



The Straight Scoop

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



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Happy St Patrick's Day and Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday in March!!



Commandant's Letter ~ March 2023

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

Time is drawing close to the 50th Anniversary celebration planned for the 2023 Department of WV Convention. If you haven't made your reservation yet, you need to do it now. There's only about a month or so to submit your pre-registration, banquet reservation, and hotel reservation. The Department has offered to assist with this process so you can send your payments to the Department of WV by mailing them to Adjutant-Paymaster Patti Leib; and she will make sure you're taken care of. Checks should still be made payable to the Commandant Archibald Henderson Detachment 1087 (you can abbreviate that to "MCL Det 1087"); reservations and payments must be received **before April 30th** to be guaranteed a room and a banquet meal.

Pistol Raffle Tickets also need to be sold and the stubs & money turned in. Send your **raffle ticket stubs to Rich Sneigle at 6719 Pike Street, Mineral Wells, WV 26150**. Each Detachment should have 300 tickets to sell – if you can't sell them, contact Rich at (304)588-7901 or via email to richsneigle@yahoo.com to have them redistributed.

DO NOT send or give them to another Detachment unless Rich approves it. Tickets are not numbered this year but be sure to put the name and phone number of the buyer on the stub and include the name of the person selling the ticket and his/her Detachment name/number on the stub in case it's the winning ticket.

Send your Pistol Raffle **money/checks** to the **Department of WV – MCL** and mail it to Patti Leib, Adjutant-Paymaster, PO Box 1224, Athens, OH 45701-1224. Make your checks payable to the **Dept of WV** and note **“Pistol Raffle”** in the memo line.

Detachments should hold their Elections by March 31st at the latest, and Installation of Officers no later than April 30th. The ROI (Report of Officer Installation) must be submitted to the Department Adjutant-Paymaster by April 30th even if no Officers change positions.

Every member needs to participate in the success of their Detachment; if not, they're participating in its possible failure. This goes for the Department level, too! Nominations for Department of WV Commandant, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice and Judge Advocate should be submitted to Rick Shank, current Sr. Vice Commandant for the Department. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the business meeting, but if you are interested in running, let Rick know now.

One last item – we just returned from attending the National Midwinter Conference in Norfolk VA – it was a great time and well attended. Our own Adjutant-Paymaster, Patti Leib, was presented with the 2022 National Associate Member of the Year plaque. In addition there was competition between a resort in Phoenix, AZ and Palm Springs, CA for the 2024 National MCL Convention; although the rates were competitive, Palm Springs had a better presentation and they won the bid. More information will be sent out as we receive it.

My best, God bless and Semper Fidelis; I hope to see you all at the Convention in Mineral Wells!

Mike

Chaplain's Corner

“Praise the Lord, o my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases” Psalm 103:2-3

Did you know that you can help improve your health – including getting better sleep, lowering blood pressure and cholesterol, and even reducing risk of heart attack – by something other than physical exercise? It's not a new diet craze or a miracle pill... it's the act of forgiveness – the decision to forgive. According to an article on the Johns Hopkins Medicine website, studies have shown a strong connection between forgiveness and improved health. Throughout the Bible, God models forgiveness for us. In Psalm 103, David's excitement and joy are palpable as he recounts all the benefits flowing from God's love and compassion. Chief among them are His forgiveness of sin, His care for the oppressed, and His compassionate heart that is slow to anger.

When we struggle to forgive a wrong done to us, it's an opportunity for us to pause and remember all that God has done for us. Then we can, in turn, extend grace by forgiving others as God has forgiven us. Our acts of forgiveness not only provide health benefits, but more importantly, they honor God's goodness to us.

