



**MIDEAST DIVISION CONFERENCE
Minutes**

**June 23-24, 2023
Hosted by the Department of Maryland
At the Doubletree by Hilton Baltimore North, Pikesville, MD**

0745 – Form up for Colors – Front of Hotel *(rained out)*

0800 – Colors; Division Sgt-at-Arms *(rained out)*

Flag Raising Unit: MED Sgt at Arms and selected staff. The National Anthem will be sung by Marine Wayne Miller.

Joint Opening Session

0900 – Joint Opening Session MCL & MCLA – Department of Maryland *– 61 members present*

Division Sergeant At Arms:

Colors Presented by: Anne Arundel Young Marines

Department Commandant

“Good morning, I’m Joe Fay, Commandant of the Department of Maryland and I would like to welcome all of you to Pikesville, Maryland and the 2023 Mideast Division Conference hosted by the Department of Maryland.

MED NVC Rick Thomason

“Thank you, Sir Commandant.

Welcome everyone to the 2023 Mideast Division Conference and thank you for attending. Before we begin, let’s recognize some people that truly made our morning and Opening Ceremony an event to remember!”

Present Certificate of Appreciation to:

- The Singer of the National Anthem at Morning Colors - Wayne Miller
- The Opening Ceremony Color Guard – Anne Arundel Young Marines
- The singer of the National Anthem during the Joint Opening Ceremony – Ric Ledford

Joint Memorial Service - Division Chaplain Scott Kirby Rings the bell for each Department with total number deceased. MCLA Mideast VP Doris Bujanowski assisted.

DoDE - 8 MCL / 0 MCLA

DoMD - 12 MCL / 2 MCLA

DoNC - 62 MCL / 0 MCLA

DoVA - 57 MCL / 0 MCLA

DoWV - 47 MCL / 0 MCLA

-There were 186 total deceased in the MED this past year.

Recognition of our Medal of Honor, Navy Cross and Silver Star

Recipients All recipients please stand:

Department of North Carolina. Have you any recipients present that we should recognize? *None*

Department of Virginia. Have you any recipients present that we should recognize? *None*

Department of West Virginia. Have you any recipients present that we should recognize? *None*

Department of Maryland. Have you any recipients present that we should recognize? *None*

Department of Delaware. Have you any recipients present that we should recognize? *None*

Recognition of MCL National Officers & Guests Please stand and be recognized:

1. Johnny Baker, National Commandant Marine Corps League
2. Frank Mathers – ANVC Mideast Division
3. Denny Mathias- National By-laws Committee Member
(*absent*)
4. Charles Minton – National Scouts Committee Member
5. Craig Reeling – National Uniform Committee Chairman, and National Training and Leadership School Chairman
6. Greg Ciesielski- National MCL History & Anniversary Committee Chairman
7. Doris Bujanowski - MED MCLA National Vice President
8. Cindy Marshall – MED MCLA Assistant Vice President
(*absent*)
9. David Porter – Northern Division NVC
10. Jerry Devlin– National Parliamentarian and Honorary National Commandant
11. Jack Severn - National Parliamentarian

[0940] Recognition of Special Guests:

- NVC Thomason to welcome the membership and guests.

1. Col. Bill Davis – National Executive Director & CEO of the Young Marines Program

Recognition of MCL National MOY's - (if present):

“All previous Recipients, please stand and be recognized when called.”

- Frank Mathers – 2022
- Scott Kirby – 2021
- Rick Thomason – 2020
- Jeffrey Jones – 2018
- Mike McLain – 2017 (*absent*)
- Roger Ware – 2016 (*absent*)
- Jack Severn – 2012

Recognition of MCL National AOY’s -

“Will the first AOY please stand and be recognized.”

- Patti Leib – 2022 (*absent*)

Recognition of Past Mideast Division Commandants

-Announce and request all others to stand and be recognized

- Jr. Past NVC Roger Ware (*absent*)
- Past NVC Bruce Rakfeldt
- Past NVC Mike McLain (*absent*)
- Past NVC Jim Tant (*absent*)
- Past NVC Stephen T. Wilson (*absent*)

Recognition of Past Division Marines of the Year

- Announce and request all others stand

- Kenny Joyner - 2022
- Scott Kirby - 2021
- Frank Mathers - 2020
- Rick Shank - 2019
- Rick Thomason – 2018
- Jeffrey Jones – 2017
- Mike McLain – 2016 (*absent*)
- Roger Ware – 2012 (*absent*)

Recognition of Past Division Associate of the Year

- Patti Leib – 2022 (First MED Associate Awardee) (*absent*)

MCLA Mideast Division Vice President – Doris Bujanowski

-It is always good to be able to attend. You can learn and grow at these events.

