

# 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

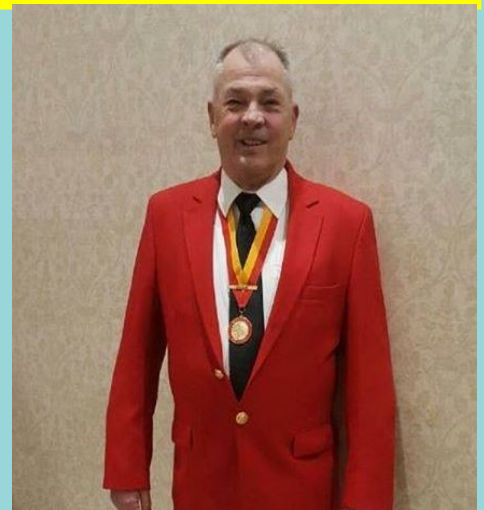
## Your Department and Auxiliary Leaders



Jon VanTol—Commandant, Pack Leader



Gerri Tuohy MCL Auxiliary President



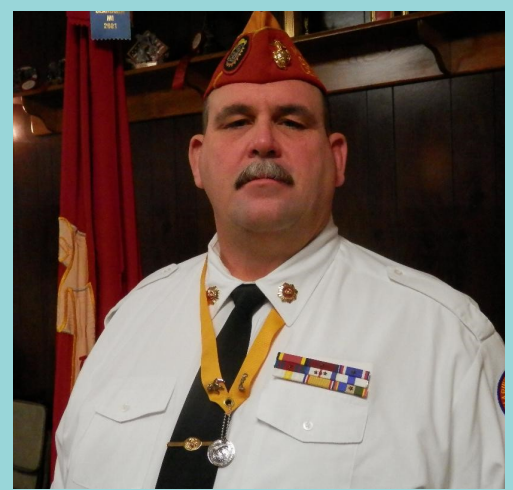
Al Pearson—Sr. Vice Commandant



Art Menard—Jr. Vice Commandant



Phil Zamora -Paymaster, National VC



Ray Rowley, Judge Advocate



Department of Michigan  
Marine Corps League



# FROM THE EDITOR

Jerry McKeon



When a job you did in the Marine Corps becomes part of history, it's pretty special. Marine Corps League member Ron Sanford can attest to that. Ron, a League member with the Cpl. Stanley L. Moore Detachment #159, told me his story at lunch one day and I could not wait to tell you.

Our newsletter was submitted for judging in the National newsletter contest. In our first attempt, our newsletter came in third. Second or third is never good enough for a Marine, so next year we're aiming for number one.

I vicariously attended the National convention through Facebook. Pictures were posted daily, events were highlighted and agenda items were discussed making me feel like I was there. By not physically being there, it appears I missed a good time as the Department of Montana extended a warm welcome.

Marines,

The Department Fall Staff meeting will be Saturday October 26th starting at 1000. It will be held at;

Grace Christian Fellowship Church,

2302 Amelith Rd.

Bay City MI 48706

It is at the Corner of West Saginaw Rd (M-84) and Amelith Rd, Approximately 1 mile north of Saginaw Valley State University and 1 mile south of the I- 75 exit onto M 84.

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE November 30, 2019**

## Michigan Marine News

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# Department of Michigan

## Marine Corps League

### *The Commandants Page*



**Jonathan S. VanTol**

I hope everyone is enjoying and having a safe summer. It is a busy time for many Detachments with fund raising and attending community functions of fairs, parades and request for color guards.

However, the business of the Marine Corps League never ends. June 30<sup>th</sup> marked the end of the year for many Detachments, Pounds and Auxiliaries fiscal years. This is the time to file your Detachment, Pound or Auxiliary IRS 990. According to IRS guidelines you have until November 15<sup>th</sup> to file. It is usually the Adjutant/Paymaster or the Commandant who files. BUT it is the responsibility of ALL members to inquire that it has been done. We are all volunteers and sometimes we procrastinate or forget, that is why the membership should be asking if it has been done.

Whoever files the 990 it is important to use the Paymaster/Treasurer/Dog Robber information. At National, COO Bob Borka is required to audit the list of ALL Detachments, Departments, Pounds, and Auxiliaries on the MCL master list of authorized subsidiary units. He compares the information on the submitted 990's to the Report of Installation (ROI) forms. If the Paymaster, Treasurer or Dog Robber is not listed on the 990 he then fills out an IRS report in #2 pencil any Detachments/Pound/Unit and changes it. I was informed of this while talking to the COO at the National convention this year. This creates a lot of work for the COO. Hopefully those who need to file this year and future years will use the Paymaster/Treasurer/Dog Robber information.

After it has been accepted by the IRS send a copy of the IRS acceptance letter to the following emails so it can be forwarded to the National Marine Corps League, they are;

[mimclpaymaster@gmail.com](mailto:mimclpaymaster@gmail.com) and [mimclcompliance1@gmail.com](mailto:mimclcompliance1@gmail.com) it is a National bylaw requirement that the Department forwards the acceptance letter.

Also all units should be filing their Michigan Incorporation reports. I have received my Detachment's and sent it in along with the \$20 filing fee. Being incorporated protects the officers and membership from being added to lawsuits against the Detachment, Pound or Auxiliary. Please send a copy to the above emails for tracking purposes. The Compliance officer will reach out to those units who may be late in filing these important documents with the IRS or the State of Michigan.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and prepare for the next season.

Jonathan S. VanTol,  
Commandant



# Marine Corps League

## *Al Pearson, Sr. Vice Commandant's Page*



**Marines:** I hope to have the Department raffle tickets ready by the fall staff meeting. We need all detachments to get involved this year, not 12 like last year. So please help me out. I attended the National Convention in Billings, Montana, that included the Supreme-Growl. When a devil dog goes to a national convention to pick up Pedigree designation they must be there no later than Monday 5pm, the week of the convention; it is suggested you do not sign up for any side trips during your advancement. Until you've made PDD. Today I watched Tracy Tippet from the U.P. receive her PDD. She also received the platoon leader award. Tracy congratulations for a job well done. Dave Masunas was awarded the four Chaplin's award and a plaque. Congratulations to all for a job well

done. Al Pearson— Sr. Vice Commandant

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



### **Marines, Associate Members, Auxiliary Members**

Effective 01 September, all annual memberships expire. Those that have not paid their dues will become delinquent members losing the normal rights and privileges that members in good standing have. If you have not paid your annual dues you need to get in touch with your Detachment Paymaster and submit your payment NOW. If anyone needs any help or has any questions concerning paying dues, please contact me at: [menardart@gmail.com](mailto:menardart@gmail.com)

As of 30 June 2019, the Department of Michigan has 1889 paid members and 195 unpaid or delinquent members. There's been a lot of activity in regard to paid members due to the annual deadline of 01 September so the numbers should be changing in a positive way soon.

