

Michigan Marine News

The Magazine of the Department of Michigan Marine Corps League and Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League Foundation

WINTER 2019



NEW OPPORTUNITIES ARE AHEAD



**Department of Michigan
Marine Corps League**



Once a Marine Always Marine!

MARINES: Perhaps the most energizing news in a long time, the active Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League have joined together to form the Marine For Life (M4L) program. Finally, an opportunity for active duty and recently discharged Marines to meet and associate with each other as well as the ability to create new bonds with Marine Corps League members who can assist the approximately 30,000 discharged Marines every year become acclimated to their new civilian environment.

For years accepting donations to support our volunteer activities has been a primary focus – scholarships, disabled veterans, Toys for Tots, and volunteering as Veteran Service Officers occupied much of our time. We've marched in parades, served as honor guards, handled cemetery services and stood guard at our fallen Marines funerals. All honorable and fulfilling work.

Although this work is important as ever to continue, the M4L program brings new challenges. What can the Marine For Life Network do for me?

Did you know that 80% of jobs are found through networking? The Marine for Life Program connects transitioning Marines, Veteran Marines, and Marine family members to employment resources and to other associations, such as education and community services that aid in career and life goals outside of military service. They facilitate networking through two lines of effort: virtual and face-to-face communication.

How does the Marine For Life Network do that?

Virtual Network: Connect with the Marine for Life Network on LinkedIn, over 3,500 strong and growing daily. Marine For Life Network has four regional groups, allowing us to provide targeted resources, employment opportunities, and networking near you. To connect, start by setting up a profile, begin networking, and use the personal and professional connections of our Marine Corps Veterans in the community. Don't forget to like us on Facebook and check out the new website!

Face-to-Face Network: Focuses on connecting you to our field staff. There are four Regional Network Coordinators and over 50 Marine For Life Representatives who will build relationships and provide us with the opportunities to network with employment, education, and community resources in your current area or the area where you plan to move.



FROM THE EDITOR

Jerry McKeon



My world has been a bit unstable the past few months being under the weather for almost three months. But the press must go through so here I am at the last minute trying to get some news in your hands.

Two Marines have thrown their hat in the ring for the Jr. Vice Position, Mark Sutton has written an editorial you may or not agree with, the VA is always

in the news and sadly, we've lost a few more Marines.

Finally, the Winter Rally is just a few weeks away and for many, not too far of a drive away in Flint.

In the meantime, pick your uniform up from the cleaners, double check to see that you've sent in your registration and pray for good driving weather.

See you soon!

WANTED

NEWSLETTER ASSISTANT

Work from home. Computer knowledge required. If you like to write, layout flyers or work with picture files, I could certainly use your help.

CONTACT:

E-Mail: michre@aol.com or phone 248-866-5653

Your Marine Corps League Needs You!

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

March 2019

Michigan Marine News

CONTENTS

Winter 2019

Marine 4 Life Program	2
Editorial—Contents	3
Call to mid-winter meeting	4
Continued—call to mid winter meeting	5
Mid-Winter Schedule	6
Marine Corps League Auxiliary	7
Lake Superior Detachment—Meet the	8
A Very Busy Nine Year Old	9
More about a busy nine year old	10
Remembering deceased members	11
Deceased members 1-1-2018– 1-15-2019	12
Awards and notes of appreciation	13
Founders Club Members	14
Mid Winter National Meeting	15
Shoreline Detachment undertakes flag pro-	16
Seven Eagle Scouts earned Certificates	17
I suicide a priority at VA?	18
Forwarding Planning	19
Earl Allison and Art Menard running for Jr.	20
The Flint Dawgs Welcome you to Glint	21
More Informaastiom on the Winter Rally	22
Express your opinion	23
Express your opinion—continued	24
A Photo op for the Flint MCL Detachment	25
Misc—Last Page	26

Department of Michigan
Marine Corps League
Incorporated by Act of Congress
www.michiganmarines.org

Department email: michiganmarines@gmail.com

From: Raymond R. Rayl, Adjutant, Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League

To: Department Staff

Detachment Commandants

Ann LeClair, Junior Past President, Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Subj: Official Call to the 2019 Mid-Winter Rally

Our Department Mid-Winter Rally will convene at the Holiday Inn Gateway Centre at 5353 Gateway Circle, Flint, Michigan on February 7-10, 2019 at 1330 for a Joint Opening Ceremony with the Department League Auxiliary.

The MODD Pound #288, Flint Dawg is the host of the Department Mid-Winter Rally. If you have not registered for the Mid-Winter Rally or have not placed a reservation for a room, time is running out. All guest rooms include either Double or King size beds, there are also some poolside rooms, wireless high speed internet and cable TV. The hotel also has handicap accessible rooms available. Registrations for rooms are to be made with the Holiday Inn Gateway Centre at 1 810-232-5300. Mention the Marine Corps League when reserving your room for a reduced rate. Deadline for room reservations is January 1, 2019. Room rates are \$99.00 +11% tax for a total of \$109.89 per night or online reservations at: www.flintgateway.com use code "MMC".

Banquet reservations must be in by January 24, 2019, if you wish to attend Mid-Winter Banquet. Also, please help by taking out an ad in the Mid-Winter Rally Booklet. The advertising helps the host offset the cost of putting this Rally together. Mid-Winter Rally Packets and forms available at the Department's Website: www.michiganmarines.org

The Uniform for the Opening Ceremony is the Red Blazer with approved accompaniments. For the rest of the weekend, the Uniform of the Day is civilian casual wear.

