



Mideast Division Bulletin Midwinter 2012

This Mideast Division Bulletin is to provide communication on administrative policy and pending events within the division. These are areas that I want the Departments and Detachments to focus on to ensure the Mideast Division complies with directives from MCL National HQ. Department Commandants forward this information to all Detachments. Departments are requested to submit any information on scheduled events within their area to the Division Adjutant Roger Ware at rrware@yahoo.com and Division Web Sgt Jim Haslam at jhaslam@nc.rr.com. The Division web site is: www.mclmideastdiv.org. The Chain of Command is: Individual - Detachment - Department - Division - National.

Mideast Division Officers:

NVC: Arvel "Bud" Raines	budraines30@comcast.net	Cell: 301-697-9994
Assistant NVC: Mike McLain	mclain@suddenlink.net	Home: 304-464-5049
Judge Advocate: Gerard F. Devlin	gerarddevlin@aol.com	Home: 301-262-1696
Jr. Past NVC: Rudy Garcia	GarciaRudy@cox.net	Home: 757-962-6093
Chief of Staff : Tommy Grunwell	grundoon627@gmail.com	Home: 301-639-7817
Adjutant: Roger Ware	rrware@yahoo.com	Home: 304-636-4365
Paymaster: Harry Kesecker		Home: 301-268-8618
Credentials: Wally Darling	wallacedarling@aol.com	Home: 252-446-5472
Aide-de-Camp: Bill Chapman	chapusmc9999@bellsouth.net	Home: 828-437-2052
Aide-de-Camp: John "Jack" Severn	jack7rn@comcast.net	Home: 301-865-1962
Sgt-at-Arms: Charles Minton	ssgtcdminton@yahoo.com	Home: 252-452-0728
Sgt-at-Arms: Jeffrey Jones	jdjones0311@aol.com	Home: 252-205-6506
Web Sergeant: Jim Haslam	jhaslam@nc.rr.com	Home: 919-469-2634
Marine For Life: Ernest J. "Ernie" Lutz	ELutz@cox.net	Home: 757-547-5462
VAWS: James D. Luther	james.luther1@med.va.gov	Home: 336-886-3108

Department Commandants:

	Department of Delaware	
Commandant: Richard Tanner	arrrty01@aol.com	Home: 410-208-3939
	Department of Maryland	
Commandant: Ed Ross	lipps37@comcast.net	Home: 410-947-5659
	Department of North Carolina	
Commandant: Bruce Rakfeldt	MCLBruceRakfeldt@triad.rr.com	Home: 336-578-9446

Commandant: Bruce Steeley	Department of Virginia rbsteeley@comcast.net	Home: 804-746-4413
Commandant: John Nanny	Department of West Virginia nanny1007@comcast.net	Home: 304-233-5289
Charles R. LaBerge	Capital Marine Detachment 516 Chuck.laberge@comcast.net	Home: 352-391-9259
John Kovalcik	National Capital Detachment 382 NJR@sc.rr.com	Cell: 843-333-4618
Commandant: Michael Allen	London UK Detachment 1088 mcllondon.1088@sky.com	Home: 44 (0) 1494-772379
Commandant: George J. Yiaski	Puerto Rico Detachment 916	Home: 787-791-3243
Commandant: Timothy F. Shea	Sierra Alpha Detachment 700	Home: 878-7638

2012 Mid Winter National Staff Conference

The Conference will be held February 16, 17 and 18, 2012, at the Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA. The Department Commandant's Council is Thursday, February 16th at 1700. All Department Commandants or their representatives are required to present their respective reports during this council. In the event a Department does not have anyone in attendance, a copy of their Department Report should be mailed to Mideast Division ANVC Mike McLain so he can present it. Departments should present a copy to Mideast Division NVC Bud Raines and National Sr Vice Commandant Jim Tuohy. Bring 50 copies for distribution. Department Commandants, your report should focus on all those areas that National Sr Vice Commandant Tuohy listed in a notice which was recently mailed to you. Please be specific and provide the information that he desired in your Department Report. Limit your report to three minutes.

Mideast Division Membership

The following is the paid membership for the Division on the dates indicated

12/31/11	9/30/11	6/30/11	3/31/11	12/31/10
2 nd Q	1 st Q	4 th Q	3 rd Q	2 nd Q
6,902	6,745	6,911	6,973	7,012

This decrease in membership is noted with great concern. Please concentrate your effort on turning this matter to the positive side.

