



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



Volume 13 – Issue 7 – July 2020

Department Officers:

Commandant: Scott Kirby, 304-588-0318	Adjutant: Patti Leib, 740-591-8611
Sr. Vice Commandant: Jim Doss, 740-441-5638	Paymaster: Patti Leib, 740-591-8611
Jr. Vice Commandant: Jerry Bain, 304-675-1905	Chaplain: Frank Armentrout, 304-837-4011
Judge Advocate: Rodney Mayberry, 304-922-2150	Sgt.-at-Arms: Greg Irwin 304-704-5758
Jr. Past Commandant: Michael McLain, 304-464-5049	Asst. Sgt-at-Arms: Jason Lowe, 304-893-2025
Legislative: Hershel Williams, 304-743-1026	Service/VAVS: Roger L. Estep, 304-380-7930
Chief of Staff: Roger Ware, 304-636-4365	Public Relations: Jean Lamb, 304-595-1482
Web Sgt: Steven Swenton, 304-277-8872	Historian: Mike Lyonon, 304-419-0982
Aide-de-Camp: Richard Sneigle 304-588-7901	Asst. Aide-de-Camp: Jamie Summerlin, 304-594-0351
Aide-de-Camp: Randy Thomas 304-688-8456	

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

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



COMMANDANT’S MESSAGE

Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains and Associate Members. I hope this finds you well, and I just want to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Fourth of July. Please keep all members of our Armed Forces in your thoughts and Prayers as they serve in harm’s way. Semper Fidelis,

Scott Kirby
 Commandant
 Dept. of WV
 Marine Corps League

Chaplain's Corner

A Prayer for Encouragement

Father,

This is the day you have made; we will rejoice and be glad in it! For You promise Your beloved rest between Your shoulders. You are ever so close to us, Father. We can do all things through You... for You are the source of our strength. Let all we do honor You, Father. As you encourage us, let us be an encouragement to those around us.

Remind us when we falter and fail that You uphold us. Your merciful hand has purposed our lives, and we cannot outrun your love or free gift of salvation by Jesus' sacrifice for us. Father, you weave our stories throughout ancient history and onto tomorrow. You number our days and surround us with Your love. When we are down, send Your Holy Spirit to remind us of Your loving kindness.

There is much to fear and be frustrated about in this life on earth. There is grave injustice, oppression, and unfairness everywhere we look. Disastrous weather events and horrific acts of violence. We fear losing our lives and our loved ones, disease and disaster. You are our comforter through it all.

In Your Word we are upheld and, in Your arms, we throw our anxieties and find safety and protection. When the world seems to press into our lives harder than we can bear, we know we are never holding on alone. You remind us to be strong and courageous, to rely on You for strength, and not to fear. You promise to strengthen us and uphold us.

Through every heartache and conflict, continue to broadcast the truth of Your word into our hearts. Encourage us, Father, always. Help us to navigate the tricky waters of relationships on this earth and hurdle the stumbling blocks the enemy lines our daily paths with.

We know in this world we will have trouble, but we do not want to let it steal our joy! For You have overcome this world! Though it can be hard and discouraging, let us take heart in Your truth. Squash every distorted thought and lie with the encouraging words of Christ. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!" ([Matthew 11:28](#))

King David stated, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" ([Psalm 27:1](#)) He, and so many other Biblical hallmarks have left their legacies of Your encouraging word despite their sins and shortcomings. Let us fall in their footsteps, Father, following You despite our imperfections. Adjust our expectations through Your perspective.

Help us to keep getting up, keep following You, keep hoping, and holding onto the joy and peace Jesus died to give us. He is our ultimate source of encouragement.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Annual Financial Audit, Weapons Audit and Detachment Property Inventory

A financial audit must be performed prior to the turnover of Commandants yearly. A report should be sent to the Department along with the report of officer Installation (ROI). If your detachment has any weapons, they are required to conduct an inventory and file a report every three years. During the oath of installation for all officers, they are stating that they will turn over all property in their possession to their relief. A detachment should have a property inventory performed yearly that list all material, files, equipment, banners, flags, trailers and any other item that belongs to the detachment. The location of the item should be listed as well as who maintains it. This is important in the event of fire, theft, or in an emergency or death of a member who has custody of detachment property. A copy of this inventory should be kept in the detachment files.

