

Fellow Marine Corps Leaguers

First I want to thank you all for allowing me to be Commandant. I will serve to the best of my ability.

Having returned from the National Convention in Scottsdale I would like to congratulate our own Wendell Webb on being elected Sr. Vice Commandant of the Marine Corps League and Leonard Spicer who was elected Sr. Vice Chief of the Devil Dogs at the Supreme Growl.

I sat through hours of bylaw changes many of which are not of great interest to most of us. One that will be of interest to those that serve on Memorial Teams and Ceremonial Teams is we will have a national ribbon. After at least three years of proposing it this year it was passed.

Over the past six months there have been a lot of rumors about problems at the National level. Here are some facts: The Director of the Marine Corps League has been fired along with the head of the I.T. department. Currently these two positions are not being filled by new hires. This will effect a large drop in expenses which is needed right now. Lawsuits have been filed against us by these fired employees and we have attorneys and our insurance working on these suites. The website was lost after the IT person was fired but a new and much better site is now up. The new website address is mclnational.org

One thing I can tell you is the League is hurting financially. We are not in danger of bankruptcy. I would like to encourage all members to take the mailings requesting support seriously and do what you can to help. Marines stick together and we are 60,000 strong lets all help.

Overland Park did win the competition over St. Louis for the 2017 National Convention. Steve and his team gave it a great try but the reasons given were "the hotel was newer in Overland Park".

Membership is the key factor in our financial situation. We now have 53% life members. The important question for all of our Detachments is "are we relevant to the younger Marines?" . We will be hearing a lot more about this in the coming months. If your Detachment is having good luck recruiting and maintaining young members please let me know and I will pass it on.

Semper Fi,

Bill Webb, Commandant

Department of Missouri