Quarterly Detachment Membership Roster

Every Detachment Paymaster receives a Quarterly roster from MCL National of the total membership within their respective detachment. This copy must be shared with the Commandant and Jr Vice Commandant and members of your detachment. The Paymaster should bring a copy of this roster to each membership meeting and read those names of all unpaid members. Too many detachments are not sharing this information and far too

often the members of your detachment may not know who has or has not paid their annual dues. By sharing this information with your Commandant, Jr Vice Commandant and members of your detachment it will help reduce your list of unpaid members. Many of your members will contact some of these unpaid and do what they can to get them to pay their dues.

MCL Uniform

Members of the League are authorized to wear ONLY those uniforms that are listed in National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures in Enclosure (3) and awards and ribbons in Enclosure (4). The guidance of this Uniform Code is presented as a standard to establish uniformity and define appropriate wear of the Marine Corps League Uniforms. Because many features about these uniforms clearly resemble United States Marine Corps uniforms, it is very likely that an unmindful public may see that we are the Marines; and when today's Marines see us wearing uniforms that are a likeness to their own, they will be seeing us as one of their own. Our appearance reflects upon the Marine Corps and Marines everywhere, and we should ever be aware of that responsibility. Uniforms prescribed in this Uniform Code are considered appropriate to preserve the respect and dignity of the Marine Corps League and the United States Marine Corps. Members of the Detachment are encouraged to obtain regulation Marine Corps League uniforms, but it is not a condition of membership. The standard Marine Corps League cover is the minimum uniform item worn by members to be considered "in uniform." If a person is not wearing any part of the MCL uniform or official MCL cover, they are not considered as representing the MCL and can wear anything they want, anytime they desire without prejudice. Anytime they wear the MCL cover, they are in uniform representing the Marine Corps League.

Recruiting and Retention

MCL National has mailed to every Department Commandant and Detachment Paymaster within the division a roster of their respective members as of 31 Dec 2011. On this roster is a listing of the current status of all your members including Paid Life Members (PLM), Paid, Total Paid, and Unpaid per each detachment. National is tasking each Department Commandant to contact those detachments in his department and see what can be done to get those unpaid members current. Some detachments have less than 15 members and action needs to be taken so they won't lose their Charter. Departments need to work in getting them to 15 members. Membership is what drives the league and keeping our members current is a nationwide problem. Detachments should have a Membership Retention Team, lead by their Jr Vice Commandant that makes personal contact with each unpaid member and they can also brainstorm ideas to recruit additional members.

Retaining members is often a problem for every detachment and it may be from several reasons. It may have been finances, or someone said something to upset them, or it may

have been leadership problems or perhaps they didn't feel welcome. Every member is important and they are all volunteers and they join the league to reconnect with their heritage. Far too often leaders forget this and have a tendency to think they are still in the Corps and treat their members accordingly. Positive leadership and mentoring go hand in hand. Demanding or intimidating members serves no purpose and forces members to make a choice about continuing their membership.

As volunteers they can walk away to avoid a conflict. By them joining has merit within itself because they chose to do so and therefore must be treated accordingly. Leaders must always look within themselves to solve problems. Being humble is part of being a leader and respect is earned, not assumed.

Recruiting new members takes a collaborative effort from all members within a detachment. Members usually renew their annual dues or pay the life membership fee if they believe their detachment has something to offer besides just paying their dues. Inactive detachments will discover that some members will not renew their dues if their detachment is not involved with activities within the community or does not hold any meetings.

Some ideas and general thoughts for retaining members might include having regular meetings; attending church services or attending funeral services together; enjoying breakfast, BBQ or dinner as a group; making house calls to the sick and bedridden; sending birthday or get-well cards; making phone calls to ask for ideas or help with a project; thanking members and recognize them for their help; carpooling to events or activities; volunteering to help with various community fund-raisers or getting involved in a project as a group; having a featured article in the local paper; keeping your membership data base current and making changes when necessary; sharing information and detachment news via email addresses; bringing the list of delinquent members to your meetings and reading the names and asking for help in contacting them or form a membership committee; trying to get spouses involved by joining them as associate members; encouraging new or inactive members to attend Department Convention or meetings; supporting military-theme events including USMC birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day activities; assisting with flag etiquette in school classrooms or being a speaker during career day. Hold a fund raiser for a community project and invite the mayor and newspaper. Develop a letter detailing what projects your detachment participates in and list the goals for the coming year and mail it out to your members about three months before their dues expire and also to the inactive members.

