You can present Good Citizenship Awards to Eagle Scouts, join with them in a flag raising event, or invite them to a BBQ or picnic, maybe a hike or other outdoor event – or help them to volunteer their services to disabled or homebound Veterans. These young men are our future; we need to support them and be visible to them so they might go on to become Marines or leaders in their communities. And don't forget to report your member's efforts to the Dept. Boy Scout Chairman Fred Brunner. Fred also reports by Detachment to National – get recognized for your efforts! [Freb0n1@comcast.net](mailto:Freb0n1@comcast.net)

### **Paid Life Member Audit**

The Paid Life Member Audits will be coming out in early to mid-July. You can tell the difference between the PLM Audit and your Detachment Roster as the Audit is printed in portrait orientation and the roster is printed in landscape. Last year they both listed the entire Detachment where the Audit should really only list the Paid Life Members. We'll see what they do this year...

Your Detachment should receive your annual ACH deposit by the end of this week, if all goes well. It's directly deposited into your Detachment's bank account, so if your Paymaster hasn't received it by next week, let the Department Paymaster know so she can follow on it for you.

The PLM Audit needs to be updated by lining through any Life Members who have passed away and including the date of their passing. Just draw a line through it and make sure it's still legible. Also check to make sure a Notice of Death (NOD) and a Transmittal have been submitted to the Department Adjutant-Paymaster so the records can be completed correctly. If your Detachment has new PLM's that don't show on this audit, you should add them at the bottom of the Audit. Include their names, Member ID, Profile ID, and if you have their Life Member number, include that, too.

Once the Audit is complete, then it needs to be signed and dated by the Detachment Commandant and Paymaster. Keep a copy for your records and send the original to the Department Paymaster. If you need assistance or have questions, please don't hesitate to call – it's easier to answer questions than it is to fix a problem, and there are No dumb questions!

**Your Department Staff** is here to help with anything that comes up. Get to know your new Department Officers and be sure to utilize their expertise. If they don't know the answer to your question, they will find out for you and we'll learn and grow and prosper together!



## **PENDING EVENTS**

**2023 Mideast Division Conference** will be held June 23-24, 2023 Doubletree by Hilton Baltimore North, Pikeville MD 21208 phone (410)653-1100 Rooms \$119 per night; Banquet will be under \$50 per person

**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, 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.

**Department of WV Fall Conference** scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> 2023, hosted by Mountaineer Marines Det 957, Princeton

**Department of WV Midwinter Conference** scheduled for January 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> 2024, hosted by Earl Anderson Det 342, Morgantown

**2024 MCL National Convention** will be August 2024 in Palm Springs, CA.