This summer has gone by so fast! I attended the National Convention in Charleston WV and was absolutely amazed at how much information there is out there for all of us to learn. The bylaw process was very interesting to me as we are looking to update our own for the Dept. of Michigan. The National bylaws can be printed from the National MCLA website. The MCLA has a new eligibility for membership which includes Navy Chaplain so this allows our new member eligibility to expand.

I was fortunate to be able to visit SGT GP Porta Unit in August for their meeting! It was exciting to meet the ladies that work so hard to serve our veterans at the VA Hospital in Detroit. It is always nice to meet the ladies that give so much of themselves to this Auxiliary.

I was also honored to help with the installation of two of our Units, Macomb County and Flint Unit. Being part of the installation team has shown me how many wonderful women we have in our organization that lead by their heart and kindness.

There are Marine Corps birthday celebrations going on around the state. I hope you are able to attend one and enjoy the camaraderie. Before you know it the Holidays will be here and we will be spending time with our families. Let us not forget the service men and women who are away during the holidays.

God’s Blessings,
Mary Brief

Recruitment Challenge

The challenge is very simple; the person who recruits the most new members between July 1, 2014 and May 20, 2015 will win.

THE PRIZE: The winner will receive a paid one night stay at the 75th Michigan June 2015 Convention. Value up to $120. This prize has no cash value and is not transferable.

THE RULES:
• Only one person may win
• A unit may not combine the total of new members to award prize to one person in said Unit.
• Winner must attend the convention to collect the prize
• In the event of a tie, winner names will be placed in a drawing and one winner will be drawn from the group
• The winner will be announced at the June Convention and MUST be present to collect on the prize.
• New members may NOT include a President, Sr. VP, Jr VP, JA, Chaplain, Secretary, or Treasurer.
• The member may be regular or an associate and must be in good standing.
• The President’s decision will be final upon numbers received.

REMEMBER: To forward your new member applications to the proper people or they will not be counted.

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Positive Thought to Ponder:
• Optimism is the most important human trait, because it allows us to evolve our ideas, to improve our situation, and to hope for a better tomorrow.” ~ Seth Godin
The U.P. Unit participated in the Pumpkin Parade with the Detachment on Oct. 4th which is their kick off for the Toys for Tots campaign.

From the Desk of Judge Advocate:

My name is Sandy VanTol and I was elected as the Department of Michigan Judge Advocate at our June Convention. Although I have been married to Marine Jonathan VanTol for 35 years, I have only belonged to the Marine Corp League Auxiliary for two years. There is much for me to learn and with your help and patience; we can build a stronger auxiliary that continues to focus on veterans and their families.

At the National Convention in Charleston, West Virginia, in August, many by-law changes were voted on and approved. Some of these changes affect our Michigan by-laws since state by-laws must align with National by-laws. Your Department by-laws committee has been working on housekeeping issues (such as grammar, formatting, and punctuation) which will make our by-laws easier to understand.

We welcome your submissions for any by-law revisions, amendments, or repeals for the committee to consider at the June Convention.

Submissions must be made in triplicate typewritten form in the exact wording and be received by the Department of Michigan Judge Advocate at least 90 days before the opening of the June convention, to be considered for the 2015 Convention. The change requests should be sent by certified U.S. mail or other carriers where certified delivery may be verified, and a return receipt may be requested. You may refer to the National by-laws for additional by-law change specifics. In your submission, to be sure to reference the Article and Sections numbers. Indicate how the by-law currently reads, how you would like to amend it to read, and the rationale for your proposed change.

Best Regards,
Sandy VanTol
mijamcla@gmail.com
Mid-Winter Convention

Mid-Winter Convention will be held at the fabulous destination of Frankenmuth!

Dates: January 29—February 1, 2015  (Joint opening will be at 2:00pm on January 30th)
Place: Bavarian Inn Motor Lodge, Frankenmuth MI
        1-800-652-7200
Room Rates: $89 (standard room), $99 (courtyard room), $149.99 (suite)  plus 11% tax.

Mention Marine Corps League when making your reservations.

**Hotel Reservations must be made by Jan. 9, 2015.**

The strip ticket cost is: $55 which includes registration, hospitality, and the banquet on Saturday night.

The convention packet can be found on www.michiganmarines.org or you may contact me at: mipresmcla@gmail.com or Gerri Tuohy at: wildgerri323@aol.com

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Project Operation Little Angel Wish List

At the Mid Winter Rally, we have chosen the, “Mustard Seed” Organization to give our donations to. They have served 750 homeless women and their children during their 15 years of existence. Now more than ever their need is great.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soft Fleece Blankets</th>
<th>Preschool Educational Toys</th>
<th>Conditioner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pajamas</td>
<td>Art Supplies</td>
<td>Black hair products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socks</td>
<td>Towel Sets &amp; Wash Cloths</td>
<td>Hair Products for Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underpants</td>
<td>New Pillow</td>
<td>Cash/ Gift Cards always welcomed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under shirts</td>
<td>Women's Personal Hygiene</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Shoes (ages 5-12)</td>
<td>Deodorant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*variety children sizes needed for clothing items
*each Woman and child receives a NEW bath towel, hand towel, wash cloth and pillow when they come.

