



The Straight Scoop

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

Volume 16, Issue 5, May 2023

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Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday in May



Commandant's Letter ~ May 2023

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

We are privileged to host Marines from throughout the great state of West Virginia and other states from the Mideast Division at the 2023 Marine Corps League Department Convention here in Comfort Inn & Suites at Mineral Wells, WV. It is an honor to have veterans of our Nation's greatest fighting force to be assembled in the spirit of tradition, service, and camaraderie.

Marines join the league for a variety of reasons. Sometimes we forget they are volunteers who want to stay connected to their Marine Corps heritage. Throughout history Marines are famous for improvising, adapting, and overcoming any obstacle. Those who bring their personal agenda, unchecked egos, or false belief they are still on active duty should pause for a few minutes and take time to challenge themselves about why they desire to join the league. The oath that each member takes is about Marines looking out for each other and bringing no

harm to others. Some have caused rifts or internal conflict within their detachments. Have these members forgotten why they joined the league? Marines learn through their mistakes and leadership is developed over time. Some members are more experienced in the working organization of the league and are considered to have corporate knowledge. This knowledge needs to be shared among new members because they need to be mentored so they can become the leaders of tomorrow. IRS considers the MCL to be a social organization to further the welfare of Marines and their dependents. A fallen Marine is never left on the battlefield and those Marines in our communities who die should also be honored. Any time, any place, anywhere a Marine falls, we need to honor their memory. Nothing else should ever be more important.

One of the traits of the Marine Corps has been to accomplish objectives without the resources necessary and to “improvise, adapt and overcome.” So, it is in many respects with the Marine Corps League – the successes that will be achieved by your detachment will, in large measure, come from your internal resourcefulness, initiative and resolve to follow through with the values and skills learned as a Marine.

In your interactions during the weekend of the Convention, and every day, remember and hold fast to your Marine background. Keep a Marine presence in the forefront in your community to perpetuate the honor of the Corps. Let others see in you the honor, courage and commitment that comes from serving in American's finest military branch, Semper Fi and Oohrah!

My best, God bless and Semper Fidelis,

Mike

Chaplain's Corner

God of power and mercy, you destroy war and put down earthly pride. Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears, that we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters. Keep in your mercy those men and women who have died in the cause of freedom and bring them safely into your kingdom of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers

ProceSSIONAL Development Training

Responsibilities of the Elected Officers

Commandant

It shall be the duty of the Commandant to set the example for other officers and members and preside at all meetings of the Detachment Board of Trustees. The Detachment Commandant together with the Board of Trustees shall have direction and control of the executive and administrative functions of the Detachment. The Commandant will ensure that the administrative chain of command is followed in the Detachment thus forwarding all correspondence through the Department. In addition, the Detachment Commandant shall:

- (1) With the Detachment Paymaster or Adjutant/Paymaster or written appointed custodians, have custody of all funds and property of the Detachment subject to the supervision of the Board of Trustees. The Detachment Commandant may assign the care, custody of the Detachment funds to deposit and/or withdraw funds for the good of the Detachment. The letter of authorization shall be maintained with the Detachment Financial records for audit purposes. Jointly sign all Detachment checks with the Detachment Paymaster or Adjutant/Paymaster.
- (2) Be responsible to ensure the Annual Report of Officer Installation is completed by the Installing Officer and properly submitted. Will also be directly responsible to ensure all reports are filed as necessary by respective Detachment Officers.
- (3) Will be ultimately responsible for the fiduciary nature of all Detachment funds and will ensure that an annual audit of detachment property and financial records is conducted prior to the annual installation of

Officers. Will understand sources of revenue, expense control, cash flow and profit and loss information for financial stability of the Detachment. Will solicit funds thorough donations or fund-raising events as necessary.

(4) Ensure that all Officers read and have a working knowledge of the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures and Detachment Bylaws and that the Detachment and its members adhere to these Bylaws. Officers should have Bylaws training classes and prospective officers should attend a Bylaws Training Class conducted by the Department.

