



The Straight Scoop

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

Volume 16, Issue 7, July 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: Warren Bryant, 304-206-5398
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

Department E-mail contact: gogill@suddenlink.net
Department Web site: <http://www.mcleaguedeptofwv.org>
Department Adjutant/Paymaster: pattileib024@gmail.com
PO Box 1224
Athens, OH 45701-1224

Newsletter Editor: Patti Leib, PO Box 1224, Athens, OH 45701-1224 E-mail: pattileib024@gmail.com
Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday in July

Commandant's Letter:



Greetings Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League Members:
I have had a very busy time in my first month as Department Commandant. I have called and talked to every Detachment Commandant in the Department. I have also attended the regular monthly meetings of 9 of the Department's 14 Detachments. I am scheduled to visit 2 Detachments the last week of June, and two on the 17th and 19th of July.
I have also attended the 2023 Mideast Division Conference on 23 and 24 June 2023 held in Pikesville Maryland, along with Jr. Past Commandant Rick Shank and Past Department Commandant Scott Kirby.
While at the Conference, National Commandant Johnny Baker presented me with a Meritorious Unit Commendation National Level for the Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League. (See and read it in the attachment to this newsletter.) All members of the Department who were members on 24 June 2023 are authorized to wear the MCL National Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon/medal. I in turn presented the National Commandant with one of our 50th Anniversary Challenge Coins.
Next year is West Virginia's turn to host the 2024 Mideast Division Conference. Mountaineer Marine Detachment 957 in Princeton has agreed to take on this task again. The Department will help out in any way they can as the need arises.
We are still looking for bids from a Detachment to host the 2024 State Convention.

Please feel free to call, text, or email me if you have any questions, problems or concerns. But don't forget to talk to your Detachment Commandant first.

And remember to paraphrase President Kennedy, "And so, my fellow Marines: ask not what your Marine Corps League can do for you. Ask instead what you can do for your Marine Corps League. Semper Fidelis and Gung Ho!

George

Chaplain's Corner

While the storm clouds gather, far across the sea; let us swear allegiance to a land that's free. Let us all be grateful, for a land so fair – as we raise our voices in a solemn prayer. God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her through the night with a light from above. From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam, God Bless America, my home sweet home. (*Irving Berlin*)

Lord, we humbly ask Your blessing on the men and women who fought for our freedom, and especially remember those that died. We know that Freedom isn't free. Our Military paid a high price; may we never forget those who served, the families of those who are gone, and those who serve today. And may we be ever grateful for Your sacrifice for all mankind. Amen.

Annual Dues Renewals ~ Paid Life Membership

It's that time of year! Detachments should be collecting and submitting the 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!

Paymasters, DO 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 seldom happens – so transmittals need to be 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 notice, so you could be using an outdated form with incomplete information. ALWAYS go to the National website at www.mclnational.org and scroll down to the 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 clunky and cumbersome 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 maintain separate records (and hopefully that would match what National has!) Be sure you include the correct dollar amount for each person, so you should verify delinquent members with the Department Paymaster.

Effective 1 July 2023, the Life Membership Fees have increased per the following chart:

New Rates:

- \$1,000.00 – 35 years of age and younger
 - \$ 800.00 – 36-50 years of age
 - \$ 600.00 – 51-64 years of age
 - \$ 400.00 – 65-84 years of age
 - \$ 100.00 – 85 years of age and higher
-



Jr. Past Commandants,

Thank you for your service as a Detachment Commandant. Now that you are a Jr. Past Commandant in your detachment, you will remain a full voting member of the Detachment Board of Trustees. You are the principal advisor and a trusted resource to the Board of Trustees.

Your experience, background, and knowledge as a Past Commandant should be utilized for the purposes of educating and assisting officers in your detachment with accomplishing their assignments to a satisfactory completion.

JR. PAST COMMANDANT FIRE TEAM CHALLENGE

You are also the ideal Marine Corps League Officer to organize a Detachment Fire Team Committee to host, form, train, and charter a new detachment in the Department of West Virginia MCL. You have what it takes to do this, consider accepting this challenge for the future good of our League.

FIRE TEAM PROCEDURE: The purpose of the Fire Team is to allow groups of Marines to gather where there are no members to establish a detachment. This will add to the membership and foster growth of detachments. Because of the current statues of 501 (C) 4 guidelines any organization within the Marine Corps League must have a Federal EIN including being on the National Parent List and be in good standing within the State registration rules for non-profit organizations.

The Fire Team must be a subordinate organization of a Host Detachment.

Host Detachment – Current existing Detachment in good standing at the Department and National levels. A new Detachment can also be a Host as soon as they are Chartered and in good standing after the first quarter of Charter Date and Report of Installation (ROI) of officers have been submitted. This detachment must also have a current EIN and be incorporated with the appropriate state agency.

