



The Straight Scoop

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



Volume 10, Issue 3, March 2017

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Jr. Past Commandant: Roger Ware, 304-636-4365

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Newsletter Editor: Roger Ware, 181 Weese Street, Elkins, WV 26241 E-mail: rrware@yahoo.com

Department Financial Report Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League

Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Foundation: 18 January 2017 beginning balance: \$12,144.23

Deposits: \$750.00 Debits: \$0.00 Interest: \$2.97. 15 February 2017 ending balance: \$12,897.20.

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

General Account and Paymaster Report: 18 January 2017 statement beginning balance: \$14,425.56. Deposits: \$153.00 Debits: \$550.81. 18 January 2017 statement ending balance: \$14,327.75.

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE



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

For this month's, Commandants message I am sharing my Dept. Commandants report that We are sending up to the National Commandant via NVC McLain for the Mid-Winter Conference. Membership strength as of 2/12/16 PLM 458, Total Paid 778, Unpaid 92. Membership strength as of 2/27/17 PLM 450, Total Paid 780, Unpaid 81.

13 of 13 Detachments are fully compliant and have filed their Report of Officer Installations, Annual Corporate Reports, IRS 990-N's, PLM Audits. Moral in the Dept. of WV is high. The bond between our detachments is stronger because we have implemented programs where we work together as a Department to accomplish goals. We eat up the T.E.A.M. concept.

We have been proactive, recognizing and educating ourselves on how we can do better in preventing Veteran suicide in our area. We are networking with the Governor's office, Dept. of Veterans Affairs and the VA Medical centers in the State of WV to ensure Marines and Veterans contemplating suicide know they are not alone and help is available. Detachments are networking and sharing their ideas with each other. They support one another in their Veteran and Community based programs and events.

Our Detachments work together each year raising funds to support the Dept. of WV Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Fund. At each Dept. of WV Convention, we hold an auction with items collected by all detachments to support the Scholarship program for WV families of Marines KIA, as well as our members and their families. The Department, Detachments, MODD WV Pack and our brother Departments in the Mid-East Division as well as MCL units in other areas pulled their resources together to support Marines and their family's during the devastating floods in southern WV this past summer.

When the Dept. of Louisiana reached out for support during their devastating floods last year, our detachments answered that request to support their fellow Marines.

Detachments supported the Mountaineer Marine Detachment 957 in Princeton, WV when they decided to build a Beirut Marine Barracks Memorial. The Dept. as a whole was very proud when they accomplished that mission.

All detachments support the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Program. Huntington Detachment 340 and Wood County Detachment 1087 assisted in building GSF Monuments in their areas in 2016.

The Department, and all detachments supported our Young Marines Unit and MOH Woody Williams when they traveled to Pearl Harbor to participate in the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

We donated funds and presented a Dist. Service award to the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery's Honor Guard for the respect that they show our Veterans and our Marines and Corpsmen when they answer their final call.

We are currently working to build a United States Marine Corps Monument to honor all Marines at the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery in Institute, WV.

The Department has submitted a bid to host the MCL 2018 National Convention in Charleston, WV.

Mid-East Division Commandant, PDC and member of Wood County Det. 1087 Mike McLain was awarded the Mid-East Division MOY during the 2016 Mid-East Div. Conference.

Mid-East Division Adjutant, PDC and member of Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment 956 Roger Ware was awarded the National MOY during the MCL 2016 National Convention.

Negative Report: Contacting inactive members on the delinquent list. Questionnaires mailed to all inactive members in the Dept. at the request of the NJVC have put a financial strain on our detachments. Most detachments had already completed this task in the past. All reports on this program have been either unresponsive or negative. Suggest deleting all inactive members prior to 2015 on the Departments inactive membership roster.

Detachments mailing out dues renewal notices to members. This program also puts a financial strain on detachments with printing and postage costs. Time will tell on the ramifications of this on our membership. My hope is after Aug. 31, 2017 things will work out and the National Database will be properly up and running.

Accuracy of National membership roster. Members feel that they pay National HQ to maintain a complete and accurate membership roster by paying their annual dues and allowing National HQ to use PLM funds to rebuild the League. Divisions, Department and Detachments are constantly catching the blame and this is not well received by the membership. Detachments and Departments have a process in place utilizing transmittals to provide information on membership status. Return times on green sheets have significantly improved, but National HQ needs to take responsibility for their administrative procedures and fix this problem.

As Dept. Commandant, I am very proud of our detachments and my Department Officers for their dedication and hard work they have put in this past year for our Veterans and our League. I look forward to our future achievements in 2017 together.

Semper Fidelis,

Richard L. Shank II
Commandant
Dept. of WV MCL

Department Chaplain's Corner

It was a dark morning. Low, steel-colored clouds filled the sky, and the atmosphere was so dim that I needed to turn on a light to read a book. I had just settled in when the room filled with light. I looked up and saw that the wind was pushing the clouds to the east, clearing the shy and revealing the sun.