Make Annual Verification of Paid Life Members

Paymaster Patti Leib sends a reminder to all detachments to verify their Paid Life Members (PLM) listed on the Paid Life Member roster dated 6/30/20 she sends you from National. Upon receipt is the best time to do this so

it's not forgotten. These are due at National before Dec. 31. If a detachment does not certify its PLM roster is true and accurate before the deadline, it will not receive its annual residual interest for its life members. Take the original copy of the roster and verify the PLM members. Your Detachment Commandant and Paymaster must sign a statement on the original that they certify and annotate that the life member list is audited and is true and accurate or that there are changes as noted. PLEASE, line through any item that is not correct and make a note in the margin, such as the date the member passed. This must also be dated. Make a copy for your records after signing and then forward the original to Dept Paymaster Patti Leib. She will send all the PLM audits to the National Adjutant/Paymaster in one group. If you delay, you will be holding up the entire Department, so Do Not delay – submit as soon as possible (preferably July or August). This document is different from the quarterly Roster. The PLM Audit has a TAPS column on the right side that the Roster does not have. You must send this signed roster to Paymaster Leib with enough lead time for her to send it to National (Ref: National Administrative Procedures Section 7055). The interest paid this year to each detachment was \$2.15 per paid member on your roster as of 9/30/18 (there is a two-year lag, so you will receive interest for 2 years after a member passes). Mail the ORIGINAL to Patti Leib, Adjutant-Paymaster, Department of WV – MCL, PO Box 1224, Athens, OH 45701-1224. Do Not Mail it directly to National. Thank you.

Annual Dues Expire August 31

Paymasters, it's time to generate and mail a letter to all your dues paying members with a reminder that their dues expire August 31. National does not send out a reminder notice so you have to be proactive and send them one. Be sure to inform them the amount of their dues payment and to make the check payable to your detachment. Most important is to include your mailing address so they know where to send their payment. You need to track all those who pay; a good tool to use is a copy of your last quarterly roster you received from National and just mark paid in the margin beside their name. In addition, if you join new members they should be included on your list. Plus, if a member passes away make a notation on the list. If you have any address changes this must be changed on your master list too. Each month you should review your list and make contact with all those who do not pay their dues with your initial mailings. You may want to group the changes on one transmittal, annual members on another, and new Paid Life Members on yet another. REMEMBER: A member must be in Good Standing to become a Paid Life Member. If their dues expire August 31 and they want to change to PLM September 1st, they'll have to pay their annual dues first, then their PLM dues. PLM Dues may be increasing significantly in the very near future, so members can save money by upgrading now.

Professional Development Training

Finance

The Fiscal Year shall end at the close of business on June 30th of each year. The revenue of the Detachment shall be derived from membership dues and such other sources as may be properly established at regular meetings or by the Board of Trustees. Disbursement of Detachment funds shall be made as established for payment of National Membership per capita and Department per capita dues, annual Application to Change or Appoint Officers, Corporate Annual Report and those items previously approved by the membership.

Donations to non-profit organizations or members in distress can be made by approval of Board of Trustees or during regular member meetings. A letter should be received from any non-profit organization or school requesting a donation in support of a function. The letter should be read during a membership meeting and any donation must be approved or denied by the membership. A budget will be established as necessary. Each Detachment shall fix the amount of its annual membership dues. Annual dues shall include the Department and National per-capita dues and fees.

All other disbursements will be approved during normal business meetings. The maximum amount of funds that the Commandant is authorized to disburse without getting general membership approval should be specified. The maximum amount for the Board of Trustees should be specified. The Paymaster will reimburse members for approved items upon presentation of paid receipts, if sufficient funds are available.

The Detachment will maintain a checking account and all funds received will be deposited. The Paymaster will draw all checks and ensure proper signatures are obtained. This account will be audited with the monthly bank statement and a report will be given during the general membership meeting by the Paymaster. An annual audit will be conducted by the Audit Committee prior to the Officer Installation.

A motion should be made by the Paymaster to change bank signature cards during a regular meeting upon Installation of officers and this must be included in the minutes.

The annual per capita dues shall be provided for by the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures plus an additional Department per capita dues as determined by the Department Convention. The sum of these two accounts shall be forwarded with every membership application or renewal thereof by the Detachment Paymaster directly to the Department Paymaster who will remit the National per capita dues in each instance to the National Paymaster. The current annual Department per capita of \$5.00 is effective as of 1/1/2003. A member resigning from membership shall not be entitled to any refund of per capita paid.

The Detachment Commandant and Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster or Paymaster will be bonded by a commercial crime policy paid for and administered by National. The bond limit will be in the amount of \$10,000 with deductible of \$1,000.

Checks drawn against Detachment funds shall be valid only if they cover disbursements authorized and jointly bear the signatures of the Commandant and Paymaster. The Detachment financial records will include the Detachment corporation name, address, telephone number and Employer Identification Number (EIN).

No Officer or member of the Detachment shall obligate the Detachment financially in any manner whatsoever without the prior consent of the membership or Board of Trustees.