Communicate with your members and brainstorm with new ideas to retain your members. Have a fund raiser and pay the life membership fee of one of your members or pick up the fees of the inactive ones. If your detachment is financially able to do so, perhaps the detachment could pay the member's dues, then the member can pay back the detachment in monthly installments if he/she is unable to pay the dues all at one time.

Recruiting new members takes a lot of the same ideas but it requires every member being active with aggressively trying to recruit as many members as possible. I believe the first

step is ensuring every member has the correct information that you want expressed to those potential new members. Have your best recruiter give a class on how to recruit and always best to make a small package to give to every perspective member. This would include a letter handout giving history of the league, your detachment history, activities your detachment does within the community, mailing address, phone number, dues information, MCL brochures, point of contact and an application. Carry a sample copy of the Semper Fi magazine.

With the permission of the mall manager set up a table in a shopping mall or near a busy market and have members man the table giving out information. This is where you can do your fund raisers and recruit at the same time. This ensures your detachment benefits with the fund raiser by signing a new member. Suggest offering all cash prizes vice select items from local area, since people from out of area will not buy a ticket if they have to come back for prizes. Wear your MCL gear as this attracts Marines. Get name and address of prospective members. Give a follow-up call and send out a personal letter inviting those who showed interest to join. Invite them to your meetings or theme dinners. Be positive and inform them you will offer assistance to them and their families. Invite the local USMC recruiters to join your detachment. Get articles in the local papers about events your detachment does. Anything is important as it keeps your detachment in the news and helps with visibility and generates Marine Corps League interest.

Dual Members and Transfer to Another Detachment

Several questions have been raised regarding the administration of dual members and their transfer. To clarify the procedure, National HQ was contacted for guidance and the following is the proper method to transfer dual membership status.

Example: If a member is a regular member in Detachment 000, and a dual member of Detachment 111 and wants to transfer his dual status to Detachment 222. He fills out a transfer form to transfer his dual status from Detachment 111 and has it signed by Detachment 111's Commandant. He then mails it to his new Detachment 222 for approval. Detachment 222 must approve his transfer to their Detachment. After approval, this transfer along with a transmittal form will be sent by Detachment 222 to the Department Paymaster. He is then a regular member of Detachment 000 and dual member of 222. Now if he wants to transfer his voting rights from Detachment 000 to Detachment 222 and his dual membership from Detachment 222 to Detachment 000, he has to do the following. He completes a transfer form to transfer his voting rights to Detachment 222. This will swap his membership in the two Detachments. This is then mailed directly to the National Adjutant/Paymaster. Nothing is sent to the Department Paymaster. When dealing with dual status members who want to transfer to another detachment, their dual status is transferred first. For any help with this, please call your Department Paymaster.

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. 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.

As part of the Oath of Membership, some of the comments made in prayer by the Chaplain are: "Let none of us rise up in pride to think we are better than our fellow man. Keep our League steadfast on its course and grant that its members may be ever mindful of the true meaning of our motto, "*Semper Fidelis*" by being "Always Faithful" to Thee, to our Country, to our League and to our fellow members, thus enriching the world because of our part in it." I would ask you to remember that "Always Faithful" is not when you want it to be, it's Always and nothing less is acceptable. It's time for those members with their own agenda to refocus your life and start protecting the integrity of the Corps and the League.

Marines never quit or surrender, and those members who walk away or quit paying their dues have forgotten what Marines are all about. 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.

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Members in the League

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 ritual 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 those 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 even those Marines in our communities who die should be honored. Any time, any place, anywhere a Marine falls, we need to honor their memory. Nothing else should ever be more important.

Corps Values

Why are U.S. Marines considered the world's premier warriors? What puts the Marine Corps above the rest? Other military services have rigorous training and weapons of equal or greater lethality. So, why do U.S. Marines stand head and shoulders above the crowd? The truth lies in the individual Marine. He (or she) did not join the Marines. Roughly 40,000 try each year. Those who survive the crucible of Marine basic training have been sculpted in mind and body. They have become Marines. Once they have earned the title and entered the Brotherhood of Marines, a new warrior must draw upon the legacy of his Corps. Therein lies his strength. In return, the strength of the Corps lies in the individual Marine. The character (often defined as "what you are in the dark") of these warriors is defined by the three constant Corps Values: honor, courage, and commitment.

