



The Straight Scoop

**Department Newsletter of the
Marine Corps League
Department of West Virginia
P.O. Box 11828
Charleston, WV 25339**



Volume 9, Issue 2, February 2016

Department Officers:

Commandant: Richard Shank, 304-633-1814
Sr. Vice Commandant: James Furr, 740-896-2222
Jr. Vice Commandant: Gary Roberts, 304-880-6136
Judge Advocate: Scott Kirby, 304-588-0318
Jr. Past Commandant: Roger Ware, 304-636-4365
Aide-de-Camp: John Hensley, 606-834-9712
Service/VAVS: Roger L. Estep, 304-380-7930
Public Relations: Jean Lamb, 304-595-1482
Historian: Owen Stout, 304-595-2675

Adjutant: George Gill, 304-377-1345
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Chaplain: Frank Armentrout, 304-837-4011
Sgt.-at-Arms: Denny Wood, 304-523-7876
Asst Sgt-at-Arms: Roy Wood, 304-339-3326
Legislative: Hershel Williams, 304-743-1026
Chief of Staff: Benjamin Fetty, 740-894-6864
Web Sgt: Steven Swenton, 304-277-8872

Department E-mail contact: hard-charger@suddenlink.net

Department Web site: <http://www.mcleaguedeptofwv.org/>

Department Adjutant/Paymaster: gogill@suddenlink.net

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

Department Financial Report

Marine Corps League, Department of West Virginia Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Foundation:

18 Nov 2015 beginning balance: \$16,261.98 Deposits: \$835.00 Interest: \$3.85

16 Dec 2015 ending balance: \$17,120.83

Please send all scholarship donations to John Nanny, P.O. Box 2121, Wheeling, WV 26003-0234.

Marine Corps League, Department of West Virginia General Account and Paymaster Report:

18 Nov 2015 statement beginning balance: \$14,963.80 Deposits: \$215.00 Debits: \$85.50

16 Dec 2015 statement ending balance: \$15,093.30

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE



Marines, FMF Corpsman, FMF Chaplains, and Associate members:

A big THANK YOU to MGM Detachment 1180 for hosting our Department of WV Quarterly meeting. The members of Detachment 1180 did a great job and provided some outstanding chow to are members. We had 49 members present and 10 Detachments represented.

A Department Resolution to officially place the bid for the 2018 National Convention in Charleston, WV was read and approved by the membership. Herbert J. Thomas Detachment 947 Commandant Owen Stout was appointed the National Convention Chairman for the Department.

Our Detachment Commandants did a superb job compiling their reports. The information the Department received helps us to better serve our members and our League.

Department Marine of the Year nomination forms, Department Award nomination forms and our Department of WV Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship forms have been mailed to all of our detachments. Ensure your detachment follows the instructions on these forms and refer to the Dept. Bylaws and Administrative Procedures to make sure they are submitted properly.

The Department S & W 9 mm Shield Pistol Raffle will be starting soon. Each detachment will get 300 tickets to sell at \$2.00 a ticket. The Drawing will be held at our Dept. Convention Banquet on May 7, 2016 in Wheeling. The seller of the winning ticket will receive \$100.00. We are holding this raffle to build up our funds in the Department for future projects.

We want to focus on the Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Auction at our Convention banquet. Scholarship Chairman John Nanny is requesting that each detachment provide at least two really nice items to auction off for the Scholarship.

Thank you all for your continued service to our country and please keep our Marines and all of our Armed Forces in your thoughts and prayers as they serve in harm's way.

Semper Fidelis,

Richard L. Shank II, Commandant, Dept. Of WV MCL

NEW PROTOCOL FOR ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERSHIP

NOTE: This is something that National is working on right now which will get active duty Marines into the system so they can fully appreciate what the MCL is all about. There are several issues that need to be worked out before any of this is implemented and this is just to let everyone know that this is in the works. Nothing has been finalized as the USMC has to come on board first and after everything is developed, the National BOT will vote on it. There is no start date and this is being sent only for information purposes for the division membership to know that National is looking into various sources to increase membership. Considering the active duty personnel has merit and can lead to a huge increase in overall MCL membership and once the glitches get worked out, the League can benefit.

