

# Mideast Division



## MIDEAST DIVISION BULLETIN JANUARY 2021

[www.mclmideast.com](http://www.mclmideast.com)

### MIDEAST DIVISION OFFICERS

**National Vice Commandant**  
**Assistant NVC**  
**Judge Advocate**  
**Aide-de-Camp to NVC**  
**Adjutant**  
**Chief of Staff & Paymaster**  
**Jr. Past NVC**  
**Aide-de-Camp to National**  
**Chaplain**  
**Sgt-at-Arms / Scouts Chair**  
**Sgt-at-Arms**  
**Web Sergeant**  
**Ambassador**  
**Historian**  
**Vice Chief Devil Dog**  
**MCLA Mideast VP**  
**Photographer**  
**Marine for Life Liaison**  
**Marine of the Year Chair**  
**Asst. Chaplain**  
**Chapel of Four Chaplains**  
**Young Marines Liaison**  
**Bulletin Editor**

**ROGER WARE**  
**RICK THOMASON**  
**GERARD F. DEVLIN**  
**MIKE MCLAIN**  
**FRANK MATHERS**  
**R. FREDERICK WISE**  
**BRUCE RAKFELDT**  
**JACK SEVERN**  
**LEE TAYLOR**  
**CHARLES MINTON**  
**JEFFREY JONES**  
**ROBIN KENNEDY**  
**GUY HALL**  
**EVELYN REMINES**  
**CRAIG REELING**  
**PAT WALKER**  
**ALISON NOGER**  
**MIKE LYNON**  
**FRANK MATHERS**  
**LEONARD STIELPER**  
**JEREMY BARTON**  
**RYAN SIEMER**  
**RICK SHANK**

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**mclchick@hotmail.com**  
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### DEPARTMENT COMMANDANTS

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**Frank Mathers MCLDeptDECommandant@gmail.com**

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**Department of North Carolina**

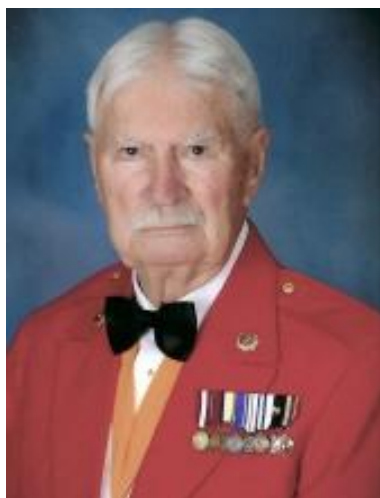
**Rick Thomason**

**Commandantdonc@gmail.com**

**Department of Virginia**

**Dave Glasgow**

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Arvel Bud Raines, retired USMC Major of Fort Ashby, W.Va., died January 16, 2021, at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV. He served as Mideast Division National Vice Commandant from 2011 – 2013 and Mideast Division Aide de Camp for four years and was a life member of the Marine Corps League and Military Order of the Devil Dogs.

The Department of Maryland Department Commandant from 2010-2011, Bud also served as Department Sr. Vice Commandant, Department Jr. Vice Commandant and Department Judge Advocate. He was recognized as 2013 Mideast Division Marine of the Year, the Department of Maryland 2013 Marine of the Year and the 2002 Detachment Marine of the Year for Mountainside Marine Detachment 1071. He was active in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs and was recognized as 2012 Maryland Pack Dog of the Year and 2007 Dog Gone Pound 316 Dog of the Year.

Bud received the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award in recognition for his numerous trips to visit combat-wounded veterans on the medical wards at Walter Reed National Medical Center for multiple years and participation with many monthly barbecue cookouts for these wounded warriors. He also helped coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in arranging six hunting and fishing trips to Jennings Randolph Lake for wounded service members from Quantico Marine Base and Walter Reed National Medical Center.

He was instrumental in donating 700 teddy bears to the Cumberland area law enforcement officers' Care Bear Program and in contribution of 12 tricycles adapted for use for handicapped children. He coordinated National Day of Prayer for the Cumberland area for past 18 years. As an active member of the Ali Ghan Shriners in Cumberland, Md., he contributed monetary donations and has been active in fund raisers for the Shiners' Children Hospital for over 46 years.

