



## *The Straight Scoop*

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



### Volume 6, Issue 8, August 2013

#### Department Officers:

Commandant: Roger Ware, 304-636-4365	Adjutant/Paymaster: Paul Turner, 301-471-1322
Sr. Vice Commandant: Michael McLain, 304-464-5049	Chief of Staff: Michael McRae, 304-636-8353
Jr. Vice Commandant: James De Napoli, 304-895-3062	Chaplain: Frank Armentrout, 304-837-4011
Judge Advocate: John Hensley, 606-834-9712	Sgt.-at-Arms: Charles Cooper, 304-937-2665
Jr. Past Commandant: John Nanny, 304-281-2950	Asst Sgt-at-Arms: Lawrence Goff, 304-752-0495
Aide-de-Camp: Robert Speaks, 304-676-6543	Aide-de-Camp: Harvey Gum, 304-940-2215
Legislative: Hershel Williams, 304-743-1026	Service/VAVS: C.R."Bob" Laing, 304-736-3341
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#### **Department Quarterly Meeting - September 14, 2013 in Logan**

2013 Department of WV Quarterly Meeting will be September 14, 2013 hosted by Danny M. Greene Detachment 577 in Logan, WV at the old Henlawson Grade School & Vet Center. Dept Staff Officer Meeting is 9:30 AM with general business meeting at 10 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept Meeting. Directions: Traveling from Charleston take 119 South to Logan. Turn right on Rt 10 in Logan and travel about 4 miles to stoplight in Mitchell Heights. Watch for Chief Logan State Park on the left and the Henlawson Fire Station on the right. Follow Rt. 10 for a short distance beyond this point to an abandoned service station on the right and watch for the Henlawson Bridge. It is difficult to spot until you are right upon it. Watch for a white building that is marked Star Storage. This building is just beyond the bridge and is on the right of the highway. Turn right onto the bridge. As soon as you cross the bridge turn right at the first intersection onto Veteran's Avenue. Go two blocks to the Veteran's Center on the left. This center is a former one story, brick school. It is marked as VVA and there are usually two small, white Veteran's buses in front. There is ample parking beside the building and in the back.

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#### **Department Commandant Comments on Membership**

Department Membership Total Paid -730; PLM - 449; Dues paying -281; Unpaid -110

Marines, National membership has either mailed or will be mailing to every Detachment Paymaster a copy of the total membership status for their detachment as of 6/30/13. The Detachment Commandant does not receive a copy of this roster and the Paymaster should

give a copy to the Commandant and Detachment Jr Vice Commandant. When the copy arrives, all your paid life members (PLM) need to be verified and a statement has to be written on the original copy that the roster has been verified and accurate and correct, then it must be signed by the Detachment Commandant and Paymaster, and dated. If there are any changes, they can be made on the form. Paymasters makes a copy for your records and mail the original signed copy to Dept Paymaster Paul Turner in Martinsburg. By signing and mailing the PLM audit ensures your detachment receives it's annual PLM interest payment every year. This year it was \$3.26 per life member.

Department Paymaster Paul Turner and I received a copy of the membership roster for all detachments in our department from National. I will give a copy of this to the members of our Department Membership Retention Team (MRT). Chairmen and Dept Jr Vice Commandant James De Napoli, Dept Chief of Staff Mike McRae and Member Ed Westfall of Wood County Detachment 1087.

Looking at this roster, our Department has a tremendous amount of unpaid members and we must all work to reduce it and retain as many members as possible. Detachment Commandants must ensure that their Paymaster and/or Jr Vice Commandant are contacting every unpaid member on your roster either in person, via phone call or letter, basically doing whatever they can to retain and keep these unpaid members. The primary mission of your Jr Vice Commandant is membership and he/she should be the driving force for your detachment on retention and membership. National has tasked every Division Vice Commandant and Department Commandant to develop a plan to concentrate on unpaid members.

Here is the Department plan : The members of our Department MRT will establish contact with every Detachment Jr Vice Commandant and Paymaster to develop a working relationship so every unpaid member in their detachment is contacted by members of this team. Every Paymaster must ensure they submit their dues transmittal form to Dept Paymaster Turner in a timely manner. They do not need to hold these until they have 6 names on each form as this might take 2 or more months. Dues transmittals need to be mailed monthly if members pay their dues. Your team must aggressively focus on every unpaid member as well as recruit new members. We must not give up on any of our Marines and maintaining contact with all the members in your detachment is essential.

All unpaid member should be addressed at every detachment meeting and discuss what has been done to contact them. You need a plan on retaining your delinquent members and how to increase your membership. Every member of your detachment is a salesmen and must always be positive and a spokesmen for the league. A personal phone call from the Paymaster, Jr Vice or Commandant can often make a difference. Every Detachment Commandant must always be aware of the status of his membership, and who has not paid their annual dues. Yes, it's the job of the Jr Vice and Paymaster to track this but the Commandant is ultimately responsible for everything in his detachment. Talk with your team and find out what they are doing on your unpaid and continue to track them every month.