- 1 - All Active Duty Marines can now become regular members of the Marine Corps League for FREE, for the duration of their enlistment.
- 2 - The Detachment will send a separate transmittal with all the Marines necessary information to include the join date (MCL) and the Marines end of enlistment date. The code will be H-AD. If the Marine reenlists, a transmittal will be sent to National (copy to the N Jr Vice) stating the new end of enlistment date.
- 3 - They will be issued a regular membership number with AD in front of it giving them all rights and privileges including voting and holding office.
- 4 - The National Jr. Vice will print up a membership card with all the information and # and email it to the Detachment. The card will include the join date (MCL) and the end of enlistment date.
- 5 - The Detachment WILL keep a separate list of all their Active Duty Members under this program. They will have all rights and privileges including voting and holding office.
- 6 - The Detachment will also send a copy of the transmittal to the National Jr. Vice Commandant who will also keep a list of the Active Duty Marines.
- 7 - A Detachment will be responsible to keep track of these Marines and keep them involved and interested by any means necessary. If the Active Duty Marine gets transferred to a new Duty Station the Detachment will work with the Marine to him/her a new Detachment near their new Duty Station. It will then be handled like a regular transfer according to our By- Laws, that will include sending in a change of address. The National Jr. Vice will also be noticed.
- 8 - The Marine Corps will also be putting out the word to all Marine Corps installations regarding this new program.
- 9 - The Detachment will also be responsible to give the Marine a Magazine.

Marines,

This is a new program so there may be some glitches. If you foresee a problem contact me and we will work it out.

Dennis Tobin

National Jr. Vice Commandant

The Chapel of Four Chaplains - February 3

February 3, 1943 is the date that four Army chaplains, George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington lost their lives. The Chapel of Four Chaplains memorializes the courageous act of these four Army Chaplains who gave their lifejackets to others when the troopship USAT Dorchester sank after being torpedoed on February 3, 1943, and honors the 672 men who perished. The Chapel of Four Chaplains is a national nonprofit organization, founded in 1947, which recognizes and encourages cooperation, brotherhood, and selfless service. The work of the Chapel is sustained solely by the cooperation and contributions of friends who share in the dedicated spirit of the Four Chaplains.

Many of the members in our department are recipients of the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award. The Chapel is a lasting tribute to those four Army chaplains who lost their lives on Feb 3, 1943 when the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed by a German submarine. The Chapel will soon be mailing out donation requests to every member who has been inducted into the Legion of Honor, asking for their support in keeping the Chapel of Four Chaplains vibrant. The Chapel's motto of "Unity without Uniformity and the recognition of "ordinary people who do extraordinary things" continues to be manifested in so many ways all over the country, and to so many people. Please consider supporting the Chapel with a donation and mail to : The Chapel of Four Chaplains, 1201 Constitution Avenue, The Navy Yard, Building 649, Philadelphia, PA 19112-1307.

Department Officer Nominations

Department Sr Vice Commandant Jim Furr is Chairman of the Department Nominating Committee. The following Department Officers will be elected during the Department Convention in Wheeling, WV on May 7, 2016. Commandant, Sr Vice Commandant, Jr Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate. Nominations for these positions can be submitted to Sr Vice Commandant Furr commencing January 2016. Floor nominations will be taken at the Department Convention.

Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Foundation Applications

Foundation Chairman John Nanny has mailed out applications to every detachment Commandant in the Department. The applications may be reproduced as needed. The Foundation normally awards four scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00. This is a one time scholarship so prior recipients are not eligible. The deadline for applications must be postmarked no later than March 15th, 2016. Please assure that all portions of the application is completed, all requested materials are included and proof of eligibility from the local Marine Corps League is verified. The application includes additional information required to complete and submit the application properly. Paying attention to detail is necessary in submission of an application. In the fifteen years since the Scholarship Foundation was instituted, 85 scholarships totaling \$67,000 have been awarded.

