



The Straight Scoop

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



Volume 9, Issue 3, March 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
Paymaster: George Gill, 304-377-1345
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:

20 Jan 2016 beginning balance: \$17,125.75 Deposits: \$490.00 Interest: \$4.02

17 Feb 2016 ending balance: \$17,619.77

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:

20 Jan 2016 statement beginning balance: \$14,940.97 Deposits: \$260.00 Debits: \$780.24

17 Feb 2016 statement ending balance: \$14,420.73

Message from National Commandant Richard Gore

January 30, 2016

Marines:

It sure is nice to be able to get back to "The Information Highway" on this page and fill everyone in on what has been going on in the League. I hear that you have been waiting for more news so that tells me that there is interest in this space and you are reading it. Thank you for listening.

I am sure that by now that you are aware that if you need new forms you can pull them up online and print them without having to order them from National. No more delays waiting for shipments and if you need more they are at your fingertips. This results in a savings in funds that had to be paid to suppliers who manufacture them.

A new Detachment locator is being implemented and we were hopeful it would be completed in time to introduce it a Mid-Winter. This will enable everyone throughout the league have contact information on all our Detachments. This info was destroyed when the site shut down and is being completely rebuilt. When installation reports are submitted this enables the most current info to be put onto the locator.

If you look onto the calendar you will see when some of the Divisions are having conferences making the membership aware of the dates, times and locations. As more information is received from the Departments and Divisions it will be added making it easier to plan your schedules so you can attend.

THE MCL History/Awards page had not been touched for several years; the MCL History is now up to the present and those that have been presented awards from the MCL is current. We were happy to make the awards and are more than happy to recognize the achievement on our web pages.

On the Links web pages we have installed easily recognizable as links. So instead of having to squint to read

what the link says, this made it easier even us "older" people.

In regards to Veterans Info --We are updating the website with outside resources and within a very short time we should be in full swing and have useful and viable info to pass on. We have just sent two people to school for handling veterans claims cases, as soon as the certification is completed they will start handling cases for the League.

The Web Team is also working on installing video capability similar to You Tube. They hope to have it available in the near future. This way we can provide video clips from our conferences, conventions and other events that affect our Marine Corps League.

Also in the works are new committee pages that will contain the committee roster information, forms, reports and other information they deem valuable to the membership.

The Web Team is working hard to keep the website responsive and compatible with mobile devices. If the site is slow we may lose potential new members. The website is a communication tool for our membership but it is also a great recruiting tool, especially for the younger generation of Marines.

When the old site was taken down we lost the online ship store. This gave us the opportunity to put together a new site that did not require special logon/passwords. We were proud to launch The Semper Fi online store in December.

Remember to attend the Mid-Winter Conference, if possible, and once again be reminder to purchase your chances through Military Historical Tours for a free trip to any of the locations they are offering. Five tickets for \$20.00 is still the best deal I've ever seen. Information and tickets can be found on this website with the Mid-Winter Conference information.

I want to thank everyone for allowing us, your Board of Trustees, the honor of being of service to your needs in being of service to our Corps. Remember there is no "I" in The Corps and we accomplish our goals as a T.E.A.M.

"Semper Fi"

Richard D. Gore, Sr.

National Commandant

Marine Corps League

774-239-6067

Political Question - Can a candidate place an ad in a Convention ad book

Question proposed to NJA Johnny Baker and here is his reply

To answer your specific question - NO! A candidate, any political figure, nor a political party can place an ad in any MCL Program or other MCL newsletter or local program of any type.

If we did allow the ad to be placed, it could be considered or has the perception that we are supporting a particular political person or organization. Just read our National Bylaws and our Oath, we are non-political. Just one perception could and has destroyed a Detachment or causes Marines to quit the League. I personally saw this "first-hand." Before he gave up his membership, his last words was that he thought that we were non-political. I think that says volumes. He was right.

Now, this is where we must be very careful. If a citizen wants to place an ad in our Program or newsletter wishing us success in our Convention, Conference, newsletter, etc, they may do so as a PRIVATE citizen. They cannot mention that they are affiliated with a particular political party and/or cannot use their title (such as Senator, Representative, Mayor, Councilman, etc...). They cannot be ANY words of political reference. But as a private person with no political agenda, this would be fine.

Now with that being said, I feel it is alright if a person representing the host city to offer a letter welcoming the Marines to their city or state. BUT, THIS LETTER MUST NOT BE A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. It should only mentions support to the Marine Corps League and welcome to the city. Sometimes even a proclamation may be acceptable as a page. The Detachment or Department should not charge the city for placing this letter in the program AND IT MUST BE GENERAL AND NON-POLITICAL TOWARD A CANDIDATE OR PARTICULAR PARTY.