Military Order of the Devil Dogs - MED VCDD PDD Craig Reeling

MED Vice Chief Devil Dog – PDD Craig Reeling to address the meeting and recognize MODD officers if present:

Kennel Honorable CDD – Alan Sanning (*absent*)

Kennel Honorary CDD – Jack Severn

Kennel Sr Vice CDD – Jeffrey Jones

Kennel Jr Vice CDD – Joe DeAngelo (*absent*)

Kennel Executive Director – Ben Wells (*absent*)

Kennel Dog Trainer – Lisa Ciesielski

Kennel Mad Dog - Charles Minton

Kennel Past Jr PCDD – Tom Hazlett (*absent*)

MED VCDD Assistant – PDD Reggie Sawyer

Conference Host Department – Joe Fay - Commandant

Thank you to Tony Rust and Laurie Blair for their hard work on the conference.

DoMD Commandant: “There being no further business, we will take a 20-minute break.”

DoMD Commandant: “We will resume back here at 0950”

20-minute Recess

0953 -MED NVC Thomason: “The meeting will come to order”
“Sgt. at Arms, bring the business meeting of the MED Conference
back into session.” (*55 members present*)

**Roll Call of the Mideast Division Officers – MED NVC
Thomason** “*we will have the Roll Call of Officers by the
Adjutant.*”

Adjutant “*When called, each Officer shall rise and be
recognized by the Mideast Division Commandant.*”

MED Div. Nat. Vice Commandant – Rick Thomason

MED Div. Asst. Division Vice Cmdt & MOY Chairman – Frank
Mathers

MED Div. Paymaster & Chief of Staff - Fred Wise

MED Adjutant - Laura Hamilton

MED Chaplain - Scott Kirby

MED Sgt.-at-Arms – Jeffrey Jones

MED Sgt.-at-Arms & Scouts Chairman - Charles Minton

MED Web Sergeant – Kenny Joyner

MED Historian - Evie Remines (*absent*)

MED Photographer – Alison Noger

MED Marine for Life Liaison – Mike Lyon (*absent*)

MED Chapel of the Chaplains – Robert Hare

MED Young Marines Liaison – Jeremy Jones (*absent*)

MED Bulletin Editor - Rick Shank

**Roll Call of Department Commandants (By the Adjutant –
“The Senior member of each Department shall rise and be
recognized by the Mideast Division Commandant.”)**

Need number of Attendees from each Department

Department of Maryland – Joe Fay - 28

Department of Delaware – Richard Corbit - 6

Department of North Carolina – Ric Ledford - 14

Department of Virginia – Joseph Hoadley (*absent*) Sheri Moore
SrVice - 1

Department of West Virginia – George Gill - 4

Mideast Adjutant:

Minutes of the 2022 MED Conference:

The 2022 Mideast Division Conference minutes were previously posted on the Mideast Division website and sent by email to all Division Officers and Department Commandants for distribution to members. They were redistributed by email on 26 May 2023. If there are no corrections to be made on them, I ask for a motion from the Floor to accept them as written.

NVC Thomason to accept the motions from the Floor.

Scott Kirby made the motion to accept the minutes. Second by Ric Ledford. Approved by members present.

MED NVC Thomason - “We now have the honor of having our National Commandant to address the Mideast Division

National Commandant Johnny Baker -

-five percent do the things and attend the events. It is nice to meet and interact with the five percent.

-the red hats are the heart.

-you spend a lot of money to attend these events.

-our membership is approximately 70 percent PLM. The board had to do something. We had to slow the number of PLMs. Any organization that goes over 50 percent becomes financially unstable. The envelopes must be posted marked by June 30th by the Department Paymaster. If online, then it must be done by June 30th.

-Quorum – make sure you are making quorum at your meetings.

-Young Marines do a lot for the youth. Three of the four this morning were on their way to work while being here with us. He

- has challenged to make at least one unit per year to be stood up.
- Youth Physical Fitness Program – attended the national event. It is officially named the Marine Corps League Youth Physical Fitness Program. We must support it.
 - Auxiliary units – They are here to support you and help you. We need to embrace them so they can help us. This is part of relationship building.
 - Member Library – make sure you know how to get into the library- dd4.
 - MCL smart phone app for both Apple and Droid platforms. It is better than the website. For the National Convention, the speakers will be listed on it along with agenda. Use this for recruitment.
 - Snail Mail – do not use the old physical address. Use the correct PO Box 1990, Stafford,
 - Department Paymasters can now do all transmittals online and pay online. The EFT transfer is \$0.25.
 - JD Foster is jfoster@marinecorpsleage.org
 - DD214 – check them carefully. Nationally bad ones are dealt with daily.
 - Special coin for the national convention. Some will be numbered 1 to 100 (about 70 of these will be available for sale \$50). They will not be numbered and for sale (about \$10).
 - Read the bylaws. They will not be completely read at the convention, so you will need to read them ahead of time.
 - 100th anniversary ribbon is still being worked on. Every member in good standing this year will qualify to wear the ribbon. For those attending the convention a gold frame around the ribbon will be authorized. (Consider making a certificate for this and having one for the attendance of convention)
 - PLM metal gold membership cards – we are still using them. It takes a couple of months to get them engraved. We have also made a plastic card to use when the metal ones are gone. All existing PLM will get the new plastic card – it will have more information on it.
 - Department 50th anniversary – North Carolina and Maryland

(have / are) celebrating their anniversary. *He read* – MUC for Department of West Virginia anniversary.



