



The Straight Scoop

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



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Department Officers:

Commandant: Jim Doss, 740-441-5638
Sr. Vice Commandant: Mike McLain, 304-464-5049
Jr. Vice Commandant: Greg Irwin, 304-704-5758
Judge Advocate: Randy Thomas 304-688-8
Jr. Past Commandant: Scott Kirby, 304-588-0318
Legislative: Hershel Williams, 304-743-1026
Public Relations: Jean Lamb, 304-595-1482
Historian: Mike Lyon, 304-419-0982
Asst Aide-de-Camp: Larry Goff, 304-752-2106

Adjutant: Patti Leib, 740-591-8611
Paymaster: Patti Leib, 740-591-8611
Chaplain: Frank Armentrout, 304-837-4011
Sgt.-at-Arms: Shaun Scott, 304-532-4186
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms: Allen Miller, 304-379-0731
Chief of Staff: Roger Ware, 304-636-4365
Web Sgt: Steven Swenton, 304-277-8872
Aide-de-Camp: Richard Sneigle 304-388-7901
Asst Chaplain: Roy Yanscoy, 740-538-1917

Department E-mail contact: jsdoss@zoomnet.net
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 Letter

August 2021

Welcome to all MCL Members, Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Chaplains and Associate Members:
It is almost National Convention time, which is August 9-13 in Springfield, ILL. I hope everyone that is planning to attend has their registration completed and has their hotel room reserved.
The Modern-Day Marine Expo is September 21-23 at Quantico, VA.
Registration is now open at marinemilitaryexpos.com. If you have a problem registering you can call 864-342-6383 and they will help you get registered, but count on being on hold a long time before they answer.
I was invited to the meeting of Sgt Mecot Camara Detachment 1461 in Beckley, WV by Detachment Commandant Jason Hunt. They put on a good meeting, and I gave Jason a copy of the 2017 Guidebook for Detachment Membership and Retention Teams, the 2018 Guidebook for Detachment Nominating and Election Committees, the 2017 Detachment Guidebook, and the National Detachment Level DATA BASE 101. I

reviewed various articles in the Guidebook with the membership and showed the video on how to access the DATA BASE 101 on a computer. The Guidebooks along with the 2019 Department Of West Virginia BYLAWS and ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES are now on the Department of WV web site at www.mcleaguedeptofwv.org and are listed under Administrative Resources. They are all able to be downloaded so any Detachment Officer or member can print a copy.

Remember to make plans to attend the Department of WV Fall Quarterly meeting on Saturday September 18th in Winfield, WV. It will be held at the Winfield Community Center, 178 Second St. in Winfield, and will be hosted by the Cpl. William B. Fulks Detachment 1474 in Hurricane.

Please keep all members of our Armed Forces in your thoughts and prayers as they serve around the world in harm's way.

Semper Fi

Jim Doss, Commandant

Department of WV - MCL

Chaplain's Corner

The following is a prayer offered by Lt. Col. Robert L. Wolverton, Commanding Officer of 3rd BN 506th PIR at Normandy on 6 June 1944.

"Men, I am not a religious man, and I don't know your feelings in this matter, but I am going to ask you to pray with me for the success of the mission before us. And while we pray, let us get on our knees and not look down but up with faces raised to the sky so that we can see God and ask his blessing in what we are about to do:

God almighty, in a few short hours we will be in battle with the enemy.

We do not join battle afraid.

We do not ask favors or indulgence but ask that,

if You will, use us as Your instrument for the right and an aid in returning peace to the world.

We do not know or seek what our fate will be.

We ask only this, that if die we must, that we die as men would die, without complaining, without pleading and safe in the feeling that we have done our best for what we believed was right.

O Lord, protect our loved ones and be near us in the fire ahead and with us now as we pray to 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 of 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, and a good idea is to use 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 contact all those who do not pay their dues with your initial mailings. It's best to start contacting members in June so they have time to submit their dues, either at a meeting or through the mail. Let's keep the unpaid list as small as possible and use this as a time to check on the well being of members you haven't seen recently.