Honor: Honor requires each Marine to exemplify the ultimate standard in ethical and moral conduct. Honor is many things; honor requires many things. A U.S. Marine must never lie, never cheat, never steal, but that is not enough. Much more is required. Each Marine must cling to an uncompromising code of personal integrity, be accountable for his actions and hold others accountable for theirs. And, above all, honor mandates that a Marine never sullies the reputation of his Corps.

Courage: Simply stated, courage is honor in action -- and more. Courage is moral strength, the will to heed the inner voice of conscience, the will to do what is right, because it's right, regardless of the conduct of others. It is mental discipline, an adherence to a higher standard. Courage means willingness to take a stand for what is right in spite of adverse consequences. This courage, throughout the history of the Corps, has sustained Marines during the chaos, perils, and hardships of combat. And each day, it enables each Marine to look in the mirror -- and smile.

Commitment: Total dedication to Corps and Country. Gung-ho Marine teamwork. All for

one, one for all. By whatever name or cliché, commitment is a combination of (1) selfless determination and (2) a relentless dedication for excellence. Marines never give up, never give in, never willingly accept second best. Excellence is always the goal. And, when their active duty days are over, Marines remain reserve Marines, retired Marines, or Marine veterans. There is no such thing as an ex-Marine or former Marine. Once a Marine, always a Marine. Commitment never dies.

The three Corps Values: honor, courage, commitment. They make up the bedrock of the character of each individual Marine. They are the foundation of his/her Corps. These three values, handed down from generation to generation, have made U.S. Marines the Warrior Elite. The U.S. Marine Corps: the most respected and revered fighting force on earth.

Marines, Such Good Men

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the U.S. Marine Corps. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. I cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth. A few of my comrades drift far from me now, sending back only occasional word. I know that one day even these could fall to silence. Some of the men will stay close, a couple, perhaps, always at hand. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades ... such good men. --

Anonymous

Doing Right By Veterans

It took considerable prodding from Congress, but in 2009, the Pentagon finally set up a process to review the cases of wounded and injured veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who were medically retired with disability ratings of 20 percent or lower. Now it turns out that in the almost three years that the review disability process has been running, the Pentagon has made little or no effort to contact the 77,000 eligible veterans. To date, only about 3,000 have applied. That means that 96 percent of veterans whose lives may be greatly improved by an upgraded disability rating are being left in the dark about this vital program and are missing out on an extremely valuable benefit.

Almost half of the 3,000 who have applied have had their disability ratings raised to 30

percent or more, a critical threshold that qualified them for lifetime retirement pay, health care, commissary and exchange privileges and more. The Pentagon, with an assist from the Veterans Affairs Department, is finally launching an effort to notify the 74,000 eligible vets who have not applied for review, an effort that will run through October. But finding them all could be difficult. That's where you come in.

The odds are good that many of those 74,000 veterans have friends or acquaintances who are still in uniform or in some way plugged into news important to vets. If you know a veteran who was medically retired with a low disability rating, or even if you just know of such a vet, pass the word along. Tell them to go online to www.health.mil, click the "About MHS" link atop the page, and then click the "Physical Disability Board of Review" link. You can also contact your local VA representative. You could forever change a fellow veteran's life for the better.

Lejeune Resident Receives Disability

A former Camp Lejeune Marine "has a medley of maladies, many of which he believes can be traced to his exposure to contaminated drinking water during the 13 years he spent on base." A letter mailed in October from the Department of Veterans Affairs has granted him 100-percent disability for colon cancer and 20 percent for bladder cancer for Marine Lawson's time at Lejeune as a connection. His cancers could have been caused by the base drinking water supply, which was contaminated with the organic solvents and/or by being exposed to leaking gas "at a warehouse building in the Hadnot Point Industrial Area." For more information on the drinking water at Camp Lejeune, visit the Marine Corps' [Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water webpage](#).

