

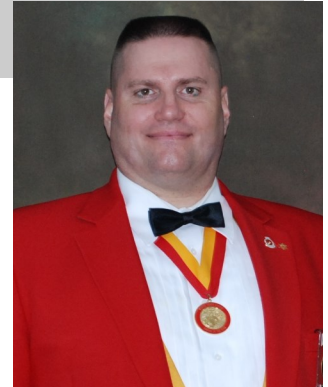
Maryland Muster

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Editors- Evelyn Remines & Don Benson

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From the Commandant - Craig P. Reeling



Spring is finally here and unfortunately I missed the Dept Spring Meeting. I came down with the flu the Friday night before. I want to thank the Dept Senior Vice Evelyn Remines for stepping in and running the meeting. Lots of good info was passed along. This is why it is important to submit a written report. Detachment Reports and Committee Reports can really inform a member who must occasionally miss a meeting due to sickness, work or family event. I have read all the reports that were submitted. Great job to those who submitted written reports.

REPORTS: I am expecting every Dept Officer, Dept Committee Chairperson and every Detachment Commandant to submit a written report at our Dept Convention on 30 April. Bring enough copies to place a few on the back table. The exchange of information between Detachments is very useful by providing new ideas. "No Report" means you aren't doing anything. Why are you holding that Office?

NATIONAL HQ's UPDATE: As many of you have received emails originating from National Headquarters and the National Commandant Richard Gore. There have been a few changes at HQ's. New blood/new employees bring a fresh perspective to the MCL. We will have a new National Adjutant/Paymaster, employees in the Semper Fi store and the Membership Department. Please welcome these new employees when you encounter them or speak to them on the phone. We wish the outgoing employees well in their future endeavors. Rumors are never good. If you have questions, direct them to the Dept Leadership or call me directly. You may not be the only one asking the same question. HQ's has really been improving over the last 8 months. Moral is up! Efficiency is up! The MCL is moving forward.

NATIONAL LOCATOR PAGES: The Locator Pages are back on the National website, under the Contact tab. <http://www.mclnational.org/Contact/Locator/tabid/737/Default.aspx> Please visit your local Detachment page to make sure your info is up to date. Is there a link to your local Detachment website? This is where a prospective member will enter their zip code to locate any Detachments close to their home.

PREFERRED UNIFORMS FOR CONVENTION:

Friday Morning Opening Ceremony: Red Blazer, MCL cover
 Saturday Business Meeting: Undress Uniform. White MCL shirt with MCL Ribbons OR DoD Ribbons/Badges, Black (or Dress Blues Trousers), Black shoes, MCL Cover
 Saturday Banquet MCL: MCL Formal Uniform or Red Blazer
 Saturday Banquet Guest: Formal preferred or Business attire

While I am requesting specific uniforms be worn, what is most important is your attendance. I looking forward to seeing you all at the Department Convention. There is still time to register (right up to Saturday morning at the Convention). ALL MEMBERS & ASSOCIATES are invited. Even if you can only make it to Ocean City on Saturday, we want you to participate in the business meeting starting at 0900. We are looking for your input to help guide the Department during the upcoming year.

Keep up the good work, stay visible in your community and continue to bring in new members into our MCL family.

Sr. Vice Commandant - Evelyn Remines

You should be receiving this issue of the Maryland Muster right before or at the Department convention in beautiful Ocean City, MD! I put a lot of effort into making this a fun and enjoyable weekend for you and your families. Please do not hesitate to let me know if there is something I can do to make your Convention experience a great one.

I will also be looking for questions, comments, criticisms and complaints after the Convention wraps up. I cannot improve the Convention for 2017 if I do not know what needs to be fixed. Keep in mind that I cannot control the length of the meetings, so no need to complain to me if you fell asleep during them!

I will be transferring all of my Convention planning experiences into a Standard Operating Procedure so that future Convention Chairs will have an easier time understanding what they need to do and won't have to pester me or future Commandants to help them. Craig has been very supportive and understanding with all of my questions on what needs to be done and who to contact in order to get them done. I want to thank Craig for helping me out.

I also want to thank everyone else who helped me organize and run the convention. There will be too many to list here individually, but you know who you are!

I look forward to the year ahead of us. Let's flourish as a Department in 2016!!



Jr. Vice Commandant - Bill Kelly



Greetings from the Jr. Vice Commandant!

Now that the winter weather is almost or completely (hopefully) gone we can focus on the upcoming summer months and identify our various projects and philanthropic functions. We should ensure that we use all of these projects and functions as an opportunity to recruit new members. Some detachments are increasing while others are slowly losing members. We have to "stop the bleeding" and that begins with every member of every detachment!

Reach out and touch that neighbor or work associate who was a member of the Corps and show them all of the great things we do in our communities. It is incumbent upon every one of us to recruit new members whenever and wherever we can find them! From new members come new ideas. Consider a mentoring program for every new member to show him the "ropes" and let him know that his or her contributions will be entertained and recognized. Encourage attendance at all of your functions and celebrations.

Recruit! Recruit! Recruit! That should be our watchword for this summer. I look forward to seeing you all at Ocean City for the Department convention as well as the Mideast Convention in Delaware in June.

Semper Fidelis

Judge Advocate- Gerard Devlin

It has been a quiet time since my last report. I reviewed a set of amended constitution and by laws for a single detachment. I also answered several queries from Marines in the various detachments but many of the issues that divide departments and detachments have not been a part of the Maryland scene, for which we are all grateful.