Professional Development Training Detachment Desktop Procedures

The Detachment Commandant must ensure that the Adjutant and Paymaster maintain desktop procedures and all Detachment turn-over files, including copies of the National and Department Bylaws and Administrative

Procedures, Detachment Bylaws, MCL Ritual Manual, Articles of Incorporation, IRS Form 990-N e-file, state business license, annual corporate license, Report of Officer Installation, Detachment financial records, Detachment minutes, resolutions and Marine Corps League Guidebook for Detachment officers. These files must be kept in a secure area and readily available on demand from the Detachment Commandant, Department or National Commandant. These files serve as the Detachment history for audit purposes and each Officer should ensure they are turned over to their respective successor. All equipment and files used for each respective Officer position is never considered their personal items or materials but rather that of the Detachment and the position and must be turned over to their relief. This includes everything used during that Officer's tenure as it belongs to the detachment. Anyone not turning over everything in their possession is in direct violation of their oath of installation and should be held accountable. During the yearly required detachment audit and property inventory these records and files should be made available for inspection as necessary and included in the report to the Detachment Commandant

Detachment Administration

Desktop Procedures - Detachments need to maintain copies of National, Department and their own Detachment Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. In addition, the following is a guideline for other administrative reports, files and related correspondence that should be maintained for reference.

- Detachment Bylaws
- Department Bylaws with current changes
- National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures with current changes
- Guidebook for Detachment Officers
- Marine Corps League Ritual
- Charter
- Articles of Incorporation
- Permanent business certification - Business License

West Virginia requires Detachments to have a business license. Effective 2010 all license renewals were issued a permanent license. All non-profit corporations have no fee for their business licenses. If your business license has expired and you have not renewed it, contact the WV State Tax Department at 1-800-982-8297 and a renewal form will be mailed to your detachment so you can receive a Permanent Business Certificate. Ensure you have this permanent business license with you anytime you conduct a raffle or a fund raiser. Suggest making a copy of it and covering in a plastic frame, then keep your original in your detachment files. Detachment Filing procedures yearly accounts: Files should be set up and organized by year. Retain all pertinent files and reports in your annual folders. Example: 2016, 2017 2018.

These should include: IRS 990 N, Annual Corporate Report, Insurance policy, Paymaster Reports, Bank statements, financial audits, Property inventory, Rifle inventory (If you have weapons), Monthly Detachment Meeting Minutes

Detachment Property Inventory: This should be performed prior to Officer Installation yearly to account for all detachment property.

- Financial Records
 - (1) Bank Statements
 - (2) Financial Audit - annual
 - (3) Paymaster Reports
 - (4) Dues Transmittals

Detachment Meeting Minutes: Should be maintained for reference and for any audit from the State or IRS as your fund-raising events, donations, and detachment administrative activities are documented.

The Detachment will meet for regular meetings on a scheduled basis on the same day and same time once monthly or as necessary as ordered by the Commandant at a place to be designated. All members will be

informed of the meeting date, time, and location. Special meetings may be called by the Commandant or by the Board of Trustees upon reasonable notice to the members thereof.

Detachment Meetings

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

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

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

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

Recruiting Points

We as Marines all have the honor of belonging to the premier service organization in the world. One of Marine Corps League's primary responsibilities is to not only identify but to recruit new members.

The first point is to create a list of the great things about the Marine Corps League. Be sure to talk about the Scholarship program.

Another point is to enlist younger members to join the League. They bring fresh ideas and energy. We want to attract young people who want to get involved. When trying to recruit new members, talk about the League wherever you go noting work, parties, sporting events, family gatherings and church to name a few.

There's never a place that's inappropriate to talk about the League. The fear of rejection shouldn't stop current members from seeking out new members. I think that people even if they are not interested in joining, just appreciate being asked. It's like getting invited to a party whether you're going to go or not. There's never a wrong time to ask a potential member to a meeting. You never know when/where you'll meet your next member.

While speaking to someone about joining the League be sure to emphasize the service aspect of the organization. Being a member provides a pathway to getting involved in the League but also in the community and provides an excellent network for civic projects.