Department Awards

Department Awards Chairman Denny Wood has given out nomination forms for the following department awards. Detachments should be considering those individuals who they desire to nominate for one or more of these awards. All nominations must be postmarked before March 30 to qualify.

Department Heart and 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 _____ to March _____

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 _____ to March _____

Department Community Award is presented in recognition of this Detachment's outstanding public relations contributions and community involvement from May _____ to March _____

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 _____ to March _____

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 _____ to March _____

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 _____ to March _____

Department Newsletter Award is presented to Detachment _____ in recognition for publishing an outstanding newsletter that conforms to the National Newsletter guidelines from May _____ to March _____

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 _____ to March _____

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 _____ to March _____

Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year Award

Benjamin Fetty, President, Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year Society has sent out an announcement for the 2016 Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year. Detachments should be considering and submitting a member for nomination for this prestige award upon receipt of the announcement letter. All nomination must be postmarked before March 1 to qualify.

Veterans' Visibility Day

Veterans' Visibility Day is 0900 on March 15, 2016 at the WV State Capitol in Charleston. All veterans are encouraged to attend

Marines are Who We are

Upon completion of basic training, from that day forward for the rest of your life; wherever you go, whatever you do, whatever accomplishments you complete, you do as a United States Marine. Your life will change and you will face many challenges, but nothing can take away the fact you are still a Marine. When you pass on and head for duty with the Supreme Commandant, you arrive a Marine. Your legacy and accomplishments achieved will not mean as much as being a Marine. There are many veterans, but only a proud few are Marines.

All League members are volunteers who faithfully are joined together by principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League. The league is not about one member but rather every member in the league except those compensated on the National staff. MCL members took an oath for membership in the league that they would never knowingly wrong or injure or permit any member to be wronged or injured if it was within their power to prevent the same. We have some internal conflicts within some of our detachments and those who create these conflicts need to rethink why they committed themselves in joining the league. These members who create conflict made a promise to govern their conduct in the league's affairs in a manner becoming a decent and honorable person and they would never bring discredit to the League. Members who disrupt meetings, create disharmony, or have personality conflicts, are hurting the league and driving members away. Marines never quit or surrender, and those members who walk away or quit paying their dues have forgotten what Marines are all about. Refocus your life and get back on point. Let's work together and resolve these conflicts by honoring our oath and commitment while living as Marines. Marines have integrity, character and a sense of purpose so it's time to remember the code and ethos of being a Marine. Walk tall and be proud because you will never be a former Marine. Marines live forever.

Veterans Crisis Line What Happens on the Other End

The Veterans Crisis Line is an anonymous call center designed to encourage Veterans and their families and friends to make the call. The professionals on the other end of the line are simply called "responders." Yet they have a job that is unlike almost any other, anywhere. They are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances. Some of the responders are Veterans themselves and understand the challenges Veterans of all ages and service, their families and friends have been through. During their shifts

(which can happen at any time, any day), responders immediately let the caller know that someone is on the other end who cares and will listen as long as needed. Responders stay on the line until they are either assured of the caller's safety via a family member, or forward the situation to local emergency rescue coordinators who have the situation in hand. A recent HBO film about the Crisis Line features two sequences that vividly portray the understanding and compassion required on the job:

In one, responders work with an Afghanistan war Veteran and father of five who is tormented by recurring nightmares that have become unbearable. The responder tells the man, who served his country with the Marines, "You're their father. No one can replace you." In another, responders and tech people are involved in a daylong search for an anonymous caller in distress.

At last, through brilliant detective work, the young man is admitted to an Army medical facility. Success means keeping a caller engaged on the phone until they are out of danger.