To assure the financial integrity and credibility of the Detachment, any funds received for a charitable purpose or for a specific purpose will be deposited into the Detachment funds and will be reserved for that respective charity or specific purpose.

Detachment Audits and Reports - An annual audit of detachment finances will be conducted prior to the annual installation of officers. Monthly audits can be conducted and be combined to satisfy the annual audit required by this section if these audits are included in detachment meeting minutes and approved by members. A copy of the audit and all the minutes from the last installation will be sent to the Department Commandant.

Fund Raising

Two of the most important tasks of every detachment are the recruiting and retention of members and raising funds to run the operation and support detachment programs and objectives. A detachment cannot make the mistake of continually relying on its own membership to fund operations and projects. Brainstorming on numerous methods and ideas to generate funds will benefit your detachment.

Any fund raising must be discussed during your membership meetings. When deciding to do your event, have the membership approve your event and document in your meeting minutes. This makes it official under the corporation and under the insurance policy. In conducting a fund raiser ensure you specify what the funds are being collected for. If collecting funds for your detachment operating funds or for veterans you can keep those funds in your detachment general fund as long as you desire and disburse when you want. If collecting funds for an IRS registered non-profit charity you can hold those funds in your account and disburse indefinitely either yearly or all at once. **However, if you collect funds for a local non-registered charity or for a local benefit, these funds have to be liquidated before the end of your detachment fiscal year. Any of these type funds held over your fiscal year can be counted as profit in the event of an audit by IRS or the state.**

If you do a raffle to benefit a charity, then those funds must be dedicated toward that respective purpose. The net proceeds from a drawing need to be applied to that program or project for which the money was received. From the total revenue, the cost of merchandise, printing of tickets, and an amount for the reserve fund of the detachment may be deducted.

Don't forget, when your detachment is incorporated this is your authority to conduct fund raisers within your

respective area and your general business license from the state of WV supports your activity. It is highly recommended that each detachment file a copy of their detachment Bylaws and corporate papers with its respective County Clerk's office as this makes everything a matter of record in the event an issue on fund raising develops.

Make posters listing your prizes and drawing dates, set up a small table at a mall entrance or large department store -- Wal-Mart, Kmart, Tractor Supply Company, etc. You might even have a donation jar for anyone who wants to make a donation to a local charity, such as Humane Society, Relay for Life, Make-a-Wish Foundation, the Hershel Woody Williams Scholarship Foundation, or any other non-profit organization (ensure any funds collected this way go to that organization). When you collect these funds and make the donation, be sure to get a photo of event in local paper as it gets your detachment some visibility and further supports future events.

Detachment Commandants, Paymasters, Adjutants and Adjutant/Paymasters;

Most, if not all, of the Detachments should have elected their officers for the 2020 - 2021 terms. That also means it is time for you to submit your Report of Officer Installation (ROI) for 2020 - 2021.

Remember that you have to send in a Report of Officer Installation (ROI) every year even if none of your Officers change. Thanks! Feel free to call or email me if you need help or have questions. Also, Make Sure you use the most recent version of all report forms on the National website. Do Not save them to your desktop or files for future use as they frequently change or are updated.

Semper Fi,

Mail them to me at:

Patti Leib, Adjutant-Paymaster

Department of West Virginia – MCL

PO Box 1224

Athens, Ohio 45701-1224

Pattileib024@gmail.com

(740) 591-8611

IRS 990 -N -e-file - postcard

All detachments MODD Pounds, WV Pack and Department of WV are required to file an annual IRS 990 N-e-file. It should be filed after your fiscal year ends. For most this is June 30; you can file commencing July 1. Below is the information required. Read over the info and then log onto this site to get a new user name and password. This site requires a new user name and password every year, although you can still use the same one as the prior year – but you have to enter it as though it were new.

<https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Annual-Electronic-Filing-Requirement-for-Small-Exempt-Organizations-Form-990-N-e-Postcard>

NOTE: IRS has changed how they accept the filings and does not send a confirmation back to your mail so when you finally get logged into the site and answer all the questions and file, make a copy of what you entered before sending. IRS does not send you a confirmation copy or acceptance. Once you create a user name and password, be sure to write it down. Log into your email account and you will be given a code to enter your information. It's only good for 15 minutes. When you try to log into the site, you can enter your user name okay but you will have to enter your password twice as it will deny you on the first attempt. After logging in and answering all the questions, copy off what you entered. After filing, wait for about an hour, then log back into the site to see if IRS accepted your file. Copy off the IRS acceptance and send a copy to your Paymaster and or Dog Robber, and to the Department Adjutant-Paymaster, Patti Leib (email is fine)

Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations — Form 990-N (e- Postcard)

How to file

To electronically submit Form 990-N, *Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990EZ*, use the [Form 990-N Electronic Filing system \(e-Postcard\)](#).