At the Friday meeting, we will make an effort to have all Officer Reports presented. After reports are given, the session will recess for the day. Note: This recess is an excellent opportunity for all Department Committees to meet and discuss their individual business.

All Elected Officers and Detachment Commandants: One copy of your report of activities is to be given to the Department Adjutant. On Saturday, we will reconvene the meeting with the regular order of business. After the meeting, classes will be held for all members.

If you are a Department Officer and unable to attend the meeting for a valid reason, please contact me prior to the meeting. You may notify me at (517) 262-4091 or by email at jarhead1946@gmail.com. Officers not following the aforementioned procedure will be listed as absent.

The Department is requesting that Detachments bring their organization (Detachment) flags with a flag stand. We will post these on the meeting floor. Hopefully we will have all Detachments represented.

Semper Fidelis!

Raymond R. Rayl

Adjutant Department of Michigan

4767 Hidden Hills Circle

Howell, Michigan 48855

517 262-4091

Email: jarhead1946@gmail.com

By Direction of the Department Commandant

David Masunas

Tentative Schedule

Thursday – 7 February 2019

1900 – Marine Corps League Veterans Service Board Meeting

Friday – 8 February 2019

0900 to 0945 – Fundraising Committee Meeting

0945 to 1100 – Marine Corps League Board of Trustees Meeting

1100 to 1200 – Marine Corps League Foundation Board Meeting

1200 to 1330 - Lunch on your own

1330 to 1430 – Joint Opening Ceremony

1445 to 1500 – Memorial Service

1515 – Marine Corps League Business Meeting

1800 – Hospitality Room opens

1900 – Michigan Pack, Military Order of the Devil Dogs
Candidate Initiations and Obligations

2000 – Michigan Pack, Military Order of the Devil Dogs Growl of the Pack

Saturday – 9 February 2019

0900 to 1130 - Reconvene Marine Corps League Business Meeting

1130 to 1300 – Lunch on your own

1300 to 1400 – Detachment Commandants Council

(Detachment Commandants will give their reports Jon VanTol)

1400 to 1430 – Foundation Class *(Informative meeting on Department Foundation by President Jerry McKeon)*

1430 to 1530 – Marine 4 Life Program (Maj. Joe Zane)

1530 –1600 – Toys for Tots (Gary Dunn)

1600 to 1700 – Past Department Commandants Council Meeting

1800 - Cocktails

1900 - Banquet

Sunday – 10 February 2019

0900 – Board of Trustees Meeting subject to Commandants call

Schedule Subject to Change by Commandant or President

Department Commandant Dave Masunas

Auxiliary Junior Past President Ann LeClair

Marine Corps League Auxiliary



Happy New Year from the Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League Auxiliary!

Welcome to 2019! We will begin our year with our Mid-Winter Rally being held February 8 – 10 at the Holiday Inn, Grand Blanc-Flint. The “call” and other pertinent information has been sent to all members. Please consider joining us as the camaraderie and experience is so worthwhile.

The auxiliary is moving ahead. A couple of hiccups and a few adjustments and we are back on track. I will work diligently to visit each unit between now and June to help promote the retention and renewal of current members.

As always, I can be reached via email at wildgerri323@aol.com or 810-964-1354. I am always available for any discussion, issue or concern. Looking forward to working with you in giving back to our veterans.

Be kinder than
necessary!!

Semper Fidelis,

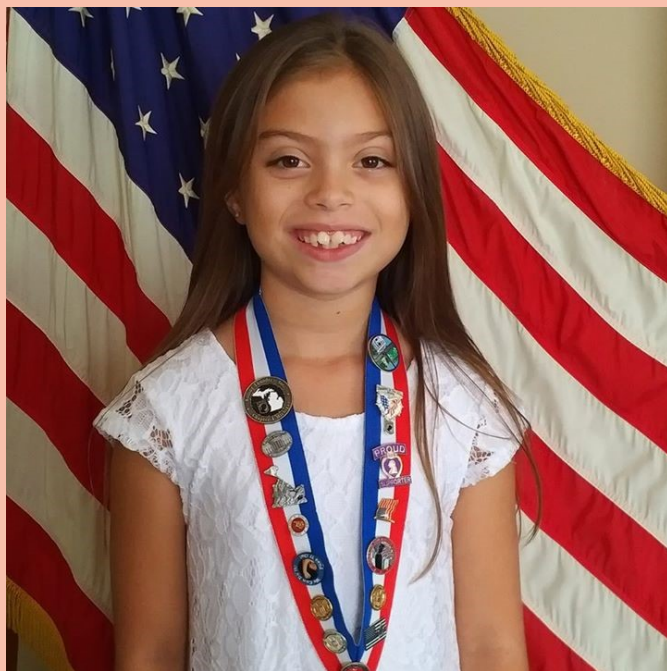
Gerri Tuohy

Interim President





The Lake Superior Detachment #764 gathers for a picture as they prepare for the 2018 Toys for Tots campaign reports Tracey Tippet, Jr. Vice Commandant, Toys for Tots Coordinator for Marquette County



Sawyer Hendrickson

Winter Rally Guest Speaker

The guest speaker at the Department Mid Winter Conference will be a young lady by the name of Sawyer Hendrickson. I have sent out emails and I have shared on the Department Facebook page about Sawyer and all the great things she has done for our veterans. There has been a couple Detachments that have made a donation to Sawyer to help her with her program. I am asking each Detachment in the Department of Michigan to consider making a donation to Sawyer Saturday night at the banquet to help her continue with her program and help veterans. Please read the email below and you will see all the good things that she does for our veterans.