If you are a Veteran in crisis, know someone who is, or are a concerned family member, please make the call. Receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year: Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 Chat online. For more information, visit <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net> . If you're interested in a job on the Crisis Line or supporting Veterans in many other ways, please visit VA Careers at <http://www.vacareers.va.gov/job-search/index.asp>

VA Rural Access Increased thru Choice Act

Great news for the uninsured population and Veterans living in rural communities with limited access to health care providers and services. If you are a Veteran enrolled in, or eligible for, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care services, the Veterans Choice Act of 2014 and Choice Improvement Act of 2015 were created to offer you greater access to care in your community. If you are a Veteran who is not eligible for VA health care and do not have insurance, the Health Insurance Marketplace may be a great option for you. The Veterans Choice Act increases access to health care for enrolled Veterans, and the Choice Improvement Act expands this access to a larger number of Veterans. For example, eligible Veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility or are unable to schedule an appointment within 30 days may be eligible to use their Choice Card to see a provider in their community.

To find out if you are eligible, please call 1-866-606-8198 or visit <http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact> .

Recent legislation (the Choice Improvement Act) amended the Veterans Choice Act to further expanded eligibility for Veterans to receive care in their communities. VA will implement these changes in several phases, with the first phase (waiver of the enrollment date) effective immediately. The legislation:

- Waives the enrollment date – now, all enrolled Veterans, regardless of when they enrolled, may be eligible

- Expands the 60-day episode for referral care – meaning, if an eligible Veteran is referred for care, they will have 60 days to complete the referral

- Allows for appointments less than 30 days when clinically indicated – soon, Veterans with an approved clinical need for an appointment can seek care in their community, even if it's within 30 days

- Allows VA to expand it's network – VA has now has authority to expand its Veterans Choice Program provider base

- Allows for Veterans Choice Program benefit where no VA full-time physician is present at the existing site of VA care

In addition, Veterans who receive hospital or medical services for a service-connected disability will be eligible to participate in a Health Savings Account effective December 31, 2015. VA wants to ensure that Veterans have options to access the health care they need, and that the care received also fully addresses their needs. Veterans who are uninsured or not eligible to enroll in VA health care can consider enrollment in state or federal Health Insurance Marketplaces for affordable health insurance. Most people can find health insurance plans available for \$75 or less per month. Learn about options available in your area by visiting <https://www.healthcare.gov> or call 1-800-318-2596.

If you are a Veteran who is either enrolled or not enrolled in VA health care and want more Veteran-specific information about the Health Insurance Marketplace, visit www.va.gov/aca .

Vet Toxic Exposure Lejeune - VA Will Cover 8 Conditions

Veterans who contracted crippling diseases after drinking, cooking with and bathing in the tainted water at a North Carolina Marine Corps base were finally granted disability status from the Department of Veterans Affairs 17 DEC, despite the fact that the government has known about contaminants there for decades. The Veterans Affairs Department has determined that eight medical conditions are linked to service at Camp Lejeune, N.C. from 1953 to 1987, and veterans with these diseases who were stationed at the sprawling Marine Corps base are eligible for disability compensation. VA officials said the eight diseases that have been determined to be service-connected to consuming contaminated drinking water at the base: kidney cancer, liver cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia, multiple myeloma, scleroderma, Parkinson's disease and aplastic anemia or other myelodysplastic syndromes.

VA Secretary Robert McDonald said research by health experts at the Veterans Health Administration and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, an arm of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, indicated that the risk of developing these illnesses is elevated by exposure to contaminants found in the water, including perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, benzene and other volatile organic compounds. "The water at Camp Lejeune was a hidden hazard, and it is only years later that we know how dangerous it was," McDonald said. "We thank ATSDR for the thorough review that provided much of the evidence we needed to fully compensate veterans who develop one of the conditions known to be related to exposure to the compounds in the drinking water."

Nearly a million people, including troops, family members and civilian employees working at Camp Lejeune from the 1950s through the 1980s were exposed to these chemicals and other cancer-causing agents in the base's drinking water, supplied by two water treatment facilities polluted by dry cleaning compounds, leaking underground storage tanks, industrial spills and poor disposal practices. The VA has provided health care or reimbursement for medical costs for veterans who served at Camp Lejeune at least 30 days during the affected period or family members with 15 illnesses related to exposure to water contaminated by solvents and fuels, but it had not awarded "presumptive status" to any condition until now. The changes will take effect after VA publishes regulations regarding these presumptions, and will apply to new disability claims. Veterans who have previously been denied on such claims may seek to be reevaluated.