**We will have a representative from Mustard Seed to speak with us on Saturday. I encourage all Units to participate in this years OLA project even if you are unable to attend.**
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
MID WINTER RALLY
JANUARY 30 – FEBRUARY 1, 2015

We are looking for a few good men and women to help with this Department event. Raffles, Registration, Hospitality and Bartending are some needed areas. We are also in need of raffle items. Check out your closets and secret hiding places and see what you think would be a good item to donate to a great cause. Anyone wishing to donate any type of beverage (liquor, beer, wine, pop or water) would be appreciated.

If you feel like this is something you would like to participate in, either donating or helping, please contact one of the people listed below. We can arrange to pick up donations of any kind.

Remember, this is your Department and it always turns out well when we work together for one common thread!!!

Chair Gerri Tuohey  Chair Mary Brief  Cmndt Norm Hall
810-695-3241  989-550-9549  586-263-3448
wildgerrit2z@aol.com  mipresmela@gmail.com  norj02@yahoo.com
ABCs for Being a Good Member

A. Attend your unit and department meetings regularly.
B. Be a working member, a few minutes or hours monthly.
C. Check out the facts before repeating things told you.
D. Do not walk ……..
E. Express yourself freely and honestly at meetings– not after.
F. Familiarize yourself with each project.
G. Give proper respect to all officers in their official capacity.
H. Have adequate knowledge of parliamentary procedure.
I. It is your duty to vote on matters and your opinion counts.
J. Join in discussions at the meetings and join group activities, you will learn and have fun doing it.
K. Kindle that spark of friendliness and enthusiasm within yourself.
L. Listen to and respect the opinion of others.
M. Membership is everyone’s responsibility.
N. No speaking across to members, always through the chair.
O. Obey the rules of the organization.
P. Pay your dues on time– the earlier the better.
Q. Question reports and actions you don’t fully understand, this is how we all learn.
R. Refrain from talking while business is being transacted or while a speaker is giving a report.
S. Study Unit, Department, and National Bylaws.
T. Take an active participation in the meetings, but do not monopolize time.
U. Unite your talents and ideas with other members to insure successful ventures.
V. Volunteer…. Your time, energy, and your best efforts.
W. Wear your MCLA pin proudly!
X. ……..Marks the spot on the membership application forms where new members sign their name.
Y. You, the member, are the most valuable asset of the MCLA!
Z. Zealous members make our organization prosper and grow.

This article is borrowed from another organization. I thought we could use these words to us to remind us to be ever mindful MCLA members.
Officers for the 2014-15 year

President: Mary Brief    mipresmcla@gmail.com    7120 Brief Rd. Kingston, MI  48741    989.550.9540
Sr. V.P. : Colleen Chmiel-Rieck misrvpmcla@gmail.com 45234 Claymore Dr. Canton, MI 48187 734.493.2045
Jr. V.P. : Ann LeClair mijrpmcla@gmail.com 5283 W Wilson Rd. Clio, MI 48420 810.687.6091
Judge Advocate: Sandy VanTol mijamcla@gmail.com not available 989.225.4583
Chaplain: Sylvia Wurn snookyfritzy2001@yahoo.com 5790 Van Dyke Rd Almont MI  48003 810.798.3716

Auditors: Jen Bryan
          Joan Pfaff
          Doris Roberts

Secretary: Gerri Tuohy
Treasurer: Janet LeBeau
Fundraiser Treasurer: Peggy Tuohy
Ways and Means: Ann Streichert
Captain of the Guard: Benjawan Miller

We are always looking for Volunteers to help work on projects. If you are someone that would like to work on the Department Level please contact one of the officers above , we would love to have you!

MCLA Michigan Units

Cpl Jack A Davenport Unit
Prudenville, MI  48651
President : Celine Smith
They meet @ 7pm at the American Legion Post the 2nd Wednesday of Every Month.

Upper Peninsula Unit
Escanaba, MI  49829
President: Susan Rivard
They meet @ 7pm the 4th Wednesday of Every Month

Down River Unit
Wyandotte, MI  48192
President : Janet Lebeau
They meet @ 7pm the 2nd Tuesday of Every Month

Sgt. G P Porta Unit
Rocky's Restaurant ; Wayne or Westland, MI
President: Carol Ringvelski
They meet @ 6pm the 3rd Thursday of the Month

Flint Unit
Mt. Morris, MI  48458
President: Sylvia Wurn
They meet 7:30pm the 3rd Thursday of every Month.

Michigan Cochran Unit
Kent City, MI  49330
President: Virginia Johnson
They meet when they can approx., every other month; usually on a Monday

Macomb County Unit
President: Sherry Teeple
If any member would like to get The Bugler by email please contact me via email.
Mary Brief: mipresmcla@gmail.com

Recipe: from MCLA member Nancy Henn

Banana Nut Cake

1/2 c. butter  2 c. flour  1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 c. Sugar  1 tsp. baking soda  1/2 c. Pecans
2 eggs  1/2 tsp salt  (chopped)
3 small green banana’s  4 Tbsp. Buttermilk

Cream the butter and sugar together, then beat in the eggs plus the green bananas. The bananas should NOT be ripe, a bit on the green side is best.
Combine the flour, baking soda, and salt. Add alternately to the first mixture with the buttermilk, vanilla, and pecans.
Bake in layers at 350 degrees for 20-25 min. Use circle cake pans that are oiled and floured.
When cool cover with an icing made of the following:
Cream together: 1 stick of butter, 1 (3 oz) cream cheese, 1 small banana (mashed), 1 box powdered sugar, lastly fold chopped pecans.
Spread on the cake layers, be sure to ice all of the cake. Keep in the refrigerator and it is better to eat the second day.