



THE MICHIGAN MARINE NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Marine Corps League, Department of Michigan

Join Us at the 2024 Marine Corps League, Department of Michigan Annual Department Convention June 7-9 at the Delta Marriot Hotel in Kalamazoo.



The Annual Department Convention will be held June 7-9 at the Delta Hotel by Marriot, 2747 South 11th St., Kalamazoo. There is free parking, and reservations can be made by calling (269) 375-6000. The deadline for special room rates for the MCL has passed. The code is DMC.

Deadlines are coming up. Strip ticket registration and placing an ad in the convention book is May 20. **Delegate forms are due by midnight May 28.**

Stay informed and prepared with our comprehensive convention packet, which has been emailed and is also available at MichiganMarines.org.

Registration for the convention is \$5 per delegate, \$25 for the hospitality room, and \$50 for the Saturday night banquet. The hotel will have a breakfast buffet for \$15 per person on Friday and Saturday.

Convention book ads start at \$25 for a business card size up to \$150 for the back cover.

Discover Kalamazoo

Plan your visit by visiting discoverkalamazoo.com, which has a list of places to visit and eat while you are at the convention.

See you there!





Department Commandant

Ray Rayl

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Marines,

I just stepped outside to get the mail, and It's a great day to be outdoors. Having said that, I have decided to sit down inside and put a few thoughts together for the Michigan Marine News.

If you are a member not in good standing, you cannot vote during elections at the Department Convention on June 7 - 9. So, the detachment officer needs to make phone calls to those members not in good standing so they can become a detachment delegate and vote. In addition to that, if your detachment has not completed a Report of Officer Installation (ROI) form, has not sent it to our department adjutant, or is not in compliance by not filing a 990 or LARA, the detachment cannot vote in an election at the Convention.

Let's spread the word to our public officials about the upcoming 250th birthday of the Marine Corps, which will be celebrated next year in 2025. This is a significant milestone that we should all be proud of. Additionally, let's remember the historic event that took place 79 years ago when Joe Rosenthal, an Associated Press photographer, captured the iconic picture of the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi. These events are part of our rich history and should be celebrated and remembered.

It's important to note that Zoom is not an appropriate method for general body meetings. These meetings should be held in person to foster a sense of community and active engagement. On a related note, it's encouraged to reach out to the Marines not attending your detachment meetings to understand their reasons for absence. Are your meetings aligned with the Marine Corps League Ritual, or are they perceived as a 'Good ole boys' club? Remember, marines join Marine Organizations to discuss Marine topics and engage with Marine veterans.

Semper Fi

Ray

MOTION TO AMEND THE BYLAWS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

DATE: March 24, 2024

TO: Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League Bylaw & Resolutions Committee

FROM: Felipe G. Zamora, PDC, Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League

SUBJECT: **Amendment to ARTICLE TWO, DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS ADD THE FOLLOWING TO ARTICLE TWO**

QUORUM –

a) The minimum number required to transact the regular and legal business of the convention shall be the majority of properly registered and approved delegates in good standing who are present at the Department of Michigan convention.

b) A majority (51%) of Department Officers must be present unless a position is currently open then it will not count towards the quorum.

RATIONALE:

Currently, the Department has NO Quorum, which means that the quorum numbers fall back to ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER, which basically states that we must have at least 51% of the Detachments present to conduct business of the Department, last year it was the last week before the convention before we had conformation that enough detachments were going to attend. If we didn't have a quorum, NO business could be voted on, No elections, NO motions, etc.

The Department of Ohio went through this and still conducted their business and was turned in to National, and they had their charter suspended; this bylaw change is to make sure Michigan doesn't go through what Ohio did.

NOTE: I would make this bylaw Section 212, Quorums – so this is near the top of the section.

This motion, if adopted, is to be effective at the close of the 2024 Department Convention.



Department Sr. Vice Commandant

Phil Smith

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A DETACHMENT HAS TO BE DISSOLVED?

Recently, I was tasked as the senior vice commandant to either get two detachments on board or close them down, turn in their charter, colors, and bible, and inform them to either donate their funds to a worthy organization or turn the funds over to the department.