You will need to identify a location that is at least 25 miles away from an existing detachment in WV. Set up meet and greet meetings in that area to secure a Fire Team of four (4) Marines, FMF Corpsmen and/or FMF Chaplains having the desire to become members of the League and to have a detachment in their area.

When the forming detachment has received adequate training, established a slate of officers and has a membership of 15 to 20 members it will be ready to become a self-sustaining Detachment in the Department of West Virginia MCL and earn the right to be awarded their detachment Charter.

The Department of WV MCL has a Department Fire Team Committee that stands ready to assist and support Detachment Fire Team Committee's. Thank you for your consideration and please contact me with any questions.

Semper Fidelis,

Rick

Rick Shank
Jr. Past Commandant
Department of West Virginia
Marine Corps League
304-633-1814
Hard-charger@suddenlink.net

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."

Marines

During this time of campaigning and rallies in support of political parties and/or specific candidates, League members are reminded that the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League specifically prohibit the endorsement of a particular party or candidate. Attendance at political events in any manner that might suggest such an endorsement by the League is prohibited. Any manner includes wearing of the uniform or any part of the uniform and/or "speaking on behalf of" the League.

I enjoin you as members of the Marine Corps League to review the 2022 Marine Corps League's Administrative Procedures in Section 1015 -Policy- and ensure it is adhered to. If you follow these guidelines, there should be no concerns.

Regarding National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures:

In August, the National Convention Delegates will be voting on approximately 45 amendment proposals. It would behoove every member to review these proposals that, if adopted, could affect the operation of our Detachments. These may be reviewed in the Members Library on the National website. If you have any concerns, pass them along to your Detachment Commandant who will direct these to our Department Commandant.

Regarding Bylaws and Administrative Procedures at the Detachment level:

Changes to Detachment Bylaws and /or Administrative Procedures must be approved by the Department Judge Advocate before they become effective.

Thank you for your support on these issues. God Bless America

If you have any questions regarding any of the above contact;

Department of West Virginia Judge Advocate

Warren Bryant, hmc8404mcl@gmail.com

SEMPER FI

Continuing Detachment/Department Business

As of July 1, 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. She will assist and walk you through the process.

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...

The PLM Audit needs to be updated by lining through any Life Members who have passed away and include 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 updated. 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!

Happy Birthday to everyone as we celebrate the 247th birthday of The United States of America.

Many Detachments will be involved in 4th of July parades and celebrations across the state so please make sure that your uniforms are squared away and represent the League in the best way possible, and don't forget to take pictures and send them to Patti for the Straight Scoop

Many Detachments will also be involved in fundraising events, not only over the 4th of July holiday, but also during the summer months. Make sure that you have the events listed in your Detachment minutes and that they have been voted on and approved by the Detachment members. This way you are covered by Rust Insurance if something should happen.

If you are fundraising, you also must have a reason for the fundraising events. This can be raising money for the Detachment's general fund, Veteran assistance, or whatever – but the money raised must be used for the purpose indicated.

If you are fundraising or doing a membership drive in front of a store, don't just set up a table and sit there talking to each other and ignoring the people walking by; get out in front of the table and engage with the people walking by. We don't want to be seen as a bunch of old farts – although most of us are – who just want to sit around telling war stories. The younger Veterans that we want to recruit want to see groups who are involved in the community. You have about 30 seconds to make a pitch to someone before they start to lose interest, so make sure you have a list of things your Detachment does in the community. Pictures are also a good way to show the activities your Detachment conducts or takes part in. Have some candy or flags to hand out to the kids and it's also a good way to get the parents or grandparents to come over to your table. Remember that you can recruit Veterans from other branches of service as Associate Members. Associate Members have become vital members to the Detachments and the League.

Semper Fi
Jim McDade
Department of WV Sr. Vice Commandant

(The following article was originally submitted by Jr. Past Commandant Rick Shank following a phone call he received from the daughter of the Marine in this story.

Commandant George Gill called the daughter to follow up and gain additional information. The end result is in this article. All Detachments and Members are highly encouraged to take part in this event to the extent you are able.)

Retired Marine 1stSgt Eugene Ward Ball turns 100

The Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League would like to extend a hearty “Congratulations and Happy Birthday!” to retired Marine 1stSgt Eugene Ball who will celebrate his 100th birthday on 22 July 2023.

Marine Ball who is originally from Huntington, W. Va. joined the Marine Corps in March 1943. After boot camp at Parris Island, SC he was stationed to Camp Lejuene, NC. He served on various duty stations after that including Camp Pendelton, CA which he said was his favorite base. He ended his service as a recruiter in Nebraska and in Spokane, Washington where he retired after 24 years in the Corps. He says that he served during WWII, Korea and Vietnam but never served in combat.