Fair winds and following seas Marine!

Semper Fi!



To: All Division Vices and Department Commandants  
From: Dennis Tobin, National Commandant  
Subj: Political postings and discussions on Social Media

Marines,

We are a non-political, non-sectarian organization. We DO NOT discuss political or religious issues at any Marine Corps League meetings or functions. It is a violation of our By-Laws and our Charter, and IRS regulations.

**The Marine Corps League as a 501(c)4 cannot engage in political campaign activity. In return for its favored tax-status a charitable non-profit promises the Federal Govt. that it will not engage in political campaign activity, and if it does, IRS regulations mandate that the non-profit will lose its tax-exempt status. The prohibition against political campaign activity (defined as “supporting or opposing a candidate for public office.”)**

All Detachment, Department and National social media sites represent the Marine Corps League and put our non-profit status and our charter in jeopardy. When political views are posted under the Marine Corps League it gives the appearance of being Marine Corps League views.

More than ever with the current political issues in our country we must be extra vigilant in making sure we do not allow political posts at any level throughout the League. Every social media page at the Detachment, Department and National level must have a control mechanism in place to help prevent such posts from getting through. There should be 2-3 members, to include the Commandant, to oversee social media sites on a daily basis. They should have the ability to stop and to remove posts.

At the National Level we have our Public Relations team that monitors all activity on our Facebook page. If they see a post that they feel might be out of line they stop it and review it before deciding whether or not it should be posted. If it is of a political nature it is stopped from being posted. If one does slip through it is taken down as soon as they see it. All Detachments and Departments need to have the same type of fail-safes in place to protect themselves and the Marine Corps League from any kind of repercussions. All Commandants should have a team in place that they can depend on to oversee all posts on their sites. All Commandants should also have access to the sites to review posts.

Over the past few weeks there have been many political posts and discussions started on Facebook, political posters posted on Facebook, and most without the Commandants knowledge. Let's also remember it is a violation of our oaths of membership and the by-laws.

We need to immediately get control over this situation, it cannot be allowed to continue. We cannot risk the Marine Corps League's status to be put in jeopardy. This is our organization, it's our

responsibility to protect it and not let a few nay-sayers put the Marine Corps League in a bad light. Remember, it not only reflects badly on us but also the organization that we represent and love: The United States Marine Corps.

I would like all Division Vices to put together a list their Departments and Detachments that do have Facebook and other social media pages and, if possible, keep an eye on those sites for any political activity. In the end, if the political posts continue to show up, someone responsible for the site will have to answer for it.

In closing, let me stress the fact that this in no way restricts your freedom of speech with regard to your own personnel social media pages, as long as you do not refer to the Marine Corps League in any manner.

Dennis Tobin  
National Commandant/CEO  
Marine Corps League

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### **Statement from MCL National Commandant Dennis Tobin**

#### Marines

1st- Let me start with yesterday's training class(Jan 23)and some backlash due to top National Officers not being on the zoom class. I sincerely apologize for my absence; I am definitely not above the need for training. It was definitely on my schedule but do to circumstances beyond my control and " Family comes first" I was forced to miss the class. My son had shoulder surgery on Friday and Saturday during the class time I had nurses coming in to give injections that the Doctor requested. I will make the next one.

2nd- Complaints regarding the processing of transmittal and membership cards and the lack of trust in the ability of our office staff to get the job done.

**PANDEMIC, PANDEMIC AND PANDEMIC.**

Not an excuse but a very big factor. The printing company was shut down for a long period of time. So, if you have a problem with a transmittal and/or the return of your membership

card, before you cast stones at National please do the following, 1- check with your Detachment to see when they forwarded the transmittal to your department. 2- Check with your Department and see when they forwarded the transmittal to National Hdq's. Many time's a Detachment will hold a transmittal until they have more than 1 or 2 names on it, then a Department may hold it until they have more than 1 transmittal to National. This can lead to a delay of a couple of months. So, once you verify when your transmittal was sent to National then you can call National, membership and speak to them and they will gladly and happily find you an answer.

3- Please keep in mind that the state of Virginia is still operating under strict Covid restrictions.

