



THE MICHIGAN MARINE NEWS

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

2025 Convention Edition



Department Commandant Ray Rayl

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Good Afternoon Marines, hope all is well with everyone. As I sit here at my computer in the middle of a rainstorm. I am thinking of a better time. Such as the 2025 Summer Convention at the Wyndham Gateway Conference Centre in Grand Blanc. I am looking forward to this event because of the opportunity to meet old friends and acquaintances from around the department. Truthfully, I am not looking forward to relinquishing my position as your Department of Michigan Commandant. The first year of the two, is a learning experience. The second year is when it becomes fun, and challenging. Unfortunately, there is no third year to really get with the program.

Looking back on my two years, I've met some great Marines in the League. We've had our ups and downs. We've lost a couple of detachments along the way and may lose a couple more. We have to get serious about Recruitment and Retention in our detachments so we don't lose detachments. Be visible, if nothing else, get together as a detachment at a local restaurant every 4 – 6 weeks, wearing your EGA emblem. That's recruiting. Whenever I leave my house, I have a red jacket with the EGA on the back. You'd be surprised how

often someone will ask me when or where I served. And I respond by giving them my card with information on when and where our detachment meets. That's recruiting. Keep your detachment active, have family picnics, be active in your Color Guard, Honor Guard, and fundraisers. That's Retention.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not, what your detachment can do for you. Ask what you can do for your detachment." Well, not exactly in those words, but you get the idea.

Have a great spring, and I'll see you all at the Summer Convention on June 6th.

Semper Fi

ATTENTION MARINES!

The deadline for making Room Reservations for the Department of Michigan Convention is 15 May. The deadline for ads in the Convention Booklet is 22 May. Marines, for those attending the Convention, now is the time to get movin'. This convention is important to a lot of people. Register now.



Convention Deadlines

Tracey Ann Tippett
Adjutant Department of Michigan

Greetings from your Adjutant. I hope things are going well with you all and that you all are having a Happy Spring.

Before you know it, the 2025 Summer Convention being held in Grand Blanc will be here. Make sure all of your Detachments are in compliance, that your Officer Installation Reports are turned in BEFORE May 15th and that your 990s and Lara Corps have been filed-- or else you will not be able to Vote at the Convention. If anyone is in need of any help or assistance, please let me know.

Also, reminding everyone of my intent to run for Department Commandant at the Summer Convention. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

If anyone has questions or issues with things, please let me know. I am always there to assist you all.

Semper Fi

Department MOY's: Deadline Friday, May 1, 2025. Please consider nominations from your Detachment for the 2025 "Department Marine of the Year" & 2025 "Department Associate Member of the Year" POC this year is Steve Kelley, email: usmc7036@aol.com

Pack DOY: Deadline Friday, May 1, 2025, please consider nominations from your Pound for the 2025 Michigan Pack, "Pack Dog of the Year". POC this year is DD Tim Smigowski, email: tbsmigow@mtu.edu

Department Scholarships: Deadline Friday, May 1, 2025, please see our Department Website: michiganmarines.org (under Foundation) for an application. Have your Detachment consider making a donation to our Department Foundation with the funds earmarked for the Scholarship Fund. POC is Christina Faymonville email: motherofbeauties@hotmail.com

Michigan VOY: Deadline is Friday 15 May 2025, please consider making a nomination from your Detachment for

the "2025 Michigan Veteran of the Year". The POC this year is Phil Smith, email: marret94@aol.com

Department Convention: The deadline for placing an ad is Sunday May 24, 2025 please consider placing an ad. The deadline for strip tickets in Friday, May 22, 2025. Per Department Bylaws all Michigan Detachments are required to send a representative to the Summer Convention. If not the Detachment Commandant, send the Sr Vice or Jr. Vice Commandant.

POC this year for the Ad Book is Gerri Tuohy, email: wildgerri323@aol.com

POC this year for Strip Tickets is Gerri Tuohy, email: wildgerri323@aol.com

Discuss all these deadlines and consider taking an ad for Summer Convention at your Detachment meeting.

Advancement to Pedigree Devil Dog: For anyone wishing to advance to PDD at the Supreme Growl in Grapevine, Texas. The deadline for your paperwork submission is 01 July 2025 to the Kennel Dog Robber. You must be a member in good standing in both the MCL & the Order, a member of the MC League for a minimum of 3 yrs & be a Devil Dog for a minimum of 1 year. Your advancement papers must be signed by Pack Dog Robber PDD Masunas. All this info is at the Kennel Website: militaryorderofthedevidogs.org

Reminder:

The Department Recruiter Award paperwork. Deadline to submit is May 15th, 2025

Contact and questions go to JR. Vice:
Stephen Fletcher
25429 Hopkins Street
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125
stephen.fletcher@wowway.com

Department Judge Advocate Report

Scott Hellman

Dept. Judge Advocate



I hope all are healthy and are prospering well. This will be my last article to you all as your Department JA. I have learned a lot and continue to do so with the support of a lot of people. We have a great Department and with some continued guidance and dedication to continue in that direction for decades to come. I truly believe that it has to be a fully dedicated team of Marines, auxiliary and associate members to see our way into the future. Sometimes individuals lose their focus on what needs to happen to move forward with purpose. Life is always changing and so should we allow ourselves to be capable of solving the needs of our League and veterans.