As I went to the window to get a better look at the drama, a thought came to mind: The darkness is passing and the true light is already shining Jn. 2:28

The apostle John wrote to believers as a message of encouragement. He went on to say "Anyone who loves their brother or sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble" By contrast He equated hating with roaming around in darkness. Hatred is disorienting; it takes away our sense of moral direction.

Loving people is not always easy. Yet I was reminded as I looked out the window that frustration, forgiveness, and faithfulness are all part of maintaining a deep connection with the love and light of God. When we choose to love instead of hate, we are showing our relationship with Him and reflecting His radiance to the world around us. "God is light; in Him is no darkness at all.

Jennifer B. Schuldt

Semper Fidelis,
Chaplain Frank

Clarification on Dues Renewals and New Joins - Dept Paymaster George Gill

As it is now 2017 and the \$10.00 dues for renewals are now in effect I would like for everyone to read this again. Remember that this is based on the Members END Date from your roster and NOT the calendar date that you do the Transmittal.

Also the \$15 New Membership dues will take effect on 1 March 2017. As everyone should know, a National Bylaws change was submitted to National Headquarters that would change all members dues expiration dates to August 31. This Bylaws change was voted on at the National Convention earlier this month. This change was approved with amendments.

I have taken this information from the recent letter from National Marine Corps League Executive Director Hazlett on this Bylaws change. This letter has been in the newsletter several times for reference. Because of the way the National HQ's computer system currently works the due dates on the membership cards will say 1 September instead of 31 August but the actual expiration date will be 31 August.

Renewals:

If your dues are due between now and the end of December 2016 then your dues will be your normal dues amount (\$20.00 for National + \$5.00 for Dept of WV + your Detachments normal dues). Your new membership card will say 1 September 2017 as the expiration date.

If your dues are due in January thru June of 2017 then your dues will be \$10.00 for National plus \$5.00 for Dept of WV plus your normal Detachment dues. Basically this is the normal dues minus \$10.00. Your new membership card will then say 1 September 2017 as the expiration date.

Anyone whose membership expires after 1 July 2017 will pay the normal annual dues and get a renewal date of 1 September 2018.

Remember, if someone has not paid their dues for more that a year you should put them in with a code of "RI" with the dues for that month.

After this is completed then everyone will have the same expiration date of 1 September. From this point on everyone's new renewal date will always be 1 September of the next year.

Once members have renewed and gotten the expiration date of 1 September 2017, they can renew at any time and their next card will say 1 September of the next year. You do not have to wait until August to renew for the next year but can send in the renewals at any time.

New Members:

For new members joining from now to the end of February 2017 the dues will be the normal dues.(\$25.00 for National + \$5.00 for Dept of WV + the Detachments normal dues). Their new membership card will say 1 September 2017.

For new members joining from 1 March 2017 and 31 July 2017, their dues will be the regular dues minus \$10.00 (\$15.00 for National + \$5.00 for Dept of WV + the Detachments normal dues). Their new membership card will say 1 September 2017.

After the end of July 2017 the new membership dues will be the regular normal dues (\$25.00 for National + \$5.00 for Dept of WV + the Detachments normal dues) and their membership card will say 1 September 2018.

After 31 August 2017, the join fee for the Marine Corps League will be the normal fee and will expire on the next 31 August date.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Semper Fi
George O. Gill
Dept of WV MCL
Adjutant/Paymaster
304-377-1345

Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Foundation Applications

Foundation Chairman John Nanny has mailed out applications to every detachment Commandant in the Department. The applications may be reproduced as needed. The Foundation normally awards four scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00. This is a one time scholarship so prior recipients are not eligible. The deadline for applications must be postmarked no later than March 15th, 2017. Please assure that all portions of the application is completed, all requested materials are included and proof of eligibility from the local Marine Corps League is verified. The application includes additional information required to complete and submit the application properly. Paying attention to detail is necessary in submission of an application. In the sixteen years since the Scholarship Foundation was instituted, 97 scholarships totaling \$79,000 have been awarded.

Department Awards

Department Awards Chairman Don Dearth has mailed out nomination forms for the following department awards to every detachment . The postmark for mailing is 30 March 2017. Detachments should be considering those individuals who they desire to nominate for one or more of these awards.

