

Mideast Division



MIDEAST DIVISION BULLETIN JANUARY 2023

www.mclmideast.com



Semper Fidelis!

Mideast Division



Roster: Updated 1 Oct 2022

Mideast Division Officers

National Vice Commandant	Rick Thomason	rthomason@mcleague.org
Assistant NVC	Frank Mathers	mclmedanvc@gmail.com
Adjutant	Laura Hamilton	mclmideastadjutant@gmail.com
Chief of Staff & Paymaster	R. Frederick Wise	ocwise1@comcast.net
Jr. Past NVC	Roger Ware	rrware@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Scott Kirby	Ronald_kirby@yahoo.com
Asst. Chaplain	Leonard Stielper	deannabstielper@yahoo.com
Sgt-at-Arms / Scouts Chair	Charles Minton	ssgtcdminton@yahoo.com
Sgt-at-Arms	Jeffrey Jones	jdjones0311@aol.com
Web Sergeant	Kenny Joyner	mclmideast@gmail.com
Historian	Evelyn Remines	mclchick@hotmail.com
Vice Chief Devil Dog	Craig Reeling	craig.reeling@marylandmarines.org
MCLA Mideast VP	Doris Bujanowski	jedolidama@gmail.com
Photographer	Alison Noger	anoger@comcast.net
Marine For Life Liaison	Mike Lynon	airlock@mcleague947.com
Marine of the Year Chair	Frank Mathers	mclmideastadjutant@gmail.net
Chapel of Four Chaplains	Robert Hare	Med.chapelof4chaplains@gmail.com
Young Marines Liaison	Jeremy Jones	joneszjp@gmail.com
Bulletin Editor	Rick Shank	Hard-charger@suddenlink.net

Department Commandants

Department of Delaware		
Frank Del Piano		muzkppl@msn.com
Department of Maryland		
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Department of North Carolina		
Ric Ledford		commandantdonc@gmail.com
Department of Virginia		
Joseph Hoadley		jwhoadley@aol.com
Department of West Virginia		
Michael McLain		mclain@suddenlink.net



NATIONAL VICE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

“Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is called whining.” ... Teddy Roosevelt

Every Detachment and Department has them. It's the guy(s) who can tell you exactly how it should have been done after the fact. They can tell you about every problem and every misapplication of resources you ever encountered. They condemn, complain, and criticize every action for which they are not responsible. Do not become known as that guy. It is not all that difficult to enlist a positive response to a negative situation if you will only listen, analyze, and form a solution before you speak.

If you do not have a solution, enlist the thoughts of others before complaining that no one is doing anything. If you don't, then you are one of those not doing anything. We are Marines. We are known for being tenacious, determined and mission focused. Use those qualities to formulate solutions that will benefit the League at all levels.

Offer those solutions in a positive environment that does not come on as complaining, but as an alternative to the previous results. No one can predict the future, but we can stop making the same mistakes by looking at our past. Make 2023 the year you decide to be the positive motivation in your Detachment or Department that is going to set the example for others follow.

Semper Fidelis.

Rick Thomason

National Vice Commandant
Mideast Division
Marine Corps League
252-903-0386

MED CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings from the Chaplain,

As I write this, Thanksgiving and Christmas are behind us with the New Year coming in a couple of days. I pray that each of you and your families have had an enjoyable time. I also know that this time of year can be difficult for many as it may be the first holiday without a loved one. Many people suffer from anxiety and depression this time of year due to those losses. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as we head into this New Year.

I want to focus on the New Year for a moment. This is a time for new commitments, new resolutions, and new sacrifices. I would like to point to the cross, where the greatest commitment and sacrifice was ever made. A perfect man in Jesus was brutally beaten beyond recognition and hung on a cross to pay for our inequities. A man who knew no sin took on the sin of the whole world so that we could enjoy everlasting life with the Father. A gift that is free, that can't be earned and only has to be accepted. I want to be more like my Savior, in that he loves everyone. Not just the people that agree with Him but everyone, Sinner and Saint alike. Take a moment and review your relationships. If someone has ever wronged you, forgive them. If you have ever wronged someone, ask them for forgiveness. This world and life are already hard enough and it's not getting any easier. Let's be better people in 2023.