After contacting the zone commandant about what was going on and proceeding, I did as follows.

I sent letters to the detachment commandant and membership stating that their detachment was below strength and has been, but I asked them to increase their membership to 15, vs. the 8 members that were at the time, which was one detachment (Sgt G.P. Porta).

I received a call from a member, not the detachment commandant, that the numbers would go up, and we have enough to revive the detachment; that was one year ago.

Detachment fell by one member down to 7 due to the death of the member.

Certified letters went out to all the members, including the detachment commandant, to meet at a specified place, or Dearborn Detachment 152, since they have a building, to discuss what needs to be done and get a determination on what the membership, including the commandant, wants to do. **All members, including the detachment commandant, were no-shows, including responding by phone, mail, or email.**

I spoke to both the department and zone commandants since there was no response on the above. The detachment commandant will be contacted to turn in the charter, colors, and bible and disburse the funds in the bank or credit union, donate the funds to a non-profit, or turn over the funds.

I was informed to proceed.



Department Adjutant Report

Tracey Ann Tippet

Adjutant Department of Michigan
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Greetings...

I hope everyone and their families had a good Easter and are having a wonderful Spring. I know we all have busy lives--between work, family, friends, and organizations we all belong to. But...it is not time to forget about the obligations and commitments we have made in being part of our Detachments and in being a member of the Marine Corps League.

We have all taken an oath to become a member of our Detachments and also to become an Officer in those Detachments. Everyone should be concerned that your Detachments are in compliance and that all the proper paperwork is being filed. With that being said, there are quite a few detachments that have not completed an Officer Installation Report, submitted a bank and charter form, or filed 990's or Lara Corp. paperwork. Your zone vice commandants are updated every month on who is missing the proper paperwork and emails and "snail mail" have been sent out to Detachments who are not in compliance as well.

That being said, detachments who are NOT in COMPLIANCE (have not filed an Officer Installation Report or filed 990's or Lara Corp. documents) and they attend the Summer Convention in Kalamazoo--**you WILL NOT be able to vote.**

If you are on my "incomplete list" but know you did an Officer Installation Report, please resend me the reports. If you have any questions, please let me know. We are all here to help everyone succeed and to make everyone's jobs run smoothly. A little bit of work now goes a long way in the future.

Since the detachment commandant resides within driving distance, I will further personally contact the detachment commandant.

Yet a remaining detachment must be dealt with and was the same situation as above, only this time, a past detachment commandant contacted me and wanted to assist in getting the detachment back on their feet

Continue on page 3

Department Sr. Vice Commandant Report—cont.

(Washtenaw); they have over 30 members. Letters went out, and some returned addresses unknown or deceased. The past detachment commandant and I met, along with his wife, and members were sent a letter to meet at the Dearborn Detachment 152 or the location of their desire to discuss dissolving the detachment and bringing it back to life. The charter has to be turned in, along with other items, and the bank or credit union account has to be dealt with.

The past commandant started notifying members, and contact was made by one member who knew me and wanted to know what was going on. Then, a heated conversation with the past commandant and another past commandant of Washtenaw, that they can't do that, i.e., department. Then, as the Sr. Vice Commandant, I contacted the person who had a heated discussion and informed that person yes, we could take the charter, the IRS 990, and the State of Michigan Incorporation and not been either submitted or not turned in, in years. To include being a nice person, I tried to have a meeting, and no one showed up besides a past detachment commandant who wanted to revive the detachment and had phone numbers and emails and would contact them. We are trying to revive the Washtenaw Detachment.

So, as you read this article this is onboard as to what has to be done. If a detachment does not keep their membership above 15, the IRS 990 and State Incorporation up to date, the charter can be pulled, the colors taken away, the bible needs to be turned in, and you will need to donate your funds to a worthy cause or turn your funds into the Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League, and they will put them on hold until the detachment gets their records up to date. Now, if the detachment has ceremonial rifles, TACOM will get involved, as the ceremonial rifles do not belong to the detachment to sell, or keep. They are on loan from TACOM, the ceremonial rifles must be turned in, **not sold. Selling ceremonial rifles is a felony.**

So, to be clear, we do not want, nor does the National Headquarters want, a detachment to dissolve, and it must have 15 paid members or more to exist.



