



September 9, 2024

Hello to the membership of the Marine Corps League!

Now that we have all traveled home from National Convention, and back to the local business of the MCL, I wanted to send out to you what is happening and what are some of the things we are working on.

So many moving parts, lots of zoom meetings and correspondence through emails as I work in my new position as your National Commandant. As I am working on this letter, there are others in the MCL working on so many items. Let us start with your National Training and Leadership Committee. We have done such an excellent job with our bylaws and administrative procedures; we have outpaced our other MCL publications. Right now, Bonita Johnson and her Training Committee have taken on the task of updating the MCL Ritual, the Detachment guidebook and will soon update our officer's guidebook and our professional development program. The first two I listed should be completed by midwinter and the last two should be done by national convention. That is a big task to undertake, and I have faith in Bonita and that committee to finish the mission.

Tony Poletti and his Honor Guard Committee (soon to be Honor Guard/Color Guard Committee) are working on a new color guard manual that was put together by Scott Westervelt. This will be done and approved by the Board of Trustees in the next couple of months. Long overdue and thank you Scott and Tony for your work on that.

The PR committee and the membership committee are working on and preparing for the 250th birthday of the Marine Corps. They will work to help our outside marketing firm get our Marine Corps League recruiting up. Each detachment should work on the retention end of that keeping our new members engaged. The PR committee is seeking to expand their footprint so if you are interested in joining a very active committee, send Victoria McCoy an email at

publicrelations@mcleague.org

Bob Borka has really put a ton of effort into our VSO program. I have never seen such enthusiasm from our membership on our Veterans Service Officers. That is what we were chartered to do, and it is refreshing to get back into the business of helping the Marines!

Howard Schaffer is rebuilding the VAVS program as we look to get more members into our local VA to help. If you are a current VAVS MCL member, send Howard an email at mclnationalchaplain@gmail.com and let him know your status like what detachment you are in, what state and what hospital. He really needs you all to help him reestablish the VAVS.

A couple other things that have been completed are a MOU with the MODD and the MCLA on our Memorial and Veterans Day wreath laying. Also, a new Protocol SOP has been written and approved for Midwinter and Conventiion as well as for the Commandant's ball.

These are some of the things that are going on in the MCL in the last month since convention. I take pride in moving the MCL forward and will continue to do everything I can for the good of the League. If you have questions and/or suggestions to make our League better, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. The National Board of Trustees are here to serve you, the membership.

Semper Fi

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66th National Commandant

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