Father, I praise Your name and remember how You have redeemed my life. Help me to forgive others so that I might honor Your gifts of compassion and forgiveness.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Detachment Board of Trustees

The Department of West Virginia, including Detachments, which engage in services or business, either profit or non-profit, or which use the name of the Marine Corps League shall be incorporated in accordance with Article Seven, Section 700 of the National Bylaws. Detachments will be incorporated within the State of West Virginia as a IRC 501 (c) 4 non-profit organization with their own Employer Identification Number (EIN) under the Marine Corps League's Group Exemption Number 0955. This allows the Detachment to operate, collect monies for membership and activities, to collect charitable donations for detachment programs, and to act as a corporate entity for sales and other activities, with associated tax benefits for a non-profit entity. Incorporation protects the Officers and Members of the Detachment, and by the same measure establishes the limitations for the organization in doing business as a non-profit organization. Therefore, the detachment must be run like a business entity.

To avoid any legal ramifications of membership in the MCL, National HQ requires each detachment to file for Corporate status within two years of receiving their Charter. A correctly formed and operated Corporation shields each individual member of the League from becoming liable for the satisfaction of any possible court issued judgment. Officers of the Detachment have an ethical and fiduciary responsibility to make decisions in good faith that will bring no harm to the Detachment, and they can be held accountable for their decisions.

Each detachment is governed by its elected officers (Board of Trustees) and after Incorporation the Board Members are the Controlling Body of the Detachment. Each member of the Board of Trustees has the special duty to act in good faith with reasonable judgment for the interest of all its members and to examine all aspects of the Detachment business including adherence to procedures, financial reports, submission of reports and substantiated expense accounts. To do otherwise is break faith with the membership at large and risk personal liability. Full transparency of financial records is imperative for the benefit of the membership.

The Board Members must ensure that proper administrative, clerical, and financial functions are being performed as necessary by all elected and appointed officers. This includes knowing their Detachment EIN number, Charter Date and Incorporation Date. It also includes: holding monthly meetings and keeping minutes, electing Officers annually between October and May and ensuring the Report of Officer Installation (ROI) is submitted, filing of the IRS 990N as soon as possible after June 30 yearly, the audit and completion using the National June 30 Paid Life Member Audit of all Paid Life Members (PLM), Detachment has a Web Sgt and functioning web page, recruitment and retention of members and the filing of Annual Corporate Report prior to July 1; the submission of all membership dues transmittals and completion of the Paymaster Report each month. The responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are not limited to these duties but all other issues that arise. If the Board Members include the following in their Detachment Monthly Membership Meeting, it creates continuity and serves as a reference for some of the recurring administrative duties. Changes in dates, etc., can be made as duties are completed and these should be included in every detachment meeting minutes.

Officer Installation date: EIN: Detachment Charter date: Incorporation date: Locator page last update: PLM Audit: 990-N-efile date:

Annual Corporate Report filed: Financial Audit date: Detachment property inventory Business certification date: Rifle inventory: Membership totals: PLM: Total Paid: Total Unpaid:

It is the duty of the detachment Board of Trustees to manage the detachment administrative, clerical, and financial procedures. It is necessary to ensure that all requirements are completed to maintain your Detachment Charter and to protect your Detachment Membership.

The Dept. of WV Marine Corps League is here to support our detachments and to assist the Detachment BOT's if needed with these procedures. If any of these duties are not performed in a timely manner, your Detachment is not being managed properly and steps must be taken to ensure compliance by the Department of WV Board of Trustees.

Roger Ware, Chief of Staff
Department of WV - MCL

Judge Advocate Corner

It's that time of year that Detachments will be holding their Detachment Elections. Detachments should hold their elections in March giving time for Detachment's audit to be completed before installing of Officers at your April meeting.

After the Installation of Officers has been completed the ROI must be filled out and signed by the Installing Officer and sent to the Department Adjutant prior to the Department Convention in May (the Adjutant has requested ROIs be mailed or emailed by April 30th). An ROI must be completed even if the Officers didn't change. Note: A Detachment Commandant CANNOT install himself/herself as Commandant. A Past Commandant can be the Installing Officer or Sr. Vice or Judge Advocate, but a separate ROI must be completed because there is a different Installing Officer.

Even though it's not in the National or Department Bylaws it is highly suggested that the Paymaster or Adjutant/ Paymaster not be a relative of the Commandant. This is common sense 101, you don't want one "family" to be in control of the Detachment and its finances.

DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA BYLAWS ARTICLE FIVE DETACHMENTS SECTION 508 - DETACHMENT AUDITS AND REPORTS - An annual audit of detachment finances will be conducted prior to the annual Installation of Officers. The Audit Committee will consist of no less than three members in good standing within the detachment. The Audit Committee members attesting to the accuracy of the report will sign a written statement showing the total income and total disbursements for the year prior to the elections. This report, along with a copy of the monthly minutes of the meetings shall be forwarded to the Department Commandant no later than 10 days after the Installation of Officers, with a copy to the Department Adjutant-Paymaster. Failure to conduct an Annual Audit and/or forwarding this report with the Minutes to the Department Commandant within the time frame of this section would give the Department Commandant authority to conduct an investigation/audit of the Detachment's financial situation using Department Officers so appointed. Monthly audits can be conducted and be combined to satisfy the Annual Audit required by this section.

Jim McDade
Judge Advocate
Department of WV - MCL

DEPARTMENT OF WV MCL NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Marines!

Step up, take the challenge, and run for elected office in the Department of WV Marine Corps League!!!

The Department of WV MCL Nominating Committee encourages all prospective Department Officers to seek out PDT utilizing the 9 lesson plans on the MCL National HQ website: mclnational.com. Gain a working knowledge of your Department, and National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. Ask questions and get the answers from current or past Department Officers that are here to help and advise you on how you can achieve your goals as a Department of WV MCL Officer.

The Nominating Committee strives to find the best members for the job. We are looking for motivated individuals that are active in their detachment and/or the Department. It is imperative that they have personal time to donate to the department membership to complete their duties in a timely manner.

They must possess basic administrative and computer skills as almost every aspect of being an Officer in the MCL is now based on properly navigating the MCL National website. We are looking for team players with good people skills to carry our department into the future. The acronym we follow is T.E.A.M: TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE!

We are NOT looking for individuals that wants to take an office just for the title and prestige of holding that office. DO NOT APPLY IF YOU ARE THIS TYPE OF OFFICER!

The Department of WV MCL elections will be conducted at the end of the general business meeting at the Department Convention on May 20, 2023, if you are interested in running for elected office, please contact me asap!

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Rick Shank
Sr. Vice Commandant
Dept. of WV MCL
Hard-charger@suddenlink.net
304-633-1814

Department Awards (DUE: Postmark no later than March 30, 2023!!) It's not too late yet!

Department Awards Chairman Jason Hunt has distributed nomination forms for the following department awards at the January 7, 2023 Quarterly meeting or mailed them to any Detachments that were not present at the meeting. Detachments should be considering those individuals who they desire to nominate for one or more of these awards. All nominations must be **postmarked by March 30, 2023** to be considered.

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 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY AWARD is presented in recognition of this Detachment's outstanding public relations contributions and community involvement from May 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AWARD is presented to Detachment in recognition for publishing an outstanding newsletter that conforms to the National Newsletter guidelines from May 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

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 2022 to March 2023

REMEMBER: It's up to your Detachment to submit members for recognition of their efforts. Encourage your members to participate and excel by recognizing them at the Department Level. If you want any of these forms online, contact Adjutant-Paymaster Patti Leib and she will email them to you.

ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATIONS ARE COMING UP!!

It's time to elect your Detachment Slate of Officers for the coming year. Elected Officers are Commandant, Sr. Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant, and Judge Advocate. Only Regular Members (Marines) are allowed to fill these positions and vote for the Slate of Officers. Elected Officers and the Jr. Past Commandant make up the Detachment's Board of Trustees.

Appointed Officers may include Jr. Past Commandant, Adjutant-Paymaster (or an Adjutant and a Paymaster),

Chaplain, Sgt at Arms, Chief of Staff, Historian, Marine for Life, Public Relations, Aide de Camp, and Legislative. These Officers are appointed by the Commandant with consideration by his Board of Trustees.