Semper Fi

Jerry



Mideast Division Events

2016 Marine South Expo will be April 6-7, 2016 at Camp Lejeune, NC

2016 Department of Delaware Convention and election of officers will take place on Saturday 30 April 2016. 10:00 to 14:00. Heritage Shores Country Club, 1 Heritage Shore Lane, Bridgeville, DE. Note to all - The Club is located on US 13 near the intersection of DE Rt. 404 and US 13. 1 hour north of Ocean City and 40 minutes south of Dover, DE.

2016 Department of Maryland Department Convention will be April 28-30, 2016 at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842-2745.

2016 Department of West Virginia Convention will be May 6-8, 2016 and hosted by Jones, Wolin & O'Brien Detachment 771 in Wheeling, WV at Oglebay Resort & Conference Center. Wilson Lodge room rate is \$115 per night plus room tax. Tele: 800-624-6988 or 304-243-4090. Mention: MCL attendee. Banquet: Buffet with country menu of beef, chicken and salmon with assorted side dishes and desserts. Cost: \$25.00 Pack Growl 7 pm on May 6. Advance registration \$5. POC: John Nanny, P.O. Box 2121, Wheeling, WV 26003-0234. Tele: 304-233-5289 or 304-281-2950. Guest speaker: USMC BGEN Austin Renforth, CG of Training Command, Quantico, VA

2016 Department of North Carolina Convention will be June 10-11, 2016 at the Courtyard by Marriott, Charlotte Gastonia, 1856 Remount Rd, Gastonia, NC 28054, 704-852-4411 or 1-800-891-3766. Room Rate = \$89 +tax, Ask for the Marine Corps League rate. Registration = \$10 per person, Banquet = \$30 per person, Banquet will be a choice of Grilled Chicken Fillet, Ham, or Roast Beef., Friday night will be hotdogs / pizza / pick ups., Water, soda and tea will be available. ALL activities will be at the hotel.

2016 Mideast Division Conference will be June 24-26, 2016 at the Wilmington- Christina Hilton, 100 Continental Drive, Newark DE 19713. Telephone; 302 781 7049. It is conveniently located off I-95 exit 4B. Room rate is \$124.99 a night and includes full breakfast buffet. Banquet is \$34.00.

Mideast Division

West Virginia
Virginia
Maryland
Delaware
District of Columbia
North Carolina
London



District One Vice Commandant - Ed Elder

The Wicomico County, Maryland, War Memorial was established in 2003 to honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving for the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines, and Merchant Marines. Veterans of World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Prisoners of War are honored.

One hundred and eighty names are engraved on the Memorial's bronze plaques. Those fallen war heroes are listed in the order of their death by the war in which they served. In order to preserve the memory of those lost, Ed Hearthway, a member of the War Memorial Committee and the SSgt Cohee Detachment, Marine Corps League, has researched a history for each serviceman; to date no women from Wicomico County, Maryland are listed on the Memorial.

To compliment the outdoor War Memorial, the Veteran's Tree of Honor was added to the Wicomico County Civic Center lobby in 2005. The Veteran's Tree includes a gold colored leaf, engraved with the Veteran's name and additional information. The SSgt Cohee Detachment has provided the names of Marines from our Detachment that have died, as well as other Marines from the lower eastern shore, that have honorably served our Country. Our Detachment has requested that all leaves reflect the Marine's name, branch of service, and reference to the Marine Corps League. Funding for the Veteran's Tree of Honor from our Detachment includes 46 leaves at \$4,600. The first leaf was in memory of SSgt Walter F. Cohee III, USMC; 17 April 1975 – 20 January 2002.

District Two Vice Commandant - Donald Benson, Sr.



In my duties as DVC I have attended Anne Arundel Detachment meeting and attended Harford County Detachment Meeting. I am responsible for:

LCpl. Gregory Scott Copenhaver	Det. 1098	Elkton, MD.
Harford County	Det. 1198	Jarrettsville, MD.
Baltimore	Det. 565	Baltimore City, MD.
Anne Arundel County	Det. 1049	Glen Burnie, MD.

I have asked each Commandant of each Detachment to send me copies of their Quarterly Reports and Newsletters.

I also continue to attend Harford County Detachment meeting and Social events, continue to volunteer at Perry Point Veteran Hospital on a weekly basis, participated with Harford County at a February Gun Show in Bel Air, participated in the Jarrettsville VFW Post 8679 Bingo Night (kitchen detail). Attended the Department meeting in March, attended 1049 Detachment meeting and Officer elections, attended 1198 Detachment meeting and Officer elections. attended Perry Point VAVS meeting, attended February Pound 204 and Pound 344 Growls, attended March Pound 333 Growl. Attended Mid-Winter National Staff Conference, attended an Eagle Court of Honor in Harford County.

I am here to serve my detachments, so if any of you have any issues or need the Department to do anything, please let me know at msgte8don@yahoo.com

April 2016

District Three Vice Commandant - Tim Hoernig

As the District 3 Vice Commandant I have taken part in the Installation of Officer for Patuxent River Detachment 1305. I also participated in the Marine Night Get Together at the REX Restaurant in Leonardtown held by the Patuxent River Detachment.

I also attended the Joint Veterans Commission of Maryland's Veteran of the Year Banquet. The banquet was well attended by all the veteran organizations. The Marine Corps league was well represented. The Master of Ceremonies was our own Jerry Devlin. Our Commandant presented the Honored Veteran with a plaque adorned with a bell. This year's Honored Veteran was LTC Andre (Andy) R. Martel U.S. Army Retired.

My future plans are to attend the State Convention the end of this month and then the Mideast Division Conference in June.