I attended the National Convention in Billings, Montana and believe there were as many as 7 Department Detachments in attendance, that's a pretty good showing for Michigan. Iron Mountain Detachment #1239 was approved to move to the Department of Wisconsin by the National Board of Trustees, and we hope it's a good fit for them.

There's excellent progress being done in the Manistique area of the Upper Peninsula as they are only 2 members away from the number they need to trigger a charter. The Fire Team is really coming together as a group and there will be more news soon on when it will all come together.

Semper Fidelis,

Art Menard, Jr. Vice Commandant

# Marine Corps League

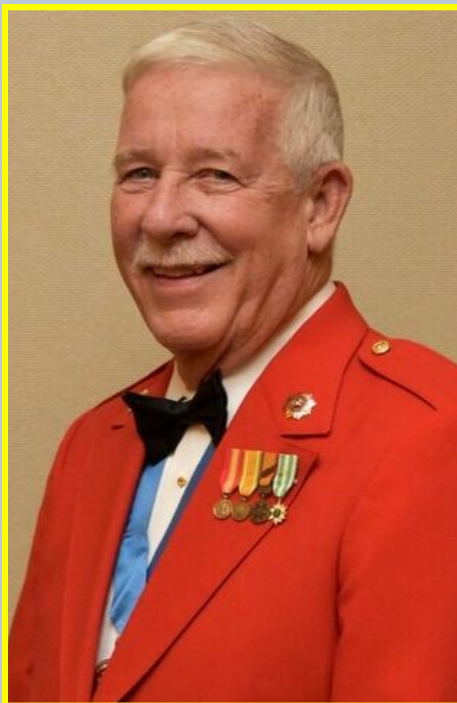
## *The Paymaster's Page*

### Membership Renewal

Annual Notice



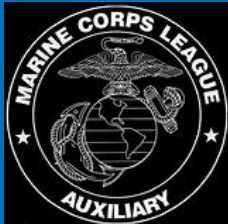
Renew today with your  
local Detachment Paymaster



National Jr Vice Warren Griffin

Recently each detachment received a list of Life members. The Paymaster and the commandant should review the list and note all life members that have passed away since the last report. After the review, both officers need to sign the list and forward on to the department paymaster prior to year end.

National Jr. Vice Commandant Warren Griffin, recently requested that all detachments provide national with a complete list of the activities the detachment participates in. All known activities were listed and the detachment commandant needs to check off the ones the detachment works on. If you have not seen this request check with your Zone Commandant.



# Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Gerri Tuohy, President



Greetings!

As of this writing, it is time for the National Convention in Billings, Montana next month. I am always anxious to go to these meetings where you have the opportunity to see old friends and make some new friends. Even though I am a Past National President, there is always room for learning. It is interesting to hear what the different units and departments are up to. This is a good way to get some different ideas. However, as usual retaining and recruiting members is a crucial area.

Central Division Vice President Mary Brief and Department Treasurer Sandy VanTol did a great job making sure all units were in compliance with the fiscal year regulations. Thanks for your help in attaining this goal.

At our Department Convention in June, I was striving to get some new names on the roster. I was able to do that and am happy that we have more new people involved. We revitalized our Flea Hide, had lots of fun and great laughs. Congratulations to our newest Big Flea Jen Bryan. Another step in the right direction, we had a Past Presidents Club meeting and Peggy Tuohy is now our new Regent. This meeting is open to anyone who has been either a Unit or Department President.

The Fall Staff meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 26. Location and time on page 2.

Please make a concerted effort to attend the annual meetings. As stated in our by-laws it is the duty of the incoming Unit Presidents to attend the two meetings of the Department and that being Mid Winter Rally and Department Convention. When nominating and electing officers for the incoming year, the qualifications of each office should be read prior to a nomination. I do realize there are extenuating circumstances, but in the great scheme of things, this should be addressed. Let us strive to become the Department we once were. I am on board and invite all of you to join me.

I will be visiting all units within the next few months and looking forward to traveling to the Upper Peninsula units to attend their Fall Festival in October.

I am always available for questions or concerns I can be reached at 810-695-3241 or [wildgerri323@aol.com](mailto:wildgerri323@aol.com).

***You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together, we can do great things!!***

Semper Fidelis,

Gerri Tuohy, Department President



PNC James Tuohy and PNP Gerri Tuohy, are caught in the camera's eye at the National Convention Banquet.



# Marine Corps League Auxiliary

## Auxiliary—Page Two



### Greetings from Billings, Montana

As I make my way home from the convention, I would like to share that this week has been a learning experience and one of making new friends. We've had the most Auxiliary members that I ever remember in attendance with 106 Auxiliary members present. The number of Past National Presidents (PNP) in attendance was wonderful and a sight to behold.

We were so blessed to have our own Virginia Johnson in attendance. She was the hit of the convention and we are honored that she was able to make the journey to Montana and join us in learning, sharing, and comradeship. PNP Virginia Johnson received the MCL Distinguished Service Award for "Outstanding Voluntary Service" in recognition of the many volunteer hours she has dedicated to our hospitalized Veterans through the VAVS program. Because of her outstanding service, she is authorized to wear the Marine Corps League Community Service Ribbon. Virginia has logged over 8,000 hours of voluntary service to our Veterans in Michigan. She is a rare gem in our Auxiliary and we are so very thankful and grateful for her dedication.

Furthermore, our new Central Division VP for the Marine Corps League Auxiliary is Renee McGuan, from Illinois. As your Division VP, Renee is your link between the Department of MI and National Headquarters. Remember if you have questions or concerns, the chain of command is Unit, Department, Central Division, and then National. This ensures that if a lower chain of command can remedy the situation, they will, and if they cannot then they will inform and involve the higher chain. This not only will lead to quicker solutions, but will ensure that the appropriate, relevant information will be passed along as needed. Renee is very knowledgeable and is willing to help wherever she can. I know she will do a fantastic job and I am proud to pass this title to her.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that I was honored to accept the nomination and election of the National Judge Advocate. I will faithfully serve you to the best of my ability during my term this next year. I look forward to learning with you and

Semper Fi,

Mary Brief

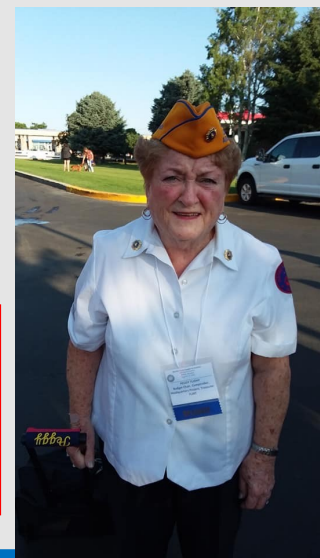
Flint Unit

Department of Michigan Marine Corps League Auxiliary member Mary Brief, recently was elected to fill the National Judge Advocate position. I invited Mary to share her experience at the National meeting in Billings Montana.