Regards, Dave Masunas

Sawyer Hendrickson just turned 9 years old and is from Ludington. Sawyer is Nationally known as a child advocate for our Veterans and Active Military.

In 2016 Sawyer's brother CPL Kylar Hendrickson joined the US Marine Corps, Sawyer was only 6 years old when he signed up and this was going to be a huge disruption in her young life. Prior to Kylar leaving for Boot Camp, Sawyer and Kylar came up with a few idea's of how she could be involved with the Military and remember her brother daily while trying to adjust to him being gone and to learn about those who have fought and those who are fighting for her Freedom.

In May 2016 Sawyer and Kylar started a project called "Scouts For Soldiers" as well as her organization "Miss Sawyer's Kids With A Cause".

Sawyer went to the Ludington City Council asking for permission to place Red, White and Blue painted barrels around downtown Ludington with Toy Soldiers in them encouraging everyone to "Please Take A Soldier in Honor of Those Fighting For Our Freedom". This project turned into an overnight success and over 14,000 toy soldiers were handed out in Downtown Ludington during the Summer of 2016. Sawyer again did this project in the Summer of 2017 and over 80,000 toy soldiers were handed out to raise awareness of our Active Military. Sawyer is once again doing this project now in the Summer of 2018.

Miss Sawyer's Kids With A Cause is her soon to be non-profit organization that Sawyer is active with 12 months out of the year. Sawyer has one simple goal and that is to Make A Difference In The Lives of Our Veterans and Active Military "One Smile At A Time".

She volunteers at numerous local and National Veterans events annually spending as much time as she can helping Our Veterans while making sure to Thank Them for their Service and letting them know that they are important to her and to our nation and will not be forgotten.

In addition, annually Sawyer sends over 10,000 care packages to those serving in our Active Military, in 2017 Sawyer shipped to 46 bases in 7 countries to all branches of the Armed Forces. She ships everything from Valentines cookies and cards, Girl Scout Cookies, Summer Care Packages, Veterans Day gifts, Pies for Thanksgiving, and personalized filled Christmas Stockings. She sent over 2200 Christmas stockings alone in 2017 to those Serving stateside and worldwide.

In 2016 Sawyer was recognized by President Obama for her Volunteer work and was awarded an Individual Gold Presidents Volunteer Service Award.

Sawyer is the youngest person in this Country to receive this award at just age 7. Additionally she was awarded a Silver Award for her Scouts For Soldiers Toy Soldier Project.

In 2017 Sawyer Volunteered 642 hours to Our Veterans, Active Military and Honoring Our Fallen Heroes. Because of her dedication and drive she was in April of this year again recognized for her work and received 2 additional Individual Gold Presidents Volunteer Service Awards from President Trump as well as 2 Gold Awards for Scouts For Soldiers and Miss Sawyers Kids With A Cause.

In 2017 Sawyer was also nominated locally for Volunteer Of The Year by members of the Military, State Departments and Mason County Chamber Of Commerce.

Locally Sawyer is very active with Ludington American Legion Post 76 and the Womens Auxiliary alongside the Ludington VFW Members. She is a Jr. Member of the Legion as well as a Jr, Member of Rolling Thunder Michigan Chapter 1 based out of Manistee. She has walked with members of 92 For 22 raising awareness of PTSD and Veterans Suicide.

She is very involved in our Community with various other charitable organizations such as Rotary, Optimist Club, Zonta Club, Ludrock, C.O.V.E, Salvation Army and more.

Here is a short list of some of the things that Sawyer has done from a National Level

*Been to the US Capitol twice meeting with Congress and Senate advocating for better care for Our Veterans and higher wages for Our Active Military

*While in DC met with Secretary of Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense

Sawyer Hendrickson *Attended events with The President, also events with Congressmen, Senators and also State level Government Representatives.

*Sawyer has laid 2 wreaths so far at The Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier, 1st in September 2017 and invited back on her 9th Birthday March 2018 for the 2nd

Sawyer laid 1200 yellow roses on her 9th Birthday on the headstones at Arlington National Cemetery to Honor Those Who Gave All additionally Sawyer has visited various National Cemeteries as well as smaller cemeteries around the Country doing the same thing.

*Sawyer visited Unit 62 Wounded Warriors Division at Walter Reed Medical Center and handed out 600 "Smiley Face" Cookies to her Heroes that are recovering from combat injuries.

*Visited the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, MS and met with Veterans and handed out 500 potted plants to them to thank them for their service.

*Visits various military bases around the country meeting with those that are going to be deployed and hands out her painted "Hero" rocks to take with them on deployment while wishing them a safe journey and to come home soon.

This is just a small portion of what she does trying to Make A Difference in the lives of Our Veterans, Active Military and to Honor Our Fallen Heroes.

She will be happy to tell you all more about what she does when she sees you on Sunday.

Thank you again for this amazing opportunity for Sawyer.

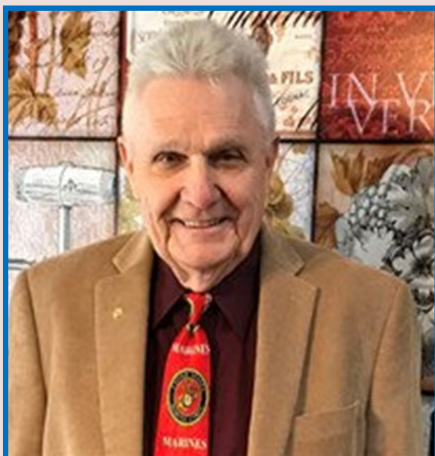
Semper Fi, Heather Hendrickson (Sawyers Mother)



Sawyer

WILLIAM "BILL" KING
Military Order of the Devil Dog

January 2, 1941 -December 21, 2018



It is with a heavy heart, we report the passing of a dear friend and loyal Marine, Life member and Devil Dog William "Bill" King. At the time of his death, Bill was the commandant of the Northwest Detachment #162, located in Northville

Bill was the beloved husband of Beatrice King for 40 years and the loving father of Gail King, Daniel (Cindy) King, Marie (Jeff) Seipenko, John (Tanya) Butkovich, Jennifer (Chris) Schefke, Eddie (Kenda) Overfield, and Joanne Overfield.