Memorial Day is fast approaching at the end of next month. Remember all of our Brothers and Sisters in Arms both past and present on this day. Especially say a prayer for those in harm's way and ask the Almighty to keep them safe. Also on this special day if you see a veteran please shake his or her hand and tell them Thank You, those two small words can mean so much.



District Four Vice Commandant - Marc Fisher



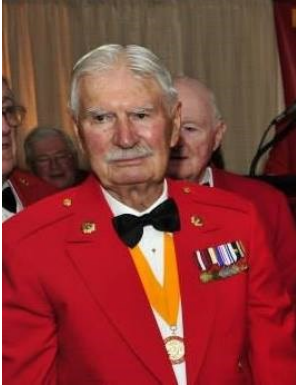
The 4th District is busy planning a first class Marine Corps Ball for all members of the 4th District and beyond!

The Ball will be held on Saturday, 12 November, 2016, from 1700-2200. The location will be the Gold Star Post American Legion in Mt. Airy. Details are forthcoming. We hope that all members of the Department will consider joining us for our first 4th District Ball!

LEADERSHIP COLLEGE - 7 MAY 2016

Department wide Leadership training will be held at the Glen Burnie VFW Post 160 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21061 from 0800 - 1600. Cost of the class is \$35 per student. Donuts and lunch provided. Email Craig.Reeling@MarylandMarines.org for an application or find them on the Department's website at: www.deptofmdmcl.org Deadline to register is 27 April 2016. Class is open to all members, associates and auxiliary.

District Five Vice Commandant - Bud Raines



Please send prayers out for the Raines family. Bud's wife is currently in the hospital at Bethesda. I'm sure Bud would appreciate everyone's support at this time.

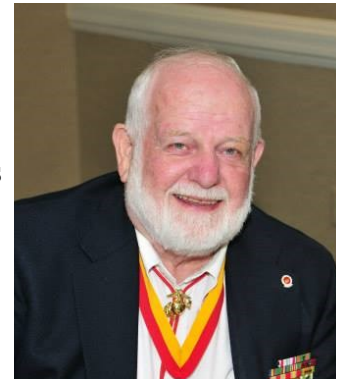
Did you know???

The first Commandant of the Marine Corps to hold the rank of General was Alexander A. Vandegrift, who served as Commandant from 1944-1947.



Department Adjutant - Paul Taylor

The Department of Maryland's annual convention is nearly upon us. Normally by his time I have received nearly all of the Detachment's Officer Installation Reports. To date (1 Apr) I have received one! Of the one I did receive, no Department Officers were asked to attend. The Commandant has urged all Detachments to invite the Department Officers to your installation whether you want one of them to do the honors or not. They want to be present.



While the bylaws allow that the detachments have until 15 May to install, it is encouraged to do so prior to the Department Convention in order for the new officers to represent your detachment there and let everyone else know who the new officers are.

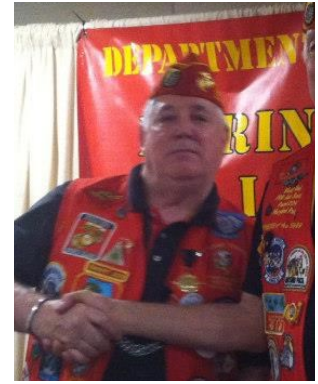
In the past, some detachments have forwarded the installation reports to the Department Paymaster. Then he has to turn them around and send them to the Department Adjutant which increases the time they get reported to National and increases their chances of getting lost in the mail. So ensure they come to the Adjutant at this address:

Paul Taylor
7944 Oakwood Road
Glen Burnie, Md 21061

MODD MD Pack Leader - Jim Brady

Voof Voof (German for Woof Woof) to all the Dogs in Mer-Lin, Howling Greetings from your Pack Leader, for the very short time being:

It's that time again for nomination and elections of a new Pack Leader and his/her immediate Pack Staff Dogs. I know how difficult it will be to replace me but life goes on no matter how poor a selection you make. Before that happens I have to say what a privilege it has been to be your Pack Leader these past two years. You all made the job fun and honorable and we did accomplish a great deal.



- Most Pack Passport Bones to Kennel five years in a row. It looks like we are on our way in doing it again this year (sixth) as well.
- Created Kennel Trophy for both Pound and Pack and contributed in covering 1/3rd of the cost. We have the Pack of Maryland on it for the very first two years and maybe again this year. This will go down in Dog Lore and History for many years to come.
- Conducted Pack Growls on time had fun, sang songs (out of tune of course) and able to continue to donate more bones to St Baldrick's in Ed Ross's name.
- Supported the Department of Maryland in all its duties & assisted them in all their functions.
- Attended as many Pound Growls as possible, especially those who told me when and where they were having growls.

Whoever replaces me my thoughts and recommendations would be to continue, if not make them better, the following things:

- Conduct Pack Growls in coordination with MCL-Department of Maryland Meetings. It is very important that Dogs attend the MCL-Department of Maryland Meetings to get a better understanding and support our Parent Organization.
- If possible to keep up the great work (Donations) in both Passport Bones and St Baldrick's in Ed Ross's name. Our Kennel By-Laws dictate our supporting "The Kids"
- Get out to as many Pound Growls as possible. See how and help them conduct their growls and show them how to have fun doing them.
- Maybe even get better at singing the Woof Woof songs that Bob Rossi has us singing?
- Enlarging the Curmudgeon Brigade to incorporate new worthy Dogs.