Our Hdq's staff supervised by our COO has done one Hell of a job under the current conditions. They work from home, go into the office at staggered times and days to try and keep up and get the

work done. Please Marines, let's keep in mind that we have all been under a great deal of pressure and trying to operate under high stress levels. Many of our members have not been out

in months, Some Detachments and departments are just now starting to meet again. Virtual

meetings are great to get the work done but they cannot replace handshakes, bear hugs and slaps on the back and good old face to face conversations. So, let's all remember that there is no problem that cannot be solved, no questions that cannot be answered. Don't sit home and get aggravated because you have an issue. Send an email or a phone call up your chain of command and you will get an answer. Remember we are all working toward same goals, Hdq's does not want to hold your transmittals or membership cards. Please be civil and polite to the people that are working to keep us all happy. Thank you all for your outstanding work during these trying times.

Semper Fi

Dennis Tobin

National Commandant

Marine Corps League

### **NATIONAL VICE COMMANDANT MESSAGE**



January 7, 2021

From National Vice Commandant, Mideast Division

To: Members of the Mideast Division

Subj: Division National Vice Commandant

Dear members: I am writing this letter to inform the membership in the Mideast Division that I will not be seeking another term as your National Vice Commandant. I will be stepping down at the National Convention in Springfield, IL in August 2021. I've had osteomyelitis in my right foot for several months and still undergoing treatment. I have had peripheral nephropathy in both lower legs for several years and it has gotten worse and is now affecting my equilibrium and balance while walking and standing.

I have truly enjoyed serving as your National Vice Commandant and the COVID has forced all of us to change how we do business. What can be said about 2020 that wouldn't be an understatement of what we and others have experienced? There have been so many ways that the pandemic has affected families; from severe painful illness and suffering, loved ones dying alone, unemployment, the closing of businesses, schools and churches, mask wearing, social distancing, isolation, and quarantining; basically, the disruption of life as we had previously known it! Unfortunately, it looks like it's not going to be over for a while but thank God for medical research and much due diligence, vaccines have been created and will eventually be available to everyone who wish to take advantage of them. There does seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel.

I had plans to attend your department conventions and see so many of you. A high majority of the conventions were canceled, and the restrictions kept us apart. I regret that I could not be at your

conventions even if you had one . Looking forward to 2021, I plan on attending as many of your scheduled conventions as I can.

During the Mideast Division Conference, we will caucus to select your next National Vice Commandant (NVC) and Assistant National Vice Commandant (ANVC). Rick Thomason, Commandant Department of North Carolina and current ANVC will be seeking the NVC position. He has attended several National BOT meetings and has participated in numerous virtual conference calls and has a good working knowledge of the business operations conducted by the National BOT. I support him and have every confidence as he has the experience and dedication required to fulfill the position and represent you.

Frank Mathers, Commandant Department of Delaware, and Division Adjutant for the past four years will be seeking the ANVC position. I fully support him as he also has a wealth of knowledge coupled with dedication and commitment to serve as the ANVC.

Both these members are completing their second tour as department commandant and are forward thinkers and will be outstanding leaders to take our division into the future. I have known each for multiple years and highly endorse them for the position they seek. I look forward to seeing you at your convention. Stay safe and God bless each of you.

Semper Fi,

Roger Ware

National Vice Commandant Mideast Division

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Fellow Marines ,

The past two years have been a time that history will not forget. We have gone from traveling across the country to conventions, conferences, and meetings to becoming “Home bodies” and communicating via Zoom and Free Conference Call.

We have seen transitions from a peaceful democracy to one of unrest and defiance. But one thing has endured. The Marine and his weapon are still the most formidable advisory known to man. We have endured and will continue to invoke the respect of all who see us for what we are. Leaders among the many who need to be led. We are the future of the veteran’s organizations and will prevail without question.

Mentorship from Roger Ware and “Big Mike” McClain for the position of Mideast Division National Vice Commandant has proven to be invaluable. Their shared experience will live with me forever. I can only hope to invoke the respect in the future that they already have.

It is my intent to seek the position of Mideast Division National Vice Commandant so that I may serve the division with the honor, respect and leadership that is so well deserves. With Frank Mathers as my Assistant National Vice Commandant, we will strive to make the MED the entity by which all others are gauged.