National Judge Advocate Mary Brief and Past Auxiliary Department President Ann LeClair

Peggy Tuohy, Past National Auxiliary Treasurer can always be found at any Auxiliary function.



# Marine Corps League Auxiliary

## Auxiliary—Page Three



### Department President:

Gerri Tuohy

### Sr. Vice President

Marcy Oakley

### Jr. Vice President

Sandy VanTol

### Judge Advocate

Kimberly Sawatzki

### Chaplain

Cathy Rayl

### Secretary

Ranea Lajewski

### Treasurer-

Sandy Van Tol

### Fundraising

Peggy Tuohy

### Ways and Means Chair

Joanne Bressette

### Publicity Chair

Elizabeth LaPouttre

### Historian

Judy Flynn

### National Officers 2019-2020

National President : Evelyn Joppa

Sr. Vice President: Linda Chamberlain

Jr. Vice President: Dotty Sanning

Judge Advocate: Mary Brief

Jr. Past President: Carol Smith

Central Division V.P.- Renee McGuan



Above: PNP Vivian Johnson receives congratulation from PNC Jim Tuohy for her fifty plus years of dedicated service to the MCL auxiliary including past national president.

The local charity the Department of Michigan MCLA supported this year at the 2019 June Convention is the Foster Closet. Pictured here are our ladies presenting gifts to the Foster Closet to help aid in providing comfort items to the thousands of foster children across the state. The MCLA is passionate about assisting women and children in need, primarily those who are victims of abuse and neglect, through their national program Operation Little Angel (OLA).





# Marine Corps League

## *Accolades and Awards*

### Jonathan VanTol Selected The Marine of The Year

Honoring his hard work and dedication to our success, members honored Jon at the Summer Convention with the Marine of the Year Award. As is customary, past Marine of the Year recipients, walk around the banquet room, seemingly looking for the awardee. When they all gathered around Jon, that was the signal he was selected.

Those that know Jon know he operates in the true Marine Spirit. Getting the job done quickly and with perfection, Jon takes every assignment very seriously. Perhaps that is a major reason Jon moved into the Commandant's chair where he will surely instill his work ethic in those that serve with him.

Several years ago, Jon was named the Veteran of the Year. For his hard work and dedication to our department, the Title "Marine of the Year," hardly seems enough as the time spent on department causes far exceeds the honor of a title.



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### Michigan Marine Newsletter Honored

Awarded third place by the National Marine Corps League, the Michigan Marine Newsletter was recognized as one of the top newsletters submitted for judging. Broken down into categories, the Department division, is one of the more competitive division and its an honor to place third. However, Marines hardly accept second or third best in any competition, so first place is our target next year.

Written and edited by Jerry McKeon, this is the second time we have submitted the news for judging. Last year, our submission was misplaced by the committee, and we completely missed out on any chance to be recognized.

You can help me make it a more interesting and comprehensive publication. Please send in your pictures, detachment activities, member awards and other information members throughout the state would enjoy reading.

If you have a suggestion or idea for an article or a section, do not hesitate to let me know. Together we can aim for the first place award. If you would like to help on this award-winning publication, give me a call and we'll put you to work.



# Marine Corps League

## *Pack Leader's Page*



**Honorable Pack Leader Jon VanTol**

### New Kennel Officers Elected

After a successful two terms as the leader of all Dawgs, Honorable Kennel Chief PDD Leonard Spicer, will step back into the ranks, The new officer slate includes:

**Chief Kennel Officer –PDD Tom Haslet**

**Sr Vice - PDD Alan Damning**

**Jr Vice PDD - Jeff Jones**

**Smart Dog - PDD Tom Krueger**

**Dog Trainer - PDD Jason Rowell**

**Mad Dog - PDD Chuck Minto**

### Woof Woof

Dogs, I hope you are behaving yourselves as much as that is possible. While at the National convention it was great to see so many Devil Dogs advance to Pedigree Devil Dogs. They were raising quite a ruckus and enjoying themselves. It was great to have all those Devil Dogs acknowledge current PDD's with an enthusiastic WOOF WOOF whenever they passed by.

There were eighteen bylaw changes proposed. Please go the Kennel link on the mclnational.org website to see which ones passed. Once again there were League bylaw change proposals wanting to remove the Devil Dog shoulder patch. All the advancing Devil Dogs were on the convention floor and the proposed bylaw was rejected. Later another bylaw change came up with moving the flag to the left arm so the Devil Dog patch could still be worn on the right sleeve. This was also rejected. So uniform requirements remain as they were.

While it is fun for the Dogs advancing, they miss out on IMPORTANT League business. They miss voting on most League bylaw proposals. As well as hearing, learning and voting on the budget. If you get a chance when advancing attend as much of the meeting as possible. Try to attend another convention after you advance. It will be enjoyable reconnecting with those previously met.

I want to thank the Red Knights Pound #138 for hosting the 2020 Mid-Winter Rally in Jackson and the Flint Dawgs who will host the 2020 Department Convention. More information will follow.

Remember stay cool as the "Dog Days of Summer" are approaching!!

**Jon VanTol**



**Front Row: PDD Phil Zamora, DD Scott Bryan, Pup Carl Vincenti, PDD Wendy Zamora. Back Row: PDD Jeff Jones, Chief Leonard Spicer, Sr. Vice Chief Devil Dog PDD Tom Hazlett**

# Marine Corps League

## *The Pack Leader's Page 2*



### PDD Wendy Zamora Honored by Devil Dogs

Kennel Quartermaster PDD Wendy Zamora was presented with a very attractive award for her ongoing service as the Kennel Quartermaster.



### Tracy Tippet Only Michigan Devil Dog to Advance to PDD

Tracy Tippet advances to Pedigree Devil Dog. Tracy from Pound 174, The Northern Wolves was also selected as the Honor Dog in her advancement platoon.