Also, any pending claims that might be denied under current regulations will be placed on hold until the VA issues its final rules, according to a department press release.

The bedrock eligibility rules will be that veterans must have one of the eight specified conditions and must have served at Camp Lejeune between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987. The new rules also will expand eligibility to reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for any length of time during that period. A VA spokeswoman said compensation awarded as a result of the proposed regulations, if adopted, will "be effective no earlier than the date the final rule is published." Veterans have expressed frustration over the low rate of claims approvals for illnesses related to the Camp Lejeune water. Hundreds of veterans attended a meeting of the Camp Lejeune Community Assistance Panel on 5 DEC in Tampa to express frustration with the VA's handling of claims and plead with VA officials to improve the process.

Two senators who pressed VA to change its policies regarding benefits for Camp Lejeune veterans said 17 DEC they applaud the VA's decision, calling it a "victory for those who have suffered." "The VA has conceded that it will no longer deny disability benefits to Camp Lejeune victims based on ridiculous scientific claims," Sen.

Richard Burr, R- N.C., said. "VA is finally granting some justice to veterans who were exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Camp Lejeune," said Sen. Thom Tillis, R- N.C. "The victims of this tragedy have waited far too long to receive disability benefits." VA is working on regulations that would establish these presumptions, making it easier for affected Veterans to receive VA disability compensation for these conditions.

While VA cannot grant any benefit claims based on the proposed presumption of service connection for these conditions until it issues its final regulations, it encourages Veterans who have a record of service at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and develop a condition that they believe is related to exposure to the drinking water at the base, to file a disability compensation claim with VA. VA will continue to grant claims for disabilities claimed to be associated with exposure to the contaminants that can be granted under current regulations and review of the evidence in each case. If a claim for service connection for one of the proposed presumptive conditions would be denied under current regulations, the denial will be stayed until

VA issues its final regulations. VA will announce when the regulations are final and presumptive benefits can begin to be awarded. For more information on applying for these benefits, visit:

http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-exposures-camp_lejeune_water.asp. Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, are already eligible to receive VA healthcare for up to 15 health conditions. More information, including a full list of covered conditions, can be found online at:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/exposures/camplejeune/index.asp>. Veterans can establish eligibility for healthcare benefits by submitting VA Form 10-10EZ online at www.1010ez.med.va.gov, downloading it at www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/1010EZ-fillable.pdf and returning it to any VA Medical Center or Clinic, or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM (Eastern Time). VA is reimbursing certain veterans' family members for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered conditions. More information can be found at: <https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov>.

Election of Officers

The National Bylaws specify that at least four members must be elected as Officers and that only elected Officers constitute a Board of Trustees. The outgoing Detachment Commandant or a Past Detachment Commandant can be appointed to serve a one-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees. Officers will serve until the next annual election and their term will expire automatically as there is no continuation or extension without an election. Detachments through their Bylaws can establish term limits for officers. The normal procedure for detachment elections is the Commandant appoints a Nominating Committee. This Committee submits their recommendation, and then floor nominations are taken during a regular scheduled membership meeting. Any regular member in good standing can be nominated. After all nominations are taken for each position and closed, the membership has elections. A member must be present to vote.

The Detachment shall hold an annual election of Officers after October 1 and before May 15. Officers, both elected and appointed, may be selected by the detachment members as they desire. The Detachment will elect a Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate. The Detachment can either elect or appoint a Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Adjutant, Paymaster or an Adjutant/Paymaster and such other officers as are deemed necessary. Installation must be conducted within thirty (30) days of the election, Report of Officers and Installation will be forwarded through the Department Adjutant to the Division Vice Commandant, and then to National Headquarters within fifteen (15) days of the Installation so as to arrive no later than 30 June of each year.