-Don't be afraid to recognize your detachments for the good they do.

-If you get a chance to go to Belluewood please do so. It will change your life. Military Historical Tours did an awesome job. He is trying to get a Viet Nam trip next year.

MED NVC Thomason - "We will now have the Reports from the Mideast Officers"

Chaplain's Report – Anything not covered in memorial service.
Report of any member or member's family known to be sick or in distress.

-Mike Lyon, his wife is in hospital with stage 4 cancer.

- Jim Brady, had triple bypass
- Jack Collerin, pacemaker put in last week.
- Thurman Smith Jr, in hospital, had surgery 2 days ago.

Department Commandant's Reports –

Commandant to give oral report on their department's activities and specific outline emailed out requested by NVC Thomason.

1. Department of Maryland – Joe Fay

-1060 members for department, down from last year, most from roster clean up.

-trying to start up leadership school

2. Department of Delaware – Richard Corbit

-new officers last month and just getting started for the year

3. Department of North Carolina – Ric Ledford

-unpaid is down from last year.

-net gain for the department

-new officers

4. Department of Virginia – Joseph Hoadley (Sheri Moore – Sr Vice)

-1263 members total

-had a rush for PLM due to increase

5. Department of West Virginia – George Gill

-new officers on May 20th

-unpaid is down from last year.

MED NVC Thomason report:

-He has been everywhere except for West Virginia.

-He is getting a resolution to one issue between two states.

-Compliance officer – we need to have a MED one. This person can help keep up with the detachments by staying in compliance with the legal documents they must do. Status with the IRS, State Secretary of State, being a detachment in good standing. *(a couple of the departments do have a form of this)*. Do we need this on the

Division level? Kenny Joyner volunteered to do this. A template will be provided. There should be four department officers working together – Adjutant, Paymaster, JA, Compliance Officer. -National Museum of the Marine Corps is gearing up for the 250th anniversary of Marine Corps.

-Frank Mathers MED original patches - \$5 – see Frank Mathers
-Ric Ledford Department Commandant report questionnaire – how do they recruit. Why. Why do you participate in the MCL. The things we do is great, but explaining why you do it is huge.

-Money in your bank account does not benefit anyone sitting in the bank. Spend it on things that benefit the community and Marines.

-Greg Ciesielski – history is important. If you don't have one for the detachment or department, get one. There is a lot of information out there is lost. Know who your namesake is (if you have one). Knowing where you came from is important, to know where you are going. Minutes, ROI, etc should be held.

National officer candidates

-Bruce Rakfeldt – National JA – listen, improve, repeat. Listening to the members' concerns, writing bylaw changes for these concerns, repeat this process. Example – meeting quorum at national convention. Last year quorum could not be met if the Devil Dogs didn't join. A proposal of lower the threshold for quorum will be considered this year. We are at national convention for the league. A lot of the Devil Dogs are there to advance. The national bylaws need consistency (grammatical) and updated. This job is not an easy one on any level.

-David Porter – National JA – he is NVC Northern Division. He has seen three different national commandants and several billets. He is a police officer and son of a Purple Heart recipient. He is hear to listen and help make things run smooth. He has experience

and patience and has learned to listen.

[1115] Adjourn for lunch “We will continue the reports after lunch.”

MED NVC Thomason: “We will resume back here at 1300”

(Recess for lunch on your own from 1115-1300)

1300 MED NVC Thomason: “Sgt. At Arms. Reconvene the MED Conference Business Session.”

MED NVC Thomason report:

Ray Shrum – announcement – Leonard Stickler made a generous donation to his YM unit. Thank you.

Reports of Staff Officers

1. MED Asst. Vice Commandant/MOY Chairman – Frank Mathers
 - Communication, communication, communication
 - Need to look at the bylaw change proposals. You will learn quite a bit. You do not need to log in to see the proposals on the website.
 - Share your knowledge and make sure the members are getting the information.
 - MOY/AOY – emails come out at least 3x. They must come from the detachment. We should have multiple submissions. This is accumulative of the member’s activities. Filling out the paperwork is the biggest issues. If the member is disqualified due to paperwork not being correct, we cannot consider the member.
2. MED Paymaster - Fred Wise
 - closed last year at \$881.91, current balance \$
 - NVC Thomason had sent a request for money from each department. He has received from Virginia and West Virginia.