# Marine Corps League

## *Department Marines Honored*

### Mark Sutton Selected Veteran of the Year



Former detachment commandant and current paymaster of the Northwest Marine Corps League detachment, Mark Sutton, was recently selected by the Commanders Group as the Veteran of the year. This prestigious award gave Mark the privilege of throwing out the first pitch on Veterans Day at Tiger Stadium.

Mark's job as Legislative Director of the American Legion of Michigan played a small role in his selection. It's what Mark does in his off hours that earned him this honor.

After proudly serving in the Marine Corps from 1988-1993, Mark heeded his second call of service to his fellow veterans. As the legislative director, Mark's watchful eye on legislative activity involving veterans was always a heads-up for the veteran community.

Well-known in Lansing legislative circles, Mark has testified more than twenty times in favor of or in opposition to various bills directly affecting veteran. Called up by Governor Rick Snyder, Mark served on a nine-member workgroup to develop the mission plan and operating structure of a department of veteran's affairs for the state. When state grants to the five veteran organizations in the state budget stagnated at \$2.9 million, Mark designed and executed a plan that resulted in a \$780,000 increase in funding.

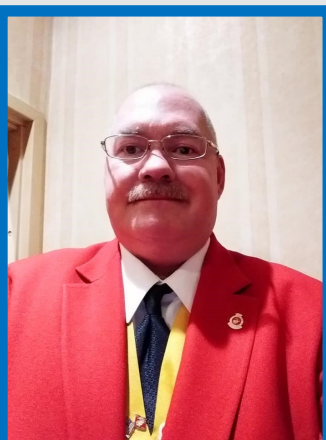
His passion, dedication and commitment to veterans means giving more of himself on and off the clock. There are so many achievements attributed to his work; Mark is a fine example of what the veteran of the year must possess to be recognized for this honor. The Department of Michigan Marine Corps League members are proud that one of our own was selected. A hearty congratulation.

A hearty congratulation Mark from your fellow Marines

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### Dave Masunas Honored with Four Chaplains Award

Lately Dave Masunas has been honored in so many ways for his ongoing dedication to the Marine Corps League and its affiliates. At the National convention, Dave's hard work and dedication to his fellow Marines singled him out to receive the Four Chaplains award.



An award sparsely granted but quickly recognized as the epidemic of awards volunteers can receive. Just off his two year tour as Department Commandant, Dave continues to head up the department's efforts to recognize Eagle Scouts by attending and presenting achievement awards to Boy Scouts reaching such a status. If Dave cannot make the presentation, he prepares the documents and forwards them on to the presenter. Dave travels to all National meetings and helps our own Devil Dog National Quartermaster Wendy Zamora handle the Quartermaster store as the assistant quartermaster.

Currently the Commandant of the Oceana Brett Whiteveen detachment, Dave has held almost every position in the past including Vice Zone Commandant of the Western Zone. Dave joins a few other Michigan Marines honored with this award. His affable high energy persona is recognized once again.

# Marine Corps League

## *Bites and Bytes*

### Detachments, Units and Pounds,

Those that requested to change their fiscal year from ending December 31st to ending June 30th may receive a couple letters from the IRS stating your IRS 990 fiscal year ending June 30th 2016, 2017, and 2018 need to be filed.

If you receive these letters, please respond to them. Explain your fiscal year ended December 31st for those years and send a copy of your IRS acceptance letters. Then explain you requested a fiscal year change from the National Marine Corps League and include a copy of the requesting letter. I have copies of those letters and will send to YOU by email if you need a copy.

Jon VanTol, Compliance

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

I just want to email to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Michigan Marine Corps League scholarship.

I will be entering my senior year, and ALL financial help is appreciated! I realize this scholarship is not really based on anything I have accomplished, but primarily due to my father's service to our country. So, I thank you for honoring him as well. I appreciate the fact the Marines take care of their own, even extending that support to the children of servicemen.

My proof of enrollment will be coming from Indiana Wesleyan University and my transcript will be coming from the clearinghouse they use. If there is anything else needed, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Once again, thank you so very much!

Most sincerely, Holly S.

### IMPORTANT POSITION OPENS

At the request of the Detachment, the National Board of Trustees voted to allow the Iron Mountain Detachment to move to the Department of Wisconsin from the Department of Michigan. This also creates an opening for a Department of Michigan VAVS Director as the current VAV's director is part of the Iron Mountain detachment. Anyone interested in fulfilling this position, please contact me at; [jvantol@svsu.edu](mailto:jvantol@svsu.edu).

### FOUNDER'S COIN

Don't miss out at the chance of owning a collectable Founders Coin.

For a short time, anyone purchasing a Founder's coin will receive a Foundation challenge coin at no extra charge.

Only 30 left!





## DETACHMENT #444 HONORS SUPPORTIVE MARINE CORPS FAMILY. Eagle Scout Acknowledged



Upper Peninsula Detachment #444 going away party for "The Stier's" at Mo's Pub, Escanaba 02 August 2019. I was Billings bound. Semper Fi!



LEFT: Marine Larry Stier and Art Menard, upper Peninsula detachment #444, at a court of honor with new Eagle Scout Joe Gavlek of troop 408 , Escanaba, Mi. The Upper Peninsula Detachment #444 recognizes a very supportive family moving from the area. Vice Commandant Mike King presenting an outstanding service plaque to Jr. Vice Commandant Larry Stier at their going away party before the big move to Alabama.



# Founders Club Members

September, 2019

# 1. Jon and Sandy VanTol	#26. Dept of Michigan MCL	#51 - Cpt. Joseph Tomlinson	#76 - open
#2 Dave & Kendra Masunas	#27. Terry Dowhan	#52 - Marine Frank Rosinski	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.– Chaplain Fred Green	#85 - open
#11. Marine Don L. Lumsden	#36. Petoskey Detachment #690	#61.- open	#86 - open
#12. North Oakland Detachment	<b>#37. 37th CMC Robert Neller</b>	#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 Dragisity	#40. The McKeon Family	#65 - open	#90 - open
#16. Michelle Dragisity	#41. MODD -DD Pound Six	#66. Cpl. Jack & Toni Rittenberg	#91. Marine 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 -Marine Gerald M. Hartwig	#94 - open
#20. St Joseph County Detach	#45. The Flint Detachment	#70 - Marine David Wojta	#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. –Marine Wm. Schaad	#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 – William LaMarch	#100.Lion Steven M VanTol

This month only. Free Foundation Challenge Coin when purchasing a Founders Club Coin.

There are 31 Founders Coins Left.