DEPARTMENT HEART & SOUL AWARD is presented in recognition of this Marine Corps League member's outstanding spirit and enhancement of the mission and principles of the U. S. Marine Corps and Marine Corps League from May 2016 to March 2017

COMMANDANT OF THE YEAR AWARD is presented in recognition of this Marine Corps League member's outstanding leadership and guidance in meeting all department and national guidelines, policies and procedures from May 2016 to March 2017

DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY AWARD is presented in recognition of this Detachment's outstanding public relations contributions and community involvement from May 2016 to March 2017

DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM AWARD is presented in recognition of promoting patriotism, citizenship, participating in parade activities, and observing all traditions of U.S. Marine Corps and Marine Corps League from May 2016 to March 2017

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER AWARD is presented in recognition of this Marine Corps League member's outstanding administrative and fiscal practices and procedures in the Marine Corps League from May 2016 to March 2017

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER AWARD is presented in recognition of this Marine Corps League member's outstanding service performance and volunteer work to veterans and their dependents from May 2016 to March 2017

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AWARD is presented to Detachment _____ in recognition for publishing an outstanding newsletter that conforms to the National Newsletter guidelines from May 2016 to March 2017

DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION AWARD is presented in recognition for displaying outstanding principles and purposes of the U. S. Marine Corps and Marine Corps League from May 2016 to March 2017

DEPARTMENT RECRUITER OF THE YEAR AWARD is presented in recognition to this Marine Corps League member for recruiting the highest number of new Marine Corps League members for the period May 2016 to March 2017

Division Marine of the Year

Section 300 (h) of the National Administrative Procedures outlines the criteria for selection of the National Marine of the Year. Using these provisions the following Mideast Division MOY recipients are the committee to select a 2017 Mideast Division Marine of the Year. The Chairman is Roger Ware - Department of West Virginia The other committee members are: Bud Raines and Tony Begenwald Department of Maryland, Richard Tanner Department of Delaware and Mike McLain Department of West Virginia The guidelines in Section 300 (h) (2) of the above reference must be followed for each nomination. Please insert "Division" in lieu of "National", as appropriate. Any regular member from the Mideast Division can be nominated and the Mideast Division MOY will be presented at the 2017 Mideast Division Conference, June 24, 2017 in Durham, NC. Each letter of nomination must be mailed to the above chairman, registered return receipt, post marked not later than May 15, 2017. Mail to Roger Ware, 181 Weese St, Elkins, WV 26241. Telephone: 304-636-4365. The Marine of the Year Committee will announce the 2017 recipient during the Mideast Division Conference. The above provisions are for 2017 Marine of the Year selection only.

Division Marine of the Year Criteria

This award shall be presented to a REGULAR MEMBER of the Marine Corps League who has rendered service(s) and/or performed a deed(s) above and beyond the duties and obligations required of a member of the Marine Corps League, or a meritorious deed(s) so identified as being within the scope of these rules shall be of such substance that the weight will or shall have brought acclaim and prestige to the Marine Corps League; or has enhanced and/or furthered the concepts of the duties of being a citizen of the United States of America; or a deed(s) of courage or valor without regard for his/her own safety

Letters of nomination must originate only at the DETACHMENT LEVEL. No individual nor any subsidiary unit of the Marine Corps League shall submit a letter of nomination.

All letters of nomination shall include a letter signed by the Detachment Commandant and Adjutant, stating that the nominee for Division Marine of the Year was approved at a regular meeting of the detachment by a majority vote. (In the event a nominee is the Commandant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Senior Vice Commandant and the Adjutant. In the event a nominee is the Detachment Adjutant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Detachment Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant).

Each nomination submitted shall be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to "Chairman, Division Marine of the Year Society". THIS ENVELOPE SHALL THEN BE PLACED IN ANOTHER ENVELOPE and mailed, certified/return receipt requested, to:

the Chairman at the address listed on the announcement.

The member must be a member in good standing and have served at least either an elected or appointed position within his detachment and department. List how many years he has been a member. List his positions and what was the significance of each if any. Is he a Detachment or Department Marine of the Year.

The recommendation should summarize what the member has done in his detachment, and or department. It should be brief and only impact areas where the candidate performed that brought credit upon his detachment and not merely list that he performed the duties expected of his position and or attended meetings. What were the results of any

activities he participated in that were above the normal expected duties of his position.

List those activities where he was the chairman or committee lead. Examples: Toys for Tots for 15 years and how many toys collected and how many children benefited. Chairman of numerous fund raising events that benefited detachment or selected charities. What was the total amount generated. Did he teach flag etiquette or flag folding to children, how many classes and how many kids for how many years.

What civic projects or volunteer did he do to enhance the league. If he did not participate as a league member in an event or activity, do not list it. What did he do as a volunteer outside of his detachment for the league. Was he recognized within his community for a project.

The nomination should be a snapshot of the member's achievements and not just listing his MCL awards. Did he attend his department quarterly meetings or convention, Mideast Division Conference, National Mid-Winter

Staff Conference, National Convention

The Division MOY Committee has developed a point system to aid them in their selection process. Consideration can be giving a point for each event, and a point giving for participation outside his detachment for either serving on department, division or national level and on any committees.

