 

Marine Corps League

Department of Missouri

Commandants Report

Date: 19 March 2022

**Notes from Midwinter National Conference, 25,26,27 February 2022, Norfolk VA.**

Commandants Council, National Sr. Vice Warren Griffin

18 of the 48 Department Commandants present.

List of my questions and concerns:

1. Paid Life Members Audit, include instructions with the audit form.
2. Database reports / Custom reports / Phone email directory.
3. Include Election procedures for Detachments to use. (Roberts Rules of Order)
4. Transparency of Trustees meetings and discussions, (minutes on the website)
5. Recruiting Procedures to ensure that new members understand the League / organization they are considering joining. (USMC Recruiters, qualifications)
6. Friction between close Detachments, better communications
7. Covers and out of stocks in Ship Store.
8. Emails from National.

Other items discussed:

1. New Ritual for new members that are qualified under the new membership guidelines.
2. Possibility of Annual invoices from the data base that could be emailed / mailed to renewing members.
3. Recruiting ideas, Breakfast, BBQ’s Shooting Events
4. Color Guard / Honor Guard uniforms, look good represent the League and the Corps.
5. Consider a compliance officer to ensure that 990’s and State Registrations are up to date.
6. Marine Corps League Foundation provides Scholarships to family members of league members, request $100 per Detachment & Departments to ensure the funds are available to continue program.

Hospitality room and trivia night followed by a Public Relations / MODD event.

**0900 Opening Ceremonies**

Introduction of dignitaries and guest.

**MCL Aux. President, Evelyn Joppa**/ she introduced the Past Aux. Presidents

**59th Chief Devil Dog Tom Hazlet** / he introduced the Past Chiefs in attendance

**12th Sgt Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt Major Overstreet**, reminded those in attendance that 77 years ago the Marines were fighting on Iwo Jima to secure a landing field for planes returning from bombing mission over Japan.

**National Marines of the Years introduced**

**National Commandant Johnny Baker**, stressed servant leadership and asked that we include that in our Leadership training. He also stressed that we need to share the information we gather from the conference and that he is committed to help each detachment achieve their respective goals and missions.

**Jim Ransom, National Convention Committee Chair** gave an update on the 2022 & 2023 Conventions in Daytona Beach & Oklahoma City. He also stated that as of now that the Department of Colorado was the only location that had indicated they would submit a bid for the 2024 Convention.

**Howard Schaeffer National Chaplain** led a Memorial Service for those members that had passed since the last Convention, he also held a Chapel of Four Chaplains service as well. He told the story of the Four Chaplains on board the Army Transport ship.

**1120 Roll Call of Staff and Staff Reports**

**National Judge Advocate Phil Zamora,** his report is posted on National website. Stressed that Section 9000 of the National Administrative Procedures is very important and to understand the difference between grievance and disciplinary action. Also, that all proposed amendments to current Bylaws an Administrative Procedures are due to National by April 1st. They will be posted on the website by May 1st.

**National Jr. Vice Commandant T.J. Morgan,** his report is posted on National website.

Gave an update on the “Are you Ready” campaign and the membership committees efforts to get new member information to the Departments as quickly as possible.

Paul Corbin example, previously member of #1081 moved to Columbia area.

David Normandin, lives in KC area, Vietnam 68-69

Stressed the YouTube channel is a great place to share videos.

63,500 members with 5k-6k coming and going each year.

Target 35–55-year-old Marines for membership, 75% of all Marines only serve 4 years

Recruit on College Campus / Veterans Affairs office.

**National Sr. Vice Commandant Warren Griffin,** his report is posted on National website.

Stressed respect for all members of the League, and to share information with the new members to improve leadership.

**National Commandant Johnny Baker,**

Help the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Programs:

1. Toys For Tots
2. Marine For Life
3. Suicide Prevention
4. Honor Guard / Color Guard
5. Young Marines Program
6. Marine Corps JROTC

During the Lunch break, PNC Wendell Webb and I met with Tom McIlwee from Morgan Stanley concerning our potential investment account with his firm.

1300 **Bob Borka, National Exec. Director & JD Foster** , Department Atlas Training.

Searching Database, Profile ID / Roster Pulls

Detachment member Portal users

**Newsletter Awards presented**; we need to submit Detachment newsletters for consideration.

**Marine Corps League Foundation** report, over $1 million invested with Morgan Stanley

Paid out $97,000 in scholarships last year, challenged the Departments and Detachments to contribute $100 each

**PNC Dennis Tobin representing the Past Commandants Society** was recognized by the Commandant and made a motion to award Bryson Allen as a Honorary Past National Commandant for his work on numerous National committees, including the budget committee for many years.