Dear grandfather of 14, and great grandfather of 3.



Gary Gross – December 28, 1950- December 6, 2018

Gary Gross, most recently the Vice Commandant of the Central Zone died unexpectedly on Thursday December 6, 2018 at the age of 67. He was born December 28, 1950 in Alma, the son of Ronald and Patricia (Ayris) Gross. Gary earned a bachelor's degree from Ferris State University in industrial electronics/data processing. He was a member of the St John's Lutheran Church and enjoyed traveling. Gary was a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran, a member of the Marine Corps League #841 in Owosso, Mi and a life member of the American Legion. Gary was retired from the State of Michigan where he worked in data processing. He is survived by his wife Carol, two sons, Jeffrey (Katie) and Anthony (Lisa), four grandsons, Michael, Ethan, Corbin and Caleb, two sisters and a brother.

Marine Gary Gross and Bill King passed away in the past 45 days. Department Marines dying over the past six months are found elsewhere in the newsletter.

A Message From A Grateful Scholarship Recipient

I just wanted to send a note to thank you and the Marine Corps League & Auxiliary of Michigan for choosing me as a recipient of a MCL Scholarship. It is an honor to be recognized, and to know the recognition primarily is because of my father's service. I am proud of his time in the Marines, and thankful especially for his survival after two tours in Vietnam.

So, I just want to express my appreciation and let you know that I will do my best academically to make wise use of this scholarship.

Happy Thanksgiving...and know I'm thankful for you all!

Holly

May They Rest In Peace

Member Deaths in 2018

<i>Jerome Buckman</i>	<i>05-20-2014</i>	<i>154 Macomb County Detach</i>
<i>Robert I Strehl</i>	<i>04-19-2018</i>	<i>690 Northern Mich. Detach</i>
<i>Frederick e. Haustein</i>	<i>05-22-2018</i>	<i>154 Macomb County Detach</i>
<i>Aldo Materazzi</i>	<i>06-09-2018</i>	<i>154 Macomb County Detach</i>
<i>Paul Adamisen, Sr.</i>	<i>06-16-2018</i>	<i>152 Dearborn Detachment</i>
<i>James R. Doyle</i>	<i>07-07-2018</i>	<i>570 North Oakland Detach</i>
<i>Stephen E. Franklin</i>	<i>07-14-2018</i>	<i>879 Kalamazoo Detachment</i>
<i>Wallace G. Dixon</i>	<i>07-27-2018</i>	<i>162 Northwest Detachment</i>
<i>John W. Gasparetto</i>	<i>07-29-2018</i>	<i>154 Macomb County Detach</i>
<i>Robert L. Cook</i>	<i>07-30-2018</i>	<i>162 Kalamazoo Detachment</i>
<i>William A. Leaman</i>	<i>08-11-2018</i>	<i>879 Kalamazoo Detachment</i>
<i>Kenneth A. Woodruff</i>	<i>08-18-2018</i>	<i>153 Downriver Detachment</i>
<i>Richard Flynn</i>	<i>09-15-2018</i>	<i>154 Macomb County Detach</i>
<i>Rene P. Lippens</i>	<i>09-09-2018</i>	<i>444 Upper Peninsula Detach</i>
<i>John W. Clark</i>	<i>09-22-2018</i>	<i>1016 Keweenaw Detachment</i>
<i>Braumel H. Belcher</i>	<i>09-22-2018</i>	<i>870 Kalamazoo Detachment</i>
<i>Thomas A. Towsley</i>	<i>10-31-2018</i>	<i>148 Capital Detachment</i>
<i>Howard J. Linton</i>	<i>11-15-2018</i>	<i>570 North Oakland Detachment</i>
<i>James E. Mohn</i>	<i>11-21-2018</i>	<i>841 Harold L. Cooley Detach</i>
<i>Gary Gross</i>	<i>12-06-2018</i>	<i>841 Harold R. Cooley Detach</i>
<i>William 'Bill' King</i>	<i>12-18-2018</i>	<i>162- Northwest Detachment</i>

It is with sadness that I learned from PDC Tony Wade of the passing of Pamela Tubergem. Pam was the Secretary of the Marine Corps League Veteran's Service Office for some 22 years, retiring about 8 years ago. Pam's career spanned through 3 Directors, John Cummings, Gary Chartrand and Jim Tuohy. May she rest in peace. Submitted by Jim Tuohy



Jon and Sandy Van Tol receiving an appreciation award from Commandant Troy Stewart, of Edson Kline VanSlyke Detachment.



PDD Fred Gibbs of the Flint Dawgs proudly displays his Pound Dog of the Year Award.'



Thank you National Coney Island for helping Cpl. S.L. Moore collect almost 400 Toys for Tots.

Detachments—if you had someone that saved your day please let me know and we will publish it.