Detachment Reports & Files

- (1) After the detachment conducts their election and installs their officers, the Adjutant should prepare the Report of Officer Installation (ROI) , and have the Installing Officer sign it. It is then forwarded to the Dept Adjutant. Ensure you have your Adjutant or Paymaster make a motion to change the names on all bank financial records and include these names in your Detachment Minutes as the bank will require a copy of those minutes before the accounts can be changed. This is required to receive new signature cards at the bank.
- (2) A detachment should try to hold their elections in the Spring so they can file their WV Secretary of State - Annual Corporate Report prior to July 1. The cost is \$25.00 and it is mandatory. If filing after July the cost is \$50.00 as there is a late fee.
- (3) Most Detachment end their fiscal year on June 30 or as specified when they obtained their EIN from IRS so they can file their IRS 990N efile commencing on July 1. Upon receipt of the confirmation from IRS, send a copy of that email to the Dept Paymaster. The Dept Paymaster usually sends copies of all the confirmation copies he receives to the National Adjutant/Paymaster.
- (4) Paid Life Member (PLM) audits are conducted using the June 30 yearly membership roster sent to every detachment from National Membership Dept. Take the original copy and write your statement on it certifying that the list of paid life members is true and correct and that there are no changes (if there are any changes, sent in the documentation), ensuring the commandant and paymaster sign and date it. Make a copy and send the original to the Dept Paymaster.
- (5) Death of a member - File MCL Notice of Death and send to the Dept Chaplain. in addition, if the member also is a member of the MODD, then fill out a MODD Notice of Death and send to the WV Pack Dog Trainer.
- (6) Detachment Web pages - The Detachment Web Sgt should ensure that any changes in officers or other events are posted on the web page. An update should be made at least every 3 months.
- (7) Detachment Membership Meeting Minutes should be reduced to a written copy maintained in a binder that is accessible vice storing on a computer. Copies of these Minutes should be kept for any potential audit that might be conducted by the Dept and or state of WV. Standard desktop procedures should be maintained at all times. Files should be set up by each year in a folder for easy access. The following information should be included in your monthly Minutes:
Detachment EIN: Charter date: Incorporate date: Annual Corporate Report date:
990N filing date PLM Audit: Officer Installation date:
Locator Page date update Last audit date:
- (8) Detachments will conduct an annual audit of their detachment finances prior to the annual installation of officers. A copy of the audit along with a copy of the monthly minutes of the meetings shall be forwarded to the Dept Commandant NLT 10 days after the installation of officers.
- (9) Standard desktop procedures should be maintained at all times. Files should be set up by each year in a folder for easy access. Included in this file should be your annual Rust Insurance policy, WV Permanent Business Certificate, copies of your IRS 990N, Annual Corporate Report, PLM audits, Annual audit of detachment finances, ROI, WV - Articles of Incorporation, Detachment Bylaws & Administrative Procedures and Minutes from respective year and a copy of your detachment Charter.

Annual Corporate Report

Every detachment must be incorporated within the state so after annual officer installations are complete, the Detachment must complete and file a Corporation Annual Report prior to 30 June each year and mail to the WV Secretary of State, Business and Licensing Division. If Officers are installed or changed after 1 July, the

Detachment must file an Application to Appoint or Change Officers, and/or Office Addresses with the WV Secretary of State. Once the form is completed, a copy should be mailed to the Department Adjutant for record purposes. Every detachment that is incorporated must file an Annual Report for Corporations. The cost is \$25 and is payable to the WV Secretary of State's office. This must be completed before June 30 of each year. This should be done as soon as you have your elections and officers installed. The Secretary of State has mailed out a postcard reminding all corporations that their report is due prior to June 30. If you have not received your renewal form, contact the WV Secretary of State at 1-877-826-2954 or 1-866-767-8683 and have one sent to your detachment. Companies that do not file their annual reports on time are at risk of being administratively dissolved or revoked and will be assessed a mandatory late fee of \$25 (twenty-five dollars) for non-profit organizations as required by West Virginia Code.

The History Of Dog Tags

Dog tags have a simple purpose; they exist to identify people. The term "dog tag" is informal, but it is the nickname for those two pieces of non-corrosive metal hanging around military personnel's necks. It is possible to look back through history and find instances of something similar, but dog tags as we know them today did not come about until the mid-1800s. Dog tags contain much more information than just a name. Over time, more and more information has been added enabling them to be as helpful as possible.

Roman Legionnaires had dog tags, called signaculum. They contained very basic information such as a person's name and group. They were made of lead and had a leather rope attached for wearing around the neck. The Chinese military started using them in the mid-1800s. However, soldiers in the United States fighting in the Civil War had to improvise to identify themselves on the battlefield. They wrote information such as their name and address on a piece of paper and then pinned it to the back of their jacket (on the inside of course). Some soldiers did not do this and instead opted to etch the info into their belts or knapsacks.

During the Civil War American businessmen spotted an opportunity. Recognizing there was a market for nametags within the military they advertised pins displaying a soldier's name, rank, unit and military status. Tags usually had a shield or an eagle on them, along with a phrase that represented war. One of the phrases used was "War for the Union." Tags were issued to the Prussian Army in the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. These had a German nickname "Hundemarken" and were based on an identification system for dogs.