Descriptions and duties of these Officers positions can be found in the Detachment Guidebook; each Detachment should have a copy of this available to their members, and it can be found on the National website at: https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Detachment_Guidebook_MCL.pdf

There are also many Committees that members can serve on such as the MRT (Membership Retention Committee) typically consisting of the Jr. Vice Commandant, Paymaster, and one other member. The MRT is responsible to keep in touch with ALL members of the Detachment, and to work with unpaid members to bring them up to date and in good standing. The MRT should also assist with checking on homebound members, widows, and visits to members in the hospital or care facilities.

Other Committees may include the Detachment Pistol Raffle Chair, in charge of distribution and collection of Department Pistol Raffle tickets and funds; Awards Committee, in charge of nominating and writing up the nomination forms for Detachment, Department, Division, and National Award Nominations (nominations still need to be voted on by the Members). Audit Committee, usually the Judge Advocate and two other members that may or may not be Officers – responsible to Audit the financial records of the Detachment (including all bank statements, Paymaster Reports, comparing with Transmittals and Monthly Minutes); Aide de Camp, Boy Scouts Chair, Marine 4 Life, Professional Development, Armorer (if your Detachment has Ceremonial Rifles), and Department Conventions/Meetings Chair should your Detachment host a Quarterly Meeting or Department Convention.

Before your new (or continuing) Officers are Installed, your Detachment must do an Annual Audit (confirmed or copied to the Department Adjutant), and Detachment Property Inventory, confirming items, location held, and person responsible for its care (also confirmed or copied to the Department Adjutant). Typically, Installations take place 30 days after the Election, to provide time for these audits to be conducted. They may also be conducted in advance of the Election if your Detachment holds both the Election and Installation at the same meeting.

Once Installed, the Adjutant prepares the Report of Officer Installation (ROI) and provides it to the Installing Officer for his/her signature, then signs it him/herself, mailing the original to the Department Adjutant PRIOR TO APRIL 30th each year. Your Detachment should keep a copy of the ROI and all other Documents in a safe location and should also keep copies of files electronically on flash drives given to the Commandant with updates quarterly. The fillable ROI form can be found on the National Website Library at:

[ROI_Detachment-051421.pdf \(mcleaguelibrary.org\)](https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/ROI_Detachment-051421.pdf)

After your Detachment has installed your Officers, you need to submit your Annual Corporation Report to the WV Secretary of State. This is done online at the following website: <https://business4.wv.gov> or you may access it through <https://onestop.wv.gov> It's not hard to prepare or submit this report, and Adjutant Leib will help you with this. There is a \$25 fee to file online, and paper submissions are no longer accepted. Every Detachment must file every year, even if you don't change Officers. Any Detachment that fails to file three years in a row will lose their ability to do business in WV and have to apply again. If you file late (after June 30), there is also a \$25 late fee. Save your Detachment's money and file on time. If you have to make changes during the year, there is also a \$15 fee to file the change(s).

Don't forget to sell your Detachment's allotment of Pistol Raffle Tickets to benefit the Department of WV and the Hershel Woody Williams Scholarship Fund! Tickets are \$2 each and easy to sell. Remember, your Det must sell all 300 tickets to be eligible for the \$250 prize to the Detachment selling the winning ticket. The person selling the winning ticket is also eligible for the \$100 prize, even if the Detachment fails to sell all 300 tickets.

Detachment Areas of Interest: National emails a quarterly roster of all members for every Detachment in the Department. Every Detachment Commandant and Paymaster receive a copy as well as the Department Commandant. Every Detachment Commandant is required to look over this listing of their membership as it lists all paid members, unpaid, Paid Life Members (PLM) total paid. They need to establish contact with every unpaid member and

do whatever they can to get them to pay their annual dues and perhaps might want to suggest that some might consider paying the life member fee for their age group.

Every detachment is required to file an IRS 990-N efile after June 30 every year to maintain their non-profit status. A copy of the confirmation email from IRS must be forwarded to National and the Dept Paymaster.

Professional Development and Leadership training must be pushed down to the Detachment level. National is focusing on what every Department is doing to ensure Detachments implement some type of training in this area. The National website has the latest training information which can be downloaded and printed.

A Marine For Life Chairman should be appointed in every detachment and on the Department staff to assist former active-duty Marines during their transition period after leaving active duty. Dept Jr Vice Commandant should serve as the Chairman.