**Budget Committee Chairman, Bob Ziltz**, provided an update on the budget.

Six months into budget year, Rev. 864,000 50% of Budget, Exp. 812,000 50% of budget.

Store sales on down, due to lack of inventory that is being addressed.

Modern Day Marine Fall 2021 canceled, Spring of 2022 on schedule for big event.

2 large donations / unrestricted used for building fund, $172,000

PLM Dues change would not be an issue for the budget.

**Billy Simmons from Rust Insurance**, Liability insurance for Detachments. He setup a website just for Marine Corps League, [www.RustMCL.com](http://www.RustMCL.com)

Fill out the online form for all events.

Read the Do’s and Don’ts on the website.

Notify him of any issue that may need his attention, he doesn’t want to be blindsided.

No harm to notify until a claim is made or paid.

0900 26 Feb. 2022

**David Bray, FMF Corpsman**, great story and performance.

[www.DaveBrayUSA.com](http://www.DaveBrayUSA.com)

**Bob Borka, National Exec. Director & JD Foster,** transmittal training,

Department Paymasters can now combine multiple Detachment transmittals and submit electronically.

**CDD Tom Hazlet, Youth Physical Fitness Program update**.

Little Rock Arkansas this year, possibly the Dallas Cowboys training facilities in future years. [www.USMarinesYouthFoundation.org](http://www.USMarinesYouthFoundation.org)

Encourage Marine Corps recruiters to help with local Fitness programs.

**David Ossian & Mark Munger, Marine For Life / EAS Program**

End of Active Service Sponsorship program. Training is starting and will continue down to the Detachment level. PNC Wendell Webb and Sr. Vice Ryan Petras have taken the training. [www.eassponsorship.com](http://www.eassponsorship.com)

**Marine Corps Association, President and CEO Lt. General Chiarotti USMC Retired.** Gave a presentation about the Association and the relationship between Marine Corps League and the Association. Updates on the Modern-Day Marine event for this year and for the upcoming years. The Expo will be very beneficial to both organizations.

<https://mca-marines.org/>

**29th Commandant of the USMC General Gray** made an appearance and gave us his perspective on the current and future Marine Corps capabilities. Very interesting.

**Toys For Tots, Lt. General James Laster, USMC retired & Col. Ted Silvester, USMC retired.** Gave a presentation on the forming of the Toys for Tots program and the

importance of the Marine Corps Leagues assisting the USMC Reserves units accomplish the mission annually. They have started and grown a literacy program in addition to the toys at Christmas. This is the 75th anniversary of the program.

**Toys For Tots, National Liaison Russ Miller,** gave a presentation of results from last year’s campaign. Full report is on <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/member-library/>

He stressed that all funds raised for Toys For Tots need to be submitted to Toys For Tots and not deposited into any other account.

**Young Marines, Col Bill Davis, Sgt Major Angela Maness, and William Smith Chairman**

Gave a presentation on the program. 400 Young Marines, 300,000 volunteer hours, 70,000 drug interdictions.

Adult Leaders Conference in St. Charles County this year.

**Honor Guard Discussion from Liaison Sgt Major Angela Maness**

Displayed pictures of correct and incorrect uniforms used during Honor details.

Follow the uniform guidelines and ensure that all members are the same.

**National Uniform Committee Chairman, Craig Reeling**

Reviewed Enclosure 3 and presented pictures of proper uniforms.

National uniform guidebook coming soon, with pictures.

National Training & Leadership Team looking for new members,

Contact Craig to [volunteer.Craig.Reeling@MarylandMarines.org](mailto:volunteer.Craig.Reeling@MarylandMarines.org)

443-477-0670

**Semper Toons, Andrew Appleton & Charles Wolf,** cards to recruits program

[www.romans1015.org](http://www.romans1015.org) “How Beautiful are the feet of those who bring goods news”

Christina Zungia, author of Extraordinary Warriors

[www.extraordinarywarriors.com](http://www.extraordinarywarriors.com)

Banquet: Guest Speaker, Lt. General David Bellon, Commander Marine Forces Reserve

Marine Forces South,

It was a great conference, and I was honored to represent the Department of Missouri and bring back as much information as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Maevers

Department of Mo. Commandant