It is the responsibility of the person or Chairman of any MCL unit that is producing a program or newsletter to ensure that it remains non-political.

I sincerely hope that this helps and wish you much success in your Department Convention. Please feel free to present me with a specific ad if in doubt.

Semper Fidelis,
Johnny Baker



COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

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

As I am sitting here at my house thinking about what message I can relay to our members, the wind is howling, the rain is coming down hard and my transformer just blew and knocked the power out. Luckily I have my generator.

We have had a lot of bad storms in our state, so this may be a good time to remind our members of our Marine Corps League Foundation. The MCL Foundation assists Marines and their families who need humanitarian and disaster relief. The MCL Foundation also supports Scholarships, Youth Physical Fitness Programs, financial support and they provide aid to mothers of Marines through the Corrigan Fund.

Our Detachments hold sacred the tradition that Marines take care of their own, but keep in mind that our Marine Corps League Foundation is a resource we have to reach out to if we need it.

This is also a great Foundation to support with donations and by purchasing blank certificates for \$25.00 each. These are professional high-grade certificates for presentation to loved ones as a way to honor their Marine. For more information, visit their website at mclfoundation.org.

Special thanks to our members that keep an extra eye out for our brothers and sisters that may live alone or may have special needs when times get tough.

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

Message from Dept of WV Judge Advocate - Scott Kirby

Marines of the Department,

During this time of political campaigning and rallies in support of political parties or specific candidates for public office, League Members are reminded that the Constitution and Bylaws of the Marine Corps League specifically prohibits the endorsement of a particular political party or candidate, or attendance at political events in any manner that might suggest such an endorsement, including the wearing of the uniform, or part of the uniform, of the Marine Corps League.

You as an individual veteran, wearing apparel showing your service or medals earned is completely acceptable as long as none of what you are wearing contains the name and/or logo of the Marine Corps League.

Nor should you be listed as "representing" the Marine Corps League, or "speaking on behalf of" the League.

You speak for you, and represent yourself as an individual veteran.

SECTION 103 - POLICY (2) The Department of West Virginia shall never take part in any labor or management dispute or issue, and it shall be ever non-sectarian, non-political, and non-partisan; nor shall it be based on the grounds of race, color, creed, nationality, or sex; nor shall it be used as a medium of political ambition or preferment; nor shall former or present military rank or former or present civilian position be used as the basis for special consideration or preferment.

(3) Nothing in the preceding subsection shall prohibit a member of the Department of West Virginia or any subdivision thereof, from participating in political issues affecting the welfare of the United States Marine Corps, the national security of our Nation, or any Veterans' claims for justice arising from service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. No part of the MCL uniform shall be worn to a meeting, rally, gathering, etc., thereby showing support of a candidate for election and/or reelection.

The Marine Corps League wants and strongly encourages ALL its members and families to exercise their

Constitutional right and duty to vote. With that said, our membership cannot give the impression that the League supports or opposes ANY one candidate or political party.

I enjoin you, as the leadership of the Marine Corps League, to ensure all those members under your charge review the Marine Corps League's Policy as outlined above and ensure it is adhered to. Thank you for your support on this issue. God Bless America.

If you follow these guidelines there should be no concerns. For further questions please contact Department of West Virginia Judge Advocate, Scott Kirby, at ronald_krby@yahoo.com

Semper Fi!
Scott Kirby

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 _____

Secretary of the Navy Names Expeditionary Sea Base Ship

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced the Navy's newest Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB) ship, T-ESB 4, will be named USNS Hershel "Woody" Williams during a ceremony in Charleston, West Virginia, Jan. 14.

Hershel "Woody" Williams, the ship's namesake, was born in West Virginia and joined the Marine Corps following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1944, after serving in Guadalcanal and Guam, he joined the campaign in Iwo Jima. Two days after arriving on the island, Williams picked up a 70-pound flamethrower and walked ahead of his infantry's tanks for four hours clearing their path of enemy machine gun fire. President Harry S. Truman awarded him the Medal of Honor two years later for his actions.

Williams served during the Battle of Iwo Jima until he was wounded in March of 1945. He returned to the United States, was awarded a Purple Heart and released from active duty. Later, he served in the Marine Corps Reserves for 17 years.

Williams is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The new 784-foot-long vessel will feature a 52,000 square foot flight deck, fuel and equipment storage, repair spaces, magazines, and mission-planning spaces.

