



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: Mike McLain, 304-464-5049
Sr. Vice Commandant: Rick Shank, 304-633-1814
Jr. Vice Commandant: Greg Irwin, 304-704-5758
Judge Advocate: Jim McDade, 304-549-5735
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 Vanscoy, 740-538-1917

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

Newsletter Author: Roger Ware, 181 Weese Street, Elkins, WV 26241 E-mail: rware@yahoo.com
Newsletter Interim Editor: Patti Leib: pattileib024@gmail.com
Happy Easter and Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday in April!!



Commandant's Letter ~ April 2023

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

Are you getting excited yet for the 50th Anniversary celebration planned for the 2023 Department of WV Convention? This month is all about the Convention. If you haven't made your reservation yet, you need to do it now. There's only a month left to submit your pre-registration, banquet reservation, and hotel reservation – everything is due by April 30th. 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; she is making your name badges and banquet tickets, so don't delay – she needs your information so she can complete printing and putting them together before the Convention. 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. We expect this year will be great and will make us lots of memories for years to come.

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, or bring them to the convention. Each Detachment should have 300 tickets to sell – if you can’t sell them, call 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.

Don’t forget – after your Det election and installation, you need to turn in your ROI (Report of Officer Installation) to the Dept Adjutant-Paymaster even if no Officers change positions. It’s important that we receive it before the Convention, so when mailing the original hard copy, get it in the mail a couple of weeks before convention. You can also email a scanned copy, but we still need the original.

Nominations are open for Department of WV Commandant, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice and Judge Advocate and 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.

By now, all the deadlines have passed for the nominations of awards and submission of applications for this year’s scholarships. The Dept MOY and AMOY Society has met and chosen the next recipients; the Hershel Woody Williams Scholarship Committee will meet soon to verify and determine eligible recipients of the 2023 scholarship awards; and the Department Awards Committee will choose this year’s recipients as well. A lot goes on behind the scenes, and all will be ready for the Convention next month.

One last note – Easter is almost here, and spring has officially arrived... we made it through another winter. Take some time to enjoy this season with your family and friends and give thanks for God’s blessings.

My best, God bless and Semper Fidelis; I hope to see you all at the Convention.

Mike

Chaplain's Corner

“Be anxious about nothing, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

The Son of God, nailed to a Roman cross, endured six hours of excruciating pain before He died. He never lost control of His emotions, never expressed bitterness, never lashed out at those who had crucified Him. He thought not of Himself, but of others.

John was Jesus’ only disciple present at the cross. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was also present. Can you imagine what was going through John’s mind? And can you imagine the agony Mary must have felt as she watched Jesus as He suffered? As she stood nearby, Jesus said to her, “Mother, behold your Son.”

He then said to John, “Behold your mother!” From that hour, John took Mary home with him. What Jesus was saying, in effect, is this: “John, I charge you with the responsibility of adopting my mother as your own mother. You are to take care of her, love her, and meet her needs in every way. She is to become as precious and as dear to you as she has been and is to me.”

Two questions need to be asked by Christians as we examine what Jesus asked John to do. First, why didn’t He ask His own brothers to take care of Mary, their mother? And second, where was Mary’s husband, Joseph? The gospel of Matthew verifies the fact that Mary had other children besides Jesus. Matthew records their names – James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas (not Judas Iscariot) – as well as “His sisters.”

So why didn’t Jesus send Mary to live with His own brothers? It could have been, as Matthew points out, because of their “unbelief.” They had not yet come to understand and believe that Jesus, their brother, was truly the Son of God. Mary certainly understood and believed in Him.

Now the second question: What about Joseph? Where was Mary's husband, while Jesus was hanging on the cross? Joseph is never mentioned again after what is recorded in Luke 2:41-51. The last time we see Joseph in the biblical record is when Jesus was twelve years old; He and His parents visited the temple in Jerusalem. It is possible that Joseph died sometime after that and before Jesus began His public ministry at or around thirty years of age. John 19:27 says, "And from that hour John took Mary into his own 'household'. His home, his belongings, his family, his world would now include Mary, the mother of Jesus. Everything that John had would now become hers to enjoy.