I hope to see you at the MED Conference in April and again in Springfield, IL. At the National Convention in August of 2021.

Semper Fidelis,

Rick Thomason  
Assistant Vice Commandant  
Mideast Division  
Marine Corps League  
252-903-0386

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9 January 2021

Marines of the Mideast Division, I am announcing my intent to pursue the position of Assistant National Vice Commandant of the Mideast Division Marine Corps League during the upcoming elections in 2021.

I am presently serving my second term as Commandant for the Department of Delaware and previously served two terms as the First State Detachment Commandant. I am in my fourth term as Adjutant of the Mideast Division Marine Corps League.

The invaluable knowledge gained while serving under the leadership of the Past NVC MED Bruce Rakfeldt and current NVC MED Roger Ware, as Adjutant of the Mideast Division has provided me with the abilities to serve and assist the Mideast Division National Vice Commandant and the Marine Corps League as we continue to move forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

I look forward to working with and supporting Rick Thomason as the NVC MED. I support and will maintain the esprit de corps of the Marine Corps League. I have met many of you while attending various Marine Corps League events; National Convention, National Mid - Winter Conferences, Mideast Division Conferences, Department and Detachments, meetings, and conferences.

I ask for your support and look forward to serving with you as the Assistant National Vice Commandant of the Mideast Division Marine Corps League. Stay well.

Semper Fidelis/Frater Infinitas,

Frank Mathers, Adjutant  
Mideast Division  
Marine Corps League

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

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**THE MARINE'S PRAYER**

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold. If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer. Amen

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**Mideast Divison MCL Membership**

<b>As of 10/20/2020</b>				
<b>Department</b>	<b>PLM</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Total Paid</b>	<b>Unpaid</b>
<b>Delaware</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>248</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>603</b>
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>254</b>
<b>West Virginia</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Division Total</b>	<b>3,541</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>4,572</b>	<b>1,302</b>

**GET THE WORD AND STAY INFORMED WITH THE LEAGUE!**

**Periodicly vist the websites below for the latest updated MCL information and Professional Development Training.**

**[www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org)**

**[www.mcleaguelibrary.org](http://www.mcleaguelibrary.org)**

**[www.mclmideast.com](http://www.mclmideast.com)**

**[www. Militaryorderofthedevidogs.org](http://www.Militaryorderofthedevidogs.org)**

**PROJECTED DEPARTMENT FOR HOSTING MIDEAST DIVISION CONFERENCE**

**Delaware – 2021, North Carolina – 2022, Maryland – 2023, West Virginia – 2024, Virginia – 2025**



## For distribution to Detachment Commandants, Paymasters, & Adjutants.

### Not for Social Media

Good Morning and welcome to 2021.

The National Headquarters has a lot going on. During 2020 we:

- Changed the **Ship's Store** platform over to a new system which will help making updates and improvements easier.
- Switched to a new **plastic membership card** and have been working the bugs out of the process with a vendor that prints the cards and mails them. As an "already" life member, I purchased a replacement membership card, so I don't have to carry the old, laminated card anymore. We established a means for any of us to do it via a web link: <https://secure.etransfer.com/EFT/BlockCodeEvent/Payment1.cfm?d2org=MCLLeague&d2tool=MemberLifeCards>

We "turned on" the **new database** and began working on report generation and data entry. This will be a continuing effort to scrub the data for each of the 60,000+ members.

- In 2021 (right now actually) we are changing over to **QuickBooks Online**. This is a major shift for us and will start learning the new system. The version we were using is from 2015 and is no longer supported by Intuit because it is too old.
- Regarding the **new database**. The **roster** now works and although the official roster still comes from headquarters, the Departments are able to generate the roster report anytime they want. Special thanks to Wendell Webb and JD Foster for their tireless efforts on getting this report functional.
- Presently JD and the team are working on the **12/31 roster** and plan to send it out on 1/15/21. The roster pull will come from the new database for the first time. This is a major focus change as we push data into the new database. Please take a deep breath and exhale. We know there will be changes/updates needed.
- The Membership Department would like an **email (jfoster@mcleague.org) with updates** from what detachments see in the roster that need correction.
- The **Report of Officer Installations (ROI)** will likely not all be up to date but the team is working diligently to get them input into the new system prior to 1/15/21. They are also putting as much transmittal information in as possible before 1/15/21.
- **PLM Audit** dates are still being input for those received by the deadline of 12/31. The roster may go out prior to those dates being completed. If your Detachment has submitted a PLM audit prior to the deadline and the date is not reflected, please email [jfoster@mcleague.org](mailto:jfoster@mcleague.org) to verify. I will not begin working on PLM distribution (direct