Founders Club Members

# 1. Jon and Sandy VanTol	#26. Dept of Michigan MCL	#51 - open	#76 - open
#2 Dave & Kendra Masunas	#27. Terry Dowhan	#52 - open	77 - open
#3 D. Jerry & Dianne M. McKeon	#28. Michael W. Miller	#53.- open	#78 - open
#4. Marine Al Pearson	#29. Michael V. Kell	#54 - open	#79 - open
#5. CWO4 Kevin D. Magin	#30 Michael V. Kell	#55. Stephen Kelly	#80. Memory of Angela VanTol
#6. Marine Earl Allison	#31. MODD – Flint Dawgs	#56. Benjamin M. VanTol	#81. Honor of Justin & Amanda VanTol
#7 Muskegon Marine Corps Lea.	#32. Stephen Henes	#57. Gavin C. VanTol	#82 - open
#8. Marine Robert Larson	#33. MODD – Michigan Pack	#58. Montford Point Marines	#83 - open
#9. Timothy Eckstein	#34. Robert L. Hencken	#59. Marine Art Menard	#84 - open
#10. Edson Kline VanSlyke	#35. Olaf Kronneman	#60.- open	#85 - open
#11. Marine Don L. Lumsden	#36. Petoskey Detachment #690	#61.- open	#86 - open
#12. North Oakland Detachment	#37. 37th CMC Robert Neller	#62.- open	#87 - open
#13. John C. Rock Detachment	#38. Kalamazoo Detach #879	#63.- open	#88. Memory of Helen Patterson
#14. Stephen B Fletcher	#39 William Fuller – Troy Honda	#64. -open	#89 - open
#15. George Drargisity	#40. The McKeon Family	#65 - open	#90 - open
#16. Michelle Dragisity	#41. MODD -DD Pound Six	#66. Cpl. Jack & Toni Rittenberg	#91. Richard W. Donovan
#17. Bradley & Laura Gipson	#42. Alpena Detachment	#67 - open	#92 - open
#18. David Murnighan Detac.	#43, Matthew M. Hagaman	#68 - open	#93 - open
#19. Cpl. Stanley L. Moore #159	#44. Ann and Ted LeClair	#69 -open	#94 - open
#20. St Joseph County Detach	#45. The Flint Detachment	#70 - open	#95 - open
#21. Fred and Joan MacDonald	#46. Marine Robert McKeon	#71. Paul & Judy Smigowski	#96 - open
#22. Steven D. & Cheryl A. Kelly	#47 - Janice Erichsen—friend	#72. -open	#97 - open
#23. Marine Donald Roach	#48. -open	#73 - open	#98 - open
#24. Michaël and Allison Honev	#49. Dee Becke (Masunas)	#74 - open	#99. Keweenaw Detachment
#25. Kalamazoo Detachment	#50. Upper Peninsula Detach	#75 – open	#100.Lion Steven M VanTol

There are 39 Founders Coins Left

MID-WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

February 28 – March 2, 2019 Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center

2801 Plank Rd. Fredericksburg VA 22401

Phone: (540) 786-8321 \$99.00 per night (Includes Breakfast)

ALL DEADLINES ARE FEBRUARY 8, 2019

To have your name tag printed and packet prepared prior to your arrival you must be pre-registered. Pre-registration is \$10; registration at the conference is \$12. Please print and complete the following information as you want it to appear on your name tag.

Name: _____ Name: _____ Title: _____
Title: _____

Det/Unit: _____ Det/Unit: _____

Street Address: _____ Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

A program book will be printed. All units of the MCL, MODD, and MCLA are encouraged to support the program book to help offset the cost of the Conference. It is recommended that you E-mail your ad for better resolution

Program Book (place number of ads on the appropriate line)

Banquet Meals @ \$50.00 Each

Full page @ \$100 _____

Half page: _____ @ \$60 Business card @ \$25 _____ Quarter page @ \$30 P _____ Patron listing @ \$2 _____

Banquet Meals @ \$50 each : Number of Meals: _____ Total Cost of Meals: _____

No. of Meals Total Cost \$ _____ of Meals

Total number pre-registration delegates _____ Total number of banquet meals: _____

Program book ads: _____

GRAND TOTAL DUE: _____

Check or money order enclosed Check / MO # _____ Amount: _____

Please make checks and money orders payable to MCL, Inc. or Marine Corps League, Inc.

We gladly accept: Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover ___ American Express _____

Name as it appears on credit card _____

Credit card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV # _____

Billing address _____ City/State/ZIP _____

Signature _____ E-Mail _____

For Visa, MasterCard and Discover; please look in the signature strip on the back of your credit card. In the signature strip there are several numbers, some of which may be part of your credit card number. The last 3-digit number is your CVV card security number. For AMEX; your CVV card security number is on the front.

Please mail to: National Marine Corps League, Attn: Mid-Winter Conference, 3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 115 Stafford, VA 22554. For credit card payment call 703.207.9588 or email forms and ad copy to lwilliamson@MCLLeague.org

Shoreline Detachment Flag Programs

Flag Retirement

The Shoreline Detachment has taken responsibility for the Flag Retirement Program that had previously been facilitated by the Holland VFW and other service organizations in the Holland area. On October 27, 2018, we had our first Flag Retirement Ceremony and burning event, during which we retired over 525 United States flags. We learned that the cotton flags produce black smoke when burned, which prompted a visit from several Police and Fire Department personnel during the event at our quarters. Our new procedure includes a phone call to the Fire Department prior to the flag burning.

Flag Etiquette

We promote flag etiquette awareness through brochures and handouts. We also provide replacement Marine Corps flags free of charge when finding an unserviceable flag at homes or businesses. This is an excellent way to meet Marines and invite them into our Detachment.

