



The Straight Scoop

**Department Newsletter of the
Marine Corps League
Department of West Virginia
P.O. Box 11828
Charleston, WV 25339**



Volume 3, Issue 8, August 2010

Department Officers:

Commandant Roger Ware, 304-636-4365 Adjutant/Paymaster George Gill, 304-377-1345
Sr. Vice Commandant John Nanny, 304-233-5289 Chief of Staff Richard Given, 304-965-3541
Jr. Vice Commandant Owen Stout, 304-595-2675 Chaplain Frank Armentrout, 304-837-4011
Judge Advocate Raymond Cartwright, 304-733-6841 Sergeant at Arms Charles Gearhart, 304-384-9283
Jr. Past Commandant Michael McLain, 304-464-5049 Aide-De-Camp Michael McRae, 304-636-8353
Department E-mail Contact, rrware@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: Roger Ware, 181 Weese Street, Elkins, WV 26241 E-mail: rrware@yahoo.com

Department Financial Report

Marine Corps League, Department of West Virginia Hershel "Woody" Williams
Scholarship Foundation:

22 June 2010 beginning balance: \$11,507.27 Deposits: \$500.00 Interest: \$2.88

22 July 2010 ending balance: \$12,010.15

Please send all donations to John Nanny, P.O. Box 2121, Wheeling, WV 26003-0234.

Marine Corps League, Department of West Virginia General Account and Paymaster
Report:

20 June 2010 statement beginning balance: \$4,865.59 Deposits: \$120.00

Debits: \$220.22

20 July 2010 statement ending balance: \$4,765.37

Membership: 2010 Dept Paid life members: 456 Paid members: 256 Total paid: 712
Unpaid members: 69 from Department quarterly membership listing 6/30/10

MCL Certificate of Appreciation

Detachment members may have the opportunity to visit funeral homes and give a final salute to Marines who have passed away. The last tribute to any Marine is usually given with military honors and once the flag is folded and given to the next of kin, all that are left are the memories and the flag. Some detachments give a Bible set to the family from the League if that respective Marine was a member of their detachment. Far too often we have Marines who are not in the MCL. The MCL has various certificates that can be purchased from the National Ship's Store at a low cost, usually \$1 per certificate. Some detachments in the department have given a MCL Certificate of Appreciation in memoriam to the next of kin for any fallen Marines that may have lived in their respective areas. These certificates are worded to pay a lasting tribute to the fallen

Marine's service during combat operations or service in a non-combat zone. A suitable frame can enclose the certificate for presentation to the family. It can be given during the viewing or funeral service with proper ceremony. Numerous favorable comments have been received from the family for these certificates. Here are some suggested certificates and the wording can be changed for the fallen Marine:

Certificate of Appreciation

to

CPL John Wayne USMC

In Memoriam

Marine Corps League Department of West Virginia and _____ Detachment _____ of _____, WV, are extremely proud to present this certificate of appreciation in memory of Marine Corporal John Wayne. His service in the United States Marine Corps during combat operations on the islands of Peleliu and Okinawa in World War II was commendable. His personal commitment, dedication to duty and endeavor to serve his country are just a small measure of his character. He left a legacy for all Marines to emulate and his fighting spirit is eternal. Semper Fidelis to a Marine warrior.

PM2 John J. Bradley USN

In Memoriam

Marine Corps League Department of West Virginia and _____ Detachment _____ of _____, WV, present this certificate in remembrance of John J. Bradley, Pharmacist's Mate Second Class, U.S. Navy, for his service during World War II in support of the U.S. Marine Corps, particularly during the Battle of Iwo Jima in which he assisted wounded Marines as they fought to secure the island as part of Pacific Theater operations. His service during wartime was commendable. His personal commitment, dedication to duty and endeavor to serve his country are just a small measure of his character. He left a legacy for all Navy Corpsmen to emulate and his fighting spirit is eternal. We thank him for his courage, honor and perseverance while serving with the U.S. Marine Corps. Semper Fidelis to a Corpsman of Marines.