## Department Membership Elects New Leaders for 2019-2020

**Jon VanTol - Commandant**

**Al Pearson - Sr. Vice Commandant**

**Art Menard - Jr. Vice Commandant**

**Felipe (Phil) Zamora - Paymaster**

**Ray Rowley - Judge Advocate**

**Ray Rayl - Adjutant**

**Zone Vice Commandants: Tim McGee, Eastern, Steve Fletcher, Southeastern, Kevin Magin, Western Zone, Ron View, Northern Zone, Michael Moross, Southern Zone, Paul Smigowski, Upper Peninsula and Matt Haggman, Northern Zone**

There are two types of personalities in our world - leaners and lifters - those that are content to let others do the work and those not afraid to get their hands dirty. On his way up to his new position as department commandant, **Jon VanTol** has passionately tackled every job assigned to him. This is true not only at the department level, but the attention he lends to Veteran activities outside of the department in his hometown of Bay City. In fact, Jon was recognized for his efforts as the "Veteran of the Year" several years back.

Put Jon in charge and you get two for the price of one as Sandy, Jon's wife, a department auxiliary officer, lends an ambitious hand.

Fundraising is essential to our existence and Jon recognizes this. Almost every department fundraiser in the past several years has Jon's fingerprints on it. Standing in front of Walmart for two full days and organizing raffles and silent auctions, are activities Jon can be counted on.

This year Jon was elected the Pack Leader of the Wolverine (Michigan) pack and has served as chairman of the Americanism Committee at the National level.

Each year, the past "Marine of the Year" recipients select a department member to join them in Marine of the Year ranks. You guessed it; Jon was selected as the 2019 Marine of the Year.

Our congratulations to Jon for all of his past accomplishments and our support for his term as department commandant.

Moving up the in the department chairs, is **Al Pearson** to Senior Vice Commandant. For his superior efforts, Al has been selected as the Department of Michigan Marine of the Year as well as the Central Division Marine of the Year.

New to our officer ranks is **Art Menard**. While some complain of a two-hour drive to a department meeting, Art needs to plan seven to eight hours to travel to the convention site from his home in Escanaba. It takes him two hours or more just to reach the bridge to the lower peninsula. Weather permitting, Art travels on his Harley.

**Ray Rowley**, a long-time department member, replaces Earl Allison, who recently moved to Florida as our Judge Advocate. Ray most recently served as a member of the Credentials Committee. Ray was top vote getter of the three members seeking that position.

Central division Vice Commandant **Phil Zamora** was re-elected as department Paymaster, perhaps one of the more important positions in the department.

Joining the officers on the board of trustees are Zone Vice Commandants Central Zone, **Ron View**, Northern Zone, **Matt Hagaman** Upper Peninsula Zone, **Paul Smigowski**, Southeastern Zone, **Stephen Fletcher**, Eastern Zone, **Tim McGee**, Western Zone, **Kevin Magin**, and Southern Zone, **Michael Moross**.

A hearty congratulations to all as you move the department forward in your new positions.

## Jerry McKeon

### Department of Michigan Marine Corps League Foundation



#### JOIN THE 110% CLUB

At the summer convention, I presented the idea that all Michigan MCL Detachments earmark 10% of their fundraising income to our foundation. I emphasize “Our” because it belongs to you and me – it’s ours to build and ours to use. If you don’t have children or grandchildren that could benefit from receiving a scholarship grant, you have Marine brothers and sisters that could.

But the Foundation charitable giving does not stop with student scholarships. As veterans, we believe all veterans are brothers and sisters and at the time of sickness, we need to be there. What better way to show our appreciation for another veteran’s service than to bring joy and comfort to their lives while spending time in a veteran’s medical facility. Throughout the year Michigan Marine Corps League Detachment volunteers spend thousands of hours in Veteran Medical facilities, doing what we can as

volunteers. We participate in yearly hospital carnivals, hold a number of monthly bingo games, visit sick veterans, hold holiday parties and monthly bingos. We don’t have an unlimited budget, but we are able to be there for them at the holidays because we care. If you have never visited a veteran hospital beyond your own care, walk the floors where veterans are permanent residents and see for yourself the anguish they suffer. In spite of this the patients proudly wear the cap of their service and the American flag is permanently displayed at their bedside. You get the feeling they would be ready to accept the call to service battle should the occasion arise.

The detachments in Michigan raise well over \$100,00 in donations, please, please dedicate 10% to your foundation to continue the good we are noted for.

Semper Fidelis Marines!

## The Veteran Crisis Line

# 800-273-8255- Press 1

if you know a Marine expressing a desire to end their life, from PTSD or other reasons, please urge them to call the Veteran’ Crisis Line. Veteran suicides are at a crisis mode.



# National Convention Highlights



Jr. Past Commandant Dave Masunas, displays his plaque honoring Dave for receiving the Four Chaplain's Legion of Honor award. Giving to those who have given a lifetime of service to those of all races and faiths.

There is a serious side to the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, it's not just the fun and honor society advertised. Let me explain.

Every time a devil dog attends a growl (that's a meeting to many of you) the dog must pay a passport (entrance) fee of one or more bones to gain entry – a bone is one dollar. Passage fees vary depending if it's a pound, pack or Kennel growl. (that's local, department or national).

There are hundreds of packs across the nation and a department in every state. Imagine if every one of them sent the passport fees collected throughout the year into the national offices to be set aside for later distribution. Well, that's exactly what happens.

The National convention moves from state to state. Along with the potential revenue, a dog pound within the department, can make a donation to the Children's Hospital in the host city. This year \$50,000 bones (Dollars) were donated to the Billings Montana Children's Hospital. For the past few years, a similar amount was donated to a Children's Hospital in Buffalo, New York and Overland Park, Kansas. Now the fun and honor society of the MCL becomes a generosity society.