In 1906, the US Army officially began providing them; the British Army followed suit in 1907. US and British tags were made from aluminum. Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand retained the same basic id discs well into the 20th century. 1916 brought a change. Both the US and Britain issued two tags. If a soldier died, one disc was removed to assist with recording the death the other was left with the body for identification once it was removed from the battlefield. It has remained this way with more and more militaries adopting tags.

Every country has different tags, different ways they make them, different materials and even different info. For example:

- Several countries including Canada, Israel and Denmark use tags that break in two.
- The ball chain is the most common necklace to support the tags. In the past a string was often used.
- Most tags are ovals or rectangles.
- The three most common things on the tags are; name, blood type and serial number. Some countries add religious affiliation.
- The Soviet Union did not issue dog tags in WWII. Instead, they opted for a cylinder with a piece of paper in it providing the details. They began issuing oval tags after the war.

Use of dog tags today extends well beyond the military. They have become a fashion accessory and some businesses offer the opportunity to create personalized tags. They are also used within the medical industry since a lot of information can be put on them including patient allergies, blood type, and emergency contacts. These are typically referred to as medical ID tags, but they are the same concept as dog tags.

2017 MCL Department Meeting Schedule
Department of West Virginia
Charleston, WV
MAY 5-7, 2017

Friday, May 5, 2017

0600-0945 Breakfast
0900-1200 MCL Registration
1000-1200 MODD Registration
1200-1300 Lunch on your own
1300-1600 MCL Registration
1300-1600 MODD Registration
1300-1600 Professional Development Training
1300-1700 Department Audit Committee
1600-1700 Commandant's Council - Detachment Commandants/Staff Officers meeting
1700-1830 Dinner on your own
1700-2230 Hospitality Room open
1830-1900 MODD Pack Board Meeting*
1900-2100 MODD Growl of the Pack
* At call of Department Commandant, MCL; Pack Leader, MODD, PMOY Chairman

Saturday, May 6, 2017

0600-0930 Breakfast
0800-1000 MCL registration
0800-0815 Flag-Raising Ceremony
0820-0930 Memorial Services, all hands attending
0930-0945 Department Budget Committee Meeting*
0930-0945 Department Nominations Committee Meeting*
1000-1200 MCL Business Meeting
1200-1315 Lunch on your own
1315-1600 MCL Business Meeting
1615-1640 New Officer Installation & Department Officers' Meeting
1800-1900 Formal Reception
1900 Grand Banquet
* At call of Chairman for Budget and Nominations Committee

#Parking Status at Department Convention in Charleston

#TO: ALL DETACHMENT COMMANDANTS, DEPT OF WV
Marines,

I would like to clarify an issue concerning the hotel parking at the Marriott Town Center during our 2017 State MCL Convention scheduled for May 5-6, 2017. Complimentary self-parking is included in the hotel room rate of \$109.00. When you reserve rooms for the convention and you receive a confirmation, a parking fee is automatically included but you will not be charged for parking when you check out.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, don't hesitate to contact Detachment #947 Adjutant/Paymaster Jean Lamb at jlambchop6@aol.com or call me at 304 595-1482.

Respectfully,
Owen Stout, Commandant

Track Your VA Claims Status Online

You will now be able to track the progress of your disability compensation claim online at Vets.gov. After you create a Vets.gov account, give it a try. There are now less-confusing steps in the timeline. Where there used to be eight steps in the claim process, there are now only five: (1) claim received; (2) initial review; (3) evidence gathering, review and decision; (4) preparation for decision notification; and (5) complete. Disability

compensation is the only claim status currently available on Vets.gov. Other claim types will be added in early 2017. Also, soon, you will be able to discover, apply for, track and manage all your VA benefits at vets.gov.

Vet Charity Watch BBB Clears Wounded Warrior Project

After months of investigation, the Better Business Bureau has cleared the Wounded Warrior Project, one of the nation's largest veterans charities, of "lavish spending," and gave the nonprofit organization its seal of approval. The bureau's Wise Giving Alliance report found that Warrior Project spending has been "consistent with its programs and missions." Last March, the Wounded Warrior Project fired its top administrators amid news reports that the charity was spending millions in donations intended for veterans on a swanky convention in a five-star hotel along with other parties and employee perks and high salaries. At the time, two of the organization's leaders, who were let go, were making \$473,015 and \$369,030, respectively, in 2013, the last year for which tax documents are readily available.

The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance suspended the charity's seal designation, and donations fell off with donors uncertain about how their money would be spent. About 85 employees were laid off in September from the organization, which now has 500 employees. One source of contention was over media reports that said the organization had spent \$3 million on that "all-hands" Colorado conference, but Wounded Warrior said last March that the expense was less than \$1 million. Likewise, the Better Business Bureau said its review found that the cost was less than \$1 million. The investigations found that based on the 415 staff members, the cost was about \$440 per day per employee for the five-day conference, including hotel rooms, food, travel and conference space, according to Stars and Stripes, which first reported the news.