Avenue of Flags

We also own the Avenue of Flags. This is a display of over 430 casket or replacement flags of fallen veterans in the Pilgrim's Cemetery in Holland, which occurs every Memorial Day. Each flag is posted on the cemetery drives, and has the name of the veteran, service branch and their era on a plaque attached to the staff. The Shoreline Detachment works with local Scout groups and other veterans to place the flags early Memorial Day and remove them at the end of the day.



Flags are disposed in many disrespectful ways—step up in your community and hold flag Retirement Ceremonies in your area. It's a great public relations effort as well as a good recruitment tool. Hand out Certificates of Appreciation to businesses displaying the flag. If you see a tattered flag volunteer to replace it. Often times car washes display the flag - make sure your certificate of appreciation is on their bulletin board, where customers can see it.



Troop 1032 of Birmingham/Bloomfield honored five new Eagle Scouts in December. Eagle Scouts Christopher Gilmer-Hill, Marcus Schmitt, Benjamin Abbott. Graham Simpson and Joseph Ciemniecki were presented with a Good Citizenship Award Certificate by Marine Corps League Members Dave Wojtac and Jerry McKeon of the Cpl. Stanley L. Moore Detachment/ #159

Marine Corps League Members Honor more Eagle Scouts. Kalamazoo Detachment member Richard Walsh honors two new Eagle Scouts with a Good Citizenship Award certificates: Andrew Pridgeon and Frank Zlomek from Troop 287 reached that plateau in January. 21, 2019.



Young Marines of the Cpl. Stanley L. Moore Detachment were the first to gather to help the detachment in their Toys for Tots drive.

Eagle Scout Award

The Marine Corps League considers it a honor and a privilege to recognized America's Future leaders for earning the Scouts of America Eagle Scout Award. By presenting them with the Marine Corps League's "Good Citizenship Award" certificates and to have the Eagle Scout become aware of the skills he has mastered to become an Eagle Scout are also held in very high regard by the Marine Corps League and corporations throughout the United States.



IS SUICIDE REALLY A PRIORITY AT VA? Facts seem to tell a different story!

Veteran Affairs officials launched their “Be There” campaign to combat veterans suicide in September 2016. a new GAO report released this week said those types of outreach efforts decreased significantly last fiscal year, calling into question the department’s commitment to suicide prevention.

WASHINGTON—Despite public pronouncements on their continued focus of preventing Veteran suicide, Veteran affair officials failed to spend millions available for outreach campaigns in 2018 and severely curtailed their messaging efforts, according to a new report released Monday.

The Government Accountability Office study found that of \$6.2 million set aside for suicide prevention media outreach in fiscal 2018, only \$57,000 — less than 1 percent — was actually used.

In addition, social media content from VA officials on the subject dropped by more than two-thirds from fiscal 2017 to fiscal 2018. Two planned new public service announcements on the topic were delayed and no public outreach messages were aired on national television or radio for more than a year. Veterans advocates called the report shocking and disappointing.

“At a time when 20 veterans a day still die by suicide, VA should be doing everything in its power to inform the public about the resources available to veterans in crisis,” said Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., ranking member of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “Unfortunately, VA has failed to do that, despite claiming the elimination of veteran suicide as its highest clinical priority.”

Both VA Secretary Robert Wilkie and former VA Secretary David Shulkin listed suicide prevention as one of their main focuses for the department and their top clinical priority for the Veterans Health Administration.

The 20-a-day suicide estimate includes about 14 veterans who have had little or no contact with VA in recent months, a statistic that advocates say illustrates the need for more outreach to individuals who don’t fully understand or typically use the mental health support available from the department.

In statements to the GAO, Veterans Health Administration officials blamed leadership turnover at the agency for the missteps. The department’s top suicide prevention post was vacant from July 2017 to April 2018.

“Within weeks of his arrival at VA, then acting Secretary Wilkie appointed Dr. Keita Franklin as VA’s new suicide prevention director, and she is reviewing the spending for this important programs as part of her duties,” department spokesman, Curt Cashour said in a statement.

Officials also said ongoing campaigns continued to show strong success in helping make veterans more aware of Veterans Crisis line as well as other support services. But GAO officials said more needs to be done.

The Veteran’s Crisis Line— available to veterans, troops and their families—operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (Zachary Hada/Air Force)

“By not assigning key leadership responsibilities and clear lines of reporting, VHA’s ability to oversee the suicide prevention media outreach activities was hindered and these outreach activities decreased,” the authors wrote.

“As a result, VHA may not have exposed as many people in the community, such as veterans at risk for suicide, or their families and friends, to its suicide prevention outreach content.”

VA officials said new hires and “organization improvements” within the relevant offices should produce better results and resource management this fiscal year. They also plan to unveil new tracking metrics this spring, to help evaluate what tools are working.

Walz said that's not enough. “If VA actually wants to eliminate veterans suicide, then it has to take each of its roles in that mission seriously,” he said. “Our veterans can’t afford to have VA backslide on veteran suicide.”

To contact the Veteran Crisis line, callers can dial 1-800-273-8255 and select option 1 for a VA Staffer. Veterans, troops, or their family members can also text 838255 or visit veteranscrisisline.net for assistance.

Marine Corps League

Forward Planning!