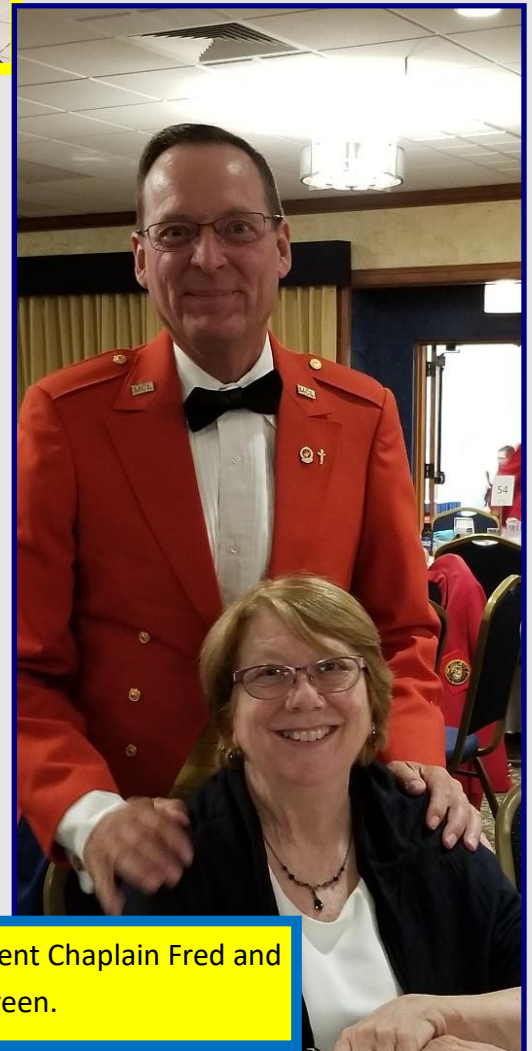
# National Convention Highlights



Flint Detachment well represented at the convention. John & Peggy Tuohy, Jim & Gerri Tuohy, Mary and Ron Brief, Fred and Nancy Green and Jeff Salzieder



Even Department Commandants need to eat!



Department Chaplain Fred and Nancy Green.



# Information You Cannot Do Without!



**General David Berger, new Marine Corps Commandant.**



From left to right: New pup Mike Bernard becomes the newest Dawg member of Upper Peninsula Detachment 444 with PDD Mike King, PDD Tracy Tippet and National Vice Commandant of the Devil Dogs Joe Pollack conducting the new member ceremony.



Next Years Convention Site  
If You Plan On Attending, Make  
Hotel Reservation Now!



**PNC John Tuohy and Past National Auxiliary Treasurer Peggy Tuohy enjoy the Friday evening banquet.**



## Michigan Marine Has A Story To Tell

In any detachment you'll find a fair number of Marines with an infantry MOS, but it won't be often that a Marine's assignment fifty years ago is still being celebrated today. Nor would it be often that any Marine returning after fifty years to their last billet, find their old locker just as it they left it with their nameplate still attached.

As a member of the Apollo II and Apollo 12 rescue and security team, Marine Ron Sanford is living this experience; he recently returned from a fifty-Year reunion of the Apollo II landing, where all involved with the landing, plus dignitaries, celebrated the occasion. Over the years,



Ron Sanford and Astronaut Alan Beam

Ron has met a number of the astronauts; it's the highlight of Ron's three years in the Marine Corps.

At the time, Ron was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier the U.S.S. Hornet and they were scheduled to be at sea in the South Pacific sometime in the near future.



After fifty years, Ron's locker hasn't changed—still has his nameplate.

Because of their expected proximity to the proposed landing zone, his ship was selected as the designated rescue vessel. A two-month advance notice of their assignment gave them plenty of time to prepare for the historic event. A Navy Seal Team was responsible for removing the astronauts from the capsule and onto rescue boats. They were then brought aboard the ship where they spent time in a decontamination chamber, off limits to most aboard the carrier. Assigned to guard the area, Ron was one of the first to handle the moon rocks the astronauts brought back to earth.

Today, a ship, taken out of a thirty-year hiatus in dry dock, once scheduled to be sold for scrap is active once again. A retired Naval officer knew the role the U.S.S. Hornet played in the Apollo II mission and convinced the Navy to abandon their plans. As a result, the ship was recommissioned and restored back to the way it looked in 1969. Today the U.S.S. Hornet serves as a Sea, Air and Space Museum and is docked in Alameda, California, hosting visitors from around the world.

Ron, recently returned from California where all associated with the original flight and dignitaries from all walks of life gathered, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. By today's standards, computers used were in their infancy stage. You can also see how many of the methods developed for the space program, are in common use today.



What a treat to be involved in history in the making. As a nineteen-year old Marine, Ron landed a prestigious assignment, and every five years, celebrates the occasion with his Marine buddies, who worked together to retrieve and secure the astronaut's safety after being the first humans to walk on the moon.

Today the museum has an overnight stay program and the spacious hanger deck is often used for concerts and other large events. Who knows, you might even be put up in the rack Ron occupied for the better part of two years.

Ron currently serves as the Detachment Chaplain for the Cpl. Stanley L. Moore Detachment # 159.

**If You have an interesting story to tell, let's hear from you.**

## Dept. of Michigan Marine Corps League

### A Chaplain's Story



#### Improvise, Adapt and Overcome

A chaplain, who happened to be assigned to the Pentagon, told of an incident that happened right after Flight 77 hit the Pentagon on 9/11. A daycare facility inside the Pentagon had many children, including infants who were in heavy cribs. The daycare supervisor, looking at the children they needed to evacuate, was in a panic over what they could do. There were many children, mostly toddlers, as well as the infants that would need to be taken out with the cribs. There was no time to try and bundle them into carriers and strollers. Just then a young Marine came running into the center and asked what they needed. After hearing what the center's director was trying to do, he ran back into the hallway and disappeared. The director thought, "well here we are, on our own"

About 2 minutes later, that Marine returned with 40 other Marines in tow, each of them grabbed a crib with a child, and the rest started grabbing up toddlers. The director and her staff then helped them take the children out of the center and down towards the park near the Potomac and the Pentagon.

Once they got about 3/4 of a mile outside the building, the Marines stopped in the park, and they did a fabulous thing—they formed a circle with the cribs which were quite sturdy and heavy, much like the covered wagons of the old west. Inside this circle of cribs, they put the toddlers, to keep them from wondering off. Outside the circle were the 40 Marines forming a perimeter around the children and waiting for instructions. There they remained until the parents could be notified and come and get their children.

The chaplain then said, "I don't think any of us saw or heard of this on any of the news stories of the day. It was an incredible story of our men there. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. The thought of those Marines and what they did and how fast they reacted, could we expect anything less from them? It was one of the most touching stories from the Pentagon. It's the military, not the politicians that ensure our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It's the military who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag and whose coffin is draped by the flag.



**Chaplain Fred Green.**

Saturday mornings at our department conventions and rallies, our department chaplain Fred Green, holds a memorial service for our fallen brothers and sisters. During the service, auxiliary members and the department commandant, read passages from a prescribed outline, placing a carnation on the alter each time. The names of all league and auxiliary members that have passed away in the previous year, are slowly recited. A recorded version of the Marine Corps hymn is played and taps are played. It's a special twenty-minutes, set aside at each convention to remember our fallen brothers and sisters.