After installation of officers, a complete turnover of detachment items from each relieved officer will be given to the new officer that replaced them. All appointees shall surrender to the duly appointed successor all MCL books, records, and other property with which the office or person is charged. This includes colors, gavel, bible, Charter, ritual material, National and Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, Detachment Bylaws, Guidebook for Detachment Officers and detachment correspondence and administrative files from the Adjutant, and membership transmittals and financial records from the Paymaster and all other material items from all other officers. If a new officer does not receive a turnover of material from the officer he replaced, this needs to be addressed to the Commandant as this is a direct violation of the Ritual. An audit of the financial records should be conducted by the incoming Commandant and Paymaster or by the Audit Committee.

Detachment Officer Information

Most of our detachments will be making steps to nominate and elect a slate of officers. Once their elected officers are installed they become the Board of Trustees and it's a good plan for them to meet and plan the events for the coming year. This may include fund-raising events, recruiting and retaining their members. They must ensure that all events are approved by the membership and therefore covered under the corporation and also ensure all events are protected by the insurance umbrella provided by the League. This is a necessity in

case there is an incident. 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 staff and 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 detachment membership roster of all Paid Life Members (PLM), having a Detachment web sergeant and functioning web page, recruitment and retention of members, the filing of Annual Corporate Report before July 1, and the submission of all membership dues transmittal and completion of the Paymaster Report each month. The responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are not only limited to these duties but all other that arise. They must be proactive to ensure their detachment officers complete all administrative and financial duties as required.

Now is the time for any prospective officer to let his or her wishes be known that they seek a position in their Detachment and they prepare themselves to assume their office. Take the time to read over your respective Detachment, Department and National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures so you'll be more informed about policies and procedures. Detachments need to reinforce their professional development and leadership training which help prepare all prospective officer for leadership roles. Take the time to fully grasp your role in your detachment so you can perform all your duties.

Health Coverage Tax Form Available on myPay

All active-duty, Guard, Reserve, retiree and civilian Airmen will need proof of health care coverage when filing their federal tax returns for 2015. The proof of minimum essential coverage will be provided by the Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service Form 1095. In January 2016, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is required to provide each employee with the IRS Form 1095 for employment during 2015. A hard copy form is scheduled to be mailed to each employee and the form will also be available electronically through myPay under the taxes section. For information about the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), visit the [DFAS website](#).



Past Huntington Detachment 340 Commandant Ronald W. Wroblewski began a seemingly impossible campaign in 1997 to have a ship named for Hershel "Woody" Williams. Ron with the help of his fellow Marines and Veterans across 48 States secured 70,000 signatures to achieve this honorable goal.



USNS Hershel Woody Williams (T-ESB 4)

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, Congressman Even Jenkins, Medal of Honor recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin at ship naming ceremonies of USNS Hershel Woody Williams.

The ship was named in honor of Williams in a ceremony Jan 14. in the Cultural Center in Charleston. Williams gave the ship a motto: “Peace we seek. Peace we keep.”

The ship’s official name is the USNS Hershel Woody Williams (T-ESB 4).

the ship could be christened by next year with plans to join the fleet in 2018.

2016 Department of WV MCL Convention
May 6-8, 2016 - Wheeling, WV
Hosted by Detachment 771

Will be held at Oglebay Resort & Conference Center, 465 Lodge Drive, Wheeling, WV. Wilson Lodge room reservations call 800-624-6988 or 304-243-4090. Mention MCL attendee. Room rate \$115 plus room tax double occupancy; \$5 early registration fee for conference, \$7 at the door; banquet fee pending.

Additional information will be forthcoming in a separate email with flyer. The host unit is Jones, Wolin & O'Brien Detachment 771, Marine Corps League, PO Box 2121, Wheeling, WV 26003-0234. POC John Nanny: nanny1007@comcast.net (304) 233-5289. Detachments are requested to bring a couple items for the Department Scholarship Fund Auction.