Department of Michigan Marine Corps League

WINTER RALLY

February 7-10-2019

Hosted By The Flint Devil Dawgs Pound 288

Flint, Michigan

Registration in this Newsletter

Department of Michigan Marine Corps League

SUMMER CONVENTION 2019

To be Held Double Tree, Bay City

June 6-9-2019

National Marine Corps League

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

February 28 – March 2, 2019 Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center

2801 Plank Rd. Fredericksburg VA 22401

Phone: (540) 786-8321 \$99.00 per night (Includes Breakfast)

Department of Michigan Marine Corps League

National Marine Corps League Convention

Billings, Montana

August 4-10-2019

Watch For Details

At this publication, two Department Marines are interested in becoming the next Jr. Vice Commandant. Generally, the Jr. Vice Commandant moves through the chairs to the Department Commandant position.

This is Earl W. Allison, Department Judge Advocate and I would like to announce my intention to run for the position of Department of Michigan Junior Vice.



I'm a life member of the Marine Corps League having joined the St. Joseph County Michigan Area Detachment, 1401, in February, 2014. I have served my Detachment as Commandant from 2014 to 2018.

Though I was nominated for Commandant a fifth time, I declined to run so that others in the Detachment could take a place in leadership. I am the St. Joseph Co., Michigan, Toys for Tots coordinator and have held that position for the past four years as well. I am actively involved in funeral honor guard details, and am currently serving as a member of the St. Joseph Co. Michigan, Veteran's Affairs Board and after the first of the year I will be serving at the Battle Creek VA.

I served in the Marines from 1979-1987 in Communications.

I'm a retired electrical contractor, father of four and grandfather to three little boys. My wife and I married while we served in the Marines and this summer we celebrated our 36th wedding anniversary. My hobbies include hunting, time on the pistol and rifle range and building birdhouses and feeders.

**Earl Allison. Judge Advocate –Department
Of Michigan**

Art Menard Would Like to be Your Next Jr. Vice Commandant

The Two Most Important Things you should know About Art

Art is Leader and a Volunteer

Detachment Commandant past 14 years

Michigan Pack Police Dog – 2 years

MODD Pound Keeper past 9 years

Upper Peninsula Toys for Tots Asst. Coordinator

Upper Peninsula Zone Vice Commandant 4 years

Marine Corps League Trustee – 4 years

Post Commander – VFW Post Hiawatha – 4 years

Member Delta County Veterans Council -14 years

Sr. Vice Post Commandant – VFW – 4 years

Awarded 2016 Delta County Jaycee Patriot Award

MCL Eagle Scout Coordinator – 6 years

Toys for Tots Volunteer Award 2014



ART MENDARD

Vice Commandant. UP Zone



2019 DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN MCL/MCLA MID-WINTER RALLY

YOUR HOST –MODD POUND #288 FLINT DAWGS

The Flint Dawgs Pound #288 is the host for the 2019 Mid Winter Rally. We are requesting all Detachments and Auxiliary Units to support us in placing an ad in the Mid-Winter Ad Book. This will help us in defraying some of the cost associated with hosting this Rally. It helps us in ways such as hosting our Hospitality evening in purchasing enough food and beverages. It helps in providing a Saturday morning breakfast for members, for those that may not want to take the time to eat in the restaurant.

Both of these events are being hosted by the ladies of the Flint Auxiliary Unit. See our Ad page for pricing and where to send your ad.

SEMPER FI

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO A FUN FILLED AND PRODUCTIVE WEEK-
END WITH OUR
MARINE FAMILY.**



2019 DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN MCL/MCLA MID-WINTER RALLY

YOUR HOST –MODD POUND #288 FLINT DAWGS

Location:

Holiday Inn Gateway Center

5353 Gateway Circle

Flint, Michigan 48507

Tel: (810) 232-5300

Rooms:

All guest rooms include either Double or King size beds, there are also some poolside rooms, wireless high speed Internet, and cable TV. Some rooms have refrigerators. The hotel also has handicap accessible rooms. If you have a need for a handicap room, please inform the hotel when you make your reservations. Reservations can be made directly to the hotel at (810) 232-5300 or online at flintgateway.com—use code “MMC.” The room rate is \$99.00 + 11% tax for a total of \$109.89 per night.

Deadline: -January 24th, 2019

Strip

Registration: \$5.00

Ticket

Hospitality: \$20.00 includes Friday evening and Saturday breakfast

Banquet: \$35.00

The Banquet is a Buffet style which includes your choice of Salad, Entrée of Baked Chicken, Beef Tips with wild mushroom sauce, Whipped Redskin potatoes, Buttered Egg Noodles, Fresh Green Beans Almandine and assorted desserts of Baked Apple, Cherry and Blueberry Pie.

Membership Dues are to Cheap!

By Mark Sutton, Adjutant Detachment 162

Mark sent me this unannounced. It's a member's point of view so I decided to publish it.

Yes, you read that right, and yes I want to advocate that the department of Michigan and every detachment raise membership dues by 100 percent or more. I would also advocate for the elimination of life membership dues. Hear me out.

Before we begin, let's remember how an individual's dues payment is divided. The first \$20 goes to the national headquarters in Virginia. They use the money to pay salaries of the executive director and the staff, it goes to pay for the building, and all of the membership material they produce like membership cards. The Semper Fi magazine comes from the sale of advertisement and not from membership dues.

The next six dollars goes to the Department of Michigan to pay for expenses there, remember even though we are in 2019 we still have to produce paper and use snail mail in order to accomplish membership, because the national office has not advanced beyond paper yet.

The remaining dues stays with the detachment, which as a detachment adjutant is not enough to run the detachment business or be good to the community without outside fundraising sources.

It is all about value.

What is value The definition of value is easy to find in the dictionary: 1 : the monetary worth of something : MARKET PRICE. 2 : a fair return or equivalent in goods, services, or money for something exchanged. 3 : relative worth, utility, or importance. 4 : something (such as a principle or quality) intrinsically valuable or desirable.