I have tasked the members of our Department MRT to maintain contact with each

detachment and I ask for your assistance with their mission. Thank each for your hard work, leadership, and commitment to helping our league strive.  
Semper Fi, Roger Ware, Department Commandant

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### **Professional Development Training**

The Commandant of every detachment must insure that Professional Development is implemented and that ongoing training is given to your members. The Department has given every detachment a copy of the PDP training disc and new changes and National Bylaws have been added to an updated version, which will be given out at the next Quarterly meeting. New members always have questions about bylaws and administrative procedures and this training disc can enhance their knowledge and increase their desire to help the detachment with events and activities. National has the Professional Development Program on the national website and can be downloaded. Professional development is essential to all members and even old timers can benefit from reviewing the disc. The material within the training material can settle many potential conflicts. Department Chief of Staff Mike McRae has copies of the Department Professional Development and any detachment that needs a copy can contact him at 304-636-8353 or [mmcrae@suddenlink.net](mailto:mmcrae@suddenlink.net)

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### **Department 2014 Fund Raising - Wal-Mart Gift Card**

National Convention Fund Raising Chairman, Rick Shank Reports the following:

\$500 Wal-Mart Gift Card raffle drawn July 22, 2013 in Huntington, WV

Results: Winner - **Cherie Hobbs** from Charleston, WV  
Winning ticket sold by - **John Hancock** Detachment 947 Charleston.

Detachments that have turned in their stubs, money and unsold tickets are:

Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Det. 956	\$500.00
Herbert J Thomas Det.947	\$500.00
Cpl. Walter L. Mann Det.1065	\$400.00
Eastern Panhandle Det. 1143	\$60.00
Danny M. Green Det.577	\$40.00
Wood County Det. 1087	\$500.00
Jones, Wolin & O'Brien Det. 771	\$500.00
Huntington Det. 340	<u>\$650.00</u>
Total collected	<b>\$3,150.00</b>
	- \$400 Gift Card
	- \$100 seller of Winning ticket
	<u>- \$67.00 printing</u>

Total to 2014 Convention account

**\$2,583.00**

**Detachments that did not sell or return unsold tickets:**

Monongalia County Det. 342

Hick-Hamrick Det. 339

Mountaineer Marine Det. 957

Southern Highland Det. 977

DHL Det. 981

Meigs-Gallia-Mason Det. 1180

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**Paymaster Training**

The Paymaster for the detachment is considered the “banker” and as such is required to maintain full financial accounting for all detachment funds. In addition, collecting annual dues and filing out the Dues Transmittal Form is another important function. The Paymaster will receive a Quarterly roster of every member in his or her detachment from National HQ every 3 months dated 3/31/13, 6/30/13, 9/30/13, and 12/31/13. Upon receipt, this roster must be audited as it will include all unpaid members, paid life members and expiration date for all annual dues paying members. As each member, pays his dues, the Paymaster should mark paid beside that members name for accuracy. The members name is listed on the Dues Transmittal form and then submitted to Dept. Paymaster Paul Turner.

At the end of every month, the Paymaster should be able to review his detachment roster and know what member(s) are unpaid. This means looking at all the listed unpaid on the top of that roster as well as those listed alphabetically as the month when their dues are payable will be listed. The Paymaster in marking when dues are paid can do a better job of tracking all the unpaid members in his detachment. Every month continued focus should be directed on all unpaid member until their dues are paid. As each Quarterly roster is mailed from National, all the previously unpaid members as well as those who did not pay within that 3-month period will be listed across the top of the detachment roster. This will continue with each Quarterly roster and all the unpaid will be listed for one year. The quarter roster following that period when any of the unpaid has been listed for one year, they will be dropped from the rolls by National and considered inactive. Bottom line is that each Paymaster must establish contact with all those unpaid members and see what can be done to keep them on your detachment roster as paid members.

**2014 National Convention**

The 2014 National Convention Committee has designed, and had fabricated 500 challenge coins that focus on the 2014 National Convention in Charleston, WV. These coins are being sold for \$10 each to help generate funds to support the National Convention. Members of every detachment are asked to purchase and help sell some of the coins to help defray the expenses of hosting the convention. Here is what the coin looks like:



### **VA Grants Will Expand Transportation in Highly Rural Areas Veterans to Have Easier Access to Health Care**

Veterans will have improved access to health care under a Department of Veterans Affairs initiative that supports new transportation services for those living in highly rural areas. VA began accepting applications this month for grants to help state Veterans Service Agencies and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) operate or contract for transportation services to transport Veterans to VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care. A new regulation establishes the program that will administer these grants. Transportation will be provided at no cost to Veterans.