All organizations are required to register at IRS.gov prior to filing Form 990-N. You may be asked to register again each time you file.

Form 990-N must be completed and filed electronically. **There is no paper form.** Form 990-N filers may choose to file a complete Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead.

Use the Form 990-N Electronic Filing System (e-Postcard) [User Guide](#) while registering and filing.

For filing system and website issues, refer to the second question on the [How to File: Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Prior to filing your form, please review the following information:

Who must file Most small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less can satisfy their annual reporting requirement by electronically submitting Form 990-N if they choose not to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Exceptions to this requirement include: Organizations that are included in a group return, Churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches, and Organizations required to file a different return

- **Form 990-N filing due date**

Form 990-N is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year.

You cannot file the *e-Postcard* until after your tax year ends.

Example: If your tax year ended on December 31, the *e-Postcard* is due May 15 of the following year. If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the due date is the next business day.

If your 990-N is late, the IRS will send a reminder notice to the last address we received. While there is no penalty assessment for filing Form 990-N late, organizations that fail to file required Forms 990, 990-EZ or 990-N for three consecutive years will automatically lose their tax-exempt status. Revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status will happen on the filing due date of the third consecutively-missed year. Watch this IRS [YouTube presentation](#) for more information.

Information you will need when filing Form 990-N

Form 990-N is easy to complete. You'll need only eight items of basic information about your organization.

Search for Form 990-N filings to search for organizations that have filed Form 990-N and to view their filings, see *Exempt Organizations Select Check*. You can also download the entire database of Form 990-N filing

VA Compensation and Pension in Person Exams Resume at Select Locations

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced 28 MAY it will resume in-person Compensation and Pension (C&P) exams in concert with the reopening of VA lead medical centers in select locations across the country. VA Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) contracted medical examination providers will immediately begin contacting Veterans in select locations with claims pending C&P exams to schedule exam appointments. "Resuming C&P exams allows VA to continue delivering the benefits our Veterans have earned," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We're keeping the safety of Veterans and our medical providers as our highest priority and have put a robust set of measures in place to ensure medical providers can safely conduct these examinations."

Safety measures include COVID-19 screening for Veterans and employees, physical distancing and appropriate personal protective equipment to include face coverings and gloves. VA is working closely with its medical providers to ensure the safety of Veterans and providers remains a top priority. VA expects to start conducting in-person exams within the next few weeks based on the availability of Veterans in the following approved locations:

- ⌚ White River Junction VA Medical Center, VT
- ⌚ Syracuse VAMC, NY
- ⌚ Erie VAMC, PA
- ⌚ Hershel “Woody” Williams VAMC, WV
- ⌚ Salem VA Healthcare System (HCS), Va. Ralph H. Johnson VAMC, SC
- ⌚ West Palm Beach VAMC, FL
- ⌚ James H. Quillen VA HCS, TN
- ⌚ Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC, OH
- ⌚ Tomah VAMC, WI
- ⌚ William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital Madison VAMC, WI
- ⌚ Kansas City VAMC, MO
- ⌚ Central Arkansas Veterans HCS, AR
- ⌚ South Texas VA HCS, Texas ⌚ Fort Harrison VAMC, MT
- ⌚ Puget Sound VAMC, WA
- ⌚ Boise VAMC, Idaho ⌚ VA Southern Nevada HCS, NV
- ⌚ VA Southern Arizona HCS, AZ
- ⌚ Fargo HCS, ND

Veterans outside of these service areas will continue to be served through telehealth appointments or the acceptable clinical evidence process, which includes a review of existing medical records to provide information needed to complete the claim, whenever possible.

Veterans within resumed service areas who do not yet feel comfortable receiving in-person exams may opt to schedule their exam for a later date without impact to their disability claim. No final action will be taken on a claim while a required in-person exam is pending. VA expects to expand the list of available locations as conditions allow, with guidance from various agencies driving decision making. For more information, visit VA benefits.

Heart Attack A Medical Emergency -- Waiting Can be Fatal

Since the start of the covid-19 crisis, many hospitals have reported that fewer people are showing up, and that those who do come often have life-threatening health problems. Even people who have signs of a heart attack apparently often wait until it’s almost too late. Many people wait before calling an ambulance, even when they have chest pain or signs of paralysis. At the moment this is often out of fear of being infected with the coronavirus at the hospital. But waiting can be fatal: Every minute counts if you’re having a heart attack or stroke!