All Detachments are required to have their own EIN number and be incorporated within their respective state. Every Detachment is considered a non-profit social organization to provide services to Marine veterans as a IRC 501 (c) 4. By being incorporated, they are required to have their own Detachment By-Laws, hold meetings, elect officers annually, maintain Minutes and file an annual IRS 990-N efile.

Every detachment should have a turnover folder and should create a folder for each year with corporate papers, IRS non-profit letter as IRC 501 (c) 4, IRS 990-N efile, insurance papers, Officer installation reports, minutes of meetings and other pertinent administrative papers. Every detachment must have a state business certificate. It's free for non-profit organizations and is issued as a permanent certificate. Make a copy of your permanent certificate and take it with you every time you conduct a league fund raising activity within your area. Every Detachment should file a copy of their bylaws at their county courthouse for reference along with their IRC 501 (c) 4 letter. If anyone has questions or concern about your non-profit status for fund raisers in the county, they can look it up in the records.

Every Detachment Commandant must ensure that all Detachment Officers read the National Bylaws, Dept Bylaws and their respective Detachment Bylaws and sign a form that they have read and have a working knowledge of each. This will ensure the Officers understand the bylaws which can help reduce conflict and reduce friction.

Every Detachment is required to send a copy of their monthly Meeting Minutes to the Dept Commandant and the Dept Adjutant. This ensures they hold their meetings and lets the Dept Commandant know what's going on in the Detachments. Plus, as a non-profit corporation, they are required by law to have Elected Officers, their own by-laws, and must keep minutes of their meetings.

The Detachment Adjutant is required to keep Membership Meeting Minutes for at least 3 years. The Detachment Judge Advocate should also have a copy of the National Bylaws, Dept Bylaws and Detachment Bylaws at each meeting. If an issue comes up, the Judge Advocate can look it up and thus settle any arguments or disputes. That takes the burden off the Commandant and places it on the Bylaws. Having the JA read that section will usually settle any discussion, without any sea stories.

Finally, National requires every Detachment to have an active website and a Web Sgt assigned to keep their site updated.

Submitted by Roger Ware, Chief of Staff
Department of WV – Marine Corps League

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 paid receipts if 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 meeting minutes. A copy of the minutes signed as approved by the Commandant and also signed by the Adjutant, shall be presented to the bank to obtain new signature cards.

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 Department of WV annual 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 Marine Corps League. 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 with a copy to the Department Paymaster.

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 this in your meeting minutes. This makes it officially 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 as needed. 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 nonregistered charity or for a local benefit, these funds have to be liquidated before the end of your Detachment's fiscal year. Any of these type funds held over into the next 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. I would highly suggest 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 -- Walmart, Kmart, Tractor Supply, 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, or any other non-profit organization (ensure any funds collected this way go to that organization). When you collect these funds and then make the donation, be sure to get a photo of the event in local paper as it gets your detachment some visibility and further supports future events.

Submitted by Roger Ware, Chief of Staff, Department of WV – MCL

Subject: A Soldier's Playing Cards (Submitted by Roger Ware, Chief of Staff, Dept of WV MCL)

This is a story about a soldier in the North Africa Campaign in World War II. You may have heard it sometime along the way, but it bears repeating.

After heavy fighting, the men returned to camp. The next day being Sunday, the Chaplain had set up for a church service. The men were asked to take out their Bibles or Prayer Books. The Chaplain noticed one soldier looking at a deck of cards.

After service, he was taken by the Chaplain to see the Major. The Chaplain explained to the Major what he had seen. The Major told the young soldier he would have to be punished if he could not explain himself.

The young soldier told the Major that during the battle, he had neither a Bible or a Prayer Book so he would use his deck of cards and explained:

"You see, Sir, when I look at the ACE, it tells me that there is one GOD and no other.

When I see the "2," it reminds me that there are two parts to the Bible; the OLD TESTAMENT and the NEW TESTAMENT.

The "3" tells me of the TRINITY OF GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, and GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The "4" reminds me of the FOUR GOSPELS, MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE and JOHN.