FOR VETERANS WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED

Veterans who think they might have been affected by contaminated water at Camp Lejeune can apply for service connection health benefits from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-526, Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension. The VA recommends that if you have any of the following material, please attach it to your application:

- Discharge or separation papers (DD-214 or equivalent)
- Dependency records (marriage and children's birth certificates)
- Medical evidence (doctor and hospital reports)

Veterans who have applied for benefits related to water contamination at Camp Lejeune say they strongly recommend a medical nexus letter from a doctor. The claim should be filed as a medical condition with residuals due to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. For more information, contact your local VA office or your local veterans service organization, or go online to <http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/>
The Marine Corps also has a website about the Lejeune contamination, <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater/>

A group of Marine veterans and affected family members has a website on the issue, The

VA Compensation & Pensions

The following is written from a C&P (Compensation and Pension) examiner's perspective relating to psychiatric exams to assist veterans in navigating the VA system. It is also a good guideline for all VA exams. A little common sense and clarity of thinking will go a long ways towards getting you what you are entitled:

- 1) Be on time or a little early.
- 2) Be polite. Yelling at the examiner for the injustices you perceive will do nothing but alienate him/her.
- 3) Curse at your risk. You can get your point across much better with proper English than you can with outlandish language.
- 4) Keep in mind that your examiner is the person that is going to judge you. It's his/her job and that is why you are there. To be adjudicated fairly how would you like to be remembered? A skuzzy stereotypical veteran or a troubled one who is doing the best he/she can?
- 5) Do not talk about alcohol or drug-related issues. You are not there to be assessed for those problems. You are there to be assessed for your psychiatric functioning as today relates to your service history. If the examiner asks about alcohol or drugs, politely remind them that you are not there for those issues (assuming you've ever had them,) but for how impaired you are in your daily functioning. It's best to avoid even talking about them.
- 6) Don't waste your time relating how badly you believe you've been mistreated. The examiner only has a short time to figure out how impaired you are and they need the facts in coherent, concise, sentences, and not rambling rants that end nowhere.
- 7) Answer the questions to the best of your ability. If you don't know say so.
- 8) Be honest. Don't embellish your stories with fanciful tales. Just the facts please. Be able to document everything you tell the examiner. You may run into someone who checks stories out. If possible have letters from people you served with, unit diary copies of incidents that occurred during your time and space, and letters from family members. Family member letters usually don't add a lot of weight to your case because families are there to support you and examiners understands that.
- 9) When responding to examiners you need to pick the worst moment of time relating to that question. You need to be rated for the worst times you have had. As an example, pick a really bad day you have experienced and relate all of your answers to that day. Such as, the day you could not sleep, was anxious and startled easily, was grouchy to your wife and friends, you felt like your heart was coming out of your chest, and nothing went right for you. They want to know what triggers bring out the worst in you or does your life seem like you are watching a DVD movie of yourself over and over. That day should have been in the last 30-90 days. If it was a year ago you may not need to be having this exam.
- 10) Remember when you are asked "how are you doing today?" to report how you REALLY are doing and not how you'd like to be doing. Most veterans want to be doing

MUCH better than they really are. It's like they know they can be doing better, and have done better, but their pride does not want to let anyone know how badly they really are doing.

11) Ask if it would be okay to have your husband/wife in the room with you during the exam. Husbands and wives can tell the truth much better than the veteran. Ask your spouse how well you've done in the past ten days versus your own opinion of how you've been doing. Quite a dramatic difference if you are truthful!

The questions you are being asked are on a script in front of the examiner. After examiners do this for a while they get a sense of what is in front of them. It's not too difficult to determine when someone is flat out lying and when they are struggling with memory. Examiners can be scammed but the scammers often pay a price. It's a federal criminal act to lie in order to gain monetary compensation. And the odds are you will be prosecuted. It simply isn't worth it. If you served in combat, you never forget your unit, dates and locations or date you may have been wounded. If you don't remember, you were not there. Examiners are generally good people trying to do a very difficult job. Make it easy for them.

Iwo Jima Eulogy

Memorial sermon delivered by Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn dedicating the 5th Marine Division Marine Cemetery on Iwo Jima in 1945.

“Here lie men who loved America because their ancestors, generations ago, helped in her founding. And other men who loved her with equal passion because they themselves, or their own fathers, escaped from oppression to her blessed shores. Here lie officers and men, Negroes and Whites, rich men and poor, together. Here are Protestants, Catholics, and Jews together. Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed.