Semper Fidelis,
Scott Kirby
MED Chaplain



MED Sgt-at-Arms Jeffrey Jones pictured Left and, MED Sgt-at-Arms Charles Minton pictured right, conducting operations as Gunny Clause during the 2022 Holiday Season. Well done Marines!!





ASSISTANT NATIONAL VICE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Now Hear This

Marines: Good day everyone. I hope all are well.

I am announcing my intent to pursue the position of National Vice Commandant of the Mideast Division Marine Corps League during the upcoming elections in 2023. I recommend and support the nomination of Scott Kirby, Department of West Virginia as Assistant National Vice Commandant of the Mideast Division.

All members are encouraged to attend the 2023 National Midwinter Conference will be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510 2/23/2023 – 2/25/2023 (check in 2/22, check out 2/26) <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/conference/>

Remember the Oath that was taken upon joining the MCL: Oath of Membership "I, (Your Name), In the Presence of Almighty God, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League. That I take this obligation willingly and in good faith and that I will follow the directions and guidance of elected and appointed officers of the League. That I will participate and support the missions and activities of the Marine Corps League, and that I promise to govern my conduct in such a manner that I will never bring discredit upon myself, Members of the League, or the Marine Corps League, so help me God.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

Regulations Governing the League – 501 (c) (4) “The League is classified as a social welfare organization and was formed for the purposes of promoting the interests of the U. S. Marine Corps, to provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines, as well as to their widows and orphans and to preserve the traditions of the U. S. Marine Corps. It is a not-for-profit organization within the provisions of Internal Revenue Service Code 501 (c) (4), with a special group exemption letter which allows for contributions to the Marine Corps League, its Auxiliary and subsidiary units to be tax deductible by the donor.”

Semper Fidelis/Frater Infinitas,

Frank Mathers

Assistant National Vice Commandant Mideast Division
mclmedanvc@gmail.com 301.520.8051



Marines and Associates,

At this time, I would like to share my intent to run for the office of the Assistant National Vice Commandant for the Mid-East Division.

I bring with me the experience in leadership as I have served in every elected position in my Detachment, as well as the positions of Judge Advocate, Sr. Vice Commandant and Commandant of the Department of West Virginia and Chaplain of the Mid East Division.

I was selected as the Department of West Virginia Marine of the Year as well as the Division and National Marines of the Year in 2021. Those were great accomplishments but only because of the Marines that I serve as well as the mentorship that I have received from our current and past Mid East Division Commandants.

I have seen many changes within the League and will continue to foster those changes and ideas submitted by our membership. My belief is that the leadership serves the membership and not the other way around. I will put myself at the bottom of the organizational chart to ensure that every member's voice is heard and support you in whatever way that I can.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give my thanks and support to our current Assistant National Vice Commandant Frank Mathers for asking me to serve beside him as he runs for the National Vice Commandant position. I believe that Frank is the right choice to lead us into the future. I want to congratulate Rick Thomason for the outstanding leadership of the Mid-East Division over the past two years. Bravo Zulu Rick!

Respectfully,

Scott Kirby
Chaplain
Mid-East Division

Mideast Division Marine of the Year Nominations

The Detachment's Nominee MUST be a Marine, or Navy Personnel who have trained with Marine FMF units more than ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps device (clasp) worn on the Service Ribbon," and were awarded the Fleet Marine Force Ribbon who are now Regular Members of the League are also eligible to be nominated for the MED MOY. Absolutely no Honorary, Associate, or other type of member is eligible for Mideast Division Marine of the Year.

The Nominee must also have their Marine Corps League dues paid up in full to be considered as a Nominee (A paid up MCL member is defined as being a "member in good standing"). Finally, your Detachment's Nominee MUST be nominated and voted on by your Detachment's membership. THIS IS IMPORTANT!!! The best way to approach this is to start about two months before the Mideast Division MOY packet submission deadline date. MED Convention is in June 2023.

Notify your Detachment members that at that monthly business meeting, the Mideast Division Marine of the Year Nominee will be selected, and it is the members' job to think about a Nominee (or Nominees) that fill the description of being a potential candidate.

Make sure you put this in your next newsletter as a reminder to all the members as well. When the meeting takes place to select the Nominee, follow your Detachment's By-Laws and/or general guidelines as how to vote on or select your one single Nominee.

Additional information will follow in an email to all Detachments.

