

# MARYLAND MUSTER

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## From the Commandant

We've done a lot of good work, you and me, in building a stronger department while continuing the purpose of the Marine Corps League within each detachment. I thank each individual Marine, associate, and corpsman for serving this department with energy and conviction. I've tried to do the same, because our challenges have required nothing less.

During these past few months, we have lost some of our most dedicated Marines within the department. These individuals dedicated themselves with the meaning "Semper Fidelis" as their motto in serving the MCL. The Supreme Commandant is getting "A few good men."

As we prepare for the National Mid-Winter Conference, let us keep in mind the importance of the information, directives, and policies from the conference as they are passed on to you through our department representatives

It has been brought to my attention that a few detachments officers are conducting detachment meetings while not in uniform. Since the detachment meeting is an official MCL event; the appropriate attire for each officer of their respective detachment conducting a meeting is the Marine Corps League uniform, if nothing else, at least the MCL cover.

Also a directive from DOD on wearing of military uniform at any event was passed on to me recently. The military uniform of any branch can only be worn by active duty military or retired military. Honorably discharged military not retired cannot wear their uniform at any event.

As we continue to serve the purpose of the Marine Corps League, *to protect and advance the welfare of the wounded and disabled Marines, FMF Corpsmen/Chaplains, and their dependents*, let us do it in remembrance of the Marines we have lost this past year. Do it with pride, dignity, and conviction.

Semper Fidelis,  
*Stuart P. Blair*



## Mid East Division Highlights

The Mid East Division issues a bulletin to all members within the division. If you haven't received this bulletin, but would like to; please contact the Mid East Div Adjutant, Roger Ware at [rrware@yahoo.com](mailto:rrware@yahoo.com)

The 2015 National Convention will be 9-15 August in Scottsdale, AZ. You can make your reservations with the Scottsdale Plaza Resort at 480-948-5000. Room rates including tax is \$106.38 per night. Breakfast, Wi-fi and parking is included.

The 2015 Midwinter National Conference will be February 12-14, 2015 at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, VA. Reservations can be made at 800-228-9290.

The Dept of VA will be hosting the 2015 Division Conference June 26-28, 2015 at the Hospitality House Hotel in Fredericksburg, VA - 800-682-1049

## Sr. Vice Commandant - Craig Reeling

Happy New Year! I would like to thank all the members who are out there on the front lines representing the Marine Corps League and their local Detachments. The League is successful due to your hard work and dedication. For those of you who supported the Toys For Tots program over the last few months, you can be sure that plenty of children had a great Christmas because of your hard work. The Toys For Tots program is a great opportunity for any local Detachment to showcase how the MCL helps our local community. Make sure your Detachment is properly marketing your support for the Toys For Tots program. It will pay dividends throughout the year.

The **Department Convention** will be held in Ocean City, **14-15-16 May 2015**. All Members, Associate Members, Honorary Members, Auxiliary Members and their families are invited. Most of the rooms at the Princess Royale Hotel are two room suites. Kids are welcome. More info, including a Convention Packet, is available for download on the Department website.

**Convention Raffle Tickets** have been distributed to each Detachment. Your local Senior Vice is in charge of the tickets. What better way to support the Convention and comply with the Dept Bylaws and Admin Procedures than to have your Detachment purchase some Raffle Tickets. If your Detachment wins, you can put that money back into your general fund. The Department Administrative Procedures, Chapter Two, Section 210 (a)(3) states "*The cost of the food and beverages for the Hospitality will be offset by the Convention Registration fees as well as a cash donation from each Detachment*". We provide a free lunch on both Friday and Saturday for convention attendees.

I am the Convention Chairman and am happy to answer any questions or provide additional Raffle Tickets.

## Jr. Vice Commandant - Evelyn Remines

Happy 2015! In reflecting over 2014, I have made some observations over the past year and would like to address a few things:

- Detachments are losing ground and members due to lack of communication. Communication is the key to any organization. If you do not have an email chain, **get one!!!** Even if you have members without email, someone can be assigned to spread word to them. When members are not informed of things that are going on, they feel slighted and are less likely to help out with anything.
- Check your ego at the door! I have only been a Department officer for a couple of years, but I am seeing this as an enormous problem within Detachments. You need to put aside pride and work together as a team. We don't always get things the way we want them, but we need to handle it in a respectful and dignified manner when we don't.
- Be flexible to new ideas. Like it or not, our membership's median age is quite high. We have recently lost quite a few members and if we don't bring in new, younger members and accept their ideas the League will grow old and die as well. Often, younger members get "chased away" or frustrated because the long-term members do not want to give into having something new occur. You must be willing to change with the times, or the times will pass you by.
- Make a New Year's resolution to volunteer at ONE detachment event, either per month or quarter. Many detachments are run by 10% of the members who volunteer at almost every event the detachment has. Lighten the load so your fellow members don't get burned out! By attending and helping out, just occasionally, you can help your detachment and get to know the other members better.
- Try to have fun!! Business must be kept (mostly) serious, but you also need to afford members to have a good time. Host a dinner every so often, or encourage members to meet and just hang out and relax.

My hope is to see the Department grow and flourish in 2015. This can only happen with YOUR hard work and dedication! Remember the things you were taught as a Marine and they will help your Detachment and, therefore, the entire Department! Let's work together to make 2015 a **great** year!

## Judge Advocate- Charlie Warns

In the November/December issue of the *Semper Fi* magazine, National JA Dennis Tobin suggested that Department Commandants and JAs appoint a Grievance Committee to talk seriously with the parties involved in disputes and work out a solution. You would have 20 days from the day you receive a complaint to appoint a Hearing Board if the grievance cannot be satisfied. In our Department, I will form grievance committees to include the Department JA, Department District Vice of the detachment involved and two JAs from two of the detachments in the area. (North, Central, East), excluding the JA of the detachment where the grievance originates. The National JA would like feedback from the Departments to see how the committees work out.

## Eagle Scout Chairman - Charlie Warns

We have good participation in the Eagle Scout Good Citizenship Award program. Out of 18 Detachments in the Department, 8 are regular participants. It would be great if we could get a 100% participation in the program. See me or email me and I will get you started with the program in your detachment. It is a very enjoyable program and is a great program for receiving notoriety for your detachment in your community.

## Pack Dog Robber - Paul Taylor

Woof Woof,

With the new calendar year already started and the holidays over, it is time for the Devil Dogs to get busy. We have three Pack Growls between now and the Supreme Growl. That is plenty of time for all prospective PDDs to attend the required two Growls and become eligible for advancement in August at Scottsdale, Arizona. The upcoming Pack Growls are scheduled as follows:

1. Saturday, 17 January immediately after the Department of Maryland meeting, at the Elkton VFW, 208 West High Street, Elkton, MD 21921 (410-392-3914)
2. Saturday, 7 March immediately after the Department of Maryland meeting, at the Baltimore Detachment Home, 1426 East Fort Avenue, Baltimore
3. Friday, 15 May, 1300, at Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, Md. At this Growl, Pups advancing to DD will be initiated. Make sure you have the requirements done and ensure that your Pound Dog Robber has the paperwork completed properly.

There are still several Dogs no longer a "member in good standing" due to being in arrears. As such, they may not hold office nor attend Growls. If this pertains to you, get your dues in to your Pound Dog Robber ASAP. Don't let your membership lapse.

Remember that as the movers and shakers of the League, it is every Dog's duty to continue supporting the Detachment and Department first, then attend to Devil Dog activities.



**Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog!**

## Central District Vice - Marc Fisher

During the period since our last Department meeting, I had the honor and pleasure of attending the Marine Corps birthday celebrations of two of the detachment in the central district. First was the Baltimore Detachment's, always a first class affair, held at Columbus Gardens. It was very well attended with members, families, friends, active duty Marines and a raucous table of naval personnel obviously lure there by the Baltimore Commandant, himself a product of that service. The SSgt Taylor Detachment's annual fete was also well organized and a pleasurable affair. Open to all Veterans; this detachment provides a delicious meal at the Ellicott Mills Brewing Company, which is partially owned by a Marine Corps League member. Also on had was good drink, good company and a USMC cake cutting ceremony to remind all whose guests we were! A large contingent from my on detachment, LCpl Dean, attended as well as several National Officers and their wives.

While LCpl Copenhaver detachment is busily preparing to host the Department meeting on January 17th, two other detachments in the Central district responded to requests to share their recent activities.