SGT Iam A. Marine USMC

In Memoriam

Marine Corps League Department of West Virginia and _____ Detachment _____ of _____, WV, are extremely proud to present this certificate of appreciation in memory of Marine Sgt Iam A. Marine. His service in the United States Marine Corps where he was wounded during combat operations in Korea and Vietnam was commendable. His personal courage, dedication to duty and endeavor to serve his country are just a small measure of his character. He left a legacy for all Marines to emulate and his fighting spirit is eternal. The nation is forever grateful for his commitment to serve his country. Semper Fidelis to a Marine warrior.

VA Simplifies Access to Health Care and Benefits for Veterans with PTSD

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced a critical step forward in providing an easier process for veterans seeking health care and disability compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), with the publication of a final regulation in the Federal Register. "This nation has a solemn obligation to the men and women who have honorably served this country and suffer from the often devastating emotional wounds of war," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "This final regulation goes a long way to ensure that veterans receive the benefits and services they need."

By publishing a final regulation in the Federal Register to simplify the process for a veteran to claim service connection for PTSD, the VA reduces the evidence needed if the trauma claimed by a veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity and is consistent with the places, types, and circumstances of the veteran's service. This science-based regulation relies on evidence that concluded that a veteran's deployment to a war zone is linked to an increased risk of PTSD. Under the new rule, VA would not require corroboration of a stressor related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity if a VA doctor confirms that the stressful experience recalled by a veteran adequately supports a diagnosis of PTSD and the veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor. Previously, claims adjudicators were required to corroborate that a non-combat veteran actually experienced a stressor related to hostile military activity. This final rule simplifies the development that is required for these cases.

VA expects this rulemaking to decrease the time it takes VA to decide access to care and claims falling under the revised criteria. More than 400,000 veterans currently receiving compensation benefits are service connected for PTSD. Combined with VA's shorter claims form, VA's new streamlined, science-based regulation allows for faster and more accurate decisions that also expedite access to medical care and other benefits for veterans. PTSD is a medically recognized anxiety disorder that can develop from seeing or experiencing an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury to which a person responds with intense fear, helplessness or horror, and is not uncommon among war veterans.

Automatic Revocation Enforced for Not Filing Return

From: Meg Thoburn, MCL National Adjutant/Paymaster

This year the IRS begins enforcing the requirement for tax-exempt organization to file a 990. The IRS requires that a return is filed by the fifteenth day of the fifth month after the close of the fiscal year. Many, but not all, detachments use June 30 as the end of their fiscal year. If this is your date, then your return is due before Nov. 15. If you have not reached the end of your fiscal year and aren't prepared to file a 990N, you can request an extension of your filing date by filling Form 8868 by the original due date. If no extension is requested and you fail to file for a third year in a row, there is no grace

period from filing by the original due date. Any tax-exempt organization that has not filed the required form in the last three years automatically will lose its tax-exempt status effective as of the due date of the annual filing. Under the law, the IRS does not have discretion in this matter. If a detachment's tax-exempt status is revoked, we at the National Headquarters will not be notified by the IRS. The IRS will only send a letter to the detachment. If you receive such a letter, you must contact us via e-mail and provide us with the necessary information to ensure you are added to the parent organization list again. Please e-mail the information to jpisani@mcleague.org. After the IRS recognizes you as a subordinate again, you will have three weeks to file your 990. You can find additional information on the IRS website at www.irs.gov/eo.

IRS regulations require a Form 1099 be issued to anyone paid more than \$599 in a calendar year, even if the payee is incorporated or is your paid tax preparer. This would include any winners of cash awards of more than \$599. Obtaining a form W-9 prior to payment from anyone who has been, will be or you suspect may be paid more than \$599 in a calendar year, should be a requirement. Often it is hard to obtain the information after the monies have been paid, so it is definitely better to require it before cutting the check. Both the W-9 and the 1099 are available on the IRS website. Below are some frequently asked questions that the IRS has published:

What is automatic revocation?