How long Mary lived with John we do not know – and we do not know when she died. But we can be certain that there was nothing hidden between the heart of John and the heart of Mary, the mother of his Lord. What has been especially meaningful to Christians for the last two thousand years is that, in the last moments of His life, Jesus made arrangements to have His mother cared for. Though His pain was borderline unbearable, His thoughts were not on Himself, but on providing for the needs and security of His mother.

Three great truths come from this fact: (1) Grace is extended to those who fail; (2) Spiritual bonds are stronger than natural bonds – like the bonds we've developed with our Marine brothers and sisters; (3) The principle of parental respect is to be obeyed throughout life.

**Father, I praise Your name and remember how You have redeemed my life. Help me to share Your love and forgiveness with others, and to share Your blessings as well. Give us generous hearts for those less fortunate, that they will see our good works and praise Your name!
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Professional Development Training Officer Nominations, Elections, and Installation

It is time for most, if not all, of the Detachments to elect their officers for the 2023 - 2024 term. That also means it is time for you to submit your Report of Officer Installation (ROI) for 2023 - 2024. Remember that you must submit a Report of Officer Installation (ROI) every year even if none of your Officers change. The ROI is required and lists names and contact information of the Commandant and Paymaster who handle money, as they are covered under the insurance bond. Plus, the ROI has the current email address of your paymaster so National can return completed transmittals and also notify your Detachment of the yearly PLM interest payment deposited into your detachment's checking account. National will not send the PLM payment if your ROI is not current. The Department will track all Detachment PLM audits and ROI's.

Detachments are required to hold their Elections and Installation of Officers between Sept 1 and May 15. After the Installing Officer signs the ROI, the Adjutant ensures it is legible and completed and it is forward to the Department Adjutant who forwards it to National HQ. The Department Adjutant tracks all detachment ROI's to make sure every Detachment files one. Below is the link at national HQ Library site to download the Officer Installation Report. Always use the most recent forms directly from the National Website, not outdated forms on your desktop. https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Fillable-ROI_Detachment_2020v3.pdf

Annual Corporate Report

Every detachment must be incorporated within the state. 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).

Contact Dept of WV Adjutant-Paymaster Patti Leib for assistance in filing this report. She will train you or walk you through the process.

DEPARTMENT OF WV MCL NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Marines!

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. 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

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

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.

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!

Thank you for your consideration and support.

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

Public Relations and Recruiting

The primary reason Marines join the League is to associate with a Marine organization. Among Marines there are three specific reasons for joining and actively participating:

1. Camaraderie and association with other marines and FMF Corpsmen
2. The fact that Marines get things done.
3. Marines take care of their own.

The second and third reasons refer to the certainty that when programs and projects are initiated, Marines follow through and accomplish tasks in an outstanding manner, and Marines are there for each other, and their families. Every Marine who joins and participates in some manner is seeking some personal satisfaction from being a member of the detachment.

Some reasons cited by members include:

Participating in patriotic events, ceremonies, parades, and color guards.

Developing and supporting programs to cultivate positive youth activities.

Provide service for and support the annual Toys for Tots campaign.

Develop and/or assist in Veterans programs that support Veterans in need such as VAVS programs at VA hospitals.

Support Marines, Marine units, and Marine families.

Develop programs and events that raise funds for detachment and MCL objectives.

Develop programs of special interest to honor Marines on special occasions and events; Support and/or develop programs that lend assistance to those in need within the community.

Take care to support members, Marines, and their families in time of distress, or need.

Develop social events on a regular basis that develop detachment esprit de corps.

Acknowledge members, Marines and community citizens for deeds and actions.

Participating members need challenges by setting goals and objectives that will pique interest and stretch capabilities to draw members to meetings and activities.

Suggested letter for Detachments to use to mail to delinquent members:

Dear Marine,

The National Marine Corps League is a nonprofit veterans' organization for Marines of all eras and ranks and for Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen who served with Marines. The detachment holds meetings at ___ p.m. each _____ at _____ in _____. We are contacting previous members of our detachment asking them to rejoin and continue their camaraderie in the Marine Corps League. Below are some reasons to renew your membership and some accomplishments and projects within the regional and local community that our Detachment supports.