There will be a **Convention Ad Book** and prices are: \$100 for full page ad, \$50 for half-page, \$25 for quarter page. There will be a Memorial Section in the booklet. An ad can be ran in memory of anyone you want for the same page prices. The deadline and where to mail the ad will be send via separate cover. **We ask that each Detachment donate \$100 toward Department Convention.**

Directions: Oglebay is located in Wheeling, WV on Route 88 North, just 4 miles off I-70 at Exit 2A. It is 1 hour from Pittsburgh via I-79 S to I-70 W to Wheeling Exit 2A, 2 1/2 hours from Columbus via I-70 E to Wheeling Exit 2A and 3 hours from Cleveland via I-77 S to I-70 E to Wheeling Exit 2A. Destination address: 465 Lodge Drive, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003.

Wilson Lodge is a smoke free facility. All guest rooms are non-smoking. Must be at least 21 years of age to reserve a room. Pack-n-plays and rollaway beds are available to guests for a fee per room, per night, in Traditional, Intermediate and Deluxe rooms.

Crock pots, hotplates and other electrical cooking appliances are prohibited in the lodge rooms. Pets are not permitted in the lodge. They are permitted in the Traditional and Deluxe cottages only. Check-in begins at 4 pm. Early check-in cannot be guaranteed. If you intend to arrive before 3 pm please notify the front desk and we will make every effort to accommodate you; however, we suggest that you plan to occupy your guest room after 4 pm. You are invited to enjoy the resort's other facilities prior to check-in on your scheduled day of arrival. Check-out is at 11 am. Use of indoor & outdoor pools at Oglebay are free to all lodge guests, subject to the season, weather conditions and hours of operations. Complimentary newspaper available Monday through Friday at the front desk. In-room Keurig coffee service. 24 hour business center Security boxes are available at the front desk. An ATM is located in the lobby of Wilson Lodge. **Breakfast is not included in room price.** There are several dining areas in Wilson Lodge and meals are priced accordingly. Free parking and wifi.

2016 MCL Department Meeting Schedule
Department of West Virginia
Wheeling, WV
MAY 6-8, 2016

Friday, May 7, 2016

0600-0945 Breakfast
0900-1200 MCL Registration
1000-1200 MODD Registration
1200-1300 Lunch on your own
1300-1600 MCL Registration
1300-1600 MODD Registration
1300-1600 Professional Development Training
1300-1700 Department Audit Committee
1600-1700 Commandant's Council - Detachment Commandants/Staff Officers meeting
1700-1830 Dinner on your own
1700-2230 Hospitality Room open
1830-1900 MODD Pack Board Meeting*
1900-2100 MODD Growl of the Pack
* At call of Department Commandant, MCL; Pack Leader, MODD

Saturday, May 8, 2016

0600-0930 Breakfast
0800-1000 MCL registration
0800-0815 Flag-Raising Ceremony
0820-0930 Memorial Services, all hands attending
0930-0945 Department Budget Committee Meeting*
0930-0945 Department Nominations Committee Meeting*
1000-1200 MCL Business Meeting
1200-1315 Lunch on your own
1315-1600 MCL Business Meeting
1615-1640 New Officer Installation & Department Officers' Meeting
1800-1900 Formal Reception
1900 Grand Banquet
* At call of Chairman for Budget and Nominations Committee

Pending Calendar

2016 Midwinter National Staff Conference will be March 3-5, 2016 at the Marriott Fairview Park, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042. Phone : 703-849-9400, rooms: \$103.00 per night . All deadlines are 8 February 2016.

2016 Marine South Expo will be April 6-7 , 2016 at Camp Lejeune, NC

2016 Department of Delaware Convention and election of officers will take place on Saturday 30 April 2016. 10:00 to 14:00. Heritage Shores Country Club, 1 Heritage Shore Lane, Bridgeville, DE. Note to all - The Club is located on US 13 near the intersection of DE Rt. 404 and US 13. 1 hour north of Ocean City and 40 minutes south of Dover, DE.

2016 Department of Maryland Department Convention will be April 28-30, 2016 at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842-2745. 1-800-4 ROYALE, (1-410-524-7777) Ocean-view/Pool-view. Ocean Front: Includes free continental breakfast.