“VA wants to be sure that all Veterans, including those who live in rural and remote areas, can receive the health care they have earned through service to our country,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “State Veterans Agencies and VSOs will now be able to employ innovative approaches to transportation services for Veterans in our highly rural areas. The end results will include better service and better health care for Veterans.”

VSOs and State Veterans Service Agencies may apply for grants up to \$50,000 to fund transportation of Veterans to and from VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care. If specified in the application, the services may be provided under agreements with contractors, such as private bus or van companies.

A highly rural area is defined as a county or counties with a population of fewer than seven persons per square mile. Many highly rural areas are found in the western and southwestern United States but at least half of the states have at least one highly rural area.

One of Secretary Shinseki’s top three priorities is increasing access to VA care and services for Veterans wherever they live. VA is expanding access in a three-pronged

effort that includes facilities, programs and technology. Veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan are eligible for an extended period of eligibility for health care for 5 years after they have left the service.

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### **Professional Development - Leadership Training Detachment Meetings, Elections, and Committees**

The Detachment will meet for regular meetings on a scheduled basis on the same day and same time once monthly or as necessary as ordered by the Commandant at a place to be designated. All members will be informed of the meeting date, time, and location. Special meetings may be called by the Commandant or by the Board of Trustees upon reasonable notice to the members thereof.

The Detachment Commandant is in charge of all meetings and must maintain control of those meetings. Members are reminded that they took an oath to bring no harm to any of the members and would follow and obey the rules of the League. All guests including Department, Division, or National officers while attending a detachment meeting also follow the same rules as the Detachment Commandant is in charge of his meeting room and has the authority to have the Sgt.-at-Arms remove a disgruntled or unruly member from the meeting.

The opening and closing ceremonies will follow the Ritual provided by National Headquarters of the Marine Corps League. The Bible, national insignia, Charter and gavel will always be present. A minimum number of members required to transact the regular and legal business of the Detachment is a quorum. The majority vote of those members present is required to approve general business. Officer meetings require no less than three to conduct business.

The Commandant chairs the meeting and will have an agenda that indicates the occurring events and reports. The business meeting will be concise, and will serve to inform members of Detachment activities and affairs, and solicit member ideas, information, and response to activities and reports. The meeting will allow time for introduction of guests and new members, induction of new members, and introduction of all the members. Membership meetings are where members can voice their thoughts or opinions so any potential conflicts can be discussed and settled by the members.

The Detachment is a corporate entity and must be run like a business entity with minutes taken to comply with corporate laws. Copies of minutes from all meetings will be kept in the Detachment's permanent files and copies will be sent to the Department Commandant. Members through their action and/or verbiage will not do anything detrimental to the good order of a meeting. Committees will meet at time and place deemed necessary and nonmembers will be excluded from meetings when conducting official business.

## Ten Worst Meeting Offenses;

### 1. Being Unprepared:

- A. Includes Staff Officers or anyone designated to report.
- B. Make sure that all technical aides being used are operational.
- C. Always provide an agenda and support material in advance.

### 2. Starting on Time:

- A. Insist on starting the meeting at the scheduled time.
- B. Whether your meetings are attended by 12 members or 200 members showing up late or starting late will damage the image that you should be trying to project.
- C. A Meeting Hog is a person that talks just to hear himself or herself talk. You should encourage your Officers and Staff to have a written Report to present to the membership...there is nothing worse than an Elected or Appointed Officer standing and saying "Nothing to report sir." What have you done for the Detachment during the time between the monthly meetings? If you have nothing to report, it's self-explanatory...

### 3. Take Part in the Meeting:

- A. Don't just sit there if you have something to offer...Many times a member will not rise to address the body but wait until the meeting is over and then approach the Commandant or one of the Staff and offer something that is beneficial to the Detachment.

### 4. Sitting Silently during the Meeting:

- A. The extreme opposite of not taking part is the member that has nothing to offer during the meeting except idle chatter. You should refrain from private meetings because it is not only rude, but you may also miss something important being said.

### 5. Expressing Rude Body Language:

- A. Avoid making facial gestures and rude comments during presentation because you disagree with what is being said...You will get your chance to address the body if you so desire. Never get up and leave the room in disagreement. If you show the speaker the lack of respect to at least listen, then you have lost the battle.

- B. It is the duty of the Commandant to manage those being disrespectful in a tactful way and do not ever put a member down by trying to humiliate him.

### 6. Sidebar conversations are a NO-NO:

- A. Sidebar conversations are possibly the rudest thing that can happen during the meeting...This should be stopped immediately and refocus on the subject at hand.