Commandant Howard Koontz of the Baltimore detachment, reports that they had a Memorial celebration at their park located near the detachment home in Locust Point. There were 14 attendees. They then went to the 11th Engineers Memorial co-located with the Korean War Memorial in canton for a service for the 11th Engineer Bn's "Baltimore's Own" to remember the 11 who died in Korea. The annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball was sold out and the colors were presented by the Marine from the 4th CEB. Also in November, the detachment presented a plaque to Mission's B-B-Q on Boston Street to thank them for their support to the detachment throughout the year. The detachment collected over 300 toys for the 4th CEB's Toys for Tots program. A successful detachment Christmas party brought the members together in December. An ongoing activity for the Baltimore detachment is meeting all incoming military flights at BWI-Marshall Airport. Marine Bill Shea and wife Carol greets each service person with a bag of candy, phone cards and a hand shake. They have been doing this for many years along with the other detachment members. Also Commandant Koontz reports that their hall is well utilized, being rented most weekends for all types of functions.

Commandant Wlock of the Harford County detachment reports that their detachment has also been busy with many Fallen Marine programs, Honor Guard ceremonies, Toys for Tots and Flag Raisings. The detachment celebrated the Marine Corps birthday by attending the Maryland Marine's Birthday luncheon run by Craig Reeling at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

I am sure the other detachments in the District have been busy as well, and I ask all detachment Commandants to include me in on their newsletter and email lists.

## Eastern District Vice - Donald Benson, Sr.

This last quarter I have made phone contact with each of the Eastern District Detachments.....

Choptank	Det. 439	Cambridge MD.
SSgt W. F. Cohee	Det. 115	Salisbury MD.
Sgt. Jason D. Mileo	Det. 1147	Centreville MD.
Patuxent River	Det. 1305	Lexington Park MD.
Sthrn MD Leathernecks	Det. 119	La Plata MD.

I have asked each Commandant of each Detachment to send me a copies the Quarterly Report and New Letter. I have not been able to contact, Southern MD Leathernecks Detachment 119 At this point I don't know if they are holding meetings of any kind..... The member that I have spoken to does not know either, they have not Attended a meeting for some time now.....

I attended The Marine's Birthday luncheon held At Aberdeen Proving Ground, sponsored the Maryland Marines and put together by Craig Reeling. I have attended Fallen Marine programs, Honor Guard ceremonies and Flag Raising with my home Detachment Harford County Detachment 1198.

# DEPARTMENT MARINE OF THE YEAR - NOMINATION GUIDANCE

1. The local Detachment decides to nominate a **Regular Member** (dues must be current) who has been active in the Detachment. *Sorry, Associate and Honorary members are not eligible.*
2. A Detachment meeting is held. The members assembled take a vote on the Regular member who they desire to nominate for the Department MOY Award. It shall be approved by a majority vote.
 

Note: it is recommended that the “Letter of Nomination” or a list of the nominee’s accomplishments be read aloud at the meeting so every member has a chance to understand what the nominee has done to warrant his/her nomination.
3. Complete a Letter of Nomination to include a Statement of Certification from the Detachment Commandant and Detachment Adjutant stating the nominee was approved by the Detachment by a majority vote.
 

Note 1: In the event the nominee is the Detachment Commandant, the Letter of Nomination shall be signed by the Senior Vice Commandant and the Adjutant.

Note 2: In the event the nominee is the Detachment Adjutant, the Letter of Nomination shall be signed by the Detachment Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant.
4. The Letter of Nomination shall include a listing of the nominee’s accomplishments at the local Detachment and may include any other Marine Corps League accomplishments at the Department or National level.
5. Each nomination submitted shall be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to:
 

“Chairperson, Department Marine of the Year Committee”
6. Place that envelope into another envelope (**YES...2 envelopes**) labeled:
 

Chairperson, Department Marine of the Year Committee  
c/o Department Commandant Stuart Blair  
17 Havenfield Drive  
Parkville, MD 21234
7. **If you choose to MAIL your nomination:** mail using the US Postal Service **Certified Mail with Return Receipt Requested** It **must** be postmarked no later than the Monday preceding the Department Spring meeting in March.
8. **If you choose to DELIVER IN PERSON** do so to the Department Commandant **PRIOR** to the start of the Department Spring meeting on 7 March.
9. Nominees should plan to attend the Department Convention Banquet which is held on the Saturday night of the annual Department Convention.
10. Additional questions should be directed to the Department Commandant or one of the Past Department Marine of the Year recipients.



**Maryland Muster**  
Newsletter for the  
**DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND**  
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

*Once a Marine, always a Marine*



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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](mailto: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](mailto:mclchick@hotmail.com) or Don at [msgte8don@yahoo.com](mailto:msgte8don@yahoo.com)***