The most common signs of a heart attack are chest pain and shortness of breath. But there may be other symptoms as well. A heart attack is a medical emergency. If you think someone might be having a heart attack, it is very important to call the emergency services right away (911 in the U.S.). People who have heart attacks often have already had coronary artery disease for years. This causes recurring chest pain (angina) or shortness of breath during exercise. Others hardly have any symptoms beforehand – they only find out about their heart problem when they have a heart attack. Some women think that heart attacks are a lot more common in men. That isn’t true, though. Women tend to be older when they have heart attacks, though. More women die of a heart attack than of breast cancer.

Heart attacks often start with sudden stinging, burning chest pain or pressure in the chest area. But sometimes the symptoms only develop gradually. The pain goes on for more than five minutes and it doesn’t get better when the person rests. It can spread from the chest down the left or right arm, and it may affect your back, neck or upper abdomen as well. The pain can be very mild or very strong. Some people know they have coronary artery disease, and have often effectively relieved the symptoms using nitrate medication in the past. If they are having a heart attack, this medication will no longer help. People who are having a heart attack often have a sense of impending doom, look pale and sickly, and break out in sweats. Many have difficulties breathing, feel nauseous or vomit. These symptoms may be much more noticeable than the chest pain. Breathing difficulties,

nausea and vomiting are sometimes the main signs of a heart attack, particularly in women. For this reason, heart attacks in women are more likely to be overlooked than heart attacks in men.

The symptoms aren't always clear Not only do the signs of a heart attack vary widely from person to person, they may also be very different from the signs of a previous heart attack. Heart attacks that don't cause any symptoms are known as "silent" heart attacks. Apart from chest pain, breathing difficulties and nausea, the symptoms of a heart attack may include:

- 🕒 A feeling of tightness and pressure in the chest area
- 🕒 Pain or numbness in the upper body that spreads to the shoulder blades, the back of the neck and the jaw
- 🕒 Lightheadedness or fainting
- 🕒 Dizziness
- 🕒 Sweating
- 🕒 Paleness and cold sweats

If you think someone is having a heart attack, call an ambulance! Heart attacks are a medical emergency! Every minute counts – life-saving measures should be started as soon as possible in order to limit possible damage. So, it's important to call the emergency services immediately if you suspect someone might be having a heart attack– even if you aren't sure. If signs of a heart attack occur at night, do NOT wait until the next morning to do something about it. While waiting for the ambulance to arrive, people who are with the patient can

- 🕒 Try to calm them,
- 🕒 Put them in a comfortable lying position, with their upper body slightly raised,
- 🕒 Loosen tight clothing,
- 🕒 Open a window to let in fresh air and,
- 🕒 If they have prescription medication for stable angina, such as nitrates, give them that.

If the person passes out, they stop breathing and their heartbeat stops, they will need CPR (resuscitation) as a first aid measure.

Stroke A Medical Emergency -- Waiting Can be Fatal

Quick action can save lives in an emergency! Starting treatment for a stroke as soon as possible can stop brain cells from dying and prevent serious consequences. It's important to recognize the typical signs of a stroke:

🕒 Sudden weakness, numbness and signs of paralysis: People who are having a stroke can often no longer move their arm, hand and/or leg properly. As well as weakness, some people experience sensations like tingling and numbness. It can sometimes feel like your arm or foot has gone to sleep. Drooping on one side of the mouth is another typical sign of a stroke. These symptoms usually just affect one side of the body, and only rarely both sides.

🕒 Speech and language problems: Many people suddenly have difficulties finding the right words during a stroke and speak in broken sentences. Sudden slurring of words or mumbling can also be signs of a stroke. Another possible sign of a stroke is difficulties understanding speech: – although they can hear the words, they can't make sense of them.

🕒 Vision problems: A stroke can affect vision. Things on the affected side of the body are no longer perceived, and the field of vision in the left or right eye is limited. Many people have double vision. If they want to reach for something, such as a cup, they often miss it.

🕒 Dizziness and trouble walking: People may have difficulty keeping their balance. They either feel like everything is spinning around, or swaying from side to side.

🕒 Severe headache: A sudden, unusually strong headache can also be a sign of a stroke. These headaches are caused by acute blood supply problems in the brain or by bleeding in the brain due to a torn or burst blood

vessel. Headaches may be the only symptom at first, followed a little later by other symptoms such as paralysis and confusion. Nausea and vomiting are also possible symptoms.

What information do the emergency services need? Someone who is having a stroke often can't speak or will have trouble communicating. So, if you've called the emergency services, it's important to be able to describe the symptoms and exact circumstances in as much detail as possible. The following information is also relevant:

- 🕒 When did the symptoms begin?
- 🕒 What was the person doing when the symptoms started? For example, were they doing something strenuous?
- 🕒 Which symptoms did they have and how did they go on to develop?
- 🕒 Are they currently taking any medication?
- 🕒 Do they have any known cardiac arrhythmias (heart rhythm problems), in particular atrial fibrillation?
- 🕒 Have they had similar symptoms or treatment for a stroke in the past?