Among these men there is no discrimination. No prejudices. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy! Whosoever of us lifts his hand in hate against a brother, or who thinks himself superior to those who happen to be in the minority, makes of this ceremony and the bloody sacrifice it commemorates, an empty, hollow mockery. To this then, as our solemn sacred duty, do we, the living, now dedicate ourselves: To the right of Protestants, Catholics, and Jews, of White men and Negroes alike, to enjoy the democracy for which all of them have here paid the price.

We here solemnly swear this shall not be in vain. Out of this, and from the suffering and sorrow of those who mourn this, will come, we promise, the birth of a new freedom for the sons of men everywhere.”

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National Jr. Vice Commandant's Award

Any member within a detachment who recruits at least 5 or more new members between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012 is eligible to receive the National Jr Vice Commandant's Award for recruiting. National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, Enclosure Four, page 19, must be filled out by the individual member and signed by the Detachment Commandant and Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster, then mailed to National Jr Vice Commandant John W. Kovalcik, Marine Corps League, 1321 Royal Devon Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29575-5852. A certificate will be issued to the individual member.

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Free MCL Publicity through Newspapers, Radio and Television

Write an article for the newspaper to generate interest and/or participation in upcoming events such as a convention, award ceremony, etc., or to report on an event already held. Smaller, very brief public service announcements, such as for upcoming regular detachment meetings, may be submitted for "community calendar" listings that run daily.

Reporting on major events is recommended, but don't write articles on relatively small matters, such as routine detachment meetings. Articles should be typed double-spaced in a clear, professional-style of font, such as Times New Roman (don't use anything "cutesy" or hard to read). The detachment contact person's title and name, detachment name/number, and daytime and/or evening telephone number should appear somewhere on the page in case the newspaper has any questions.

Articles should have the most important information first, followed by the second-most important information, and so on, in the "inverted pyramid" form of article writing. It has more impact to say in the beginning of an article about who received what prestigious award than who designed the banquet table decorations. Also be sure to use "spell check" and proper grammar. The more you do to keep the newspaper from having to rewrite your story, the better.

Submitting a related photograph with an article is always advisable. Take "action" photos of people engaged in some kind of activity -- don't just shoot people standing in rows staring at the camera. You also need to supply information for its caption, or "cutline," as known in newspaper jargon. In the cutline, tell what event the photo depicts as well as where and when it occurred. Also include the detachment's full name and identify each person in the photo from left to right with the person's title and first and last name, such as Senior Vice Commandant John Smith. Never submit a photo without cutline info -- the newspaper may reject it or have to take the extra time to contact you for it.

Direct the article/photo to the editor's attention. If sending the article/photo by mail, make certain to have the correct spelling of the editor's name and newspaper address. Don't send a computer print of a photo on typing paper -- it will NOT work for reproduction in a newspaper -- and don't send your original, since you may not get it

back. Take the original photo to the photo department in a department store or drug store to have a copy made. If e-mailing the article, make sure you have the editor's correct name and e-mail address. Most newspapers now have websites where you can access that information. E-mail the article with the photo attached -- send it in color in the RGB and JPEG formats and in a size no bigger than 4 inches by 6 inches. Send to all of the newspapers in your area to receive the maximum amount of coverage.

If submitting an article for an upcoming event, do it no later than two weeks before the event. Too early, and the article can get lost or forgotten by the paper; too late, and the article may not be published on time.

Newspapers may also want to send their own reporters/photographers to your event for special coverage if the event has enough potential for public interest/impact. It never hurts to ask the newspaper to cover the event -- you may wind up seeing your detachment on the front page.

Radio and television stations usually want paid advertising, however, they may agree to run free public service announcements for your event. The station may also do a free "remote" by having a reporter/announcer on-site at the event to do a live broadcast featuring the activity and/or comments from detachment members. Call the station's news director to check out those possibilities.

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Fund Raising for Detachments

The two most important tasks of any Detachment are the recruiting and retention of members and raising capital funds to run the operation and support Detachment programs and objectives. These two functions are not mutually exclusive -- the more members and the more participation by members, the greater the opportunity for generating funds from outside sources, and the more funds available, the more exposure the detachment has to potential members. These two activities will probably require the greatest amount of effort on the part of officers and members of the detachment.

A Detachment cannot make the mistake of continually relying on its own membership to fund operations and projects. This is a quick way to a declining membership. It may be necessary, at the inception of the Detachment, but it has to be a temporary situation. Raising funds for operations and projects/programs requires innovation and perseverance to be successful. Internal funds are generated from dues, drawings and social events. External funds are from drawings/raffles, merchandise sales, advertising and donations. The net proceeds from a drawing or raffle need to be applied to the project for which the money was received. From the total revenue, the cost of merchandise, the printing of tickets, and an amount for the reserve fund of the detachment may be deducted.