After his retirement he owned a cattle ranch in Montana and was in land development. Later he owned an art gallery in Spokane. He is a Life Member of Melvin M Smith Detachment 586 Department of Washington Marine Corps League in Spokane.

1stSgt Ball moved back to Milton, West Virginia in 2002 where he joined Woody Williams weekly lunch group. Later he moved to his current home where he says he was visited frequently by Woody.

He attributes his long life to the good Lord and the fact that his father lived to be 101.

His family is requesting that everyone please flood him with birthday cards during the month of July. Also they are having a Birthday Celebration 22 July from 0900 to 1700 at his residence. The Department of West Virginia Commandant will be there to present him with a certificate and some local Detachments will also be making presentations to him. The address for mailing cards and for the celebration is:

Marine Eugene Ball
136 Lock Lane
Alum Creek, WV 25003

Please send him a birthday card and/or come with us to see him at his birthday celebration. If you can come please wear at least your Marine Corps League cover.



Department Jr. Vice Commandant Letter:

Department of West Virginia Marines and Associate members:

Department Commandant George Gill has asked me to introduce myself to our members as being newly elected to the office of Department Jr. Vice Commandant. My name is AL REITZ. I am currently the Commandant of Earl Anderson Det. 342 Morgantown, WV.

As the Department Jr. Vice, it is my duty to work with our Detachments on gaining new members and working to retain our current members. I don't have to tell our members that trying to introduce ourselves to those that are not aware of the Marine Corps League and who we are and what we do, can sometimes be frustrating. You talk to potential people and explain our mission and they will sound enthusiastic and willing come check us out, then do not show up. But we need to continue to reach out and speak to people to try and get our message out there and hopefully, we can welcome new members to the League.

Our West Virginia Marine Corps League members are strong in numbers, and it is important that we remain strong to keep our Detachments operational for today and in the future. West Virginia has the greatest respect for our military and the members of the West Virginia Marine Corps League can be proud to wear the League uniform.

I will be reaching out to the different Detachment Jr. Vice's to speak with you, and I want to echo our Department Commandant's message, that I am available to help and assist. If I cannot answer your question, I will work to get an answer.

New membership and retention of our members is a job, but working together, I believe we can continue to grow our ranks and welcome new members. I thank all our past Department Jr. Vice Commandant's for their hard work and hope to continue to introduce the Marine Corps League to more people.

SEMPER FI
AL REITZ

Frank Mathers, MED ANVC

Thu, Jun 22, 2023
12:47 PM

Good day to all,

Please share with all members.

Members are requested to review all of the proposed changes that were submitted to National for approval at the 2023 National Convention and to provide feedback to your Detachment Commandants.

All Detachment Commandants are requested to communicate their members comments/feedback regarding the proposed changes to the Department Commandants.

All Department Commandants are to provide timely comments to MED NVC Rick Thomason before the convention.

The 5 Bylaws and 44 Admin Procedure change submissions are posted on the MCL Library's Convention tab <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/convention/>

Review all and provide comments if you have any yea or nay.

I will provide an overview of the proposed changes at the 2023 MED Conference.

--

Semper Fidelis, Frater Infinitas

Frank Mathers,

Assistant National Vice Commandant

Mideast Division

Chair of MED MOY Committee

mclmedanvc@gmail.com

<https://www.mclmideast.com>

PENDING EVENTS

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 9th or 16th 2023, hosted by Mountaineer Marines Det 957, Princeton

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

National Midwinter Conference not yet scheduled but will be the last part of February 2024

Department of WV 2024 Convention now accepting bids – submit to Jr Vice Commandant Jim McDade – anticipated dates will be May 17-18, 2024

Midwest Division Conference scheduled to be hosted by West Virginia – Mountaineer Marines Detachment 957 has volunteered to host this event in June 2024.

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

Marine Corps League



Meritorious Unit Commendation

(National Level)

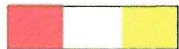
to

Department of West Virginia

In appreciation and gratitude for meritorious service that the Department has provided to the Marine Corps League for the past Fifty Years. The Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League members have served the state of West Virginia in a highly creditable and outstanding manner during the past fifty years. Your superior devotion to duty has brought many special praises and accolades from your communities and state. The Department of West Virginia's exceptional performance of duties were indeed noteworthy and were in keeping with the highest standards and traditions of the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League.

Awarded this 24th day of June 2023.

Johnny Baker
64th National Commandant



Authorized to wear the MCL National Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon by each member of the entity to which this award was made on the date approved.