How do you measure the value of your Marine Corps League membership? Do you only look at the annual dues (monetary) you pay and say it is worth it for me to belong because dues are only \$35 or \$45 dollars per year?

Do you think the detachment or even the department should have programs that help veterans? Do you know how much that costs?

Note: I am not advocating for an increase in national dues, the value they have shown over the past couple of years is not worth the \$20 they currently receive. They need to show themselves worthy of an increase and trustworthy with what they have to work with now before asking for any increase.

Based on the recent closing of our department veteran services office I would hesitate to ask for an increase for department, but the office was doomed to fail because of the lack of financial resources from the department. Having financial resources would have overcome the incompetence of the department veteran services board ability to understand how the new grant processes worked from the State of Michigan. Combined the office was doomed.

We have to ask ourselves as a department what do we value? Once we determine that, we look at how much does it cost? Now, when I say department I am not speaking about the small group of members who feel because of their past titles entitle them to a bigger voice over others, I am talking about the red hats, the detachments members, what do we value?

Do we as a department value the Christmas parties the department provides at the VA hospitals and State Veterans Homes? Then shouldn't we pay for them? Shouldn't we include those in our dues, they are our parties, should we pay for them? The phone call fundraisers no longer produce what it once did. People do not have landlines and they are tired of robocalls.

PAGE 2—U.S. postage has increased making mail solicitation more expensive and the return on investment difficult to achieve.

Flag sales outside of a Walmart store for the purposes of raising money for the department is inefficient and produces very little return.

If we truly value having a veteran service office then we should be prepared to pay for it with dues money like other organizations do then an increase is an easy sell.

Life Memberships are the death of the League.

I want to advocate for the elimination of offering life membership dues to members until they reach the age of 70.

Why? I can only speak for the department of Michigan. In Michigan, we have according to the September 29, 2018 roster 1,228 paid life members, 49 paid, and 669 members unpaid. Let's assume for this purpose that all 669 unpaid members pay their dues. For 2019, 718 members pay department dues at six dollars per member. That only gives department a budget of \$4,308, plus maybe one or two dollars from the life membership dues, so another \$1,228 or \$2,456 for a total budget of \$6,764.

We know each Christmas party costs several hundreds of dollars. Postage for mailings cost money, we have to rely on an emailed version only of a newsletter from department, and our paymaster must mail things out. We do want the Commandant to attend all necessary meetings for the MCL and around the state, which costs money. I have seen ROTC awards given out. I know we have only a small budget for the legislative chairman and we have other expenses.

So why eliminate life membership dues? Because two-thirds of all members in the department do not contribute to the department annually as expenses rise. The department cannot function properly, inflation erodes the life membership dues paid.

On the detachment side, out of my 56 members only 14 are paid members. I receive nine dollars per member for a total of \$126 and we received a check for \$118.28 for a total budget of \$244.28. That \$245 does not go a long way, if as the detachment has discussed providing a newsletter at least six times a year or sending donations to the State Veteran Homes or to the VA medical center cantina funds without a couple fundraisers per year. Compared to \$504 dollars if all members paid dues.

What if all 1,946 members paid department dues of \$20? The department would have a budget of \$38,920 to work with each year, if membership was steady, compared to just under \$7,000 now.

I think we all need to look at why we belong to this organization and how much do we value the organization, than act accordingly.

Again, membership dues should be a reflection of our values. Is outside fundraising needed? Yes, but it should not be for the survival of the department or detachment. Membership dues should cover the general operating expenses of the department or detachment. By reflecting our values in our dues structure new members may be incline to stay because they to see the value produced without physical effort from themselves. Because in the end aren't we all very busy, but we all want to make a difference.

MARINES

Please Provide Commandant Dave Masunas with the number of funeral services, honor guard or rifle salutes or other similar activities handled by your detachment members regardless of the military organization they participated in. If you are a Marine Corps League member and a member of the American Legion, or other, count any activity with that affiliation.



The Downriver Detachment escaped serious damage, but smoke and water from the burning building next store caused grave concern. Paul Lekity displays the Eagle/Globe/Anchor while Bonnie Schaffer holds the detachment charter.

The Flint Detachment Gathers for a Group Picture.





Marines: Do you know someone who would like to promote their business in our newsletter? Someone in your community that would like to reach out beyond their marketing area. If they have a product or service approximately two thousand Marines would consider, tell them about your newsletter.

For a limited time only, we're discounting prices to give businesses a chance to try us.

FULL PAGE:	\$100
HALF PAGE:	\$60
QUARTER PAGE:	\$35
BUSINESS CARD	\$15

If an advertiser pays a full year in advance (4 issues) - there is a 20% discount

Advertise where the Michigan Marines get their information

Contact: Jerry McKeon — 248-866-5653 or jerrymckeon@me.com



**Saturday, Feb. 2,
2019, at 7 p.m.**

**Cocktails and seating start
at 6 p.m.**

**VFW 4012, 438 S. Main
Street, Northville 48167
Tickets are \$10.00 per person.
Tables of eight are
available.**

**All profits go to support the
programs of the Marine
Corps League such as our
VA Volunteer Services at
local VA Hospitals**

**10 comedians will perform
\$\$ Cash Bar \$\$**

Guests may bring food and snacks to their table

Please RSVP to Cathy Canavan at 313-550-0505

All reservations must be prepaid

Make your reservations today!

Thank you for supporting the Marine Corps League

Northwest Detachment!!

*Mark Sutton
Adjutant/Paymaster*