Going forward in to our Pack Growl on April 29th, 2016, we expect to initiate a few more mongrels in to "Devil Dogs". Let's all get your credentials up-dated and your registrations submitted to attend this public display of our "Marine Corps Spirit" of brotherly support, fellowship and in addition to making fun of ourselves.

As so many before me have said "It is an Honor to be a Devil Dog" so let's go forth and do wonderful things for ourselves, our Pounds, our Pack, our Detachments, our Department and our Marines, Semper Fidelis. - *Jim Brady, PDD 05-288, MD Pack Leader (extraordinary)*

Toys for Tots - Marian James



First, I would like to say “Thank You” to all Detachments who submitted a report and a lot of valuable data was received for these units. This is the last information that was received for the Department of Maryland “Toys for Tots” 2015 Program and hopefully next year, we will get more information earlier so that we do not have so many updates:

<u>DETACHMENT NAME</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMT</u>	<u>NO. OF TOYS</u>
Anne Arundel Cty Detachment <i>#1049 – picked up toys from 400 locations</i>	\$21,000.00	35,000
Free State Detachment #344	\$7,644.00	1,100
LCpl Robert W. Deane #770	\$3,800.00	3,840
Baltimore Detachment #565 <i>Dollar Amount for Toys \$2,866.00</i>	\$225.00	357
Sgt Hettchen Detachment #1428 <i>Montgomery County includes Books and Stocking Stuffers</i>		48,301
Harford Cty Detachment #1198	\$17,337.61	58,837
Pax River Detachment #1305 <i>St. Mary's County local donations</i>	\$36,728.10	8,944
Total Local Information	\$76,734.71	166,379
Pax River Detachment #1305 Donated to Toys for Tots Foundation	\$23,181.00	
Grand Totals	\$99,915.71	166,379



Seargent-at-Arms - Howard Koontz

Hello Marines,

I am proud of being part of the Department of Maryland and associating with such fine men and women from all parts of Maryland. Marines from the Western Maryland mountains to the sunny shores of Ocean City and all in-between act as one. Before each quarterly meeting, I call the host detachment to see what I, as the SAA can do to help the detachment. The response of the Detachment's Commandant has been outstanding. We are coming up on the conference at Ocean City. This will be a All Hands On Deck evolution in which I request members from each detachment to help in some way.



I would like the assistance from each detachment's SSA to help during the full meetings, to assist with the sign in, honor at the American Flag and general tasks that will make this conference one to remember. I plan to arrive at the Princess around 1300 on Thursday and set up the meeting room. If anyone is available to assist, please let me know. I can be reached by e-mail at Formernavalperson1@hotmail.com.

My thanks to all Marines, Auxiliary and Associate Members who have made the Maryland Marine Corps League an outstanding origination that has been recognized by National many times. See you in OC.

Chief of Staff & Historian - Jack Severn

All,

I want to thank all who have sent me historical information for their Detachments.

I have been busy getting all of the ads ready for the convention book, but I am still looking for history items from all of the Detachments. I am especially interested in the biographies of the Marines who have had Detachments named in their honor. If you are one of the Detachments who has taken a Marine's name for your own, please send me a detailed biography of that Marine, including the reasons you chose to honor them.



Of course, I am still looking for any old photos, information, or anything you have for all of the Detachments in order to preserve this history of the Department of Maryland for all future generations of League members to enjoy. I need everyone's cooperation on this, as I cannot get the information all on my own. I appreciate all of the Detachment's efforts on giving me your history for posterity's sake.

Semper fi,
Jack

Department Paymaster - Ed Dahling

Greetings all,

This year the IRS begins enforcing the requirement for tax exempt organizations to file a 990. The IRS requires that a return is filed by the fifteenth day of the fifth month after the close of the fiscal year. Many, but not all, detachments use June 30 as the end of their fiscal year. If this is your date then your return is due before November 15th.

Any detachment that has not filed the required form in the last three years automatically will lose its tax exempt status effective as of the due date of the annual filing. Under the law, the IRS does not have discretion in this matter.

After your detachment files print the receipt and mail or e-mail a copy to me. As I will be tracking each detachment who has or have not filed.

I notice that on the department's forms has the wrong phone number for me. The correct number is (410) 987-5147 which is my home phone. I can be reach easier by my cell phone (410) 570-8673

Semper Fi



Legislative - Gerard Devlin

The 2016 session of the General Assembly adjourned Sine Die at midnight on April 11. It was not a good year for veteran's legislation. Very little of significance came to Gov. Hogan's desk on the second floor. Most of the bills that made it through the two Houses were fairly local in nature such as bills providing gambling privileges to a veterans' posts in various counties.

One of our main goals, increasing the subtraction modification for military retirees from \$10,000 to \$15,000 went nowhere. The bill to establish a home fund for Charlotte Hall made it through as did the bill to extend veteran's preference to spouses. One of the controversial bills to provide penalties for "wannabees" who wear military decorations they have not earned (stolen Valor) failed presumably because the Supreme Court said wearing false ribbons is protected by the First Amendment.

Once again the American Legion led the way in fighting to keep veteran oriented legislation front and center and the other organizations lagged behind. If any detachments wish to have me conduct an instructional session on the legislative process I am available.

Young Marines East - Bruce Vanden Bos

After months of negotiations and planning, MCL Pax River Det 1305 and some Young Marines are collaborating on a YM encampment at Saner's Lake Sportsmen's Club. The YMs will learn hunting safety, NRA safety rules, and have an opportunity to get some shooting practice. The Pax River Detachment is covering the costs involved in the encampment.

Members are not only supplying and preparing breakfast Saturday, March 26th, but are treating the YMs to MREs for lunch that day. They will act as mentors and monitors to the YMs to ensure a safe and fun encampment for all. This is hoped to be an annual event.