Embracing diversity is another point; be sure to congratulate your new members once they join. Make sure your new members feel wanted and welcome. One area that requires constant communications is from detachments to the department and vice versa. Timely administrative functions is an important facet for every level of the League. Some events can be combined for fund raising, media exposure and recruiting. One idea with good merit is spending time with the area USMC recruiters and having MCL membership literature available for

active members and those recently discharged members. Brainstorming during Department Quarterly meetings can generate some good ideas to enhance retention and for recruiting members.

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 it is after 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 username and password.

<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 username 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 username, 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 question, print a copy of what you entered. After filing, wait for about an hour and 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 Paymaster.

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 won't be asked to register again the next 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 instead.

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 extended to the next business day.

If your 990-N is late, the IRS will send a reminder notice to the last address they 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

Make Annual Verification of Paid Life Members (PLM)

Paymaster Patti Leib sends a reminder to all detachments to verify their Paid Life Members (PLM) listed on the Paid Life Member Audit/Roster dated 6/30 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. The 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 no changes. This must also be dated. Make a copy after signing and then forward the original to Dept Paymaster Patti Leib. She will send this to the National Adjutant/Paymaster. You must send this signed roster to Paymaster Leib with enough lead time for her to send it to National and arrive there by Dec. 31.

PLEASE NOTE: Paymaster Patti Leib almost always spends the Christmas Holidays with her family in Arizona usually leaving by mid-December. She will submit all the Audits together, so if you wait to send yours to her, you will also be holding up the entire Department! Don't Delay! Send her your PLM Audit as soon as possible so your Detachment will be assured of receiving your interest payment. In addition, National is now doing ACH direct deposits of your interest, directly into your Detachment's checking account, so make sure you notify Paymaster Leib if you change accounts. Otherwise, your interest payment may be lost in cyberspace!

Paymaster Duties:

The Paymaster has one of the most important positions in the League. He/she is the banker and treasurer for all Detachment or Department funds. He or she is also the lynch pin for membership as he receives all dues each month. He or she maintains a roster of all paid and unpaid members and should always know those members who have not paid their monthly dues. He or she serves on the Membership Retention Team and works with the Jr Vice Commandant and another member of the detachment. He or she maintains the detachment membership roster that is mailed from MCL National Headquarters every quarter. As members pay their dues, the paymaster should mark the roster and know the status of every member in the detachment. He should establish contact with every unpaid member either by phone, letter or personal visit and do what he can to encourage all unpaid members keep their dues current. He should report at each meeting all unpaid members and what steps have been taken to contact them. Keeping track of all members is an important task for every Paymaster and Jr Vice Commandant. If the Paymaster has to wait for the National Quarterly roster for his detachment to determine the status of any member then he's not doing his job.

Remarriage Rules Relaxed for Surviving Spouses Seeking VA Benefits

A little-noticed provision in Public Law 116-315, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020, makes it easier for a surviving [spouse](#) to continue receiving Department of Veterans Affairs benefits if they remarry.

The law made changes to the remarriage rules for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Effective Jan. 5, 2021, a veteran's surviving spouse who remarries after the veteran's death will remain eligible for the benefit paid by the [VA](#) if the spouse is at least 55 years old. The remarriage must have occurred on or after that date.

Prior to this change in the law, surviving spouses who remarried before their 57th birthday lost eligibility for the benefit.

What Is Dependency and Indemnity Compensation?

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of certain deceased veterans, including survivors of:

Military members who died while on active duty

Veterans whose death was the result of a service-related injury or disease

Veterans whose death wasn't related to their service but who received VA disability compensation

The monthly tax-free benefit is currently more than \$1,300.

To be eligible for DIC, the surviving spouse must have been married to a service member who died on active duty or married a veteran whose death was service connected. There are other rules regarding when the marriage occurred if there are children or if the marriage was terminated due to divorce.

See: [Details about the dependency and Indemnity Compensation program](#)

If the spouse remarries after the veteran dies, they can remain eligible for the benefit if the date of remarriage is on or after Dec. 16, 2003, and they are at least 57 years old.

Effective Jan. 5, 2021, that age limit dropped to 55.