When I see the "5," it tells me of the FIVE UNWISE VIRGINS who were lost and that five were saved.

The "6" makes me mindful that GOD CREATED THE EARTH IN JUST SIX DAYS, and GOD said that it was good.

When I see the "7," it reminds me that GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY.

As I look at the "8," it reminds me that GOD DESTROYED ALL LIFE BY WATER EXCEPT FOR EIGHT PEOPLE: Noah, his wife, their three sons, and their three son's wives.

When I see the "9," I think of the NINE LEPERS that GOD healed. There were ten lepers in all, but only one stopped to thank him.

The "10" reminds me of the TEN COMMANDMENTS carved in stone by the hand of GOD.

The "JACK" makes me remember the Prince of Darkness. Like a roaring lion, he devours those that he can.

When I look at the "QUEEN," I see THE CHURCH, THE BRIDE OF JESUS.

As I look at the last card, "THE KING," it reminds me that JESUS IS LORD OF LORDS and KING OF KINGS."

There are 365 spots on a deck of cards, and that is the number of days in each year. There are 52 cards to a deck and that is the number of weeks in a year. There are 12 picture cards and that is the number of months in a year. There are 4 different suits in a deck and that is the number of seasons in a year...

And so, the young soldier then said to the Major, "You see, Sir, my intentions were honorable. My deck of cards serves as my BIBLE, my PRAYER BOOK and my ALMANAC. Most importantly my deck of cards reminds me that I need JESUS 365 days, 52 weeks and 12 months a year and that I should always PRAY 4 others."

May you never look at a deck of cards the same way.

~ Pending Events ~

2023 Department of WV Department Convention will be May 19-21, 2023 at Comfort Inn & Suites, 167 Elizabeth Pike, Mineral Wells, WV 26150. Phone: 304-699-0886. Room rate: \$85.00 Free breakfast, WIFI, parking. Rooms have refrigerator and microwave. **Do not call the hotel for room reservations** as they are being booked via Detachment 1087 to use tax exemption. **Contact Scott Kirby, (304)588-0318 or Patti Leib (740)591-8611 for rooms, banquet and advance registration.** The banquet rate is \$30.00. Make check payable to MCL Detachment 1087 and mail it to the Dept at PO Box 1224, Athens, OH 45701-1224. If you want to use your points or credit card and pay taxes, then contact the hotel. They will give you the block rate but will charge you tax. The hotel has 22 jacuzzi rooms so when you call to book your room, let us know if you need an ADA room or want a King bed or want one of those jacuzzi rooms. If you are not sure if you are actually attending, go ahead and book your room, as you can always call and cancel. You do not have to make payment for rooms, banquet, and \$5.00 pre-registration fee right away, but final payments should be made no later than April 30th.

2023 Mideast Division Conference will be held June 23-24, 2023 Doubletree by Hilton Baltimore North, Pikeville MD 21208 phone (410)653-1100 Rooms \$119 per night; Banquet will be under \$50 per person

2023 Modern Day Marine Expo will be June 27-27, 2023 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC.

2023 MCL National Convention will be August 14-18, 2023 in Oklahoma City, OK. At Omni Oklahoma City Hotel Resorts , 100 W Oklahoma City Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73109 , (405) 438-6500 Room rate \$165.48 includes tax. Breakfast is included. Parking not included but is \$10 per day per car.. Pet friendly with service animals no charge but others is an additional \$165.00 per week. Rate good for 3 days prior and afterwards. Reservation open August 22 at 0800.

2024 MCL National Convention has been changed!! It will no longer be held in Denver CO, as that deal fell through. A vote was taken at the Mid-Winter Conference and the new venue will be a resort hotel in Palm Springs, CA (they made quite a presentation, including free parking, free Wi-Fi, free breakfast, free golf club rental, and even a free dog bed and dish for your fur babies!) More information on the name and location of the resort will follow, but the dates will remain the same August 11-16, 2024 and the room rates (including tax) is \$169 for a double and \$159 for a single. These rates are good for 3 days prior and 3 days after the convention.