In this role as JA, I have to make some decisions that aren't popular or even wanted, by the body, individuals or even me for that matter, mostly the latter. In my role I have had multiple Chapter Nine investigations. The guidelines for what have to happen are there for the rights of all parties. As the role of Judge Advocate, it is my responsibility to verify the no one's rights are overlooked, and all are informed of said rights. Ultimately, I have to make the best decision, hopefully with the wisdom of Solomon, but... The solution has to be what is best for our League. I truly hope that the decisions I have made will meet that criteria. For some of those decisions have caused me and others stress or sleepless evenings, because I know my decision will have a lasting impact on the League for a while.

When you accept a role in the League, no matter what level, from a house mouse to the National Commandant, please realize your position can and will affect others, in varying degrees. Don't just allow time to pass while you are in that role. WE have a huge source of experience from people that want to reach out and help you be the best you can do in your role in our League. It isn't always easy or fun, but it is damn sure worth the full

and total effort to continue the mission to a successful conclusion.

Thank you all for allowing me to do my part as your Judge Advocate. If it is in the cards, then maybe I will be your Sr. Vice this coming summer convention, and if it isn't, then God's will be done.

Thank you for all you do,

Three Proposed Bylaw Changes

MOTION #1:

This was submitted by our current historian, Dale Erion.

Administrative Procedure addition Section 315 – Duties of Historian

Rationale - Currently, there is no comprehensive description of the historian's duties and responsibilities. Too many department and detachment properties have gone missing or unaccounted for in the past and present.

Proposed: Section 315 – Duties of Historian

1 - Receive current 8 X 10 photograph of the new Department Commandant.

2 - Receive 8 X 10 photograph of all new and current Detachment charters.

3 - Encourage and advise Detachments to appoint a historian and guide them.

4 - Maintain the current list of department commandants and other department notables.

5 - Maintain list of current detachments and charter dates.

6 - Keep a written record of major department historical events.

7 - Suggest all department officers and committee members include in their annual reports any department property in their possession

8 - Suggest all detachment officers include in their annual reports any detachment property in their possession

9 - Properties include, but are not limited to, their charter, colors, altar cloth, Bible and gavel. The list of properties shall also include the item's locations.

Proposed Bylaw Changes ...

MOTION #2:

Submitted by Tracey Tippet, current Adjutant & UP Zone Vice.

I propose the following By-Law Change in order to help/assist the Zone Vices in fulfilling their duties in assisting the Department Commandant. Propose adding an Assistant to the Zone Vice Commandants in case the Zone Vice Commandants are unable to attend conventions or meetings, and these Zone Assistant Vices then will have a say in the conducting of business and following Zone guidelines.

Reads:

SECTION 255, Election of Zone Vice Commandants

As soon as possible after the general election of officers at the Department Convention, each Zone Vice Commandant shall call a caucus of all delegates from the component detachments of their Zone and said delegates shall proceed to elect their Zone Vice Commandant for the ensuing year.

Change to:

SECTION 255, Election of Zone Vice Commandants

As soon as possible after the general election of officers at the Department Convention, each Zone Vice Commandant shall call a caucus of all delegates from the component detachments of their Zone and said delegates shall proceed to elect their Zone Vice Commandant and the Zone Vice Commandant will appoint their Assistant Zone Vice Commandant for the ensuing year.

Reads:

SECTION 325, Zone Vice Commandants

The number of Zones will be determined by the Board of Trustees. A Zone Vice Commandant shall be elected by the Detachments in that Zone, at the Department Convention. Zones will be numbered by the Board of Trustees. Any changes in the number or composition of the Zones will be done at the Board of Trustees Meeting at the time of Convention. It shall be the duty of the Zone Vice Commandants to aid the Department Commandant. The senior Zone Vice Commandant shall preside over the Department Convention during the absence of the Commandant, the Senior Vice Commandant, and the Junior Vice Commandant. They shall serve as the membership chair of their zones. Each Zone Vice Commandant shall hold a minimum of one (1) Zone Meeting prior to the De-

partment Convention, and if the zone members choose to have more, one (1) Zone Meeting prior to the Mid-Winter Rally, the zone meetings may be held in person or virtually. These Meetings will be held to discuss projects or proposals to be presented at the Department Convention, in session, by the Zone Vice Commandant. The Zone Vice Commandant shall visit each Detachment in his zone at least once each year and if possible, more often. The presence of the Zone Vice Commandant shall be entered in the minutes after the roll call of officers. The Zone Vice Commandants shall determine among themselves who is senior.