- an audit was done this year for 2022.
- DoMD sent a \$200 check.
- Jeffrey Jones made the motion to accept report subject to audit. Second by Charles Minton. Approved by members present.*
- NVC Thomason – sent an email in 2021 to the departments requesting annual money based on department size of \$1000 total. This is to help with the little bit of expenses the MED has. We cannot fundraise.
- 3. MED Adjutant - Laura Hamilton - none
- 4. MED Chaplain – Scott Kirby - none
- 5. MED Historian - Evelyn Remines (absent)
- 6. MED Photographer – Alison Noger
 - pictures will be posted MED MCL Facebook page
- 7. MED Chapel of the Chaplains – Robert Hare
 - Legion of Honor – he has presented 5 awards since last year. Three of them were for Life Safety Awards.
 - you do not have to be a MCL member for the awards. Anyone of the community can receive them.
- 8. MED Young Marines Liaison – Jeremy Jones (absent)
- 9. MED Bulletin Editor - Rick Shank
 - We average 3 bulletins per year. This year has had many submissions.
- 10. MED Sgt. At Arms/Boy Scout Chairman – Charles Minton
 - Eagle Scout – FY – DoNC 167, DoMD 101, DoWV 49, DoDE 9, DoVA 0
 - We have league members / family members who earned their Eagle but never received a certificate. We can present. These do not count in the numbers.
 - The numbers count for up to 3 years back. So you can present to those who have not received the certificate for that time period and it count in the numbers.
 - Sgt 61 present this morning and 55 after morning break.
- 11. MED Marine For Life Liaison – Mike Lyon
- 12. MED Webmaster – Kenny Joyner
 - He will be giving up the webmaster and be the compliance officer.

-Frank Mathers will be accepting the Webmaster position.

13. MED Vice Chief Devil Dog – Craig Reeling

-collected \$434, \$213 fines, \$36 fee, \$195 passport fine/fee, some dog food and chow hound \$76 and patches \$100. Raised \$887 for hospital fund, one of the metal signs and a cane to support the children's hospital.

New Business (10 minutes max)

1. 2024 Mideast Division Conference (George Gill to discuss)

Hosted by the Department of West Virginia will be in 2024.

Additional information is forthcoming.

-Princeton WV, the hotel, was sold and trying to negotiate with the new owners.

2. ADVC Frank Mathers – 2023 National proposed Bylaws and Admin Procedures; brief overview of them

-provided 15 page summary to adjutant.

-proposal 49, is actually 5 changes in one.

-ribbon precedence is being reconsidered.

-a complete rewrite of enclosure 4.

-spelling / punctuation is bad.

-some things were approved but not installed in bylaws.

-quorum

-associate members voting.

-white belts

-honor guard patches / uniform

-shoulder patches

-detachment flag – standardization

-uniform names

Charles Minton made the motion to accept reports. Second by Rick Shank. Approved by members present.

3. Calendar of future Hosts for the Mideast Division

Conference

1. West Virginia – 2024
2. Virginia – 2025
3. Delaware – 2026
4. North Carolina – 2027
5. Maryland – 2028

4. MED SOP proposal-

A proposed Mideast Division Standard Operating Procedure has been disseminated to the Division for review and acceptance. Rick Thomason – SOP for MED operations. It was sent to department commandants. This SOP explains who gets what monies raised for MED conference / when things need to be ready to be sent out / improve communication. There are templates for hosting a conference. This was very helpful for Tony Rust to organize this conference. It also contains an after-action report. *Jeffery Jones made the motion to accept the SOP. Second by Ric Ledford to accept the SOP. Approved by members present.*

NVC Thomason:

“Is there any other New Business to be brought up at this time? “

Good of the League

Recognition of Host Hotel (Doubletree by Hilton Baltimore North – certificate presented at the evening Banquet) by NVC
Recognition of Host Department of Maryland by NVC
-George Hammerbacher – member Tony’s son Joey received bone marrow transplant. Condition of discharge is to the house inspected.

Tony's home has black mold, and it must be remediated. His quote for repairs is over \$30,000.

Announcements

2023 MCL National will be IN Oklahoma City, OK

Monday, August 14, 2022, 8:00 AM - Friday, August 18, 2023
Omni Oklahoma City Hotel, 100 W. Oklahoma City Blvd,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

2024 MCL Midwinter Conference will be Feb 22-24, 2024, held at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 S. Orme St. Arlington, Va. 23510. Group code: National MCL, Phone: (800-325-3535) Room rate \$129.00 per night + prevailing tax (currently 14%) Please make your room reservation direct to the hotel. Parking onsite at \$10 / day. Reservation deadline is January 30, 2024. All information is available on the MCL National website. If you are using an old link to the National website, and it says you cannot access the site, search for "National Marine Corps League" and click on the resultant link.