7. Arguing or putting others down:

A. Disagreements are Healthy and Fine, but never get into personal attacks. Don't make others look bad for the sake of making you look good! Never be condescending or avoid the opinions of the membership. Always be professional in your choice to disagree.

8. Cells Phones:

A. When the Commandant orders the Sgt-at-Arms to open the meeting, he (Sgt. at Arms) will open the meeting according to the ritual and the following "The smoking lamp is out and please turn off all Cell Phones". Additionally, there should be NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE MEETING ROOM. This is a common sense ruling because we all know that alcohol changes your perspective.

9. Chewing Gum or Eating:

A. While chairing a meeting, the membership does not want to hear you chewing gum...A bottle of water is permissible.

B. The staff or Board of Trustees should not be indulging either.

10. Shutting Down the Meeting:

A. We all know that if a meeting runs too long, you are probably going to have some disgruntled members...If you are in the process of conducting some important business and it needs to be settled then and there, you should ask for a motion to extend the meeting an additional fifteen minutes...This shows the membership that you care about them and are trying to be as expeditious as possible.

## **Committees**

The Board of Trustees may appoint committees for purposes deemed necessary, and that committee members serve at the pleasure of the Board, and may be terminated by the Board. The Detachment shall appoint the following Committees:

**Nominating Committee:** This Committee is appointed by the Commandant to select the slate for Officers for the next election.

**Audit Committee:** This Committee will conduct an annual audit of the Detachment funds.

**Project Committee:** This committee is formed as necessary for special projects for the Detachment and may include: Toys for Tots, conventions, fund raisers and civic affairs or others deemed necessary.

**Detachment Marine of the Year Committee:** The membership may vote or a committee that may consist of all previous Detachment Marine of the Year recipients who will meet to select the annual Detachment Marine of the Year (DMOY). The criteria for selecting the annual DMOY will be determined by the membership or Committee. The previous

recipient could be the Chairman and would call for the Committee to meet.

## **Elections**

The National Bylaws specify that at least four members must be elected as Officers and that (only) elected Officers constitute a Board of Trustees. The outgoing Detachment Commandant or a Past Detachment Commandant will be appointed to serve a one-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees. Officers will serve until the next annual election. A detachment through its bylaws can establish term limits for officers.

Installation of Detachment Officers shall be recognized provided that all officers to be installed are members in good standing and that there are at least fifteen (15) paid up members in good standing on the Detachment roster.

The Detachment shall hold an annual election of Officers after October 1 and before May 15. Officers, both elected and appointed, may be Selected by the Detachment Members as they desire. The Detachment will elect a Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate. The Detachment can either elect or appoint a Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Adjutant, Paymaster or an Adjutant/Paymaster and such other officers as are deemed necessary.

Installation must be conducted within thirty (30) days of the election, Report of Officers and Installation will be forwarded through the Department Adjutant to the Division Vice Commandant, and then to National Headquarters within fifteen (15) days of the Installation so as to arrive no later than 30 June of each year.

The Commandant will appoint a Nominating Committee. This Committee will select regular members for the four elected Officers and present their list at the next regular meeting where the Commandant will ask for floor nominations and then close nominations. Then Elections will be held utilizing ballot or hand count. One Judge and two Tellers will be appointed by the Commandant to count the votes and verify their results and present to the Commandant. The Detachment Commandant elect shall select an Installing Officer.

The Installing Officer must be the National Commandant, an elected National Officer, a Past National Commandant, the Department Commandant, an elected Department Officer, a Past Department Commandant, the Detachment Commandant or a Past Detachment Commandant. It is the responsibility of the Installing Officer to sign, date and forward the Report of Officer Installation within the time frame specified in Article Five of the National Bylaws.

The Detachment has an obligation to replace an Officer who can not fulfill the duties of the office for which they were elected. This may be due to resignation, death, repeated absence, incompetence, violation of member/Officer oaths, or other action deleterious to the conduct of business of the Detachment, or the financial and legal responsibilities of the Detachment.

When there is a vacancy in the Commandant office, the Senior Vice Commandant will assume the office. For any other vacated elected office, the Commandant may task the Board of Trustees to fill the position. The Commandant with approval of the Board of Trustees will fill any vacated appointed office.

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**Pending Events**

2013 Modern Day Marine Expo will be September 24-26 at Quantico MCB.

2014 Department of WV Department Convention will be May 2-4, 2014 at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV hosted by Eastern Panhandle Detachment 1143

2014 Mideast Division Conference will be June 27-29, 2014 at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV hosted by Eastern Panhandle Detachment 1143.

2014 MCL National Convention will be August 3 - August 9, 2014 at Embassy Suites (\$114.00 plus 12% tax) and Town Center Marriott (\$119.00 plus 12% tax) in Charleston, WV.