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael S. Linnington, who took over the Wounded Warrior Project in July, said in an emailed statement that he is "pleased to see the Better Business Bureau's report validating our impact and commitment." In a previous interview, he said he understood how the Colorado conference appeared from the outside. The Wounded Warrior Project no longer holds such events and already has increased the scrutiny on spending for travel and all expenses, he said, adding that he would be paid less than those before him, with his salary at \$280,000. "This year the non-profit WWP will hit a milestone by providing meaningful resources to our 100,000th wounded warrior," he wrote. "And we are humbled and honored to provide continued support to these warriors and their families for many years to come."

Liver Fluke: Update on a Cancer-causing Parasite

(Adapted from an article by Claudia Gary in the January/February 2017 edition of The VVA Veteran magazine)

One of the most insidious (of parasites) is the liver fluke -- *Opisthorchis viverrini* or *Clonochis sinensis* -- a freshwater-fish-borne flatworm that causes cholangiocarcinoma (cancer of the bile duct).

Cholangiocarcinoma is widespread in areas of Southeast Asia due to the popularity of traditional dishes in which fish is either raw or insufficiently cooked to kill the parasite. Many veterans who served in or near Vietnam acquired the parasite.

What makes liver fluke infection especially ominous is the parasite can live and reproduce in the bile duct for thirty years or longer. This causes chronic inflammation that eventually creates cancerous cells before producing noticeable symptoms. Although detection and elimination of the parasite are easy at an early stage, all too often the infection is not discovered until a patient has Stage IV cancer. Typically, the first visible signs include jaundice resulting from a blocked bile duct. At this stage, the prognosis is dismal and the same cancerous blockage that causes jaundice also locks in a still-thriving colony of liver flukes, preventing their detection in stool samples.

Liver flukes often cannot be detected by the usual method because they are sealed into the bile duct. **A non-invasive test is being developed that would detect liver fluke infection by determining species-specific antigens in the urine.** This is described in a 2016 article from Thailand published in the journal "PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases."

All in-country Vietnam veterans are encouraged to get tested for liver flukes before cancer symptoms appear. In

the worst cases, the test would provide survivors with the information to help prove service connection when applying for VA benefits. Unfortunately, lack of information and the resultant confusion about this cancer have continued to obstruct such claims, making them more difficult for veterans and their families.

Recent studies have focused on increased awareness, education, cancer treatment and early diagnostic methods. Today, the evidence and explanation are clearer and widely available. See also vaveteran.org/34-2/34-2_parasites.html for additional information.

For anyone who has traveled to Southeast Asia and eaten local food but has no symptoms, testing is worthwhile and simple. It can be done through the VA or a private physician. If liver fluke infection is detected, it is easily treated using the following guidelines from CDC. cdc.gov/dpdx/opisthorchiasis/tx.html.

Filing Claims for Service Connected Cause of Death - Widows of Veterans

There are many conditions that veterans die from. What makes a difference is whether they pass away from a service connected or non service connected condition. If a veteran never filed a VA claim for any service connected condition but dies from one of the presumptive conditions listed for herbicides from Agent Orange or from the presumptive conditions from the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, the surviving spouse can file a VA claim listing the presumptive condition as cause of death. In addition, the VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$2000 if the veteran's death was due to service-connected.

From 1957 to February 1985, it was discovered that two on-base water-supply systems were contaminated with the volatile organic compounds trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent. Benzene, vinyl chloride, and other compounds were also found to be contaminating the water-supply systems.

Any Marine who served aboard CLNC during this time frame needs to fill out a form to be registered in the Camp Lejeune Water Contamination for any further presumptive service connected conditions that will be approved by the VA.

If you know of any member who died from any of the Agent Orange presumptive conditions and has a surviving spouse. Please check with her to see if she filed a claim for cause of death. Even if the veteran had not previously filed for a presumptive condition that ultimately lead to their death, the widow can file a VA claim for service connected cause of death and request that she be awarded all benefits that she might be entitled to and that she also be awarded the increased burial benefit of \$2000. The surviving spouse has to file to received any benefits. The VA will not contact the surviving spouse to offer assistance. The spouse must establish contact to receive any VA assistance. Many surviving spouses are not aware of any benefits they can receive after their spouse dies. Far too often, additional presumptive conditions are added to a list of service connected conditions and the spouse is not notified. This has occurred with the ischemic heart condition that is now presumptive with Agent Orange. Numerous veterans has passed away from heart attacks or conditions related to their heart years ago, or from one or more of the presumptive conditions listed for contaminated water at Camp Lejeune and their widows are not aware that they can file a service connected VA claim for cause of death. A letter from the attending physician expressing an opinion whether the cause of death was or was not due to the water contamination and of herbicides would help clarify and support the claim.