The purposes of the Marine Corps League are as follows:

- a. To preserve the traditions and to promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps.
- b. To band those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service together in fellowship that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy.
- c. To fit its members for duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve as ably as citizens as they have served the Nation under arms.
- d. To hold sacred the history and memory of the men who have given their lives to the Nation.
- e. To foster love for the principles which they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic.
- f. To maintain true allegiance to American institutions.
- g. To create a bond of comradeship between those in the service and those who have returned to civilian life.
- h. To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines, honorably discharged Marines, FMF Corpsmen and FMF Chaplains, as well as to their families, their widows, and their orphans.

- i. To perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps, and by fitting acts, to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions that are of particular interest to Marines.

Here are some projects that the Detachment supports:

Providing Marine presence at Veterans' programs including memorial services, POW/MIA memorial services, Veterans Day observances and banquets, flag-raising, and parades; conducting flag etiquette and flag-raising classes for school children; assisting with full military honors during funeral services for Veterans and with community and civic activities and military tributes and remembrances. Annual Toys for Tots Program. We assist with donations for Wounded Warriors Program, and Marines Helping Marines. We also support the Hershel Woody Williams Department Scholarship Foundation which annually provides scholarships for dependents of League members.

I am writing to ask you to reconsider your membership in the Marine Corps League. Our membership is growing, and we are supporting events in our area. Our members supported all the Detachment's events and thus has made a tremendous Marine Corps presence in the community and surrounding area. You can be proud your Detachment has continued to set the pace and lead from the point and will continue to be enthusiastic with pending events which guarantees that Marines can do anything. It's just like when the Marines raised the American flag over Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945 that Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal said to General Holland Smith, "Holland, the raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next five hundred years". Our detachment continues to grow, and we are asking for your help to allow us to continue with the Marine Corps' visibility in the region and throughout the state. Your money from dues helps provide operating funds to continue supporting the events and activities we sponsor and provide. We are also conducting a survey, asking for various reasons why our inactive members let their memberships lapse and what would entice them to rejoin the League. We would appreciate any comments on these. We have previously approved your application for membership and have your DD-214 or discharge certificate on file. We are asking you to please consider renewing your membership and help our Detachment be more visible in the region. Reconnect with your Marine Corps heritage and renew the spirit and camaraderie in the legacy that Marines share. We ask that you please pay your reinstatement fee to continue your active membership and you will again receive the Marine Corps League Semper Fi magazine. We are enclosing an application that you can fill out and mail with your reinstatement fee.

If you have any questions, contact Marine Corps League _____ Detachment _____ or call Detachment Commandant _____ at _____, (give phone and complete mailing address) or e-mail at _____. To rejoin, send a check for \$_____ payable to MCL Det _____ along with your full address and telephone number and mail to the above address. Once we receive your check, we will process your membership and send it to MCL National Headquarters. Thank you for your consideration. Semper Fidelis, Detachment XXX Commandant

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 to the Department Adjutant-Paymaster, who separates it into individual Detachment Rosters. She then sends it to every Detachment Commandant and Paymaster for their review and records. Each Detachment Commandant and Paymaster is required to look over this listing of their membership to verify all paid members, unpaid, Paid Life Members (PLM) total paid. Then the MRT needs to establish contact with every unpaid member and do whatever they can to get them to pay their annual dues, perhaps suggesting that they might consider paying the life member fee for their age group.

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. The Dept Jr Vice Commandant should serve as the Chairman over all the Detachment Marine For Life Officers.

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 an 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 Corporation Report and 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 concerns 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 possible 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 Bylaws, 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.

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 since the last Installation will be sent to the Department Commandant with a copy to the Department Paymaster, as well as confirmation of the Annual Property Inventory.

~ 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.

The lunch on Saturday will now be provided free of charge! The cost is being covered by a donor, so be sure to take advantage of the free BBQ sandwich, chips, and bottled water offered.

You Must be registered and attend the Business Meeting on Saturday May 20th in order to receive your Free 50th Anniversary of the Dept of WV Challenge Coin and Ribbon Bar! Only those pre-registered with a valid medical exemption confirming they cannot attend in person will still receive their free items while not attending. Paid items (additional coins, ribbon bars, mini-medals, and large medals) will be distributed at the Convention at the end of the Business Meeting.

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.