2024 Mideast Division Conference

Hosted by the Department of West Virginia in Princeton.
Additional information is forthcoming.

“Are there any other announcements at this time? “

MED NVC Thomason: This afternoon we will be having presentations by a very noteworthy individual.

Col. Bill Davis (USMC Retired) is the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Young Marines Program. If you have ever heard him speak about the program, you know that he is passionate about his work and the accomplishments of the Young Marine Program. Please welcome Col. Davis to the podium. (45

minutes max.)

- Why? Our kids are under attack.
- only a small percentage of our nations youth are fit for service, 23 percent today. Out of this is 8 percent interested in military.
- over all fitness, drug usage, education. These are the same things our business need.
- we are youth development program ages 8 to high school and focus on leadership, citizenship, healthy drug free lifestyle.
- 6300 children, 2200 volunteers last year in the program.
- covid took a 20 percent hit, but starting to come back.
- the MCL started the YM in 1965.
- became a separate organization in 1980. We are a single organization with one program audit and one EIN.
- HQ runs the business.
- Adult members run the youth program. There is a national background check and submit 3 references.
- The youth earn everything from joining to the promotions. 26 hours of 'boot camp'. It is amazing to see the changes in the children.
- Drill and PT are some of their favorite things.
- Woodland cammies, enlisted ranks only, leadership school.
- Most divisions are running divisional camp this year.
- Only youth program to interact with the Code Talkers.
- Only flag bears for the Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony.
- Last year demographics reflect America and the USMC, without trying to. Male / female ratio is close to JRoTC programs.
- Alumni surveys produce 30 percent join military and excel in their careers; teacher and first responders is the next large percentage.
- Community service is continued in 70 percent of alumni.
- In MED there are 5 units being looked at being started.
- Average new unit growth is 13 per year.
- in 2022 was 107,000 OD deaths, more than gun shots and car deaths.
- Illegal pills are now 6 out of 10 are fentanyl laced.
- Marijuana is not the same it was 6 to 7 percent THC as in the 60s

and 70s, but now is up to 24 percent.

-They have a marksmanship program they are starting back up post covid.

-MCL and YM relationship – MCL is still the biggest supporter across the country. MCL gets recognition and the YM gets to interact with veterans.

-Congressional grants are a large part of the funding. Last couple of years has them on fumes. They were just put back into the appropriations bill, this will help in 2025.

-Recognition is important. MCL commendation can be given to the YM unit. Just send 3 items (don't get in the weeds) of what the unit did for your MCL detachment and send it to him. It will be created and sent down for recognition. Take pictures for both MCL and YM.

-This is a good way to stealth recruit for MCL membership.

-Museum of the Marine Corps is under construction for the expansion. They hope to be done for the 250th anniversary of the USMC.

-Briefing of the 250th anniversary in Philadelphia is being planned. HQMC is just now engaging, then the full announcements will be put out. They are looking at the end of October 2025. The recreation of The Tun Tavern is being worked out.

MED NVC Thomason – presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Kevin Ashton for the donation of MED table covers.

Break – 1442 break for 15 minutes
1502 back from break.

MED NVC Thomason: “Nominations and election of MED NVC and MED ANVC will be conducted by Past MED NVC Bruce Rakfeldt.” (Nominations will be conducted and the Conference placed in recess for a 15-minute caucus, if needed, reconvened and vote taken.) Nominees may address the

membership for no more than five minutes each.

Jeffrey Jones / Chris Burns seconded to reduce caucus to 5 minutes. Approved by members present.

-nomination –

MED NVC – Rick Thomason. – adjutant cast 1 unanimous

MED ANVC – Scott Kirby / Craig Reeling - vote was for Craig Reeling.

1534 MED NVC Thomason: “There being no further business, we will proceed to recess until the Social Hour and Banquet starting at 1730 this evening.”

MED NVC Thomason: “Sgt.-at-Arms. Lead us in the first verse of the Marines Hymn.”

MED NVC Thomason: “We will continue the business session at 1830hrs. tonight at the banquet. Social hour begins at 1730hrs.

2023 MED MOY – Evie Remines

2023 MED AOY – Alison Noger



2023 MED BULLETIN EDITOR REPORT

June 24, 2023,

We average three MED Bulletins a year. The last MED Bulletin we published was in January 2023. I feel it was the best Bulletin we have put together as a Division to date.

Since our last conference, we had articles, photos, and information submitted by our NVC, ANVC, Division Chaplain, Division Adjutant, Division M4L Chairman, Division MOY and AMOY Chairman, Division Photographer, and the MED Vice President of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary.