The surviving children of a qualifying veteran are also eligible for the DIC benefit if they are unmarried and under 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school. Certain adult children who cannot provide for themselves due to physical or mental disabilities also can be entitled to DIC. Some surviving parents may be eligible for the benefit if they meet income limits

Pending Calendar

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 Reservations open August 17, 2020. Overflow hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton, 701 E. Adams St, Springfield, IL Phone: (217) 544-8800 Website: doubletree1.hilton.com. Contract rate for MCL starts Aug 31, 2020.

2021 Department Fall Meeting will be September 18, 2021, at 10 AM hosted by Cpl William B Fulks Detachment 1474 in the Winfield Community Center, 178 Second Street, Winfield WV 25213, Staff Officers Meeting is 0930 AM with general business meeting at 1000 AM. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow Dept. Meeting. The uniform code has been modified for the department regular meetings as members can wear polo shirts and black pants, with fore and aft cover. The uniform code must be followed for the Department Convention.

2021 Modern Day Marine Expo will be Sept 21-23, 2021, at MCB, Quantico, VA

2022 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference will be February 23– 27 2022 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.

2022 Marine South will be March 30-31, 2022, at Camp LeJeune, NC

2022 Department of West Virginia Convention will be May 20-21, 2022, at The Quality Inn Gallipolis, 577 State Route 7 North, Gallipolis, OH 45769. Phone: (740) 446-0090. MGM Detachment 1180 will be the host detachment. Rooms rate : \$85.00 plus tax Banquet includes choice of: Prime Rib \$25, Chicken or Vegetarian Dinner option \$20. Dinners include salad, 2 vegetables, rolls, beverage, and dessert. Amenities: Group Rate includes free WiFi, free parking, free cable, free in-room coffee, free breakfast for two guests per room (each additional guest in a room pays \$6) Breakfast is 6 a.m. – 10 a.m. Pre-registration due by April 15, 2022. For information call Jim Doss: (740)441-5638, Jerry Bain: (304)593-8519, or Patti Leib: (740)591-8611

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%



U.S. Department
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News Release

Office of Public Affairs
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(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

21-100

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 2, 2021

VA to start processing disability claims for certain conditions related to particulate matter

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs will begin processing disability claims Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas — if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence.

The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990 to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001 to the present. VA's review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these Veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

"I announced my intent to initiate rulemaking on May 27 to consider adding respiratory conditions to the list of chronic disabilities," said Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "Through this process I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to establish presumptions of service connection for these three respiratory conditions. This is the right decision, and VA will continue to use a holistic approach in determining toxic exposure presumptives moving forward."

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden,

the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations.

VA will conduct outreach to impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply. Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply. They should file a [VA Form 21-526EZ if applying for the first time or a VA Form 20-0995 if they are reapplying for these conditions](#). For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit our website at [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures - Public Health \(va.gov\)](#).

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](#) or call toll-free at 800-827-1000. Within the next week, you can view the interim final rule at [www.regulations.gov](#).

(See next page for “Around the State”)

Around the State:



Det 771 Commandant John Nanny and John Looney Team Leader of the local VA, presented the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award to Paul and Paula Amrhein of Mount Olivet in Marshall County. They are active with the Moundville Veterans Honor Guard, and both are involved with local and national Lions Club and Flags for Hero's Project.



Roger & Audrey Foster of Wheeling. Roger is a 30-year veteran of the Army Reserves retiring as a Master Sergeant. Both are very active in Church activities and all local Veterans programs.



Mark Sharpky. Mark has his own Print shop and for the last twenty years has provided all the Stationery and envelopes for the Hershel "Woody" Williams

Scholarship. He has also provided the Certificates for both donors and recipients. I might add at no cost to us.



SFC John S Lanos, U.S. Army of Wheeling. He will close out a twenty-year career the end of this year. A Green Beret, Ranger with a Bronze Star from the middle east. He has always been available for all of our Veterans programs when in the area. Pictured with John are his wife Leslie and daughters Elizabeth and Emily.

(The Chapel of Four Chaplains ceremony took place at the Veterans Recognition Program of the Upper Ohio Valley Italian Festival)



Marine Martha Carson from MGM Detachment 1180, Point Pleasant WV, was honored as Grand Marshall at the Coolville, OH Founders Day Parade.