deposits) for a couple months. Typically, the distribution occurs in April and May. We really have a great team at the headquarters, and I am so proud of them. Lynn, JD, Bill, Jennifer, Shanelle, Kat, Christine, & Hannah are remarkable individuals who have been dedicated and have adapted to remote working, carefully meeting to exchange work, and operating with strict COVID-19 precautions. This, in the middle of changing store platform, membership database platform, and accounting platform. We are blessed to have them and as a red hat, I appreciate knowing these folks are supporting us. There will be challenges to continue to work through in our systems, but I am so appreciative of the people around to support. I also want to give a shout out to Chief Devil Dog Tom Hazlett. He volunteers behind the scenes and it does not go unnoticed. Thank you, Chief!

**What will 2021 bring?** don't know but am hopeful that by 6/30/21 all Americans will have access to the COVID-19 Vaccine. I am looking forward to getting one.

What's the word on the **National Midwinter Conference (Norfolk, VA) and National Convention (Springfield, IL)? Presently, there is no change.** The Board of Trustees and Convention Committee are keeping a close eye on both. Hopefully, we will know more by the end of January. Presently, the Virginia Governor has us limited to a maximum of 10 persons in a gathering till 1/31/21 minimum, modified stay at home order, telework wherever possible, and a positivity rate above 20%.

**Marine Military Expositions:** Marine West Expo was scheduled for February 2021 and has been canceled due to COVID-19. Modern Day Marine was scheduled for May 2021 on MCB Quantico. It has been shifted to September 2021 due to COVID-19. Marine South Expo was scheduled for October 2021 but has been canceled due to the shift of Modern-Day Marine dates. Please keep your family close. Your health and safety are important. Let's get to the other side of this so we can lean into the future.

Semper Fidelis,  
Bob Borke, Chief Operating Officer, Marine Corps League

### **Mideast Division Marine of The Year**

Section 300 (h) of the National Administrative Procedures outlines the criteria for selection of the National Marine of the Year. Using these provisions, the following Mideast Division MOY recipients are the committee to select a 2021 Mideast Division Marine of the Year. **The Chairman is Frank Mathers- Department of Delaware.** The other committee members are: Richard Tanner - Department of Delaware, Roger Ware, Mike McLain, and Rick Shank- Department of West Virginia and Jeffrey Jones and Rick Thomason - Department of North Carolina.

The guidelines in Section 300 (h) (2) of the above reference must be followed for each nomination. Please insert "Division" in lieu of "National", as appropriate. Any regular member from the Mideast Division can be nominated and the Mideast Division MOY will be presented at the 2021 Mideast Division Conference, April 17, 2021 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Each letter of nomination must be mailed to the above chairman, registered return receipt, post marked not later than March 17, 2021.

Mail to **Frank Mathers, Mideast Division Chairperson Marine of the Year Committee, 17 Fairway Drive, Ocean View, Delaware 18870.** Telephone: 301-520-8051. It must have a cover letter signed by the Commandant and Adjutant or other officers if one of them is nominated. An inner envelope must be addressed to the Mideast Division Chairperson Marine of the Year

Committee. A second envelope must be addressed to the Chairperson. It must be sent Certified, Return Receipt Requested for your records, before the postmark deadline. The Marine of the Year Committee will announce the 2021 recipient during the Mideast Division Conference. The above provisions are for 2021 Marine of the Year selection only.

**Division Marine Of The Year Criteria:**

This award shall be presented to a REGULAR MEMBER of the Marine Corps League who has rendered service(s) and/or performed a deed(s) above and beyond the duties and obligations required of a member of the Marine Corps League, or a meritorious deed(s) so identified as being within the scope of these rules shall be of such substance that the weight will or shall have brought acclaim and prestige to the Marine Corps League; or has enhanced and/or furthered the concepts of the duties of being a citizen of the United States of America; or a deed(s) of courage or valor without regard for his/her own safety

Letters of nomination must originate only at the DETACHMENT LEVEL. No individual nor any subsidiary unit of the Marine Corps League shall submit a letter of nomination.