Department Judge Advocate Report

Scott Hellman

Dept. Judge Advocate

Clubhouses

Hello Marines,

By the time you receive this, the Central Division Conference will have passed, and we will be on our way to the 2024 Summer Convention in Kalamazoo. I hope all is well with everyone, and those who are not are in our prayers and thoughts for a full and speedy recovery.

I have been asked to bring up a subject that will not be popular but needs to be discussed and rectified if necessary. It concerns "clubhouses" and the beer and/or liquor being distributed on those premises. Each "clubhouse" must have all proper licenses and liability insurance to conduct such affairs on property. The By-law that covers this is Section 620 – Report requirements for operation of "Club House" and "Business Activities". It states in a nut shell that if you sell or distribute any type of alcohol in the "Club House" you need to not only have all proper documentation to do so, the correct insurance so you are covered, supply all said documentation to the Adjutant and Judge Advocate of the Department and also you may or may not have taxes and employment paper work that needs to be handled through the State of Michigan.

It is in your detachment's best interest in case something occurs with someone injured or the detachment gets sued by a victim caused by the distribution of alcohol. We don't want to have this happen to anyone, but things happen when we are not prepared for such events.

I am here to help explain what things need to be provided and to whom, if you would like. Again, this is to give everyone time to get their house in order and stop something that should have been preventable from occurring.

SECTION 620, Report Requirements for operation of "Club House" and Other "Business Activities"

Department Judge Advocate Report—continues

A. Recognizing that some detachments operate “club houses” which dispense alcoholic beverages and have Club Licenses issued by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, and that from time to time a detachment may be involved in a business

activity (whether or not it is so classified for tax purposes), or other activity which may subject the detachment to contractual, employment, tax or other form of liability, or to tort liability as a result of injury to person or property, this Administrative Procedure has been adopted to clearly state and assure that:

(1) The Department is not a partner, participant, co-venturer, or in any other way associated with or liable for the operation, liabilities, expenses, obligations, performance, contracts or torts assumed or incurred by any detachment in connection with such activities unless the Department has agreed to do so, in writing signed by the Commandant and approved by the Board of Trustees; and

(2) It is the absolute obligation of each detachment to indemnify, hold harmless and insure the Department against all such liability.

B. To carry out the policy and requirements set forth above:

(1) Every detachment which shall own or operate a “club house” dispensing alcoholic beverages shall fully comply with all requirements for a Club License issued by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, including paying all fees and carrying all required insurance, and shall abide by all applicable licensing, tax, employment, insurance and other laws, ordinances and regulations; and shall continually furnish to the Department Adjutant and Judge Advocate true and correct copies of all current licenses, liability insurance policies, tax or employer identification numbers, and other documents that they may reasonably request to assure that the detachment is in compliance with the law and is not subjecting the Department to any form of liability. All liability insurance policies shall name the Department as an additional party insured.

(2) Every detachment which shall engage in any type of activity which may subject it to liability for personal injury or property damage, or which shall engage in any business, or which shall have any employees, whether explicitly or by operation of law, shall fully comply with all applicable licensing, tax, employment, 25 insurance and other laws, ordinances and regulations; and shall continually furnish to the Department Adjutant and Judge Advocate true and correct copies of all current licenses, liability insurance policies, tax or employer identification numbers, tax returns (including, if applicable, unemployment tax returns) workers compensation insurance policies, and other documents that they may reasonably request to assure that the detachment is in compliance with the law and is not subjecting the Department to any form of liability. All liability insurance policies shall name the Department as an additional party insured.

(3) In all documents and communications used in connection with its programs, services, fund raising, “club house” and business activities every detachment shall use its full name and shall clearly identify itself as the responsible entity conducting the activity. A detachment shall not conduct any such activity merely in the name of the “Marine Corps League” or in the name of the “Marine Corps League, Department of Michigan”. “Documents and communications” include, without limitation, correspondence, advertising, signs, contracts, tax and license registration, phone listing, tax returns, insurance policies, employment contracts, bank and checking accounts.

