



August 2026 — September 2026

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 5 Issue 6



Message From The Division Commandant



Marines and Members,

I hope your summer is going well and that you've had the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to say that the first New England Division Conference, held in Springfield, Massachusetts, was a success. Thank you to the Department of Massachusetts for hosting this year's conference. There was some uncertainty about how the new format would be received, but based on the survey results from those who attended, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Members also shared a few suggestions for improvements and additions, and we will be working to incorporate those ideas into future conferences. Overall, I believe the conference was a great success. A sincere THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped plan the conference, as well as those who volunteered throughout the weekend. Your hard work and dedication made this event possible.

The presenters provided valuable information that each of us can take back to our Detachments. I would like to recognize them once again and thank them for taking the time to support the New England Division Conference:

- National Senior Vice Commandant Russ Miller
- National Junior Vice Commandant Dave Porter
- National Executive Director/COO Bob Borka
- 62nd Chief Devil Dog PDD Joe D'Angelo
- Marine For Life Representative Dave Ossian
- H.A.M.S.A.L. Representative Brian Gillespie

- National Chaplain Howard Schaeffer

Congratulations to our 2026 New England Division award recipients:

- Marine of the Year: Dave Porter
 - Associate Member of the Year: Patricia Anthony
 - GySgt Knapp Award: Bob Mayers
- Congratulations to each of you on these well-deserved honors.



We were also honored to have representatives from the Quilts of Valor Foundation join us. Quilts of Valor is a nonprofit organization that presents handmade quilts to service members and veterans. Each quilt serves as a tangible expression of gratitude, recognizing their sacrifices and providing comfort and support. Congratulations to this year's Quilt of Valor recipients:

- Bob Mayers – Vermont
- Peter King – Massachusetts
- Wayne Salisbury Sr. – Rhode Island
- Wayne Caron – Maine
- Bill Lee – Connecticut

Looking ahead, the 2027 New England Division Conference will be hosted by the Department of Rhode Island. Additional information and registration details will be shared as planning is finalized.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the Marine Corps League and to the veterans, Marines, and communities we proudly serve.

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



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New England Division Contact Information 2024 – 2025



DIV Auxiliary Liaison

OPEN

WHAT SHOULD I SUBMIT?

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OPEN

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This is your Newsletter, so anything you think others might be interested in, please share it here. Look at the categories, Departments, Toy for Tots, Devil Dogs, Taps, Birthdays, Sick, Personal writings, Upcoming Events, Help Wanted, History, League and Marine Corps, Awards and Recognition. Community Events, Scholarships, Conventions, Meetings and Grand Growls, and ongoing projects. What are we doing for recruiting? What are we doing for Marines for Life? What can we do to bring back the Auxiliary? Think of some of the programs we have expanded and can you think of any others you want to create or expand? We expanded the Dogs to include donations to provide help to animal shelters, what about other groups? What about donations for women's shelters for women and children of these women? Toys For Tots expanded there program to all year round help to children in distress. Someone had an idea and this grew from it, you could start your idea here. I am sure there are more topics but this is a good start.

Walt Benson

IMPORTANT

Laskey's Telegraph is published every two months in the first week of the following months.

FEBRUARY. APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER AND DECEMBER.

The cut off date for submitting material is the last week of the following months. JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER.. If there is a special circumstance please call to make arrangements.

Send submissions to:

Walt.benson5@gmail.com

203-768-8435

When sending pictures, please include names and what you and your detachment are doing.



FROM THE EDITOR



A STORY WORTH TELLING

This issue marks the completion of five years of this Newsletter. This newsletter was something Jim Laskey always wanted, and when David Porter was National Vice Commandant he tried to make this happen. He asked for and I volunteered to help someone do it myself. I said reluctantly because have it until you quit or die. A newsletter everyone what you are accomplishing Division. You get to tell the world or land and this is what we are doing. It and giving others the chance to join is a living document of your History, hope to go.