All letters of nomination shall include a letter signed by the Detachment Commandant and Adjutant, stating that the nominee for Division Marine of the Year was approved at a regular meeting of the detachment by a majority vote. (In the event a nominee is the Commandant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Senior Vice Commandant and the Adjutant. In the event a nominee is the Detachment Adjutant, the letter of nomination shall be signed by the Detachment Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant).

Each nomination submitted shall be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to "Chairperson, Division Marine of the Year Society". THIS ENVELOPE SHALL THEN BE PLACED IN ANOTHER ENVELOPE and mailed, certified/return receipt requested, to the Chairman at the address listed on the announcement.

The member must be a member in good standing and have served at least either an elected or appointed position within his detachment and department.

List how many years he has been a member. List his positions and what was the significance of each if any. Is he a Detachment or Department Marine of the Year.

There commendation should summarize what the member has done in his detachment, and or department. It should be brief and only impact areas where the candidate performed that brought credit upon his detachment and not merely list that he performed the duties expected of his position and or attended meetings. What were the results of any activities he participated in that were above the normal expected duties of his position.

List those activities where he was the chairman or committee lead. Examples:

Toys for Tots for 15 years and how many toys collected and how many children benefited.

Chairman of numerous fund-raising events that benefited detachment or selected charities. What was the total amount generated.

Did he teach flag etiquette or flag folding to children, how many classes and how many kids for how many years.

What civic projects or volunteer did he do to enhance the league. If he did not participate as a league member in an event or activity, do not list it.

What did he do as a volunteer outside of his detachment for the league. Was he recognized within his community for a project.

The nomination should be a snapshot of the member's achievements and not just listing his MCL awards.

Did he attend his department quarterly meetings or convention, Mideast Division Conference, National Mid-Winter Staff Conference, National Convention

The Division MOY Committee has developed a point system to aid them in their selection process. Consideration can be giving a point for each event, and a point giving for participation outside his detachment for either serving on department, division, or national level and on any committee.

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#### **VA Vaccine Policy**

**Many of our Veterans have been asking when and how they might have access to the COVID-19 vaccine.**

To best stay informed and get the latest information is to do the following:

1. Go to <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine>
2. Let the VA know you are interested in updates on the COVID-19 Vaccine by clicking here: [Sign up to stay informed]<<https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stayinformed>

If and when you're eligible to get a vaccine, your VA health care team will contact you. You don't need to reserve a vaccine, go to a VA facility to request one, or receive a vaccine until the VA contacts you. The VA staff will only provide vaccines to Veterans who are currently eligible for one based on VA and CDC risk criteria.

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#### **DEPARTMENT AND DETACHMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES DUTIES**

(1) The elected Officers of the Department and Detachment shall be their respective Board of Trustees; however, a Department Convention is authorized to appoint the outgoing Department Commandant or a Past Department Commandant to serve a one-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees. A Detachment is authorized to appoint the outgoing Detachment Commandant or a Past Detachment Commandant to serve a one-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees. The Department Board of Trustees recommendation is that no more than two members from one detachment can serve on the Board during the year. This ensures there is parity in the Department. No individual member of the Department shall serve in more than one position on the Board of Trustees.

(2) All Officers serving in elective offices must be Regular Members in good standing and have attended a high percentage of regular or special meetings of the Department or Detachment in which they are elected to serve. Each officer is to take possession of those materials previously in the possession of the officer they replaced, and they will turn over all materials in their possession to their successor.

(3) Each member of the Board of Trustees has the special duty to act in good faith with reasonable judgment for the interest of all its members and to examine all aspects of the department or detachment business including adherence to procedures, financial reports, submission of reports and substantiated expense accounts. Full transparency of financial records is imperative for the benefit of the membership. Every member of the Board should be held accountable to their ethical and fiduciary responsibilities because they serve as a corporate officer too.