Marines, please be aware of any surviving spouses that might live in your area and keep them informed of any benefits that they might be eligible to as they usually have no knowledge. If ever in doubt have them contact the nearest VA Office or offer to take them there.

Detachment Awards

It is the responsibility of the Commandant to ensure that members are recognized for performing Detachment events, displaying USMC or MCL Principles and Purposes, outstanding community involvement and promoting patriotism. There are various awards and MCL certificates that can be fabricated and presented.

Actual performance must exceed normal expectations and merits a respective award to ensure integrity of the Award. No award should be given because they are a member. Must be able to justify award. The impact upon detachment or community will determine the award level. Thanking members is also a reward. Certificates can

be presented to businesses or organizations.

Ceremonial Guard Ribbon (with authorization noted on the certificate to wear the Ribbon)

Must participate in 10 events for each award. Events include Color Guard, Funeral/Honor Detail, Rifle Detail or Marching Squad. Just walking or riding on a float in a parade does not qualify unless it is part of a specific detail or program such as a Marching Unit. This Award is retroactive to 1 January 2010 for all individuals who have met the qualifications for the Award.

Distinguished Citizen Medal - Bronze

Awarded to detachment members and community citizens for outstanding service or those who have been examples of patriotism and exemplary citizenship

Distinguished Service Award (with authorization noted on the certificate to wear the Medal/Ribbon)

Awarded to detachment members for outstanding service and those who have excelled and exceeded expectations

Detachment Recruiter Medal - Bronze - (with authorization noted on the certificate to wear the Medal/Ribbon)

Awarded to member who signs up most new members within a year

MCL Community Service , VAVS Service , or JROTC Service Ribbon

Awarded to individual for either Community Service, VAVS and or JROTC Service

Meritorious Individual Commendation Ribbon

Awarded for individual meritorious action or contributions to detachment or community

Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded for performance that reflects on the detachment or other community service

The following Awards are automatically authorized to be worn by Detachment members:

Detachment Commandant Medal Detachment Marine of the Year Medal

Detachment Staff Medal - Elected Detachment Staff Medal – Appointed

MCL Medal (Membership) is automatically authorized for a member who has been in the League for five (5) continuous years and has not had their membership revoked.

Detachment Marine of the Year (with authorization noted on the certificate to wear the Medallion and ribbon)

This award is presented to the Detachment member demonstrating outstanding performance and dedication above and beyond expectations of the principles of the MCL that merit nomination for the award. The selection for the Detachment Marine of the Year (DMOY) may be selected by the membership or by a committee of all previous Detachment Marine of the Year recipients. This will be the Detachment Marine of the Year Committee. The criteria for selecting the annual DMOY will be determined by the Committee. The previous recipient will be the Chairman and will call for the Committee to meet. The Leaguer selected will be presented the Detachment Marine of the Year Medal at a ceremony and will be authorized to wear it in accordance with the prescribed Uniform Code. A suitable certificate will be presented and will be included in the Detachment Minutes.

Boy Scout Eagle Scout - Marine Corps League Good Citizenship Award - Presented to a Boy Scout who has attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Usually presented during Boy Scout Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony. Appropriate words of remarks should be made during presentation by Marine Corps League representative.

VA Disability Compensation System Who is Eligible

Who is eligible for VA compensation? and How do you get it? is No one, and You don't. First, though, let's bust those myths. VA is still compiling FY16 data, but in FY15, VA paid more money to compensate more Veterans— with more claimed medical conditions rated at higher average percentages—than ever before. As

you can see, someone's getting paid, and that someone is (as of FY15) 4.56 million someones—and those someones are Veterans who took home \$4 billion dollars in FY15 for their service-connected disabilities.

So, who are these people getting approved, and how do they do it? VA disability compensation is taxpayer money, there's a legal process to claim that money. This means that VA disability compensation is guarded by the laws that your elected lawmakers wrote. The laws explain who is eligible: those who have separated from active military service with any discharge except dishonorable, as well as those still serving in the Reserves/National Guard. That's the first part. The second part is that, if you want to claim an injury or medical condition, it must have happened to you during the time you were active including Reserves/Guard activated, Reserves/Guard drill and/or annual training. An addition to the second part allows one to claim active military service aggravated a pre-service injury or medical condition. The third part is that, if you claim an injury or medical condition that occurred/happened to you during active service, then you need to give VA evidence of the injury or medical condition that occurred/happened during the time you were in active service.

Note: This does not mean that it had to happen while deployed, and it doesn't mean it had to happen in uniform or during the duty day. You can file a claim if you served active duty during peacetime, or got injured in a pick-up basketball game off post after the duty day, and if the injuries you sustained affect you today, then it's something you could claim.