According to Upper Marlboro YM Unit Commander Tony Watkins, there has been no collaborating between them and the Free State MCL Detachment in Bowie.

The Oxen Hill YM unit is looking for a new meeting site. Any suggestion are appreciated. Contact me if you have any ideas. I will forward them to Unit Commander Rob Kirkland.

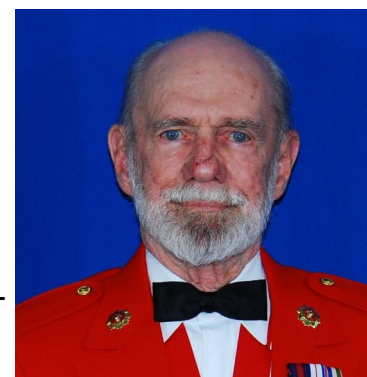
I received no response to contact from Unit Commander Dallas Cooper at the Annapolis YMs. Due to health issues I have not been able to make visits in person.



Young Marines West - Joe Clemente

I continue to be in contact with the Young Marine Units in my area by e-mail and visits. I intend to have visited all my units by end of summer. I encourage MCL detachments to reach out to the Young Marine Units in their areas.

I had the opportunity to visit the Central Maryland Unit of the Young Marines. This unit is a part of the Kennedy - Krieger High School for Physically and Mentally Challenged. All members of the unit are students at the high school. The Adult Commander is First Sergeant Vivian Price - Butler, USMC (Ret.). The Young Marines attend Unit Meetings as part of their education process. Commander Price -Butler has taken these Young Marines far beyond expectations.



Chaplain/Marines Helping Marines - Tony Begenwald



Since our March Staff meeting, I received two Death Notices, both from Anteitam, for C.V. Myers Jr, who passed on October 26, 2015, and for Roger D. Kinzer who passed on January 17, 2016.

I received a few reports of illnesses. There have been enough emails on the subject, so I guess everyone knows about Benson's gall bladder. Jerry Devlin was scheduled to have his appendix removed today (April 14th). I had a long conversation with Bud Raines regarding his wife's illness. She is quite ill due to internal bleeding from some blood thinning medication she had been taking. She is currently in WRNMMC-Bethesda where she has been for some time. Finally, there are too many individuals suffering from nose and throat issues to mention.

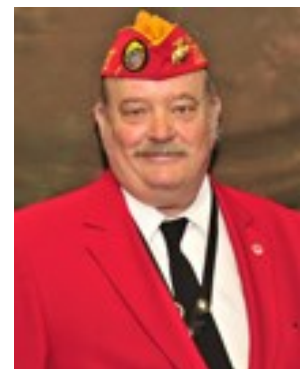
On the WRNMMC-Bethesda front, I have continued to make my weekly visits. For the past couple of weeks there were three newly wounded at the hospital. They were with the Marine that was killed by the mortar blast and were slightly injured. They have since been released. I delivered more Oriole baseball tickets for the 40+ outpatients and USMC staff. I will be providing tickets throughout the season. I wish there was a way I could raise some funds to help pay for these tickets. The MHM program used to pay for them, but they don't anymore. The cost comes out of my pocket. The powers to be that eliminated the monthly cookouts decided there were not enough Marines at WRNMMC-Bethesda to continue this worthwhile effort.

Photographer - Paul "Doc" Gunther

At the last quarterly meeting a motion was made to help me with replacing my camera equipment that was stolen in October 2015 from a friend's car.

I want to thank my fellow Marines for the check I received. I'm looking for a setup now and with the help I've received from the department I should have a camera soon.

I have been asked to get head shots of all the Elected & Appointed Officers, as well as pictures of the Commandant of the Year, Marine of the Year, Detachment of the Year and Recruiter of the Year. Please help me by making yourself available at the convention with your award.



Thank you all and Semper Fi

Eagle Scouts - Bob Rossi



Congratulations to the Anne Arundel, Antietam, Baltimore, Patuxent River, and Shangri-La Detachments. They presented 30 Good Citizenship Awards to individuals achieving the rank of Eagle Scout as of 11 March 2016. That's a great start considering it was only 10 weeks from 1 January 2016. More awards are in progress.

The next consolidated tally will be for the Ocean City Convention. Please email me your list of presentations from 12 March 2016 through 22 April 2016 using the detachment level Eagle Scout Awards Report which identifies the Scout's Name, Troop Number and the Date Presented.

The most important deadline the Department of Maryland Eagle Scout Awards Program must meet is the submission of its report through the Mid-East Division Chair Charles Minton who consolidates it with the other Mid-East states for the National Chairman Tom Minchon. The form described above is the tool we use to verify the numbers reported on behalf of the Department of Maryland.

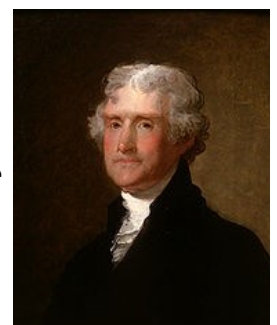
I do not have a complete email address list so email your updates to robert.rossi@mris.com using the form described above. If your detachment does not have an officer who uses email then find a volunteer. It's a way of recruiting a new member or an associate.

Occasionally I get an application from the National Headquarters through Commandant Craig Reeling or mailed directly to me. In some cases I prepare the award and in others I send it to the detachment nearest to the award recipient. In such instances where I do it, the local detachment gets credited.