(4) The Department and Detachment will have an ongoing officer training program to ensure that every current or prospective officer has a working knowledge of the National and Department Bylaws and Administrative Procedures and Robert's Rules of Order. On the detachment level the officers should be well versed in their own Bylaws and Administrative procedures. Every officer must be well versed in the duties of all other officers within the department or detachment so they can take over and fulfill these duties as necessary. The Commandant and Adjutant/Paymaster or Paymaster will be bonded by a commercial crime policy paid for and administered by National. The bond limit will be in the amount of \$10,000 with deductible of \$1,000.

(5) 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 department or detachment EIN number, Charter date and Incorporation date, It also includes: holding staff and monthly meetings and keeping minutes, electing officers annually between September 1 and June 30 (Department) and September 1 and May 15 (Detachment) ensuring the Report of Officer Installation (ROI) is submitted, filing of the IRS 990N as soon as possible after June 30 yearly, or when their fiscal year ends, the audit and completion using the National June 30 detachment membership roster of all Paid Life Members (PLM), Department or Detachment has a Web Sgt and functioning web page, recruitment and retention of members and as required the filing of Annual Corporate Report prior to July 1 annually. Ensure that a TACOM Rifle inspection and inventory is conducted every 3 years of those detachments with rifles. If a detachment Charter is surrendered or revoked, a letter must be submitted with the Charter that the detachment has no rifles, or they have been returned to the arsenal. The submission of all membership dues transmittal and completion of the Paymaster Report each month. Detachments need to conduct a property inventory yearly to account for all detachment property, so they know where everything is located. The responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are not only limited to these duties but all other that arise. The department will monitor and use a system to track their detachments for all administrative reports. Detachments can list all report filing dates in their monthly minutes and can include their Charter date, EIN, incorporation number and date as well as their financial audit and property inventory dates. This allows them to track all reports and is a snapshot for aiding in future filings. The department will ensure their adjutant and paymaster maintain a working relationship with all detachments and offer assistance when necessary if any required reports are not submitted as required. The department BOT will take immediate action on any item requested from National HQ or their Division. They must be proactive to ensure their department and detachment officers complete all administrative and financial duties as required.

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## RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

When you are trying to recruit new members, you have to be prepared to distribute MCL material on the spot as you may meet a potential new member anywhere. You should always carry a membership application with you and have some in your vehicles in case you run across more than one new member. Being properly prepared is part of the process. Everyone is a salesman and you should be ready to give someone your elevator speech as we say. Being able to inform a new member of what the MCL is and what your detachment does in the community is extremely important. That's why it's paramount that you keep your detachment activities in the eyes of the public through promotional and media articles in the local newspaper or television station. Informing them of your event in advance can pay dividend as it's free advertising that these prospective member might see. You can always submit photos and an article of your events and activities to the media. Always promote your detachment. The department has promotional brochures where you can staple a membership application with it and include you mailing address and phone number. It does no good if they cannot contact you.

Make up yourself some business type cards through vistprint.com and attach one to the brochure is very helpful. Distribute some of the brochures in your post office, local library, other military organizations, local bulletin boards in shopping centers or malls and in your visitor and convention centers. If you have a National guard unit in your area go talk with the members about the MCL as often there are several Marines in these units. If there is a truck stop or popular restaurant near by drop off some brochures there. Go talk with the local police or fire departments as Marines always seek positions where they are in demand Wear something that defines who you are. Marine gear is popular so wear it.

If you see a vehicle in a parking lot with USMC decals, insert one of your brochures under the windshield wiper or wait and make contact with that person. Establish a relationship with your local Marine recruiters as this will pay numerous dividends with recruitment. The idea is to get in places where there is a lot of foot traffic.

A good initiative that detachments might consider is a have a collaborative effort to sign one new member per month. Every member in the detachment can help place focus on signing that one new member. By setting a goal of one new member for the detachment to recruit per month is a lot easier than everyone trying to sign up a new member themselves. Work as a unit on this and communicate with each other to find that new member. Make it your mission and start working on this. Be sure to invite potential new members to your events and social activities and include their families. A good idea is to recruit some of the wives in your detachment as Associate members as this is often a good draw for new members knowing that their wives can also join serves as a great social outlet for the wives. These are just some general ideas on recruitment, but I am sure you can think of other, but this can get you kick started.