However, our department and detachment chaplains have a lot more to do than read the invocation at official meetings. They must keep tabs on the health of the members, sending cards and informing members when another member is sick. At the time of a member's death, the chaplain is in charge of any service held for the deceased member and is responsible for any communication between the surviving members family and the detachment. When a member passes, a transmittal must be sent to the chaplain, who in turn notifies the department and national. We are so much one large family. Marines outside of the detachment may have worked with the member on a committee or project. On a personal note, Fred does a beautiful job as Department chaplain. Projecting sincerity and care as he interacts with a members family. We're blessed to have him.



Licensing Division of the U.S. Marine Corps is cracking down on the unauthorized use of the E/G/A. They are aggressively roaming the internet looking for infringements. If you are using the E/G/A Logo as a money-maker on a T-shirt or other items for sale, you are perhaps in violation, unless you have arranged for a licensing agreement. The logo above was provided by the USMC licensing department as an alternative to the E/G/A



**NEW NATIONAL MCL COMMANDANT  
DENNIS TOBIN, INSTALLED.**

Former Sr. Vice Commandant Tobin moved into the highest leadership position at the Marine Corps League in ceremonies at their annual convention in Billings, Montana.



**The John C. Rock and Edson Kline VanSlyke Detachments held a joint gathering .**



# NATIONAL NOTES by Commandant Jonathan VanTol

**Commandant Webb** - New database getting closer to rolling out, near the end of September for National to perform a data review of the information being transferred to the new data base—cross your fingers – it may go live by the end of November!

After someone joins they will be able to update their personal information online and their Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster and Commandant will also be able make changes. Online dues paying may be in the future. The Detachments will be able to see their “Real Time” rosters!

**Sr Vice Tobin**—Important to follow bylaw guidelines and performing fiduciary responsibilities such as IRS 990's, incorporation, ROI Death notices and transmittals. If Detachments are not current they could have their charters suspended.

Join the League for continuing brotherhood and comradery, take active interest in new members

**Jr Vice Baker**— 2017 there were over 69,000 members in the League, Aug 2019 there's 63,250. We're decreasing in membership. He handed out 100% membership ribbons, Dept had 10 detachments earning this award, they were;

**Irish Hills, Iron Mountain, Monroe County, Keweenaw, G P Porta, Kalamazoo, Harold R Cooley, Capital and Shoreline**

and a resurrected “**Sault St Marie.**” This is one reason why there will be a data review before the new data base goes live

Looking to put a dues reminder in the Semper Fi magazine along with the membership applications

**COO Bob Borka**—When filing IRS 990's use the Paymasters/Treasurer/Dog Robber information, this will save him time when auditing the IRS master list for the Marine Corps League, There is a member only section—on the National website.

Working on iPhone and Android phone apps for the Marine Corps League these passwords could be your real name and membership number.

**National Marine Corps Foundation**, The National Foundation is challenging each Department and Detachment to donate \$100 so they can continue to support their programs at their current levels

**M4Life**, Still looking for local Detachments to submit a M4Life coordinator to assist Marines returning home with issues concerning employment, schooling, housing and etc.

**Resolutions and Bylaws**, Past Presidents resolutions to recognize the Past National Sgt at Arms Neil Corley, as an Honorary Past National Commandant, passed with overwhelming support. Resolution to endorse and establish a National 311 number for suicide prevention, passed with overwhelming support. Please go to the National website for the Bylaws that were passed and rejected.

**AWARDS**, Jr Vice Membership awards, **Irish Hills 1182** detachment received 1st place for membership growth.

The following received 100% membership; **Capitol 148, G P Porta 163, Iron Mountain 1239, Harold R Cooley 841, Kalamazoo 879, Monroe County 157, Keweenaw 1016 and Shoreline 1027.**

**Mike King** of the **Upper Peninsula 444** received a citation for recruiting 5 or more members.

**VAVS**, National VAVS committee and director Mike Miller recognized **Don Roach** for outstanding service to the VAVS program.

**Americanism.** **John C Rock** received an Honorable Mention for their Americanism book.

**National Newsletters**, Our Michigan Marine News editor, **Jerry McKeon** received the 3rd place award for his outstanding job of publishing our Department newsletter.

**ELECTION**, Michigan had 19 delegates present with 266 votes.

Only contested office was for National Judge Advocate, after speaking with the Delegates I cast 221 votes for Ray Daily and 45 votes for T J Morgan. Your new National Officers are, Commandant Dennis Tobin, Sr Vice Commandant Johnny Baker

Jr Vice Commandant Warren Griffin and Judge Advocate T J Morgan.

# Department & Auxiliary Notes

## Membership Requirements to Join the Auxiliary:

Marines, If you attend meetings with your spouse and they do not belong to the Auxiliary, consider joining.

“Those eligible for membership in this Auxiliary are the Wives, Widows, Mothers, Stepmothers, Sisters, Daughters, Stepdaughters, Grandmothers, Granddaughters, Daughters-in-Law, Aunts, Nieces, Mothers-in-Law and Sisters-in-Law of a Marine, FMF Corpsman or FMF Navy Chaplain eligible to belong to the Marine Corps League, Women Marines and Associate Members.”

Marines, please encourage your eligible family members to join the Auxiliary, if there isn't an Auxiliary in your area, it only takes 7 women ages 16 and over to start their own Auxiliary.

If you are interested in creating your own Unit, please contact Dept. President- Gerri Tuohy : mipresmcla@gmail.com

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## Detachments, Units and Pounds,

Those that requested to change their fiscal year from ending December 31st to ending June 30th may receive a couple letters from the IRS stating your IRS 990 fiscal year ending June 30th 2016, 2017, and 2018 need to be filed.

If you receive these letters, please respond to them. Explain your fiscal year ended December 31st for those years and send a copy of your IRS acceptance letters. Then explain you requested a fiscal year change from the National Marine Corps League and include a copy of the requesting letter. I have copies of those letters and will send to YOU by email if you need a copy.

Thank you

Semper Fidelis

Jon VanTol

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For some reason this came to mind, and if you went through Boot Camp at Parris Island Boot during the hot summer months, you will remember it as well. Often when marching on the parade field (Grinder) a number of other platoons would be out there as well. You more than likely learned how to tell what week a platoon was in, by the darkness of their sun tan from the ears below. Always with a cover when pounding the blacktop, your head above the ears would be as white as a sheet, but below, a deep tan would tell the tale. Of course there was the obvious difference, they were impressively sharp as the drill instructor purposely raised his voice as they demonstrated their proficiency moving their rifle from shoulder to shoulder and a few half-right and half left commands. But when our platoon got to that point we did the same thing. That's the Marine pride.