Able to accommodate up to 250 personnel, the new ESB ship will support multiple missions, such as air mine counter measures (AMCM), counter-piracy operations, maritime security operations, humanitarian aid and disaster-relief missions, and crisis response operations.

In addition, the vessel will be capable of supporting MH-53 and MH-60 helicopters, with an option for future upgrades to support MV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft.

USNS Hershel "Woody" Williams will be constructed by General Dynamics National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO) in San Diego. The ship is expected to be delivered to the Navy in 2018.

The VA Appeals process - Appeals at the regional office

Most Veterans are aware that claims are rated at the VA regional office (RO), usually in their state. However, a lot of Veterans are not aware that appeals are also reviewed at the regional office before they go to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board). In this piece we will discuss the RO's appeal process, your role in the process, and the things you can do to help expedite your appeal.

Appeals at the local regional office level

Once a VA office issues its decision on your claim, you have one year from that date to file an appeal. Read the decision letter closely: it will tell you why VA made the decision it did. If you are unsure why or how VA made its decision, ask a Veterans service officer for help. You can also call VA or go to your regional office.

If you disagree with VA's decision for any reason – the effective date of your award, the rating percentage you were given or the reason you were denied – you should file a Notice of Disagreement (NOD). If VA included VA Form 21-0958, Notice of Disagreement, with its decision, you must use that form to file your NOD – it is mandatory. The NOD is the start of your appeal.

Once you file your NOD, you have several rights: you can submit new evidence, ask for a *de novo* review where a decision review officer (DRO) takes a "fresh look" at the claim, reviewing the entire claims file and/or ask to testify and present evidence at a telephone or in-person hearing. VA encourages Veterans who choose to

have a hearing to opt for an informal teleconference hearing, since these can be scheduled much faster. Many appeals are favorably resolved at these early stages. Make sure you file your NOD on time: your right to appeal ends a year from the date of VA's decision.

When you file your NOD, you have a choice: either select a traditional review or a *de novo* review by a DRO. You can make this choice right on your NOD when you start your appeal. If you don't make a decision, VA will mail you a notice of this right, and you'll have 60 days to respond, so answer right away.

I've mentioned a couple pro tips, but I want to call them out:

If you are dissatisfied with the decision on your claim, file your appeal right away

When you file your NOD, submit any new evidence you have; waiting until later on in the process can delay your appeal

Also, when you file your NOD, state if you want a DRO review or a traditional review – this will also save you time on your appeal

Traditional Review

If you opt for a traditional review, a member of the RO appeals team reviews the decision on your claim to determine if it was processed correctly; if it was, the RO will issue you a Statement of the Case (SOC). An SOC lists the applicable laws and regulations related to that decision, all the evidence that was considered in making the decision and a detailed explanation of the decision VA made.

De novo Review

A *de novo* review is your other option. *de novo*, which means “new,” or “fresh look,” is a Latin term used by lawyers. In a *de novo* review, a DRO, who is a senior-level, highly experienced claim processor, looks at all the evidence of record (your entire claims file, including any new evidence you've submitted). The DRO can grant your appeal, deny your appeal and issue an SOC, or order additional development (such as a new medical exam or a request for additional medical records), if warranted.

Unless the RO grants the full benefit you are seeking, you will receive an SOC. This means EVEN if the RO grants your claim, you may receive an SOC, allowing you to continue the appeal. For instance:

If you were appealing service connection for tinnitus (ringing in the ears) and the RO granted this on appeal at 10 percent, the RO appeals team will ONLY issue a rating decision since 10 percent is the highest rating you can receive for tinnitus. This means the appeal has been granted in full. You will not receive an SOC.

If you were appealing VA's 10-percent rating for arthritis in your lower back because you believe you should be rated higher, but the RO appeals team disagrees and continues your 10-percent rating, you will receive ONLY an SOC.

If you were appealing VA's 10-percent rating for arthritis in your lower back because you believe you should be rated higher, and the RO appeals team agrees and increases your rating to 20 percent, you will receive BOTH a new award decision explaining why VA increased your disability rating AND an SOC detailing how VA arrived at its decision, including why you were not entitled to a rating higher than 20 percent.

You have 60 days from the date the SOC is mailed to you to file a VA Form 9, *Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals*, if you wish to continue your appeal to the Board. Any time you submit more evidence after the SOC or before the Form 9, VBA must conduct another review of the case and issue another SOC – this one called a supplemental statement of the case (SSOC) that includes the additional evidence – or a rating decision, if the additional evidence allows VBA to grant the appeal. This must be done each time you submit new evidence after the SOC. I have seen appeals with four or five SSOCs. Keep in mind, each time you submit new evidence it triggers a new review. It's like starting all over again in the appeals process. Each new SSOC can add up to 400 days to the appeal, so my best advice is, **submit all available evidence to support your appeal when you file your NOD.**

On the Form 9, you can request an optional hearing before a judge at the Board, who will decide your appeal. A hearing is not required and will delay a final decision, but if you want a hearing, you can choose a video-

teleconference hearing, a travel board hearing at your local RO, or an in-person hearing in Washington, D.C.