The Departments of Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware, and North Carolina also participated in submitting articles and photos.

We had two letters of intent submitted by two Marines seeking elected office in the MCL at the National and Division levels.

We always ensure to put supporting contact information at the end of each bulletin to promote Veteran suicide awareness and prevention.

I asked for articles and photos for the Bulletin at our last conference, and the Officers of the Division and the Department Commandants delivered. I want to thank all of you for that.

Projected dates for the next Division Bulletins are:

September 15, 2023

December 15, 2023

March 15, 2024

Semper Fidelis,

Rick Shank
MED Bulletin Editor



MARINE FOR LIFE
CONNECTING MARINES WITH OPPORTUNITY



MIDEAST DIVISION, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

**MED M4L Quarterly Report
June 2023**

**Michael Lynon,
Mideast Division, Dept of WV M4L Liaison**

Division Marines,

In the past year, the M4L Network augmented our outreach to assist Marines on a national level as well as offering many new resources to better suit their needs. Marine4Life is out front and working around the world!

Instead of sitting back and enjoying the sunshine, the Network is expanding with every Hiring event and Contact meets all over the country. Our Regional support under the direction of David Ossian has been superlative. He keeps me in the know for everything that is going on within our Division and I offer nothing but gratitude for his service.

*** What can the Marine For Life Network do for me?**

Did you know that 80% of jobs are found through networking? Marine For Life Network connects transitioning Marines, Veteran Marines, and Marine family members to employment resources and to other associations, such as education and community services that aid in career and life goals outside of military service. We facilitate networking through two lines of effort: virtual and face-to-face communication.

*** How does the Marine For Life Network do that?**

Virtual Network: Connect with the Marine For Life Network on LinkedIn, over 3,500 strong and growing daily. Marine For Life Network has four regional groups, allowing us to provide targeted resources, employment opportunities, and networking near you. To connect, start by setting up a profile, begin networking, and use the personal and professional connections of our Marine Corps Veterans in the community.

If you know a newly discharged Marine these days, they are already in the know about Marine For Life. Now it is time to meet the challenge of getting the word out to our older Marine Veterans that are eligible for the many career, training, educational, relocation, benefits and support.

RESOURCE UPDATES:

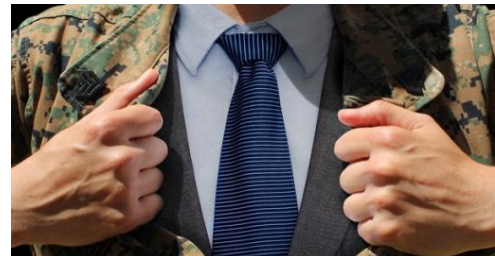
Warriors Connected, is the Marine for Life Network Newsletter.

<https://usmc-mccs.org/services/career/marine-for-life-network/>

Linked In: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-life-network>

Visit our LinkedIn site to download and read a copy.

Also, feel free to email me at: airlock@mcleague947.com.



Semper Fidelis and Gung Ho!,

Mike

2024 Mideast Division Conference Report

The Mountaineer Marine Detachment 957 will again be hosting the 2024 Mideast Division Conference in Princeton, West Virginia.

The hotel where they normally hold the conference has been bought out by an out of state company. The local manager has referred them to the new owner for negotiating the room and meal rates.

After the negotiating is finished we will announce the dates, room rates and other information.

Department Commandants Report for Mideast Conference

Department of DELWARE
Commandant Rich Corbit

1. What are your total unpaid members now compared to last year?

Total unpaid members is 48 which is 17 fewer than last year at the same time.

Has your total membership increased or decreased since last year?

Total membership has increased.

Do your detachments mail dues notice to the members?

The Detachments use both mail and email to notify members.

How are you reducing your total unpaid?

We follow up with phone calls and where possible, a personal Contact.

2. Have you elected and installed your department's officers. If not, what date will you complete this?

Our Officers have been elected and installed. Our ROI has been filed with National.

3. How many of your detachments have not submitted their financial information to National?
None.

4. Are your tracking Professional Development Program training in your detachments? No.

Does your department have a PDP team and have they conducted any training?

No.

5. Have you used a zoom or conference calls to stay in touch with your detachments?

No, we have quarterly meetings and Department check-ins with the Detachments by phone.

Have they utilized one of these to contact their members?

If so, what has been the response.

No.

6. Are your detachments using the MCL National Library site to ensure they use the proper forms for administration and filings?

A few of the Detachments are. This is an area which needs more encouragement and follow-up.

7. Are they starting to work in the MCL National Database member portal to update their detachment records?

A couple of the Detachments are. Another follow-up area.

Have they viewed the national video 101 for guidance in implementing the updates via the portal site?

No, not as of this point in time.