2016 Department of West Virginia Convention will be May 6-8, 2016 and hosted by Jones, Wolin & O'Brien Detachment 771 in Wheeling, WV at Oglebay Resort & Conference Center. Wilson Lodge room rate is \$115 per night plus room tax. Tele: 304-243-4000. Banquet: TBA Pack Growl 7 pm on May 7. Advance registration \$5. POC: John Nanny, P.O. Box 2121, Wheeling, WV 26003-0234. Tele: 304-233-5289.

Directions: Oglebay is located in Wheeling, West Virginia on Route 88 North, just 4 miles off I-70 at exit 2A. Driving time is 1 hour from Pittsburgh via I-79 S to I-70 W to Wheeling Exit 2A, 2 1/2 hours from Columbus via I-70 E to Wheeling Exit 2A & 3 hours from Cleveland via I-77 S to I-70 E to Wheeling Exit 2A. Destination address: 465 Lodge Drive, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003. GPS Coordinates: N 40 degrees, 5 minutes, 58 seconds, and W 80 degrees, 39 minutes, 39 seconds.

2016 Department of Virginia Department Convention will be May 13-15, 2016 at the Sand Castle Beachfront Hotel, VA Beach, Va. Beach call 757-428-2828 to make reservations. mention Marine Corps League Room rate is just \$119.00 + tax per night Reservations need to be made no later than 15 April due to high volume of sports events in the area Banquet Sat. cost \$40.00 per person. POC David Hord -757-567-1252 yogih220@verizon.net or Don Coons - 757-510-4145 djc1954@verizon.net

2016 Mideast Division Conference will be June 24-26, 2016 at the Wilmington- Christinia Hilton, 100 Continental Drive, Newark DE 19713. Telephone; 302 781 7049. It is conveniently located off I-95 exit 4B. Room rate is \$124.99 a night and includes full breakfast buffet. Banquet is \$34.00.

Note: The Mideast Division Annual Conference, hosted by the Department of Delaware, is scheduled for 24-26 June 2016 at the Hilton Wilmington/Christiana, 100 Continental Dr., Newark, DE 19713. The hotel is conveniently located off I-95, Exit 4B. Guestrooms are \$124.99 per night and include two (2) full breakfasts per room daily (omelets made-to-order). The two entrée banquet will be held in the Hilton Grand Ballroom. A few unique destinations nearby include Delaware Park Raceway & Casino, Longwood Gardens, Delaware Museum of Natural History, and for shopping — the Christiana Mall and The Colonade - featuring Cabela's. Of course, Delaware has no sales tax making shopping much more affordable. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel directly at 800.348.3133, or 302.454.1500. Also, see their website at <http://hiltonestate.com>. TO HAVE YOUR NAME TAG PRINTED AND PACKET PREPARED PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL, YOU MUST BE PREREGISTERED BY 27 MAY 2016. Please make your check payable to "Mideast Division Conference," and mail it and your completed registration to: Jack Flood, Jr., MCL Dept. of DE Adjutant, 5 Canvasback Circle, Bridgeville, DE 19933.

2016 MCL National Convention will be August 7-13, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency, 100 East 2nd St, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Tele: 918-234-1234, contact reservations: 1-888-591-1234. after August 17, 2015. room rate: \$91.00 plus tax for total \$103.30. Free WiFi, Pets allowed, Breakfast available (Self parking , There is no RV parking and Good Sam's RV park is about 7 miles.

Note: Overflow Hotel 8 - 12 August 2016 Courtyard by Marriott - Tulsa Downtown 415 South Boston Avenue, Tulsa, OK (800) 721-7033 or (918) 508-7400 Online reservations Rate \$107.00 per night (plus tax) Standard King or Double Queen includes valet parking and breakfast **Group code is MCL**

2016 Modern Day Marine Expo will be Sept 27-29, 2016 at MCB, Quantico, VA

2017 MCL National Convention will be August 2017 at the Sheraton Overland Park at the Convention Center, 6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS, 66211. Book By Phone: 1-800-628-8491 Room rate: \$115.00 with 18% tax, free parking, free breakfast and free wifi.