If you want a hearing, your best bet is to opt for the video-teleconference hearing, since it can be scheduled much quicker than other types of hearings. This is because you don't have to travel to Washington, D.C. and you don't have to wait for a judge to travel to your RO. You still get the benefit of representation and talking to a judge face-to-face – though virtually, like on Skype or on Face Time.

Once you submit your Form 9, the RO appeals team reviews your appeal to ensure all actions were completed and that it is ready to go to the Board. Once ready, the local RO will certify and transfer your appeal to the Board in Washington, D.C.

VA Announces Additional Changes to Improve Veterans Crisis Line

Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson announced on Feb 26, 2016 improvements to enhance and accelerate progress at the Veterans Crisis Line, which serves as a life-saving resource for Veterans who find themselves at risk of suicide.

Today, during his third trip to the Crisis Line in a year, Mr. Gibson announced that the Crisis Line would form a stronger bond with VA's Suicide Prevention Office and Mental Health Services. This partnership includes VA's National Mental Health Director for Suicide Prevention as well as several hubs of expertise, including one Center of Excellence focusing on suicide prevention research and education located at the same medical campus as the Crisis Line responders in Canandaigua, NY.

Mr. Gibson also announced that the Veterans Crisis Line would now be under the direction of VA's Member Services, which has many efforts underway across the nation to restructure portions of VA that have direct contact with Veterans. This brings an expertise in ensuring that staff in these vital roles have more streamlined processes, adequate training and resources at their fingertips, to better serve Veterans.

These structural changes build on key hires made in the last year to lead the Crisis Line, including a director with extensive clinical social work background.

"I witnessed again today that the employees at the Veterans Crisis Line have a tremendously difficult job and they complete it with care, compassion and professionalism," said Mr. Gibson. I want to make sure that the trained professionals at the Crisis Line -- folks I consider the best in the business -- are able to focus on their core mission of focusing on the Veterans most in need of their help. They are life savers and we have to create the structure around them to succeed.

"Over the past year, we have put together a strong team to lead the employees at the Crisis Line. Today's announcement of a structural change within the Veterans Health Administration and additional support from our experts in suicide prevention is another step to make sure the employees and the Veterans they speak with have what they need give Veterans a safe place to call when they need us most."

As a part of the MyVA initiative, the largest restructuring in the Department's history, VA has made improvements at the Veterans Crisis Line a key priority. By the end of this year, every Veteran in crisis will have their call promptly answered by an experienced VA responder. That will mean non-core calls will be directed appropriately to other VA entities that can best address their questions or concerns.

Already, VA has committed to increase staff at the Veterans Crisis Line. It now has more than 300 employees, and is in the process of hiring 88 more staff. At the same time, they have expanded the work area for responders and are making necessary technology improvements to phone systems and equipment to better handle the increased demand at the crisis line.

"Last year, counselors at the Crisis Line dispatched emergency responders to intervene and save the lives of Veterans in crisis more than 11,000 times," said Gibson. "That means, on average, we're stepping in to save 30 lives per day. Nothing could be more important."

Key Facts:

Since its launch in 2007, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered nearly 2 million calls — and nearly a quarter of those calls were answered last fiscal year — 490,000.

The same is true for referrals to local VA Suicide Prevention Coordinators: One quarter of the 320,000 referrals made so far by crisis-line counselors were made in FY 2015.

Crisis Line counselors dispatched emergency responders to callers in crisis over 11,000 times last year

(averaging 30 per day) — and over 53,000 times since 2007.

Since adding chat and text services, they have engaged nearly 300,000 Veterans or concerned family members through chat or text.

Veterans in crisis may contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1. They can also text or chat with our trained professionals online at VeteransCrisisLine.net.

VA Appeals - When An Appeal is Remanded

Just like in the federal court system, where a superior court has the ability to remand or send back an appeal to a lower court for another look, the Board of Veterans' Appeals has the ability to remand a case back to the regional office. While the Board has the ability to remand, it uses the remand differently than a typical court system. In a typical court system, a higher court usually remands a case when a lower court interprets a law incorrectly. In VA's circular system, appeals are remanded for many reasons.