(e.g., Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-PF) or submit an annual electronic notice (Form 990-N or e-Postcard) does not do so for three consecutive years. The organization automatically loses its federal tax exemption by operation of law.

How will I know if my organization's tax-exempt status has been automatically revoked?

A list of revoked organizations will be available to the public, including state charity and tax officials, on the IRS website. In addition, if the organization was recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, it will be removed from Publication 78, Cumulative List of Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The Internal Revenue Service will send letters to organizations that, according to our records, have not filed a required annual return or notice for three consecutive years, informing them that the organization's exempt status has been automatically revoked for failure to file.

I think my organization's status was automatically revoked in error. What do I do?

If you believe your organization is listed on the IRS records as automatically revoked due to an administrative or similar type of error, you may call Customer Account Service at 877-829-5500 (toll-free number).

My organization is a subordinate in a group exemption ruling. How will I know if the subordinate is still included in the group ruling or if its tax-exempt status has been automatically revoked?

The central organization that holds a group exemption (rather than the IRS) determines which organizations are included as subordinates under its group exemption ruling. For

this reason, IRS records may not show whether an organization is included in the group ruling. The subordinate's tax-exempt status is automatically revoked if the subordinate failed to file its own annual return or notice for three consecutive years.

Member Acquisition Program (MAP1) Helps In Contacting Lapsed Members

From: Jim Touhy, MCL National Jr. Vice Commandant

At the 2003 Mid Winter Conference in Falls Church, the Board of Trustees approved a Member Acquisition Program (MAP 1) that will help Detachments in contacting lapsed members and inviting them to rejoin. This program entails National Headquarters mailing to the Detachments a list of Delinquent Members for each Detachment to use. Please check each list for any discrepancies. If you know a member that is listed has a new address, is deceased or if any other information is incorrect, please notify National Headquarters via e-mail (JHill@MCLeague.org or KYates@MCLeague.org), fax or mail so the corrections can be made in the database.

After you have examined and corrected the list, develop a working list of members who may possibly rejoin. It would also be advantageous to compose a personalized letter inviting them to rejoin. When you process your mail-outs, save the receipt for postage and submit it to National Headquarters for reimbursement. If any members rejoin, please submit them to Headquarters on a separate transmittal. In the space where you put membership codes, put R/I. Please pay the full amount due for a new member.

National will then reimburse the \$5 initiation fee for each rejoining member. You must pay the amount of \$23 for a new member fee per the National Bylaws to have the member processed and for your detachment to be reimbursed. Delinquent Members are our best source of increasing membership. When you contact them, ask why they let their memberships lapse. Additionally, ask them what would entice them to stay with the League. If you receive some constructive responses, share them with your Department and National Headquarters. It may help us to retain and increase our membership throughout the entire country.

Note from Department Commandant Ware

Detachment Commandants, as per NJVC Touhy's letter above, every commandant in the department received a listing of delinquent members for his respective detachment. As mentioned above, it is suggested that you send a personalized letter to each of these members and try to get them reinstated in your detachment. As mentioned above, National will reimburse you for your postage if you send a request to them along with your receipt. Additionally, National will reimburse your detachment the \$5.00 initiation fee for each rejoining member. Considering this \$5 rebate fee, you might even consider charging the fee of \$28 (\$23.00 to national and \$5.00 to the department). You will receive \$5.00 from National for every member who rejoins. Good deals like this do not happen

very often and all it takes is your time and a small cost for paper and envelopes. I have even compiled a suggested letter that you can modify to suit your respective detachment for mailing to each of the delinquent members as listed on the list National mailed you within the two weeks.

Dear Marine,

The National Marine Corps League is a nonprofit veterans' organization for Marines of all eras and ranks and for Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen who served with Marines. The _____ Detachment ____ of _____ meets at ____ p.m. each _____ at _____ in _____. We are contacting previous members of our detachment asking them to rejoin and continue their camaraderie in the Marine Corps League. Below are some reasons to renew your membership and some accomplishments and projects within the regional and local community that Detachment _____ supports.