Remember: A stroke is a medical emergency. Do not hesitate to call for an ambulance. Waiting to see if the symptoms go away again on their own could waste precious time. The necessary tests and treatments are only available in hospitals and must be administered as soon as possible, preferably within 4 hours. And nobody will blame you if it turns out to be a "false alarm."

Protesting in Uniform

Can active-duty members or veterans attend a political rally or protest in their military uniform? Do different rules apply to them? These rules are a bit stricter.

[DoD Instruction 1344.01 -- Wearing of the Uniform](#) prohibits active-duty members, prior service members and retirees from wearing their uniform "when participating in activities such as unofficial public speeches, interviews, picket lines, marches, rallies or any public demonstration" that might imply military support for the cause.

Further, they may not wear their uniform even if it doesn't imply military support for their cause at any meeting or demonstration that is organized by a group that the U.S. attorney general has designated as "totalitarian, fascist, communist, or subversive."

So, no, you probably shouldn't wear your uniform if you are attending a protest march. Will you be arrested, recalled to active duty and court-martialed for it? Probably not, nobody ever has been. But this would probably be the easiest way to run afoul of the law, though. If you feel strongly enough about a cause, it is your call to make.

VA Veterans Pension - Eligibility & Applying

The Veterans Pension program provides monthly payments to wartime Veterans who meet certain age or disability requirements, and who have income and net worth within certain limits. If you meet the VA pension eligibility requirements listed below, you may be eligible for the Veterans Pension program:

Both of these must be true:

- 🕒 You didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, and
- 🕒 Your yearly family income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth includes all personal property you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), minus any debt you owe. Your net worth includes the net worth of your spouse.

And at least one of these must be true about your service. You:

- 🕒 Started on active duty before September 8, 1980, and you served at least 90 days on active duty with at least 1 day during wartime, or
- 🕒 Started on active duty as an enlisted person after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions) with at least 1 day during wartime, or

⌚ Were an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and you hadn't previously served on active duty for at least 24 months

And at least one of these must be true. You:

- ⌚ Are at least 65 years old, or
- ⌚ Have a permanent and total disability, or
- ⌚ Are a patient in a nursing home for long-term care because of a disability, or
- ⌚ Are getting Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income

Under current law, the government recognizes the following wartime periods to decide eligibility for VA pension benefits:

- ⌚ World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
- ⌚ Korean conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)
- ⌚ Vietnam War era (February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served outside the Republic of Vietnam.)
- ⌚ Gulf War (August 2, 1990, through a future date to be set by law or presidential proclamation)

If your discharge was other than honorable, (bad conduct, or dishonorable) you can apply for a discharge upgrade or correction and, if approved, then be eligible. There are 2 ways you can try to qualify:

1). Answer a series of questions. Go to <https://www.va.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions/questions> to get customized step-by-step instructions on how to apply for a discharge upgrade or correction. If your application goes through and your discharge is upgraded, you'll be eligible for the VA benefits you earned during your period of service. All branches of the military consider you to have a strong case for a discharge upgrade if you can show your discharge was connected to any of these categories:

- o Mental health conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- o Traumatic brain injury (TBI)
- o Sexual assault or harassment during military service (at VA, we refer to this as military sexual trauma or MST)
- o Sexual orientation (including under the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy)

2). Learn about the VA Character of Discharge review process. Even with a less than honorable discharge, you may be able to access some VA benefits through the Character of Discharge review process. When you apply for VA benefits, they will review your record to determine if your service was "honorable for VA purposes." This review can take up to a year. You will need to provide them with documents supporting your case, similar to the evidence you'd send with an application to upgrade your discharge. You may want to consider finding someone to advocate on your behalf, depending on the complexity of your case. A lawyer or Veterans Service Organization (VSO) can collect and submit supporting documents for you. Find a VSO near you. Note: You can ask for a VA Character of Discharge review while at the same time applying for a discharge upgrade from the Department of Defense (DoD) or the Coast Guard.

If you need mental health services related to PTSD or other mental health problems linked to your service (including conditions related to an experience of military sexual trauma), you may qualify for VA health benefits right away, even without a VA Character of Discharge review or a discharge upgrade. Learn more about:

- ⌚ VA health benefits for Veterans who've experienced military sexual trauma
- ⌚ VA health benefits for Veterans with mental health conditions
- ⌚ VA health benefits for Veterans with PTSD

Application To apply you need to submit a Form 21P-527EZ (Application for Pension). You can complete and submit his form online at <https://www.va.gov/pension/application/527EZ/introduction>. If you'd like to submit an intent to file to set the earliest possible date that you can start getting benefits, you'll need to complete an Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivors Pension, and/or DIC (VA Form 21-0966). Starting your pension application doesn't show your intent to file. Download VA Form 21-0966 at <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0966ARE.pdf>. Note: Your date of Pension claim is the date that VA receives your completed application. An accredited representative, like a Veterans Service Officer (VSO), can help you fill out your Pension Claim. The VA processes claims in the order they receive them and will let

you know by mail if they need more information. After the VA processes your claim, you'll get a notice in the mail about the decision. To view the pension rates go to <https://www.va.gov/pension/veterans-pension-rates>.