Semper Fidelis, Frater Infinitas

Frank Mathers,

Assistant National Vice Commandant
Mideast Division
Chair of MED MOY Committee
mclmedanvc@gmail.com
<https://www.mclmideast.com>



**Mideast Division Vice President
Doris Bujanowski**

Greetings from Mt. Airy, in Central Maryland,

This past year was very productive, and the 2022 National Convention was proof of that. The Convention was bittersweet in a big way for me personally. I have gotten to know (now Past President) Evelyn Joppa over the past three years, and she became a wonderful mentor as I learned the responsibilities of a Division Vice. I look forward to working with Madam President Linda Chamberlain and getting to know her better during 2023. I am confident she will do well leading our Auxiliary in her National position.

Speaking of the National Convention, I enjoyed seeing each of you who attended. Many of you I only see once or twice a year. It was awesome being in Daytona, Florida. Thank you to all who had a part in putting together such a wonderful Convention. Most of us have no idea how much time and effort goes into preparing for the National Convention each year. Just a reminder, make your reservations for the Midwinter Conference in Norfolk, VA coming up next month (February) and for the National Convention in Oklahoma City being held in August 2023. My husband and I really enjoy attending the conferences and the conventions. We make mini vacations out of them.

Several of the different Units in the Mideast Division have been active with fundraising, Toys for Tots, promoting membership and other activities. It is a great idea to participate with your Detachment and community when they are having special events.

To all of our Veterans, thank you for your service to us and to your Country. As we know, Freedom is not Free, it has a huge cost. Some have paid for our freedom with their life and many veterans are still paying for our freedoms with life-long disabilities and complications associated with their service. When you see a veteran or active duty military, please thank them for their service.

Semper Fi and God Bless,

Doris Bujanowski



Members of the LCpl Robert W. Deane Detachment helping the Unit setup.



LCpl Robert W. Dean Unit having a bake sale during the Oktoberfest in Mt. Airy.



Tar Heel Unit's Pamela Thomas at Beirut Memorial Ceremony giving prayer.



Durham VA Day of Service.



Toys for Tots collection.
Jerome Bujanowski and Jack Severn.



MED VP fed the Toys for Tots helpers a hot lunch at our local Southern States and Walmart. L to R, Front Row: Santa and Jack Severn. Back Row: U.S. Marine from Ft. Derrick, MD, Jerome Bujanowski and Billy Wagner.



Members of the Patuxent River Unit decorated a tree at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Southern MD. A few were camera shy.



The Department of Maryland welcomes the Peacekeeper Detachment #1492. Their charter ceremony was held December 8th in Ocean Pines Maryland. In attendance was the Mideast Assistant National Vice Commandant Frank Mathers, Department of Maryland Commandant Joe Fay, Department Sr. Vice Commandant Tony Rust, Department Jr Vice Commandant Pat Sharkey and Past Department Commandant Howard Kootz.



Detachment members in attendance - Pictures L to R: Bob Young, Pat Sharkey, John Daddezio, Deb Daddezio, Dept. of MD District Vice Larry Jackson, Peacekeeper Det. Cmdt Rick Pounsberry, Dick Tanner, Tim Shepke, John Whitehead, Rick Kubiak, Jerry Colleli, Dept. of MD PDC Howard Kootz, Joe Frolich, Ray Sturm



Picture L to R: Bob Young, Ed Dahling, Dept. of MD Jr. Vice Cmdt Pat Sharkey, John Daddezio, Deb Daddezio, Dept. of MD District Vice Larry Jackson, Sally Gioeni, Peacekeeper Det. Cmdt Rick Pounsberry, Dick Tanner, Tim Shepke, John Whitehead, Rick Kubiak, Jerry Colleli, Dept. of MD PDC Howard Kootz, Rosemary Koontz, Joe Frolich, Ray Sturm, Dept. of MD Cmdt Joe Fay, Dept. of MD Sr. Vice Cmdt Tony Rust

MARINE FOR LIFE

CONNECTING MARINES WITH OPPORTUNITY



MIDEAST DIVISION MCL/M4L News Winter 2022-23

Marines, Happy New Year!

In the past year, the M4L Network further augmented our outreach to assist Marines on a national level as well as offering many new resources to better suit their needs. Marine4Life (Marine For Life) is working!



What can the Marine For Life Network do for me? Did you know that 80% of jobs are found through networking? Marine For Life 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.