## **Frequently Called Numbers and E-Mail**

**Jon VanTol** – Commandant - 989-225-5047

jvantol@svsu.edu

**AL Pearson** –Sr. Vice Commandant - 614-581-9196

al.pearson@frontier.com

**Art Menard**—Jr. Vice Commandant –906– 280-7463

artmenard@charter.net

**Phil Zamora** -Paymaster - 517-541-1501

412 W. Harris St, Charlotte, Mi 48813-1437

mimclpaymaster@gmail.com (SEND MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTALS)

**Ray Rayl**—Adjutant - 517-262-4092

Jarhead1946@gmail.com -(SEND MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTALS)

4767 Hidden Hills, Circle, Howell, Mi 48855

**Ray Rowley** - Judge Advocate - (517)917 3441

happyhunter1964@yahoo.com

**Matthew Hagaman** – (989) -225-1040—Northern

matthewhagaman@yahoo.com

**Ronald View**— (989) 893-8416 - Central Zone

ronview@charter.net

**Paul Smigowski** —(906) 296-0204 - Upper Peninsula

Smigpd@gmail.com

**Tim McGee** -- - Eastern Zone —(248)-705-9166

tsmcgee1@hotmail.com

**Stephen Fletcher** – (734)-231-3007- Southeast Zone

Stephen.fletcher@wowway.com

**Kevin Magin** – 231-557-6502 – Western Zone

kdmagin@gmail.com

**Michael Moross** – Southern Zone

sozonevicecommclm@outlook.com

**Fred Green** – Chaplain – 810-441-2535

Fgreen9343@icloud.com – (SEND DEATH TRANSMITTALS)

751 Peppermill Rd, Lapeer, Mi 48446

**Mark Sutton** – Legislative Director – 248-390-5481

mm12sutton@yahoo.com

**Tim McGee** Scholarship and Bylaw Chair – 248-705-9166

tsmcgee1@gmail.com

**Dept. E-Mailer** – Dutch Franz - 989-770-4325

michmarines@gmail.com

**Budget** Christine Tonegatto Salo --586-997-0081

catsusmc@gmail.com

**Marine 4 Life** program – 248-563-3381—Joe Zane

Michiganm4l@gmail.com

**FOUNDATION** -Jerry McKeon – President - 248-866-5653

Michmclfoundation@gmail.com

Facebook: Facebook.com/Marine-Corps-League-Foundation-  
Department-of-Michigan-28741195- 1668456

**Gofundme .com** - <https://www.gofundme.com/gf-me-u-uyeww>

### **PAST DEPT NATIONAL COMMANDANTS**

**John Tuohy** – PNC – 810-845-7145—jpt1551037@comcast.net

**Jim Tuohy** – PNC – 810-695-3241—jimt205842@aol.com

### **DEPARTMENT JR. PAST COMMANDANT**

**Dave Masunas** PDC - 231-301-0950 –masunasfam@gtlakes.com

### **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL OFFICES** –703-207-9544

3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115, Stafford, VA -22544

**Phil Zamora** – Central Div. VC 517-541-1501 –gunnyz@ameritech.net

**SEMPER FI STORE** – [www.mclnational.org/store.htm](http://www.mclnational.org/store.htm)

Mclnational.org 703- 207-9588 - Bob Borka –COO@mcleague.org

### **MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS—Michigan Pack**

PDD Jon VanTol Pack Leader – 989-225-5047—jvantol@svsu.edu

PDD Norm Pfaff – Dog Robber – 586-649-8643—norjo2@yahoo.com

### **QUARTERMASTER STORE -**

[www.moddkennel.org/quartermaster/tabid/216/default.aspx](http://www.moddkennel.org/quartermaster/tabid/216/default.aspx)

### **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY**

**PNP Gerri Tuohy** -Depart. of Mich. President – 810-695-3241

mipresmccla@gmail.com

### **SUPPLIERS**

Semper Fi Store -<https://www.mclnational.org/store.htm>

### **VETERAN AFFAIRS**

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
3411 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI  
Lansing, MI 48906 - 517-481-8000

VAVS Director – OPEN

**SUICIDE CONSULTING NUMBER -800-273-8255 – Press 1**



# Flint Detachment

## Back To The Bricks



Members of the Flint Detachment that participated in the Annual Back to the Bricks gather on the bricks. L to r: PNC John Tuohy, Rick Monroe, Russ Hart, Matt Perkins, Jeff Salzeider, Fred Green, Mike Key, Larry Carrithers, Rick Winston, Andy Cervini, Jack Trosko, Jim Hatfield



The Flint Detachment Members—Department and Auxiliary - wave to the camera , taking a break from activities at the annual Marine Corps League Convention in Billings, Montana.

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](mailto:jerrymckeon@me.com)

## Loose The Knee

In hostile climates worldwide our Marines serve  
Often without the attention so gallantly deserved  
Many in harm's way under duress or enemy fire  
Guarding Americas interest in situations so dire

We go about our lives seemingly safe and sound  
Only to pay attention when told a Marine is down  
The media fails to capture the ongoing horror  
Military families pause if a stranger is at the door

What will it take to focus on combatants every day  
To appreciate their efforts keeping enemies away  
To stand tall seeing the American flag flying free  
It's unfathomable to disrespect by taking a knee  
Jerrymckeon-2017



**We proudly fly America's beautiful flag at our homes, businesses and in our community, in respect to those that volunteered to defend it. It's earned our respect through countless battles and victories often at the cost of American lives. It gives us the freedom to voice our displeasure by taking a knee.**

**But taking advantage of the freedom but ignoring the respect our flag so well deserves, is turning something we love into a terrible distraction. So undeserving!**

**Be proud of our flag. Be proud of America. Stand, with your hand over your heart, thankful you live in America.**

# Marine Corps League

## *Forward Planning!*

### **Department of Michigan Marine Corps League**

#### **WINTER RALLY**

February 7-10-2020

Hosted By The Red Knights Devil Dogs Pound

To be held in Jackson, Michigan

Registration to Follow

### **Department of Michigan Marine Corps League**

#### **SUMMER CONVENTION 2020**

To be Held in Flint

Hosted by the Flint Devil Dogs Pound

Further Information Forthcoming

### **National Marine Corps League Winter Meeting**

MID-WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION February 27 - 29, 2020

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510

Phone: (757) 622-6664 \$129.00 per night (Includes Breakfast)

### **National Marine Corps League Annual Convention**

**Daytona Florida**

**August 4-10-2020**

**Watch For Details**



# *That's All Folks!*