It is worth noting that the MCL Good Citizenship Award presentation at the Boy Scout Court of Honor Ceremony not only recognizes these promising young Americans, it represents important public relations for the Marine Corps and the MCL. It is an opportunity to introduce Eagle Scouts to Marine Corps Recruiters as well as potential MCL members from the parents.



In 1801, LtCol Cmdt William Burrows rode with President Thomas Jefferson to find a "proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on." President Jefferson was a friend of LtCol Burrows and staunch supporter of the Marine Corps. They chose a square in Washington, at 8th and I streets because it lay near the Navy Yard and was within easy marching distance of the Capitol.



4th CEB Liaison - Harry Hierstetter

The MCL received a request from Ms. Bea Ramos, the Family Readiness Officer for the 4th CEB. A young Marine Reservist was in need of \$250.00 so he could take the state mandatory course so he could get his driver's license. He is the oldest child in his family and is taking odd jobs to help support his mother and youngest brother. Because he does not have a license, this causes a domino effect, no license he can't drive, can't drive no decent employment can be found.

The Baltimore Detachment, through our Marine Family Assistance Program, provided the \$250.00 so this young Marine could take the course.



Perry Point Veteran's Hospital - Buzz Taylor



Renovations of the unused homes on Perry Point is going to be getting underway. It is hoped that the developer will be able to start renovations on these historic buildings soon. Because this is a historic site, there are many guidelines that must be followed and some of the buildings are in such poor shape that they must be almost completely restored. However, the project is moving forward. Building 364 is being looked at; it provides inpatient mental services which appear not to be fully utilized but there is nothing at the present time stating that the facility will be closed.

Perry Point is looking for donations to purchase computers and printers for their residents to use. If you would like to donate to this project, please select account 1063.

The Harford County Detachment has a wheelchair bowling program every Tuesday at 1 p.m. They are always in need of volunteers. If interested, please let me know.

Joint Veteran's Committee of MD - Ray Chatary

On Saturday, April 9th, the Joint Veteran's Committee of MD awarded its Veteran of the Year to Andy R. Martel. Andy is a retired LtCol with the U.S. Army, Past Chairman of the JVC, Past State Commander of AMVETS and Past National District II Commander of AMVETS.



Following Andy's retirement from the Army, he continued his service with the Intelligence and Security Command at Fort Belvoir in a civilian capacity. He has also been employed by Lockheed Martin since 1992 as the Facility Manager for the Lanham, MD site.

Andy joined AMVETS in 1995 and since then has dedicated much of his time to the organization. He also serves as a commissioner for the Prince George's County Commission for Veterans and is a member of the Governor-appointed State of Maryland Military Monuments Commission. As well as holding life membership in AMVET, he is also a life member of the VFW and Catholic War Veterans.

Commandant Craig Reeling was one of many who presented Andy awards in recognition of his selfless dedication to Veterans all across Maryland. Congratulations, Andy!



Newest Members of the Department of Maryland



The Department of Maryland would like to welcome the following members to the Marine Corps League!

LCpl Deane Detachment 770

- ◆ Richard Starr
- ◆ Barry Donahue

Carroll County Detachment 896

- ◆ Richard Kent

Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049

- ◆ Brent Bashaw

Patuxent River Detachment 1305

- ◆ Jessie Blanton
- ◆ Lance Alsheintr
- ◆ Jenay Rapp
- ◆ Angela Maukswski
- ◆ Gary Stillwell
- ◆ Diane Stillwell

Harford County Detachment 1198

- ◆ Ryan Jasper
- ◆ Peter Cannito, Sr.

Maryland Marines Detachment 1371

- ◆ Donald Megby

Sgt. Jack Hettchen Detachment 1428

- ◆ Glen Murphy
- ◆ Daniel Lane
- ◆ Michael Harting

Fort Howard - Gary Roundtree

The following is a letter forwarded from Adam R. Robinson, Jr. - Director of the VA Maryland Health Care System.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Maryland Health Care System



MAR 23 2016

Baltimore VA Medical Center
10 North Greene Street
Baltimore MD 21201
(410) 605-7000

Perry Point VA Medical Center
Perry Point MD 21902
(410) 642-2411

Loch Raven VA Community
Living & Rehabilitation Center
3900 Loch Raven Boulevard
Baltimore MD 21218
(410) 605-7000

Dear Veteran Service Organization Leader:

I am writing to make you aware of an issue at our Fort Howard VA Outpatient Clinic. Due to water damage, the Fort Howard VA Outpatient Clinic closed on March 9, 2016, as we conducted a full assessment and evaluation of the building. After reviewing the information from the assessment and evaluation of the water damage, we have decided to permanently close the facility and move it to a new location. The clinic's numerous infrastructure issues, location within a flood zone, lack of mass transportation resources, and the discovery of mold from the recent water damage led to the decision to move to a new and more accessible location to better serve the needs of our Veteran patients. We will be using the competitive lease process to identify a new location for the clinic in Eastern Baltimore County that is in close proximity to mass transportation and major roadways.

As a result of the closure, all patient care activities and staff were transferred to the Loch Raven VA Outpatient Clinic, located at 3901 The Alameda in Baltimore, Maryland. With the permanent closure of the Fort Howard VA Outpatient Clinic, patients will continue to receive their care at the Loch Raven VA Outpatient Clinic until a new location can be identified and opened in Eastern Baltimore County. We are also working to establish a new daily shuttle service between the Fort Howard area and the Loch Raven VA Outpatient Clinic to provide transportation assistance to our Veteran patients during this transition.