A remand may be necessary if there has been a change in law, a worsening of a disability on appeal or the Veteran introduces new evidence or theory of entitlement at the Board. Typically each time one of these things happens, a rule of law called Duty to Assist (DTA) is triggered. DTA is an obligation VA takes very seriously. It means VA has to help you develop your claim. Often, this means scheduling you for another exam, gathering records on your behalf or giving you an opportunity to comment since a law change. About two-thirds of the Board's remands are for reasons that arose after VBA finished processing the appeal and sent it to the Board.

Appeals are remanded for many reasons: if there has been a change in law, a worsening of a disability on appeal, the Veteran introduces new evidence or theory of entitlement at the Board or if the regional office did not process your claim correctly. Appeals are also remanded if the regional office did not process your claim correctly usually the result of insufficient evidence gathering. While the number of these avoidable remands has declined considerably in recent years, we continue to work to improve our processing accuracy.

If the Board remands your appeal, the judge will lay out clear steps which the regional office must complete before issuing another decision on your appeal. After completing the required steps, the regional office will make a new decision that either continues the prior decision or grants your appeal. If it continues the prior decision, you will receive a supplemental statement of the case (SSOC) and your appeal will be returned to the Board for a final decision. The Board reviews your case again and renders another decision. Because of updates to laws and evidence, this remand cycle may happen more than once. If the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) remands your appeal back to the Board, the Board may issue a remand back to the regional office to follow through on any development actions the CAVC has instructed of VA.

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: 800-624-6988 or 304-243-4090. **Mention: MCL attendee.** Banquet: Buffet with country menu of beef, chicken and salmon with assorted side dishes and desserts. Cost: \$25.00 Pack Growl 7 pm on May 6. Advance registration \$5. POC: John Nanny, P.O. Box 2121, Wheeling, WV 26003-0234. Tele: 304-233-5289 or 304-281-2950. Guest speaker: USMC BGEN Austin Renforth, CG of Training Command, Quantico, Va

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.

2016 DEPARTMENT OF WV MCL CONVENTION

MAY 6-8, 2016

Wheeling

Hosted by Detachment 771

Will be held at Oglebay Resort & Conference Center, in 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 buffet with country menu of beef, chicken and salmon with assorted side dishes and desserts. Cost: \$25.00 Mail advance registration fee and banquet to: Jones, Wolin & Obrien Detachment 771, Marine Corps League, PO Box 2121, Wheeling, WV 26003-0234. POC John Nanny: nanny1007@comcast.net (304) 233-5289. We are requesting each detachment to bring two items for the Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Auction. Guest speaker will be B Gen Austin "Sparky" Renforth, CG of training Command, Quantico, Va. **Note:** Woody Williams is booked for both days.

Directions: Oglebay is located in Wheeling, West Virginia 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 & 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 non-smoking facility. All rooms are non-smoking. Use of outdoor pool at Oglebay is free to all lodge guests subject to season, weather conditions and hours of operations. Use of indoor pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center and sauna is free to all lodge guests. Use of other recreation facilities is not included unless specified in each package. Newspaper and in-room coffee service available Monday-Friday. Check-In Time begins at 3 pm, but is not guaranteed. If you intend to arrive before this time please notify the front desk and we will make every effort to accommodate you, but we suggest that you plan to occupy your guest room after 3 pm. Check-Out Time 11am. A late charge of \$50 will be applied to rooms that are not vacant by 1200. Pets are not permitted. Hospitality room open Friday May 13 from 1700-2230. **Breakfast is not included in room price.** There are several dining areas in Wilson Lodge and meals are priced accordingly.

Ad book prices: \$100 full page ad, \$50 ½ page, \$25 ¼ page. Please mail copy ready ad and registration information with check to POC as listed. Deadline for ad submission is March 30, 2016. We are also including an "in Memoriam" section where tribute can be paid to our fallen Marines. the same rate as other ads. Also ask that each Detachment make a donation and to place an ad as well as obtain names for the Patron Page in order to help us with convention costs.

Please print off and mail in for advance registration and for your name tag.

Attendee	Guest
Name _____	Name _____
Title _____	Title/Relation _____
Detachment _____	
Address _____	\$5.00 pre-registration each \$ _____
_____	\$25.00 banquet each \$ _____
Total	\$ _____

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Total	\$ _____

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

Friday, May 6, 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 7, 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



State Veterans Home recognized by Marine Corps League

Director Tom McBride from the State Veterans Home in Barboursville, WV was presented a Department Dist. Service Award for the home by Dept. Commandant Rick Shank and Dept. COS Ben Fetty. Director McBride accepted the award on behalf of all the veterans at the home.