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Applebee's Restaurants Pancake Breakfast

Applebee's Restaurants often hold pancake breakfasts to benefit local charity groups including the Marine Corps League. Nationwide local Applebee's restaurants are authorized to have a pancake feed to support various community groups. What usually happens is the restaurant group allows the local store manager to have a limited number of pancake breakfasts per year. Applebee's charges \$5 for a pancake breakfast and all the money and tips collected are donated to a designed group whose members help sell tickets and serve the meals. Most are usually done on Saturdays. Start by contacting your local Applebee's store manager and inquiring if that store can conduct a fund raiser for your detachment by having a pancake breakfast. If approved, Applebee's will give you a date to conduct your breakfast usually from 0730 till 1000. The store will have tickets printed for you and then your detachment members sell as many as possible. Applebee's usually prints 500 tickets and at \$5 each that's \$2,500. You are allowed to advertise but everything must be pre-approved by the store manager as to how you plan to sell your tickets or place an article in the bulletin board of your local paper. They usually give you about a month lead time to sell tickets. On the day of the breakfast, have some members and wives show up to help sell more tickets, collect tickets inside the store and help serve and bus tables. Your detachment can keep all ticket sales plus all tips. After the breakfast, report the total amount made along with any tips collected to the manager. You must have some community or military theme-related event to benefit the funds, i.e., Toys for Tots, military tributes or funerals for veterans, teaching flag classes to students and other events.

Detachment Information

Detachment Commandants are reminded that they set the pulse of their respective detachment. Just having meetings and not having activities for your membership usually leads to members not renewing their dues. Members want to be involved in what your detachment does which generates interest for new members. Detachment officers need to be proactive in seeking ideas from all members that stimulate members desire to attend meetings, serve as detachment officers, and give more visibility of the Marine Corps League.

The Commandant must have a copy of the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures and the Department and Detachment Bylaws. He must ensure that the Detachment officers read and have a working knowledge of these manuals. He must have a continuous training program that gives information to the members and mentors those members who demonstrate leadership potential. The Guidebook for Detachment Officers is an excellent guide and reference manual for teaching all members.

Committees are good to have but the Commandant must follow-up from the Chair to ensure they are accomplishing their objectives. Every Commandant must be aware of all recurring reports and what they are for.

Every Detachment must be incorporated within their respective state. This serves to protect the Detachment and its members in the event of any potential legal liability that might develop. Without corporate protection, all the members could be held liable. Any detachment that is not incorporated and needs assistance in filing their Articles of Incorporation can contact their Department JA, Department Adjutant or Department Commandant. The forms take about 15 minutes to complete as every detachment is non-profit with IRS federal tax exempt status. The filing fee is minimal. IRS now requires that every non profit organization file an annual form 990. Every Detachment in the Department can file the 990N via the internet. It takes five minutes. If you do not have internet, you can do it from any site including the local library. All one needs is your Detachment EIN and name, address and responsible person. The filing period for every detachment is July 1 to June 30 every year.

Every correspondence received from MCL National needs attention as well as information from the Department. Pass this information down the chain. Communication to all members is one of the most important functions a Commandant can have. Being positive and recognizing those members who deserve thanks inspires others. Inform all members of the annual department awards and recommend what members can do to get them a nomination for one of those awards. If these awards are mentioned during meetings and what steps are necessary to get nominated only serves to generate more membership activity. It is easy to prepare the nomination if the detachment has given adequate information to the members

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Mideast Division MOY Program

During the 2011 Mideast Division Conference in Fredericksburg, VA, the members discussed the Division Marine of the Year. The Administrative Procedures can be found in the National By-Laws as how to properly submit a deserving member for this award. Any member in the division would be eligible. This program was thoroughly discussed by the membership in attendance and decided to accept nominations to award the Mideast Division's first Marine of the Year recipient at the 2012 Conference. The program will simply be called the Mideast Division Marine of the Year program until new discussion is held at the 2012 Conference to consider renaming the program. Any regular member from the Mideast Division can be nominated and the Mideast Division MOY will be presented at the Conference. Specific details and selection of members for the MOY Committee will follow in the next edition of the Mideast Division Bulletin.