The main phone line for the Fort Howard VA Outpatient Clinic has also been transferred to the Loch Raven VA Outpatient Clinic. Patients can continue to dial (410) 477-1800 to schedule, change or cancel a clinic appointment or to speak with a member of their primary care team. Patients who need medical advice or have questions about their medications may call the VA Maryland Health Care System's Telephone Care Line 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-865-2441.

If you have any questions about the permanent closure and relocation of the Fort Howard VA Outpatient Clinic, please contact me at (410) 605-7016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam M. Robinson, Jr., M.D.".

ADAM M. ROBINSON, JR., M.D.

Director, VA Maryland Health Care System

March Meeting Recap - 16 March 2016

Choptank Detachment Commandant Wayne Patchett opened the Department of Maryland, Marine Corps League, and the Department of Maryland, Marine Corps League Auxiliary joint Department meeting IAW MCL rituals, thanked everyone for coming, briefed the members on lunch, then turned the meeting over to Department Senior vice Commandant Evie Remines, who recognized all National Officers, all National Marines of the Year, all National Auxiliary Officers, Honorary Chief Devil Dogs, all past Department Commandants, all Department Marines of the Year, all past Department Auxiliary Presidents, and present Department Auxiliary President. Since there was no business to conduct between the League and the Auxiliary, a five minute break was taken to allow the Auxiliary to adjourn to its meeting place.

The minutes of the January meeting were accepted as distributed

The Paymaster's report was accepted pending audit.

Chaplain Begenwald reported receiving 10 death notices since the January meeting.

Sick/in distress: Commandant Reeling is bedridden with the flu. Dan Donnelly and Norm Huffman are hospitalized. Bobbie Richardson and Tony Begenwald have been hospitalized but are now recuperating. Buzz Taylor is having medical problems.

Roll call of officers taken: All present except Commandant Reeling, Web Sergeant Hadley, District Four vice Commandant Fisher, District Five vice Commandant Raines, VAVS rep Roundtree, and Charlotte Hall Chairman/Young Marines Liaison, East, Vanden bos.

Roll call of detachments taken: All present except Antietam, LCpl Copenhaver, Carroll County, Shangri-la, Sgt Mileo, Mountainside, Southern Maryland, Maryland Marines and SSgt Taylor.

The Department Officers gave their reports. Senior vice Remines talked at length about the Department Convention.

The Department Committee Chairpersons gave their reports. Legislative rep Devlin announced that there are 60 bills pending in the Maryland legislature concerning veterans. He discussed a couple and iterated the importance of red hats appearing at the hearings.

Toys for Tots coordinator James reported that only five detachments reported participating in the campaign.

Marines Helping Marines rep Begenwald reported very little activity at Walter Reed with no in-patients but 43 on an out-patient basis.

Eagle Scout coordinator Rossi reported giving out 30 Eagle Scout awards since our January meeting.

Uniform rep Severn reported on a new ribbon for units participating in ceremonial events.

The Detachment Commandants gave their reports.

District vice Commandants gave their reports.

Old business: N/A

New business: A motion was made, seconded and passed to spend no more than \$550.00 for the upcoming Joint Veterans Committee Veteran of the Year banquet (a 10-person table tickets and plaque for the Veteran of the Year).

A motion was made, seconded and passed to donate \$500.00 to the Department Photographer to help replace his stolen equipment.

Meeting Recap Continued

Good of the League: Mentor your new members. Make them feel welcome.

The new President of the MCL Foundation gave a very good brief at Mid-winter.

A new program has been started between the MCL and the USMC to provide information to separating Marines specifically in an attempt to prevent suicide of which now we have 22 veterans a day committing suicide.

Marine Benson reported that Harford County collected \$17,000 and 57,800 toys during the Toys for Tots campaign that was distributed to 11,335 children.

Choptank Detachment presented Marines Helping Marines a check for \$1,000.00

Marine Severn reported on a campaign to raise money for scholarships in memory of Sgt Semolina who was killed helping a stranded motorist. They are attempting to raise \$31,000.

Marine James reported on a cookout at Lochraven Hospital.

Senior Vice Remines reported that only five detachments had donated their required \$100.00 for the convention.

Announcements: Department Convention: 29 and 30 April at the Princess Royale, Ocean City.

Department Leadership College: 7 May at VFW Post 160, 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie from 0800-1600. Coffee, donuts and lunch will be provided.

Mid-east convention: 24/25 Jun, Newark, Delaware.

National MCL Convention: Tulsa, Oklahoma, 7-12 August.

Department of Pennsylvania pistol match will be held on 4 Jun at Fort Indiantown Gap.

Anne Arundel County Detachment is sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop for the handicapped. The age restriction is waived by National, but they must meet all other standards in achieving awards. All detachments were urged to get involved with the Boy Scouts and sponsor a Troop. It is very heartwarming.

Senior vice Commandant Remines closed the meeting IAW MCL rituals.

There were 44 members signed in.

VAVS Meeting - Towson American Legion, March 2016

A VAVS Meeting was held at Towson American Legion Post #22 in March.

A lot of information was received regarding the February Salute to veterans at the hospitals, the April Recognition of Volunteers and the MPT TV Program which will air in May.

Dr. Sandra Marshall has been appointed as Chief of Staff for Baltimore.