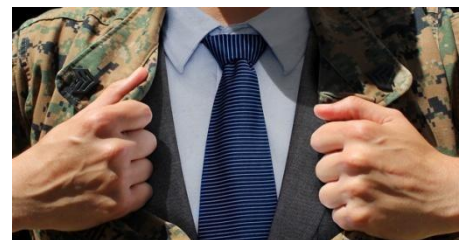
Face-to-Face Network: Focuses on connecting you to our field staff. We have four Regional Network Coordinators and over 50 Marine For Life Representatives who will help you build relationships and provide you with the opportunities to network with employment, education, and community resources in your current area or the area where you plan to move.

RESOURCE UPDATES:

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

Warriors Connected, is the Marine for Life Network Newsletter.

<https://usmc-mccs.org/services/career/marine-for-life-network/> Visit our LinkedIn site to download and read a copy.



For additional information or to volunteer as a Detachment or Department level M4L Liaison, please contact the Division Liaison at airlock@mcleague947.com.

Semper Fidelis!

**R. Michael Lyon,
Mideast Division M4L Liaison**



Madam/Sir Commandant: 17-October-2022

I am officially announcing my intention to run for the position of National Judge Advocate at the 2023 National Convention. Since joining the Marine Corps League back in 2005, I have appreciated how much we've accomplished as an organization, and I want to give back by volunteering my time to this office to continue our pursuit to becoming even stronger in the coming year. I have recently been asked to rejoin the National Bylaws Committee, which I proudly accepted, and had been a previously active member from 2013-2017.

I am a Past National Vice Commandant for the Mideast Division (2017-2019). Prior to that, I held the position of Assistant Division Vice Commandant (2013-2017). During that time, I worked diligently to open communications, mentor and strengthen Departments and Detachments that needed assistance. I also served as the Department of North Carolina Commandant (2011-2013), the Department of North Carolina Adjutant (2007-2011) and the Commandant for the LCpl. Alan D. Lam Detachment #1209 (Burlington, NC) from 2006-2008.

As you noticed in my credentials, I have not held the Judge Advocate position at any level within the League. That does not mean that I do not have any experience with that position. As a Division, Department and Detachment Commandant, I worked closely with those Judge Advocates on many issues. That, in part, is how I gained my knowledge. What I didn't know, was learned by taking the initiative to download and read the Bylaws at the pertinent level. Knowledge alone is not enough though. I believe my level of dedication; communication skills and interpersonal abilities make me a strong candidate for this position.

I understand the responsibilities, and accountability, associated with leadership positions. I have certainly taken into consideration all that will be required of me, as National Judge Advocate, and can say with confidence and certainty that I will work diligently with every Division, Department and Detachment to ensure that this National organization not only grows but becomes stronger. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your consideration. Every Marine Corps League member wants what is best for our organization and for the mission statement that we live by. With your support, I look forward to helping with our continued march of success.

Semper Fidelis,

Bruce R. Rakfeldt
Department of North Carolina

EDITOR'S CORNER

Huntington Detachment 340 Marine Corps League Charter renamed in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams



Department of West Virginia State Commandant Michael McLain pictured on the left, presents the Hershel "Woody" Williams Detachment 340 Charter to Detachment Commandant Rick Shank during a charter presentation ceremony on Monday October 24, 2022 at American Legion Post 16 in Huntington, WV.

Happy New Year and Semper Fidelis,
Rick Shank
MED Bulletin Editor
PO BOX 512 Huntington, WV 25710
Hard-charger@suddenlink.net
304-633-1814



**In Honor of the 80th Anniversary of the Four Chaplains story of selfless service.
February 3, 2023**

**ARE YOU A VET STRUGGLING WITH THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE,
DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, PTSD?**

YOU'RE NOT ALONE! HELP IS CLOSE AT HAND:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988

National Mental Health Hotline: 866 – 903 – 3787

If you are struggling with anxiety, bipolar, depression, panic attacks, PTSD, or schizophrenia connect with a trained crisis counselor.

V. A. Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800 – 273 – 8255, press 1 or text 388255 on your smart phone.

Online Live Chat: veteranscrisisline.net

Vet2vet Crisis Line 1-887-VET2VET (838-2838) to speak to a trained vet Crisis Text Line for Veterans: text “connect to 741741” to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

Give an Hour: giveanhour.org licensed counselors offering free in-person counseling for veterans.