8. Have you worked in the Atlas site?

Not yet. As soon as I receive credentials, I intend to start.

What are your thoughts?

We should be allowed more than two users. Due to the changing of officers, we can be in a position with no one authorized who has any experience.

9. Is your Department Board of Trustees proactive in working relationships with their counterparts in the detachments?

Yes, through our department meetings, and as required between meetings.

10. Do you have a system to track every detachment ROI, IRS 990N or EZ, PLM audit, corporate reports, financial audits, and ceremonial rifle inspection and inventory?

Yes.

11. What type of training would you like to see at the next conference?

Use of the Atlas system and use of the Marine Corps library. Also, discussion of the PDP and usage by other Departments.

12. What ideas do you have to retain or recruit new members?

I really like the idea of putting QR Codes on business cards which can be handed out explaining the MCL. Following up by inviting potential members to social gatherings, such as a monthly/weekly breakfast. For existing members having more social events which include their family members. This is especially important for new younger members with children.



**Department of Maryland
Mideast Division Conference
June 24, 2023
Commandant – Joe Fay**



1. What is your total unpaid members now compared to last year?

Current unpaid is 120. Last years unpaid numbers were 277. (2022 report erroneously reported paid instead of unpaid)

Has your total membership increased or decreased since last year?

Total membership has decreased from 1233 to 1060

Do your detachments mail a dues notice to the members?

Mail, email, and announce at Dept/Det Mtgs

How are you reducing your total unpaid?

Decrease in unpaid members can be attributed Dept. Jr Vice working with Detachments cleaning up their rosters.

2. Have you elected and installed your department's officers. If not what date will you complete this?

Yes, May 13, 2023.

3. How many of your detachments have not submitted their financial information to National?

Three Detachments have not submitted financial information to National. Those Detachments have been notified.

4. Are you tracking professional development training in your detachments?

The Department of Maryland tracks our Leadership College but not Detachments own training events.

Does your department have a PDP team and have they conducted any training?

The Department of Maryland has our own Leadership College. We are working on the date and instructors for the next class.

5. Have you used a zoom or conference calls to stay in touch with your detachments?

Yes, on both the Detachment and Department levels.

Have they utilized one of these to contact their members?

Many Detachments used Zoom to keep in contact.

If so what has been the response.

Mixed, some like it, and some don't. I think it's a great tool to get some of the less mobile members to attend meetings and keep informed.

6. Are your detachments using the MCL National Library site to ensure they use the proper forms for administration and filings?

Most Detachments are using the MCL National Library. All Detachments have been reminded to use the library for current and proper forms.

7. Are they starting to work in the MCL National Database member portal to update their detachment records?

Yes, Detachments are using the member portal.

Have they viewed the national video 101 for guidance in implementing the updates via the portal site?

All Detachments have been notified of the video and many have watched it.

8. Have you worked in the atlas site?

Yes, mainly for reports only.

What are your thoughts?

Great to have that information available.

Is your Department Board of Trustees proactive in working relationships with their counterparts in the detachments?

Yes, this is always a work in progress.

9. Do you have a system to track every detachment ROI, IRS 990N or EZ, PLM audit, corporate reports, financial audits, and ceremonial rifle inspection and inventory?

Yes, the Department utilizes a stop light chart that has been used for several years to track and show where the Detachments stand.

10. What type of training would you like to see at the next conference?

Chartering a new Detachment.

11. What ideas do you have to retain or recruit new members?

For retention; Make it fun, and assign mentors who have been in the league for a while to help guide new members, and communicate with members.

For new members; Get out in the community, show the Colors, and invite them to future functions.

Notes:

- Since the last Mideast Conference, the Department has chartered the Peacekeeper Detachment #1492 in Ocean Pines, MD.

Joe Fay
Commandant
Department of Maryland
Marine Corps League

Department Commandants Report for Mideast Conference

Department [North Carolina](#) Commandant [Ric Ledford](#)

1. What is your total unpaid members now compared to last year? [We are currently at 185 unpaid members. Which I believe is a considerable improvement over last years total of 496 on 3 July 2022.](#)

Has your total membership increased or decreased since last year? [Per the most recent ATLAS numbers we have 2832 new members and have lost 1273 for a net gain of 1559 members.](#)

Do your detachments mail a dues notice to the members? [Not to my knowledge. I think we have hammered it into our members enough over the last two years that they know to have their dues paid before 31 August.](#)

How are you reducing your total unpaid? [Communications at Department meetings and reaching out to the Detachment Jr. Vice's to remind them what their duties are.](#)

2. Have you elected and installed your department's officers. If not what date will you complete this? [Yes. Officers were elected and installed 10 June 2023](#)
3. How many of your detachments have not submitted their financial information to National? [All DoNC Detachments have submitted this information to National.](#)
4. Are your tracking Professional Development Program training in your detachments? [Not at this time.](#)

Does your department have a PDP team and have they conducted any training? We recently started having training sessions prior to Department meetings.