Detachment 956 2019 Marine of the Year Medallion and MCL Certificate presented to Todd Hess (left) by Detachment Commandant Roger Ware. Hess was recognized for his multiple years of supporting Toys for Tots, fund raising events, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Beirut Bombing Memorial services and area parades. He also assisted with annual Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs Expo at Elkins High School.



Cpl William B Fulks Det 1474 Adjutant-Paymaster Jim McDade and Boy Scouts Kaid Baker, Brady Toler and Caleb Stillwell from Troop 236, Hurricane, WV – Fourth of July Parade



June 22, 2020 - Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams presented Marine Roy G. Marcum with the 2020 Huntington Detachment 340 Marine of the Year Award. Marine Marcum serves as the detachment's Captain of the Honor Guard and was honored for his meritorious service and unselfish dedication conducting Honor Guard burial details for fallen Marines in the Tri-State area. Marine Marcum also serves his community conducting flag etiquette classes at local elementary schools and by organizing Military and Civic activities involving Memorial and Remembrance services for Veterans and their families.



Happy 244th Birthday of our Nation. Stay well. Semper Fidelis,
Frank Mathers, Adjutant, Mideast Division, Marine Corps League
mclmideastadjutant@gmail.com ~ <http://www.mclmideast.com/>

Pending Calendar

2020 Department of North Carolina Department Convention: The 50th Anniversary Convention date has moved to 25-26 September, 2020 It will still be held at the Hilton Charlotte University Hotel, 8629 J M Keynes Dr., Charlotte, NC 28262. Reservations: 800-445-8667 or 704-547-7444 use Block Code – NCMARI. Hosted by Pfc Bruce Larson Detachment #1242 and Charlotte Detachment #750. MCL rate is \$119 ++ (Regular Rate: \$129 ++ to \$149 ++). Reserve before 8/31/2020. 75 Rooms are blocked until 8/31/2020. Reservations made 9/21 to 9/28 will be guaranteed the MCL rate but the room might not be available if the hotel is filled. MCL rate is in effect for stays between 9/21 and 9/28. Room choice is one King or two Double beds. Breakfast for 2 is included. No charge for parking. Questions, contact DCMathias@aol.com or call 704- 451-1397 Note that all dates have been corrected for the date change of the Convention.

2020 Mideast Division Conference will be June 19-21, 2020 hosted by Dept of Virginia at Holiday Inn, 5655 Greenwich Road, VA Beach, VA 23462. Room rate \$120 plus 14% tax – total \$138.80, 1-800-567-3856 or 757-499-4400 – (dial 0) use code: MED. You can start reservation after July 12, 2019. **CANCELED**

2020 MCL National Convention will be August 10-15, 2020 at Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, 100 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL, 32118 Phone: 888-217- 5507. Room rate: \$145.00 includes tax, Wi-Fi, parking and breakfast. Reservation open on Monday August 12, 2019 at 10 AM EST. **CANCELED**

2020 Department Fall Quarterly Meeting will be Sept 12, 2020 at 10 AM at VFW Post 1212 Garfield Avenue Parkersburg WV 26101. Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting.

2020 Modern Day Marine Expo will be Sept 22-24, 2020 at MCB, Quantico, VA. **CANCELED**

2021 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference February 24– 28 2021 Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, 777 Waterside Drive Norfolk, VA <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/orfsi-sheraton-norfolk-waterside-hotel/> Group Code: MCL Phone: (757-622-6664) Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy. \$129.00 per night + prevailing tax (currently 14%) Please make your room reservation directly to the hotel.