Change:

SECTION 325, Zone Vice Commandants

The number of Zones will be determined by the Board of Trustees. A Zone Vice Commandant shall be elected by the Detachments in that Zone, at the Department Convention, and the Zone Vice Commandant shall appoint an Assistant Zone Vice Commandant. Zones will be numbered by the Board of Trustees. Any changes in the number or composition of the Zones will be done at the Board of Trustees Meeting at the time of Convention. It shall be the duty of the Zone Vice Commandants and Assistant Zone Vice Commandants to aid the Department Commandant. The senior Zone Vice Commandant shall preside over the Department Convention during the absence of the Commandant, the Senior Vice Commandant, and the Junior Vice Commandant. They shall serve as the membership chair of their zones. Each Zone Vice Commandant shall hold a minimum of one (1) Zone Meeting prior to the Department Convention, and if the zone members choose to have more, one (1) Zone Meeting prior to the Mid-Winter Rally, the zone meetings may be held in person or virtually. These Meetings will be held to discuss projects or proposals to be presented at the Department Convention, in session, by the Zone Vice Commandant. The Zone Vice Commandant or Assistant Zone Vice Commandant shall visit each Detachment in their zone at least once each year and, if possible, more often. The presence of the Zone Vice Commandant and Assistant Zone Vice Commandants shall be entered in the minutes after the roll call of officers. The Zone Vice Commandants shall determine among themselves who is senior. If both the Zone Vice and Assistant Zone Vice Commandant's are both in attendance at conventions/meetings—the Zone Vice Commandant's vote is the only vote to count.

Proposed Bylaw Changes ...

MOTION #3:

This was submitted by Scott Hellman, Current JA

Reads:

SECTION 500, Authority

No officer, detachment, member, or any subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League shall obligate the Department financially in any manner whatsoever, except as authorized in accordance with these Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. The bank forms shall have three (3) signatures, namely, the Department Commandant, the Department Paymaster, and the Department Adjutant, of which any two (2) may sign checks in the absence of one of the aforementioned.

Change:

SECTION 500, Authority

No officer, detachment, member, or any subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League shall obligate the Department financially in any manner whatsoever, except as authorized in accordance with these Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. The bank forms shall have three (3) signatures, namely, the Department Commandant, the Department Paymaster, and the Department Adjutant, of which any two (2) may sign checks in the absence of one of the aforementioned." This by-law has been expanded to reference to Section 331, Contracting Out Financial Work, but this Section must be followed in conjunction with Section 331, as far as signatures maintained at the banking institution.

Reference:

SECTION 331, Contracting Out Financial Work

Notwithstanding the provisions of Bylaw Section 330 or any other provision of these Bylaws or Administrative Procedures, the Board of Trustees may enter into a contract with a licensed and bonded or properly insured accountant or certified public accountant to handle the Department's income and expenses, to reconcile the bank account records and/or to prepare other financial reports and may authorize him or her to sign checks drawn on the Department's account(s) without the additional signature of a Department officer. The Paymaster shall review the bank account reconciliations on a monthly basis and any other reports on a regular basis, but not less often than quarterly. Nothing in this provision changes or diminishes the responsibility of the five immediate members of the Past Commandants Council to audit the Department's financial books and records.

To: All Detachment Commandants

From: Ray Rayl, Department Commandant

Subject: Operation Little Angels (OLA) Donations

Marines, as you graciously made donations at the Department Mid-Winter in Bay City last January, I am again asking for your donations at the 2025 Department of Michigan Convention at the Gateway Inn in Grand Blanc.

The MCLA will be making donations of Household Goods, Personal Needs, and Cleaning Products etc. to the Reach Resource Services in the Flint area. They are again asking for monetary assistance from the Marine Corps League to make this drive a huge success as it was last year in the Bay City area. The Reach Resource Services assist homeless teens in four different locations. This year all donations, money and items will be going to the Flint facility on Grand Traverse Ave. You may mail any donation to either myself or the MCLA Dept. President at the following address.

Ray or Cathy Rayl

4767 Hidden Hills Circle

Howell, Michigan 48855

OR, you may give any donation to the MCLA President, Cathy Rayl at the Convention in June. Any checks should be made payable to "Reach Resource Services"

Thank you in advance and Semper Fi

Veterans Crisis Line



**DIAL 988 then
PRESS 1**

See You There!

**85th Annual
Marine Corps League
Department of Michigan
2025 Department Convention
06 - 08 June 2025**



**Hosted by:
Flint Detachment 155, Flint Auxiliary
Unit &
Flint Dawgs Pound 288**

**Wyndham Hotel & Conference Centre
5353 Gateway Center Blvd.
Flint, Michigan 48507**