5. Have you used a zoom or conference calls to stay in touch with your detachments? The DVC's have been using Zoom to conduct check-ins with their Detachments. The Department uses Zoom to hold Commandants Council meetings on a bi-monthly schedule.

Have they utilized one of these to contact their members? If so, what has been the response. Detachments are having some difficulty getting members to embrace this technology and there has been some push back.

6. Are your detachments using the MCL National Library site to ensure they use the proper forms for administration and filings? Most of them are. The Paymaster and Adjutant report that there are still some using outdated forms.

7. Are they starting to work in the MCL National Database member portal to update their detachment records? Most of them seem to be using it. But we still have a lot who are not.

Have they viewed the national video 101 for guidance in implementing the updates via the portal site? The ones who are using it have and seem to be doing okay with it.

8. Have you worked in the Atlas site? I have.

What are your thoughts? It is useful. There are a few things that could be a little more intuitive. But overall I find it to be helpful.

9. Is your Department Board of Trustees proactive in working relationships with their counterparts in the detachments? I believe they are. The new staff is not quite up to speed yet as it has only been 2 weeks since their election/appointment.
10. Do you have a system to track every detachment ROI, IRS 990N or EZ, PLM audit, corporate reports, financial audits, and ceremonial rifle inspection and inventory? At this time the Compliance officer is tracking that. Due to recent health issues he has may be a little behind. He is working on getting better training information compiled to better explain the processes for these documents and tracking changes.
11. What type of training would you like to see at the next conference? I feel there needs to be some information and training of procedure and protocol for hosting conferences and conventions. An SOP would be helpful. I also think we need to develop a standard MOU for use by the Division, hosting Department and the hosting Detachment(s).
12. What ideas do you have to retain or recruit new members? Advertising at the local level needs to be encouraged. Also, we as members need to “sell ourselves” when we are trying to recruit. Don’t just talk about the League, tell the prospective member why you are a part of the League. As I once asked the members of the DoNC when I was Jr Vice, “What is your reason why?”

Department Commandants Report for Mideast Conference

Department West Virginia Commandant George O. Gill

1. What is your total unpaid members now compared to last year? **53 this year. 129 last year.**

Has your total membership increased or decreased since last year? **Decreased from 690 down to 652.**

Do your detachments mail a dues notice to the members? **Yes**

How are you reducing your total unpaid? **Detachments are mailing notices, emailing notices, calling unpaid members and talking to them. They are also removing unpaid members who have not paid for more than two years and cannot be contacted.**

2. Have you elected and installed your department's officers. If not what date will you complete this? **Yes on 20 May 2023.**

3. How many of your detachments have not submitted their financial information to National? **What financial information are you talking about? We submit everything that we know about such as 990N.**

4. Are your tracking Professional Development Program training in your detachments? **Yes**

Does your department have a PDP team and have they conducted any training? **Yes. Yes.**

5. Have you used a zoom or conference calls to stay in touch with your detachments?

One conference call last year. Since I was elected on 20 May 2023 I have personally attended 9 of our 14 Detachments monthly meeting.

Have they utilized one of these to contact their members? Some have.

If so, what has been the response. The response has been mixed. The only Detachment that I know that has regular conference call meetings the attendance on the calls have dropped drastically.

6. Are your detachments using the MCL National Library site to ensure they use the proper forms for administration and filings? Yes most are.

7. Are they starting to work in the MCL National Database member portal to update their detachment records? A few are but not most.

Have they viewed the national video 101 for guidance in implementing the updates via the portal site? Many of them have but not recently. Training with the video was held at a Department meeting.

8. Have you worked in the Atlas site? No. The Department Adjutant/Paymaster uses it almost daily but as a newly elected Commandant I have not been set up to use it.

What are your thoughts? The Adjutant/Paymaster uses it and thinks need to show more information such as expiration dates.

As Commandant I have not been set up in Atlas. How do I get set up? Who is responsible for setting me up?

- 9. Is your Department Board of Trustees proactive in working relationships with their counterparts in the detachments? I have instructed my new Board members to call all of their counterparts in the Detachments. Since I was elected I have talked to every Detachment commandant and visited most of the Detachments.**
- 10. Do you have a system to track every Detachment ROI, IRS 990N or EZ, PLM audit, corporate reports, financial audits, and ceremonial rifle inspection and inventory? Yes We keep a snapshot page that is kept up to date.**
- 11. What type of training would you like to see at the next conference? More training on the database and the portal and the difference between the two.**
- 12. What ideas do you have to retain or recruit new members? I have nothing new to try. I was hoping to get some new ideas from attending this conference.**