2021 Mideast Division Conference will be 16, 17, 18 April 2021 hosted by Department of Delaware at Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center (Oceanfront) 1 Baltimore Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971 Phone: 800-422-0600 | 302-227-2511 <https://atlanticsandshotel.com/> Room rate \$105.00 plus fees. Discounted breakfast, parking included. **Reservations may be made now.** *Reservation may be made now by calling 1-800- 422-0600, refer to the **Mideast Division Marine Corps League Block #9579** arriving Friday, April 16, 2021. **Reservations are open.**

2021 Modern Day Marine Expo will be May 4-6, 2021 at MCB, Quantico, VA

2021 Department of West Virginia Department Convention will be May 14-16, 2021 at the Holiday Inn Express, 50 Martin Street, Elkins, WV 26241 hosted by Leland D. “Crow” Crawford Detachment #956. Room rate \$100.00 per night. Phone: 304-630-2266. Hotel registration deadline is April 29, 2021. Free parking and continental breakfast 6 -10 a.m. Banquet \$30 and will be buffet style. POC is Roger Ware 304-636-4365 or rrware@yahoo.com. **Please do not call the hotel to make your reservations** as Detachment 956 will make reservations when you send them your payment. Once your payment is received your name will be given to the hotel under the Code MCL. This is to take advantage of the tax-exempt status. There will be a pending flyer which can be used for advance registration, hotel and banquet. There is no pre- registration fee or ad book.

2021 Department of North Carolina Department Convention will be June 11-13, 2021 in Hickory, NC. It will be hosted by Catawba Valley Detachment # 1163

2021 MCL National Convention will be August 6-14, 2021 at Wyndham Springfield City Centre, 700 E Adams St, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Room rate is \$129.95 with tax included. Free breakfast, free parking and WiFi. Pet friendly. wyndhamhotels.com Phone. 217-789-1530

2021 Marine South Expo will be Sept 29-30 at MCB, Camp Lejeune, NC

REMINDER form MED NVC Roger Ware:

All members who pay their annual dues expire August 31 yearly. We still have unpaid members who have not paid their 2020 dues. Please reach out to anyone in your detachment who has not paid their 2020 dues and ask them to continue being a member of your detachment. Remind them of their service and that you want them to remain a member in good standing so they can always have that connection to the Corps

Thank you for your service on this 4th of July. We all have things we are thankful for.

2022 MCL National Convention will be August 15-20, 2022 at Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, 100 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL, 32118 Phone: 866-536-8477 or 1-800-HILTONS (toll free, 24-hour reservation center); 386-254-8200. Room rate: \$127.00 plus 12.5% tax,

Semper Fidelis,
Roger Ware
National Vice Commandant
Mideast Division

Meet Tim Murphy, Eastern Panhandle Marines Det 1143

First, Happy Father's Day to all the Fathers, and blessings to all the Mothers that made it happen.

A little background on my connections with M4L, I am not aware of any formal connections between M4L and the MC League, and my experience helping Marines get jobs.

In 1993, I joined the Marine Executive Association, an organization of Marines Helping Marines get a job, since its' founding in 1982. At the time I joined, there were three major areas where MEA had regular Job Networking Events, Quantico, Henderson Hall, and Camp Pendleton. Our Marine members provided direct personal help finding a job for Marines, Navy Corpsmen, and their Spouses. Members provided tips on: How to write a resume; Conduct yourself in the Job Interview; Job Search techniques; the 30 second Elevator Speech, and more. Since the beginning, MEA has not required and Marine, Corpsmen, or Spouse, to pay for MEA services. Nor, have we charged the employers for use of our Job networking services. MEA is a 501c19, IRS approved organization.

I am currently the Executive Director, and Treasurer. I am also the Past President, and have held most other jobs. In 2010, I was the Executive Director and I am one of the signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on MEA's support provided to M4L.

How does MEA work? The MEA website is: www.MarineEA.org there Employers can post jobs, and Marines post resumes for employer download. MEA receives about 125 new job postings, every Day.

Additionally, one of our members responds to individual resume requests and provides direct help to the Marine with resume organization, grammar and other improvements. (MEA receives 5 to 10 requests per week.)

I receive requests for local jobs (Eastern Panhandle area), provide comments on resumes, and local job openings. When I search for Jobs focused on Martinsburg, I usually find 4,500 jobs within a 40-minute commute. Not all of the jobs fit the skills of the Marine I am helping, but I remind the Marine that companies also need the “Back Office” jobs as well. Accounting, reception, management, IT, finance, and others, which may be some of the areas a Transitioning Marine has demonstrated while on active service.

MEA and M4L have had joint job networking events, although not lately. I try to check-in with the recruiters when I go to Martinsburg.

So, to the info request. I am the detachment M4L contact. I have not had any referrals nor request from M4L. Recruiters receive several copies of our newsletter, but I have not received requests for assistance, yet.

MEA President John Bridges is on the board of the National Marine Corps Council (NMCC), and has asked M4L to present at the next meeting.

I offer my services to help and Marine seeking a job, or any Detachment looking for MEAs tips and techniques or other services, they can contact me direct.

The attachment is from the June 2010 issue of the Gazette. The same article appeared in the Leatherneck June 2010 issue.

Semper Fi, Murf