Stop Soldier Suicide: stopsoldiersuicide.org get help with emotional issues, financial aid, housing, alternative therapies, vet/family retreats, education, and service dogs.

Check for state, municipal, and private programs in your area that specialize in assisting veterans with mental health issues.



PENDING MCL EVENTS

Department of West Virginia Quarterly Meeting will be 1/7/2023, hosted by Hershel “Woody” Williams Det 340 at the American Legion Post 16 1421 6th Avenue Huntington, WV 25701.

Department of Delaware Quarterly Meeting will be 1/21/2023 at Nobles Pond Clubhouse.

Department of Maryland Business Meeting will be 2/11/2023 at VFW Post 2632, 23282 Three Notch Road, California, MD 20619

National Midwinter Conference will be 2/23/2023 – 2/25/2023 (check in 2/22, check out 2/26) Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, 777 Waterside Drive Norfolk, VA
<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/orfsi-sheraton-norfolk-waterside-hotel/> Group Code: MCL Phone: (757-622-6664) Room rate \$151.35 (inclusive of 15% tax & \$3 resort fee) and includes buffet breakfast for two (2) and garage parking. Offsite garage parking is \$14 per day per entry **IF NOT STAYING AT HOTEL** (each time entering garage each day). Valet Parking is \$30 per day. Please make your room reservation directly to the hotel.
Department of North Carolina Membership Meeting will be (tentative) 3/17-18/2023 in Havelock, NC.

Department of Maryland Business Meeting will be (tentative) 3/25/2023 at Proctor Kildow American Legion post 71, 423 Memorial Drive, Oakland, MD 21550.

Department of Maryland Convention will be 5/11-13/2023 at The Grand Hotel 2100 Baltimore Ave, Ocean City, MD 21842.

Department of Delaware Convention will be 5/13/2023 at the Heritage Shores Clubhouse at One Heritage Shores Cir, Bridgeville DE. 0900 coffee/pastries. 1000 meeting followed by a hot lunch.

Department of WV Department 50th Anniversary Convention will be 5/19-21/2023 at Comfort Inn & Suites, 167 Elizabeth Pike, Mineral Wells, WV 26150. Phone: 304-699- 0886. Room rate: \$85.00 Free breakfast, WIFI, parking. Rooms have refrigerator and microwave. Do not call the hotel for room reservations as they are being booked via Detachment 1087 to use tax exemption. Contact Don Dearth, 304-481-9595 for rooms, banquet, and advance registration. The banquet rate is \$30.00. Make check payable to MCL Detachment 1087. If you want to use your points or credit card, then contact the hotel. They will give you the block rate but will charge you tax.

Department of Virginia Convention will be hosted by Mickey Finn Detachment more info TBA.

Department of North Carolina Convention will be 6/9-11/2023 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Jacksonville, NC. Call the hotel at 910-346-2400 room rate is \$120.00+tax (includes breakfast). POC is Raymond Randall, Commandant of the Onslow County Detachment 262, randall5258@hotmail.com OR 910-691-2864. Registration fee of \$10 per member. Lunch will be Taste of Italy fee of \$16 per person. The banquet is \$35 per person.

Mideast Division Conference will be 6/24-25/2023 at Doubletree Hotel by Hilton Baltimore North, 1726 Reisterstown Rd, Pikesville, MD 21208.

Modern Day Marine Expo will be 6/27-29/2023 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, District of Columbia. Additional information will be forthcoming.

National Convention will be 8/14-18/2023 in Oklahoma City, OK. At Omni Oklahoma City Hotel, 100 W Oklahoma City Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73109 , (405) 438-6500 or 800-843-6664, Room rate \$165.49 includes tax. Parking not included but is \$10 per day self-parked; \$28 per day valet parked. Pet friendly with service animals no charge but others is \$165.00 per week. Rate good for 3 days prior and afterwards.

REMINDER: The correct address for the Marine Corps League National is:
Marine Corps League National P.O. Box 1990 Stafford, VA 22555-1990

FYI: Check out the VETERAN SERVICES tab added to MCL Library on National HQ website: mclnational.com. VA Resources and info on the **Camp Lejeune Act and PACT ACT**.

Mideast Division Conference future host Departments

1. Maryland – 2023
2. West Virginia – 2024
3. Virginia – 2025
4. Delaware – 2026
5. North Carolina - 2027



Thank you for reading!