Marines, As your JA, I thank you for your assistance with this in advance. I know that this is not something that will make me popular, but it IS the duty of the office to not only inform and assist in helping each and everyone with the By-Laws of the Department and National. I also have the duty to uphold my oath.



**PDC Jonathan S VanTol
Compliance**

Marines,

Convention is fast approaching and to be in good standing with the

League **ALL** Detachments need to be current in their IRS 990 and State Lara filings.

As of 1129 May 1st, according to the appropriate websites the following have not filed their 2022 IRS 990 and/or 2023 State LARA report:

IRS 990

- 149 Cascades
- 152 Dearborn
- 163 G P Porta
- 684 Cpl Jack A Davenport
- 1337 Sgt Bryan K Burgess

IF YOU HAVE FILED , PLEASE SEND COPY OF ACCEPTANCE TO:

jvantol@svsu.edu
fountlisa1776@proton.me and fountlisa1776@protonmail.com

STATE LARA REPORT

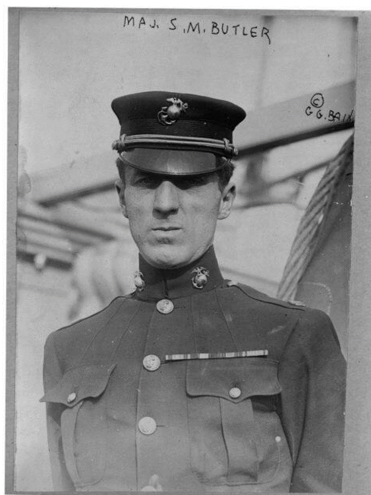
- 149 Cascades
- 163 Sgt G P Porta
- 684 Cpl Jack A Davenport
- 722 Wolverine
- 763 Branch Area

The State LARA report protects **ALL** your members from being sued in regards to Detachment activities.

Smedley Butler Had an Incredible Career in the US Marine Corps

By Todd Neikirk, Newsbreak.com , reprinted from article on 4-9-2024

Smedley Butler was born into privilege, but decided to fight for his country when he was just a teen. He became one of America's most decorated Marines, earning two Medal of Honors in separate engagements. His worldview changed, however, and by the end of his storied career, he'd become a pacifist, disillusioned by war.



Smedley Butler in uniform, 1920. (Photo Credit: Library of Congress / CORBIS / VCG / Getty Images)

Smedley Butler's early life

Smedley Butler was born into wealth in 1881. Residing in West Chester, Pennsylvania, his lineage had been in North America since the 17th century. His father, Thomas, was a lawyer who later went on to be a judge and a member of the House of Representatives for 31 years. He also served as chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee during both Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge's administrations.

Butler attended the prominent Haverford School, where he was the captain of both the baseball and football teams. Despite his upper-class upbringing, he was eager to enter the [US Marine Corps](#) following school and participate in the [Spanish-American War](#) . Against his family's objections, he was able to do so and joined the Marines at the age of 17.

Early military career

Butler's first military engagement was during the Spanish-American War. He lied about his age and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. While sent to Guantánamo

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mo Bay shortly after its capture, he wound up spending much of his time on ships and didn't see combat.

His next assignment was garrison duty during the [Philippine-American War](#). Stationed in Manila, bored and with little to do, he spent much of the time drinking. He eventually struck up a friendship with fellow Marine [Littleton Waller](#). When Waller was given a command assignment during the [Boxer Rebellion](#), he took Butler with him. During 1900's [Gaselee Expedition](#), Butler was shot in the thigh while engaging the enemy,



Smedley Butler. (Photo Credit: US Marine Corps/ Wikimedia Commons / Public Domain)

and later awarded the Brevet Medal - one of only 20 Marines to receive it.

Butler spent the next few years participating in action in Central America, during what became known as the [Banana Wars](#). The operations had a profound effect on him. He came out against American business interests in the Caribbean,

and felt that Wall Street bankers and American businesses had too much impact on foreign policy decisions.

Butler's first Medal of Honor

In 1914, the US was planning an invasion of Mexico, due to poor diplomatic relations. Butler and another man, Navy Lieutenant [Frank Fletcher](#), were sent ahead to survey the area. This was intended to be a spy mission, where Butler and Fletcher would assess the situation.