(5) That members of the Marine Corps League represent the detachment and maintain MC/MCL professionalism during Detachment activities and civic events.

(6) Upon approval of the membership, submit a formal bid to the Department Time and Place Committee to host a Department Convention or Department Quarterly meeting.

(7) Ensure a copy of the Detachment Articles of Incorporation and Detachment Bylaws are on file with the county clerk.

(8) Assign a member as the Detachment Web Sergeant for the Department web site listed under National Headquarters.

(9) Conduct all meetings according to the Ritual of the Marine Corps League and be well versed in Robert's Rules of Order. Ensure that his detachment is represented and has a prepared summary of detachment activities to report during Department Quarterly meetings and Department Convention.

(10) Have Bylaws and Officer Training on a regular basis either during detachment meetings or set up training schedules.

(11) Establish a Membership Retention Team (MRT) with the Jr Vice Commandant as Chairman and include Paymaster and one additional member well versed in MCL policies and procedures and ensure they give a report on membership and retention at each detachment meeting.

(12) Has the authority and opportunity to recognize members, non-member citizens of the community and companies for service and achievements in support of Detachment/League objectives.

(13) Will assign a Marine for Life representative and a unit Service Officer to advise members of veteran issues.

Senior Vice Commandant

The Senior Vice Commandant's position is important to assist and support the Commandant; to prepare for succession to the Commandant's office and to back up the Commandant when absent to perform the duties of that office. It shall be the duty of the Senior Vice Commandant to acquire a working knowledge of the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League, the Department of West Virginia and the Detachment and be well versed with Robert's Rules of Order. Should be administratively involved with all detachment activities and be able to prepare an agenda and be administratively informed of all the Detachment activities and events.

Junior Vice Commandant

It shall be the duty of the Junior Vice Commandant to create and promulgate such membership incentives and programs that will produce enthusiastic response resulting in continuous membership growth and retention of department members. The JVC should be familiar with the operations and projects of the Detachment, influence programs and act as a spokesman to the Board of Trustees on what members and prospective members are looking for from the organization. The JVC and the Adjutant should assure that there is a current membership list with phone numbers and addresses available periodically (at least quarterly). The JVC should also maintain a list of potential members, Marine units and other contacts to make sure that they are welcome at meetings, events and activities of the Detachment In the absence and/or illness of the Commandant and the Senior Vice

Commandant to perform the duties of that office. It shall be the duty of the JVC to acquire a working knowledge of the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League, the Department of West Virginia and the Detachment and Robert's Rules of Order. He shall serve as Chairman of the Detachment Membership Retention Team (MRT) and report status of membership recruiting and retention at each meeting. He shall also serve as the Marine for Life representative.

Judge Advocate

Shall act as legal advisor to the Detachment, interpreting the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, the Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures and the Detachment Bylaws. The most common issues to be brought before the Judge Advocate (JA) will be Detachment questions, which should have their findings in the Detachment by-laws and policies. In the absence of specific Detachment references, Department and National bylaws and policies apply. In addition, if there are precedents for specific issues not covered in the Detachment by-laws and policies and if these precedents are within the framework and spirit of the National and Department by-laws, such precedents can apply in rendering an opinion. The JA shall advise, construe, counsel and render opinion on law and procedure to the Detachment Commandant, Detachment Board of Trustees, and Detachments members when so required in the manner outlined hereafter:

- (1) Questions of law and procedure pertaining to the Detachment, the JA shall rule in writing, mailing copies of the ruling to the parties and to the Detachment Commandant, and such ruling shall be binding unless and until reversed by the Detachment Board of Trustees. A ruling can be obtained from the Department Judge Advocate if submitted in writing.
 - (2) The JA will be thoroughly familiar with and have a working knowledge of the National and Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures as well as their Detachment Bylaws and be able to advise the detachment on any questionable issues and or problems. In addition, should be able to answer questions regarding attendance at the Department and National meetings and processes for submitting changes to the Bylaws and policies, awards, and discussion topics for agenda items.
 - (3) The JA is to assure that strict adherence to all three levels of the Bylaws and policies are followed. Must also assure conformity to the letter and the spirit of accepted laws and policies of the League in general and to ensure that conditions of Charter and incorporation are maintained.
 - (4) The JA should review motions and votes, eligibility of voters, and activities on a regular basis to assure compliance. The JA should have documentation of issues and instances for the record for review in the future in any similar instances.
 - (5) The JA will be well versed in issues of parliamentary procedures, ritual, and business order during meetings.
 - (6) The JA is the keeper, protector and counselor of the laws, policies, and procedures within the detachment. Must be diligent in assuring conformance to these credentials that allow the League and the Detachment to exist in an orderly manner. Also has the right and obligation to suggest meaningful change of the statutes from higher levels and a procedure for being heard.
 - (7) Will enforce through the Board of Trustees and advise members and Officers of the Detachment with the objective of maintaining order within the League organization.
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2023 MCL Department Convention Schedule
Holiday Inn Express, Elkins, WV
May 19-21, 2023

Friday, May 19, 2023

1200-1300 Lunch on your own
1300-1600 MCL & MODD Registration
1300-1600 Professional Development & Leadership Training
1300-1600 Roundtable Training and Information Opportunities
1300-1700 Department Audit Committee*
1300-1700 Department Budget and Finance Committee*
1600-1700 Commandant's Council for Detachment Commandants/**Staff Officers' Meeting**
1700-1830 Dinner on your own
1700-2230 Hospitality Room open
1830-1900 MODD Pack Board Meeting, at call of Dept Commandant, Pack Leader, MODD
1900-2100 MODD Growl of the Pack

Saturday, May 20, 2023

0600-0930 Free Full Breakfast at the hotel
0800-1000 MCL registration
0800-0815 Flag-raising Ceremony – UOD Red Blazers, Black Trousers, Cover – Dept Sgt-at-Arms
0820-0930 Memorial Services, all hands attending – Dept. Chaplain
0930-0945 Department Budget Committee Follow-up Meeting*
0930-0945 Department Nominations Committee Meeting*
1000-1200 MCL Business Meeting
1200-1300 Lunch will be provided
1300-1600 MCL Business Meeting
New Officer Installation & Department Officers' Meeting
+Photos Taken of Newly Elected Department Officers+
1730-1830 Formal Reception
1830-2200 Grand Banquet
+Photos of Scholarship Recipients taken+

* At call of Chairman for Audit, Budget, and Nominations Committee

Getting Ready for the Department of West Virginia MCL 2023 Convention

Detachment Commandant Reports

Uniforms of the Day for May 20, 2023

Flag-Raising Ceremony – Red Blazer – Memorial Service

MCL Business Meeting – Undress long or short sleeve. Minimum Uniform MCL Cover.

Grand Banquet – Red Blazer, dinner dress or business attire. *MCL covers not worn at the Grand Banquet.*

Note: Ensure your members in attendance at the convention wear their name tags (credentials) received at registration on their uniforms.

Detachment Commandants: The Dept. of WV requests that each Detachment Commandant or appointed representative attend the Department Convention to present their Detachment report. Commandants can offer comments about significant events in their Detachment and events that contributed to increased membership. If attendance by your Detachment is not possible, please contact the Department Commandant to be excused and mail or e-mail a copy of your report to the Dept. Adjutant/Paymaster Patti Leib in time to be received before the date of the Department Convention.

Bring 15 copies of your Detachment Quarterly Report for period January 1, 2023 through May 20, 2023 and place on reports table for other Detachment Commandants and Officers to view. Ensure the Dept. Adjutant/Paymaster has a copy of your report for inclusion with the minutes.