As of March 9th, the Fort Howard VA outpatient clinic has been permanently closed after a full assessment and evaluation of water damage. The clinic's numerous infrastructure issues, location within a flood zone, lack of mass transportation resources and discovery of mold from the recent water damage led to the decision to move to a new and more accessible location. As a result of the closure, all patient care activities and staff were transferred to the Loch Raven VA Outpatient Clinic, located at 3901 The Alameda in Baltimore, MD. With the permanent closure of the Fort Howard Clinic patients will continue to receive their care at Loch Raven until a new facility can be identified and opened in Eastern Baltimore County. They are working on establishing a shuttle service between the Fort Howard and Loch Raven areas in order to provide transportation to the Veteran patients during the transition. Patients can continue to dial (410) 477-1800 to schedule, change or cancel a clinic appointment or speak with a member of their primary care team. If you have any questions about the permanent closure of the Fort Howard VA Outpatient Clinic, call Adam Robinson, Jr. at (410) 605-7016.

Antony B. Gibson, Program Coordinator of the Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) spoke to us about his new program. Initially there were 17 of these centers across the country but now there are 29. The facility is designed to be a one stop shop to assist homeless veterans. This facility is located in the Baltimore Annex, 209 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 along with other agencies who are there to help veterans get out of their homeless situation. It is a walk-in center with a clinic that is open from 9 am to 5 pm. After an evaluation, the veteran is referred to the proper agency within the facility for assistance. Some veterans just want to attend the clinic, require legal advice, wash clothes, take a shower or get a meal and this facility affords that opportunity. Some walk-ins are referred to other agencies which might be outside of the scope of this facility (like McVets). The facility has an Outreach Service Officer who is in partnership with the City of Baltimore and they have what is called a Veterans Docket where mentors are provided to assist a veteran; they assist with a treatment plan and if the veterans perform well on this program, their charges may be dropped.

The VA is looking for donations for the following:

- ◆ Homeless Account #1098
- ◆ Baltimore Coffee Fund #1059
- ◆ Loch Raven All Purpose Fund #1090
- ◆ Perry Point Computer/Printer Project #1063
- ◆

Be sure to reference the associated codes when making donations.

Department Happenings



Sergeant Joshua Carson USMC Recruiter and Detachment Toys-4-Tots Coordinator Ed Hearthway at and event in Ocean City



Andy Bouma with Melody Nelson (the daughter of the late Staff Sergeant Ralph Smith USMC (Ret)) and the toys collected from her Nationwide Insurance Agency



Choptank Detachment Commandant Wayne Patchett and SVC Thomas Ridgeway presenting the Memorial Day wreath at the Eastern Shore Veterans' Cemetery.



Department Commandant Reeling installed the 2016 officers of the Patuxent River Detachment 1305 on 1 March.

Department Pictures



Members of the Choptank Detachment at the Memorial Day ceremony at Long Wharf in Cambridge. Event was sponsored by the Dorchester American Legion Post 91.



Members of the Harford County Detachment presented awards to Eagle Scouts Matt Siebold and Kyle Bittle.



Marines doing what Marines do best!

Department Pictures



Four members of the Sgt Hettchen Detachment met for breakfast at Denny's in Montgomery Village. They meet every Thursday morning at 0900 and invite anyone to join them.



DVC Benson and Commandant Reeling at the AMVETS Department of MD Freestate Award presentation. State Senator Douglas JJ Peters was honored for his service to MD veterans while in office.



Commandant Reeling Installing the officers of the Antietam Detachment.

Department Pictures



Members of the SSgt Cohee detachment met for their meeting and installation of Officers on 13 April. They also presented Mr. Cohee, who's son bears the Detachment's name with a model CH-52E Super Stallion helicopter.

Mr. Cohee is prior service Air Force and an associate member of the Detachment.



National Recruiting Cash Incentive Program

National currently has a recruiting contest/incentive program in place effective October 1, till the close of business prior to next years National Convention. It is a cash incentive, with the drawing to be held at the National Convention in Oklahoma.

1st prize—\$1,000.00 each to a new member and the sponsor

2nd prize—\$ 500.00 each to a new member and the sponsor

3rd prize x 10—\$100.00 each to a new member and the sponsor.

Note- if the new member walked into the Detachment to join and there is no sponsor listed the Detachment will get the sponsor portion of the prize.

Be sure to recruit and maybe you, your recruit or your Detachment will be one of the lucky winners!!

Mideast Division Marine of the Year

Section 300 (h) of the National Administrative Procedures outlines the criteria for selection of the National Marine of the Year. Using these provisions the following Mideast Division MOY recipients are the committee to select a 2016 Mideast Division Marine of the Year. The Chairman is Roger Ware, Department of West Virginia, Bud Raines and Tony Begenwald Department of Maryland and Richard Tanner, Department of Delaware. The guidelines in Section 300 (h) (2) of the above reference must be followed for each nomination. Please insert "Division" in lieu of "National", as appropriate. Any regular member from the Mideast Division can be nominated and the Mideast Division MOY will be presented at the 2016 Mideast Division Conference, June 25, 2016 in Newark DE. Each letter of nomination must be mailed registered return receipt, **post marked not later than May 15, 2016**. Mail to Roger Ware, 181 Weese St, Elkins, WV 26241. Telephone: 304-636-4365. The Marine of the Year Committee will announce the 2016 recipient during the Mideast Division Conference. The above provisions are for 2016 Marine of the Year selection only.



Maryland Muster
Newsletter for the
DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Once a Marine, always a Marine



Find us on
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www.facebook.com/MarineCorpsLeagueMaryland

The members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorable discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marine and former Marines and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.



Marine Corps League license plates are always available! As long as you are a member in good standing you qualify for these plates. If interested, please contact Craig Reeling at Craig.Reeling@MarylandMarines.org

If you would like something posted in the next issue of the Maryland Muster, email either Evie at mclchick@hotmail.com or Don at msgte8don@yahoo.com