The purposes of the Marine Corps League are as follows:

1. To preserve the traditions and to promote the interests of the U.S. Marine Corps.
2. To band together in friendship those who are now serving in the U.S. Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy.
3. To fit its members for the duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve as ably as citizens as they have served the nation under arms.
4. To hold sacred the history and memory of the men who have given their lives to the nation.
5. To foster love for the principles supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic.
6. To maintain true allegiance to American institutions.
7. To create a bond of comradeship between those in the service and those who returned to civilian life.
8. To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines and former Marines as well as their spouses and dependents.
9. To perpetuate the history of the U.S. Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

Projects that _____ Detachment _____ supports:

-- Providing Marine presence at veterans' programs including memorial services, POW/MIA memorial services, Veterans Day observances and banquets, flag-raising and parades; conducting flag etiquette and flag-raising classes for school children; assisting with full military honors during funeral services for veterans and with community and civic activities and military tributes and remembrances.

-- Assisted with donations for: _____ . We also support the Department Scholarship Foundation which annually provides scholarships for dependents of League members.

I am writing to ask you to reconsider your membership in the Marine Corps League. Our membership is growing and the Detachment currently has ____ members. The Department of West Virginia was recently awarded a National Meritorious Unit Commendation for the hard work that the detachments accomplished. Our members supported all the Detachment's events and thus has made a tremendous Marine Corps presence in the community and surrounding area. You can be proud your Detachment has continued to set the pace and lead from the point and will continue to be enthusiastic with pending events which guarantees that Marines can do anything. It's just like when the Marines raised the American flag over Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima that Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal said, "Raising that flag guarantees the Marine Corps will live another 200 years."

_____ Detachment continues to grow and we are asking for your help to allow us to continue with the Marine Corps' visibility in _____ and throughout West Virginia. Your monies from dues helps provide operating funds to continue supporting the events and activities we sponsor and provide. We are also conducting a survey and asking for various reasons why our inactive members let their memberships lapse and what would entice them to stay with the League. We would appreciate any comments on these. We have previously approved your application for membership and have your DD214 or discharge certificate on file. We are asking you to please consider renewing your membership and helping our detachment be more visible in the region. Reconnect with your Marine Corps heritage and renew the spirit and camaraderie in the legacy that Marines share. Please pay your reinstatement fee of \$____ so we can continue your active membership and you will again receive the Marine Corps League Semper Fi magazine. We are enclosing an application so you can fill out and mail with your reinstatement fee.

If you have any questions contact Marine Corps League _____ Detachment _____ or call Detachment Commandant _____ at 304- _____, (give complete mailing address) _____ or e-mail at _____. To rejoin, send a check for \$_____ payable to MCL Det _____ along with your full address and telephone number and mail to the above address. Once we receive your check, we will process your membership and send it to MCL National Headquarters. Thank you for your consideration.

Semper Fidelis,

Detachment ____ Commandant

Gen. James F. Amos next Marine Corps Commandant

The Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced that the President has nominated Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos to serve as the 35th commandant of the Marine Corps. Amos is the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

Calendar of Events

2010 MCL National Convention Aug 6 -14, Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC, 1-800-242-6556. Rooms \$100.00 plus 12 3/4% tax.

Department Quarterly meeting September 18, 10 a.m. at the VFW in Clarksburg. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow the meeting.

2011 Mid East Division Conference will be held in Delaware. Location and date TBA

2011 Department Convention will be hosted by Jones, Wolin & O'Brien Detachment 771 in Wheeling, May 13-14 at Oglebay Resort & Conference Center.

2011 MCL National Convention Jul 31-August 6 at Doubletree Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho. 1-800-222-TREE or 1-208-343-1871. Room rates are \$86.00 plus 13% tax. Hosted by Treasure Valley MCL Detachment 878, Boise, Idaho.

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