So, what do you do if you don't have much in your records? You can provide evidence. You can use pictures (you, your wound, your clothing and gear, your vehicle, your AAR, etc.), receipts, unit citations, award letters, prescriptions, news clippings, base hospital records, in-take and discharge logs; post-service private doctor records; and statements from your spouse, your commander, your platoon sergeant, your roommate, any witness who was there or knew you or was affected by your injury/medical conditions. The last thing you need is actually two things: a current medical diagnosis from a medical professional (VA or civilian), and for that doctor to give the professional opinion that after reviewing your military medical records your current diagnosis—the injury or condition you suffer from right now—is because of what happened to you in active service. Yes! Have the doc review your records.

Recap: Active service period, not dishonorable; evidence that something happened to you on active service; current medical diagnosis; and medical professional agreeing the medical condition was caused by the thing that happened to you on active service.

Service Officer Michael Lyonon & Commandant Owen Stout, of Marine Corps League Detachment #947 presented an Honorary Membership to Paige Johnson, Marketing and PR; Brian L. Ulery, COO of Thomas Health System and Certificate of Appreciation for Loyalty and Patriotism to our country to Dan Lauffer, CEO of Thomas Health System.





Marine Corps League



Department of West Virginia



PISTOL RAFFLE

S&W M&P SHIELD 9mm w/Extra Extended Mag

TICKETS \$2.00 EACH

DRAWING May 6, 2017

Every Detachment received 300 tickets to sell. Please help sell these within your area as the proceeds help the Department Scholarship Foundation and Department projects.

Veterans Visibility Day 2017



Flanked by Veterans of all branches, our own Woody Williams attended the Veterans Visibility Day at the Capitol on February 20th. There was a big Veteran turnout in the House and Senate Chambers this year and was well represented by several Department and Detachment Marine Corps League members from all over the state.

Pending Calendar

2017 Marine South Expo will be Apr 12 - 13, 2017 at [Camp Lejeune](#), NC.

2017 Department of West Virginia Convention will be May 5-7, 2017 at the Town Center Marriott, 200 Lee St E, Charleston, West Virginia 25301. Tel: 304-345-6500 Herbert J. Thomas Detachment 957 will be the host detachment. Rooms rate : \$109.00 plus tax, RESERVATION CODE - **Marine Corps League**. banquet : \$28.00 Free breakfast and parking. Reservations can be made after Feb 1. Ad book will be available. Website: marriott.com. Amenities: Free Garage Parking (non-valet), Wi-Fi, Indoor Pool, Fitness Center, Business Center & Airport Shuttle. Guaranteed Check-in – 16:00. Check-out – Noon. Cutoff Date: To have your room reserved, name tag printed and packet prepared before your arrival you must be pre registered by 27 April 2017.

2017 Department of Delaware Convention and election of officers will take place on Saturday, May 13, 2017. 10:00 to 14:00. Heritage Shores Country Club, 1 Heritage Shore Lane, Bridgeville, DE. Note to all - The Club is located on US 13 near the intersection of DE Rt. 404 and US 13. 1 hour north of Ocean City and 40 minutes south of Dover, DE.

2017 Department of Maryland Department Convention will be May 11-14, 2017 at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842-2745. 1-800-4 ROYALE, (1-410-524-7777) Ocean-view/Pool-view. Ocean Front: Includes free continental breakfast.

2017 Department of Virginia Department Convention will be May 12-13, 2017 at the Holiday Inn Express, 107 S. Carter Road, Ashland, Virginia 23005. Room price - \$89 plus tax 804-752-7889 for reservations.

2017 Department of North Carolina Convention will be June 2 - 4, 2017 at the Doubletree by Hilton Raleigh Durham Airport, 48101 Page Creek Lane, Durham, NC 27703 (919) 941-6000 Rate: \$99.00 plus tax. Rate includes breakfast for up to 2 people per day. Rooms must be reserved by May 27,2017 to obtain the stated rate Reservation Link: <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/R/RDUDADT-MSM-20170601/index.jhtml>. Contact James Cox at nmcmlpymaster@yahoo.com or (919) 604-7363

2017 Mideast Division Conference will be June 23-25, 2017 hosted by Department of North Carolina at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel Raleigh-Durham Airport at Research Triangle Park, 4810 Page Creek Lane, Durham, North Carolina, 27703. Tel +1-919-941-6000 after May 17, 2016. for reservations. Room rate: \$99.00 plus room tax. Free breakfast and parking.

2017 MCL National Convention will be August 13 - 18, 2017 at the Sheraton Overland Park at the Convention Center, 6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS, 66211. Book By Phone: 1-866-837-4214 **commencing Monday, August 15, 2016 at 0801 CST**. Room rate: \$115.00 with 18% tax, free parking, free breakfast and free wifi.

2017 Modern Day Marine Expo will be Sep 19 - 21, 2017 at MCB, Quantico, VA.