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New VA Compensation Rates January 1, 2012

Percent	Individual	Married	Aid/Attendance with Spouse
10 %	\$127		
20%	\$251		
30%	\$389	\$435	\$477

40%	\$560	\$622	\$678
50%	\$797	\$874	\$945
60%	\$1009	\$1102	\$1186
70%	\$1272	\$1380	\$1479
80%	\$1478	\$1602	\$1714
90%	\$1661	\$1800	\$1927
100%	\$2769	\$2924	\$3065

Gunny Gets to Heaven

The Pope died of old age and found himself at the gates of Heaven at 0300.

He knocks on the gate and a very sleepy duty NCO opens the gate and says “Weddyah want?”. “I’m the recently deceased Pope and have done 68 years of godly works and thought I should check in here.”

The Duty checked his roster and says, “I ain’t got no orders for you here. Just bring your gear in and we’ll sort this out in the morning.” They go to an old WWII style barracks, 3rd floor, open bay. The Pope stows his gear under a rack and climbs in to an upper bunk.

The next morning he awakens to sounds of cheering and clapping. He goes to the window and sees a flashy Jaguar, convertible parading down the clouds from the golden HQ building. The cloud walks are lines with saints and angels cheering and tossing confetti. In the back seat sits a Marine Gunny with a cigar in his mouth and a can of San Magoo in one hand and his other arm around a voluptuous blond angel with magnificent halos.

The pope is disturbed by this and runs downstairs to the Duty Shack and says, “Hey, what gives? You put me, the Pope, with 68 years of godly deeds, in an open squad bay while this Gunny, who must have committed every sin known and unknown to man is staying in a mansion on the hill and getting a hero’s welcome. How can this be?”

The Duty NCO calmly looks up and says, “Hey, we get a Pope up here every 20 or 30 years, but we’ve Never had a Marine Gunny before.”

Calendar of Events

2012 Mid-Winter National Staff Conference will be held February 16, 17 and 18, 2012, at the Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA. The room rate is \$95 per night plus room tax, single or double. If not already done so, please make your room reservation directly with the Tysons Corner Marriott at (703) 734-3200. Be sure to tell them you are with the Marine Corps League.

2012 Department of Virginia Staff meeting March 9-10, 2012 hosted by : James M. Slay

Detachment #329 at Holiday Inn Express, Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA 23236
Telephone: 804-417-4569 for more information.

Marine South Expo will be held April 11-12, 2012 at Camp Lejeune MCB.

2012 Department of Delaware Convention will be held at 1000 on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at the Virgil Wilson VFW Post 4961 in Seaford, DE. Telephone: 302-734-7531

2102 Department of MD Convention will be April 26-28, 2012 at Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, MD. For more information contact Convention Chairman Blair Stuart at 410-665-6440.

2012 Department of WV Convention will be May 11-12, 2012 and hosted by Herbert J. Thomas Memorial Detachment # 947 in Charleston, WV at Charleston Marriott, 200 Lee St. E, Charleston, WV. Room reservations: 304-353-3600. Price: \$99 per night plus room tax. Banquet \$30.00

2012 Department of North Carolina Convention will be June 1-2, 2012 hosted by Cherokee Detachment #1011, Cherokee, NC.

2012 Mideast Division Marine Corps League Annual Convention will be held June 15 – 17, 2012 at the Hilton Raleigh-Durham Airport Hotel, 4810 Page Creek Lane, Durham, NC 27703. The room rate is \$99 per night plus room tax, king or double room, plus every registered hotel guest receives a free hot breakfast buffet daily. Please make your room reservation direct with the hotel no later than June 4, 2012, by calling 919-941-6000.

2012 MCL National Convention Aug 12-18 at Renaissance in Mobile, Alabama in the Battle House Hotel & Spa Mobile and Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel. Tel: 1-800-922-3298 or 251-438-4000. Room rates \$107.00 plus 14% tax. Hosted by P.L. Wilson Detachment # 447.

2013 MCL National Convention will be at Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 187 Monroe Ave. NW in Grand Rapids, MI. Reservations: 1-800-253-3590. Rooms \$110 plus 14% tax per night includes free hot breakfast, self parking and Internet in guest room.

Additional convention details will be included in the next Mideast Division Bulletin.

Semper Fidelis,

Bud Raines
NVC
Mideast Division