Commandants modify your reports to include the following:

Membership and Retention Team:

Number of Paid Life Members; Total Paid members; and Total Unpaid.

How many new members have joined your detachment this quarter?

How does your MRT team contact your unpaid and delinquent members?

Is your detachment Paymaster prepared to mail out dues renewal notices to members?

What recruiting programs have brought the most success to your detachment?

Report of Officer Installation (ROI):

Has your detachment Adjutant filed your Report of Officer Installation for this year with the Dept. Adjutant/Paymaster?

Include Officer Installation date in your report.

Annual Secretary of State Corporate Report

Have you filed your Annual Corporate Report with the WV Sec of State and submitted a copy to the Dept Adjutant/Paymaster? If not, do you need assistance? If so, contact the Dept Paymaster.

IRS 990N efile

All detachment must complete and file a IRS 990 N efile as your reporting period has been changed to the fiscal year ending June 30. Is your Paymaster prepared to file after July 1 and submit a confirmed report to the Dept paymaster? Do you need assistance with the filing? If so contact the Dept Paymaster.

Reoccurring reports

Does your Adjutant track all reoccurring reports and include them in your membership meeting minutes monthly? Are they addressed every month? Are you having any Zoom or telephone conference calls with your members, if you can't meet in person? If so, what is the response? Most all Detachments can meet in person again, and should, of possible.

Detachment Financial Audit and property inventory

Has your detachment completed their annual Financial Audit and Annual Detachment Property Inventory prior to the election of new Detachment Officers?

Has your detachment forwarded this information to the Dept. Commandant with a copy to the Dept. Adjutant-Paymaster? Reference Section 607 in the Dept. Bylaws.

Fund raising

Do you have any funds remaining from a non-IRS registered charity as these must be spent before the end of your fiscal year? Registered IRS charity funds can be spent indefinitely as well as detachment designated funds.

Professional Development Training:

Is your detachment implementing Professional Development Training into your membership by using the Dept. DVD training disc or National Web Site program?

Chaplain's Report:

List deceased members by name for this quarter.

Have Death Notices been filed by Detachment Chaplain and has your Paymaster submitted a Dues transmittal code NOD and forwarded both to Dept. Paymaster and Chaplain?

VAVS:

Do you have members in your detachment volunteering in the VAMC VAVS program?

Have you reported your Vol. Hours to the Dept. VAVS Officer Roger Estep?

List Vol. numbers and hours for this Quarter in your report to Dept. VAVS Officer.

Boy Scout Chairman:

Is your Detachment involved in the MCL Eagle Scout Program?

Total number of Eagle Scouts Good Citizenship Awards since May 2022

Is this reported to the Dept. Boy Scout Chairman Fred Brunner?

Member Recognition:

Have you recognized any of your members for their support?

How many have been recognized for MCL certification or Detachment level MOY or AMOY?

How many have been awarded the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor?

Did you submit members for Dept Awards or Dept MOY or Dept AMOY?

Americanism and Civic Events:

Summarize your most important activities or significant events for the period of Jan 2023 - May 2023

Detachment Goals for 2023 - 2024

What are some of your Detachment's goals for the upcoming year?

Thank you for preparing your Convention reports, it is truly appreciated. The Department is here to support our detachments, if you need us or have any questions feel free to contact any one of the Department Officers.

Semper Fi,

Roger Ware
Chief of Staff

PENDING EVENTS

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, 100 W Oklahoma City Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73109 , (405) 438-6500 Room rate \$165.48 includes tax. Parking not included but is \$10 per day. Pet friendly with service animals no charge but others is \$165.00 per week. Rate good for 3 days prior and afterwards.

Department of WV Fall Quarterly Meeting tentatively scheduled for September 9th or 16th 2023

Department of WV Spring Quarterly Meeting tentatively scheduled for January 6th or 13th 2024

2024 MCL National Convention will be August 2024 in Palm Springs, CA.