Semper Fi,  
Greg Irwin  
Jr. Vice Commandant  
Department of WV

## PENDING MCL CALENDAR

**2021 MCL Midwinter Staff Conference** February 24– 28 2021 Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, 777 Waterside Drive Norfolk, VA <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/orfsi-sheraton-norfolk-waterside-hotel/> Group Code: MCL Phone: (757-622-6664) Room rate includes up to 4 breakfast vouchers per occupancy. \$129.00 per night + prevailing tax (currently 14%) Please make your room reservation directly to the hotel.

**2021 Mideast Division Conference** will be 16, 17, 18 April 2021 hosted by Department of Delaware at Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center (Oceanfront) 1 Baltimore Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971 Phone: 800-422-0600 | 302-227-2511 <https://atlanticsandshotel.com/> Room rate \$105.00 plus fees. Discounted breakfast, parking included. **Reservations may be made now.** \*Reservation may be made now by calling 1-800-422-0600, refer to the **Mideast Division Marine Corps League Block #9579** arriving Friday, April 16, 2021. **Reservations are open.**

**2021 Department of Virginia Department Convention** will be April 30- May 1, 2021 at the Lakewood Retirement Community Clubhouse at 1900 Lauderdale Drive, Richmond, VA 23238. Hotel is the Hyatt House Richmond West, 2809 Charles City Road. Room rate \$98.00/night Reservations can be made up to 4/16/21 by mentioning the group name Marine Corps League. phone number is 804-360-7021

**2021 Department of Delaware Department Convention and elections of officers** will be on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at the Heritage Shores Golf Club, 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.

**2021 Department of Maryland Department Convention** will be May 7-9, 2021 at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842-2745. 1-800-4 ROYALE, (1-410-524-7777) Rooms: \$ Ocean-view/Pool-view. Ocean Front: Includes free continental breakfast. Convention registration and banquet information can be downloaded at: [www.deptofmdmcl.org](http://www.deptofmdmcl.org). POC: Department Paymaster Ed Dahling Phone: 410-987-5714 Email: [umpire86@aol.com](mailto:umpire86@aol.com)

**2021 Department of West Virginia Department Convention** will be May 14-16, 2021 at the Holiday Inn Express, 50 Martin Street, Elkins, WV 26241 hosted by Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Detachment #956. Room rate \$100.00 per night. Phone: 304-630-2266. . Hotel registration deadline is April 29, 2021. Free parking and continental breakfast 6 -10 a.m. Banquet \$30 and will be buffet style. POC is Roger Ware 304-636-4365 or [rrware@yahoo.com](mailto:rrware@yahoo.com). **Please do not call the hotel to make your reservations** as Detachment 956 will make reservations when you send them your payment. Once your payment is received your name will be given to the hotel under the Code MCL. This is to take advantage of the tax-exempt status. There will be a pending flyer which can be used for advance registration, hotel, and banquet. There is no preregistration fee or ad book.

**2021 Department of North Carolina Department Convention** will be June 11-13, 2021 in Charlotte, NC. It will be hosted by Catawba Valley Detachment # 1163

**2021 MCL National Convention** will be August 6-14, 2021 at Wyndham Springfield City Centre, 700 E Adams St, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Room rate is \$129.95 with tax included. Free

breakfast, free parking and WiFi. Pet friendly. wyndhamhotels.com Phone. 217-789-1530  
Reservations open August 17, 2020. Overflow hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton, 701 E. Adams  
St, Springfield, IL Phone: (217) 544-8800 Website: doubletree1.hilton.com . Contract rate for  
MCL starts Aug 31, 2020.

**2021 Modern Day Marine Expo** will be Sept 21-23, 2021 at MCB, Quantico, VA

**2021 Marine South Expo** will be Sept 29-30 at MCB, Camp Lejeune, NC **Canceled**

**2022 MCL National Convention** will be August 15-20, 2022 at Hilton Daytona Beach  
Oceanfront Resort, 100 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL, 32118 Phone: 866-536-8477  
or 1-800-HILTONS (toll free, 24-hour reservation center); 386-254-8200. Room rate: \$127.00  
plus 12.5%