Butler posed as a railway official who was looking for a lost employee, which allowed him to scour the city and gain access to areas he wouldn't be privy to otherwise. He located weapons being used by the Mexican Army and was able to determine the size and readiness of the force the US would face, allowing him to update maps and verify useable railway lines.

The invasion was eventually scrapped when officials loyal to Mexican General Victoriano Huerta captured a small American naval landing party, leading to the [Tampico Affair](#).

When President [Woodrow Wilson](#) discovered that a shipment of arms was to arrive in Mexico, he ordered a group of Marines and sailors to Veracruz to intercept it. Thanks to their actions, 5,800 Marines were sent to secure the city. The US government decided this was preferable to a full-scale invasion, and Butler received the [Medal of Honor](#) for his efforts.

Second Medal of Honor for his actions in Haiti

Butler was sent to Haiti after President [Vilbrun Guillaume Sam](#) was assassinated in 1915. During one operation, Butler and his platoon took on a group of Cacos rebels and fought them in hand-to-hand combat. The Marines suffered only one injury during the 20-minute battle, while 51 Haitian insurgents were killed.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) was particularly impressed with Butler's leadership, and the Marine received his second Medal of Honor. This gave him the distinction of being the only Marine, aside from [Dan Daly](#), to receive the medal for two different actions.

World War I and beyond

Following his actions in Haiti, Butler tried, and failed, to get sent to the [Western Front](#) during [World War I](#). The reason: while impressed by his bravery, his superiors believed him to be unreliable. Instead, he was placed in command of Camp Pontanezen in France, a debarkation depot that helped troops with the American Expeditionary Force get to the front.

Following the conflict, he was named the commanding general of the Marine Barracks in Quantico, Virginia and, later, Philadelphia's Director of Public Safety, at the request of Mayor W. Freeland Kendrick and President Coolidge.

Following his work in Philadelphia, Butler assumed his role in the Marines and was sent to San Diego. From 1927-29, he was the commander in charge of the Marine Expeditionary Force in China, where he used his influence to ensure the protection of US interests. Upon his return to America, he was made a major general, the youngest in the Marine Corps.

Things weren't always good for Butler, however. In 1931,

his arrest was ordered by President [Herbert Hoover](#), after he spread gossip about Italian dictator [Benito Mussolini](#). This had angered the Italian government, which put pressure on Hoover to silence the Marine. After he apologized, his court-martial was canceled. He only received a reprimand.

Butler officially retired from the Marine Corps on October 1, 1931. Less than a year later, he announced his bid for the US Senate. He was defeated by incumbent James J. Davis, who received nearly double the vote Butler did. During his

er [stated](#), "There was no question that these attempts were discussed, were planned, and might have been placed in execution."

It also asserted that "our Committee was able to verify all the pertinent statements made by General Butler, with the exception of the direct statement about the creation of the organization. This, however, was corroborated in the correspondence of MacGuire with his principal, Robert Sterling Clark."

Later life and pacifism

Having fought in battles throughout his adulthood, Butler became fiercely opposed to war later in life. He was par-



campaign, he was known for speaking out about veterans' bonuses, an issue that eventually led to the creation of the [Bonus Army](#).

Uncovering the Business Plot

Smedley Butler addresses a crowd during an anti-war demonstration. (Photo Credit: Bettmann/ Getty Images)

In 1934, Butler alerted the public to a [plot](#), made up by business leaders to overthrow President Roosevelt and replace the government with a fascist dictatorship. According to Butler, the plot was revealed to him by Gerald P. MacGuire, a Bond salesman with Grayson M-P Murphy & Co. General [Hugh S. Johnson](#) was to be installed as a dictator, and the plan was backed by the JP Morgan.

In addition, Butler said, an army of 500,000 former soldiers were to march on [Washington, DC](#).

While most media members found the claims to be sensational, some in the government took it seriously. Butler told his story to a Congressional Committee led by John W. McCormack and Samuel Dickstein. The Committee lat-



Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune, head of the US Marine Corps, calls on Gen. Butler, in camp at Frederick, Maryland. (Photo Credit: Bettmann / Getty Images)