As an editor you have good when sharing memories and laughs of bad situation a little easier as you focus on those happier times. Or when you get the opportunity to praise and share with others the success they have achieved in the Division spotlight section. Share what members have done as Marines in the published works featured here. Within these pages we share History of our accomplishments, our happiness, our motivation and our goals we show to others. But there are also the bad days when no one sends you material and you have to go and search Facebook for the information, if it is worth your time to post on FaceBook, isn't it worth sharing it with the people that are interested in what you are doing.



someone to create this Newsletter, create it but then reluctantly agreed to this is one of those jobs where you ter is a tool which allow you to tell in your organization, in this case our your part of it, "Hey, we are New Eng- tells of what event you are creating you in the fun or challenge. But it also where you have been and where you

days and bad days. It feels good those who have passed on. Making a

So for this, our fifth Birthday, I want to try to give us all a gift. That gift would be our history of these past five years, how we grew, how we changed, those we lost, those who achieved great things, those who joined us in our quest, and the man whose name we publish under.

Jim Laskey was a Marine Corps League member for fifty three years. He was the National Commandant from 2008 – 2010. He was a mentor, leader, and guide who served the Marine Corps League and Young Marines with passionate volunteerism. His servant leadership, kind heart, and devotion to family and our Corps is dearly missed. I never really met him but I did here him speak at one of my conventions, and I was impressed, as we don't have speech writers, we speak from the heart, and his words and passion reflected the care he had for the League and all of us in it. I hope these five years have reflected what he wanted.

Semper Fidelis
Walt Benson



FROM THE EDITOR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



October — November 2021

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Issue 1



Message From The Commandant

Welcome to the New England Division's first Newsletter. The New England Division is one of ten Divisions within the Marine Corps League. The New England Division represents: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The main purpose of the Newsletter is to strengthen the communication within the Division. The Newsletter will also be a great tool to spread useful knowledge throughout the Division. The Newsletter will allow Departments to inform the rest of the Division on upcoming events, and what outstanding work Marines have accomplished in their Departments. The Newsletter was created to bring the Division closer together as a family!

A little background on the Newsletter, the project has been in our plans for quite some time and I am excited to see a dream come alive. Thank You, Walt Benson, for making this happen. The newsletter's name has been an ongoing discussion for some time now. The newsletter was long overdue was created in memory of a great Marine who brought the New England Division together and turned it into a division so unique to stand out among the rest.

The newsletter contains a lot of information and a lot more will be added with each issue. I will take the lead on communication by using this page to pass along information from National as well as things you should be aware of to help us become the number one Division. Having the Department pages will allow all of to see what others are doing and benefit from sharing information. We will recognize Birthdays of our Marines, but this is a work in progress as we only have a list from Connecticut so if you have a list



please share. A page for Awards, to recognize those who have gone above and beyond. A page for humor and stories, a calendar which is very important to all of us as we get very busy at many times during the year. Information on the Young Marines ad what they are doing and what they can do together with us. A page for the MOOD for information on Growls, Awards and information from the Kennel. A page for Current News about Marines in the field. A page for Taps which is post. If there is a Marine in your Detachment, or Department who passes, someone who knows him the best should forward the information about them. There is a Page for Recruiting with ideas and suggestions that others have found to be successful. The last page for Convention news Future Meetings and events as well as a Marine's Prayer. As with anything there is probably at least one thing we missed, if we did please let us know as well as anything you think we should have.

Enjoy this new endeavor and let us know how we can improve the newsletter. Please let us know what you think of it (pros and cons. Corrections and Omissions). We aim to strive for only the best. This Newsletter can only grow.

Semper Fi

David Porter

National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League

pages is to relive the things we have done. A Newsletter is many things. It brings attention to what you are doing. It promotes activities you are hosting or at least it should. We are not that far away from each other. Also, it is our history, the diary of what we are doing and what we have accomplished. Who joined us and who supported us. To those out there that believe social media is better, you are right but only in certain situations. Look at things posed on social media and see how many times it is shared, not liked but shared. Lets take a look at our history.

First, let's look at those we lost along the way. It's not everyone because not everyone is sent in but there are many and each one takes their toll. Joe Messina Jr. who was the assistant National Vice Commandant when I joined the

This issue marks the completion of five years of Laskey's Telegraph. I have displayed each issue with their cover and hopefully if you click on them they will bring up the entire issue. I would also like to take a look and where we have been and the things we got to see. We started on a fall day in 2021. Our first issue contained 21 pages, but those pages would grow to where we have had some issues that were One hundred and two pages. There are ten divisions in the Marine Corps League and at the time of this writing we are the only Division with a Newsletter. Accolades we have many, there has only been one year where we did not take an award and I'm not sure why. The newsletter brings us a lot of attention and that is due to the work that all of you do. Through this Newsletter people get to see all of the activities that you are involved in. What I would like to do in these



December 2021 — January 2022

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 1 Issue 2

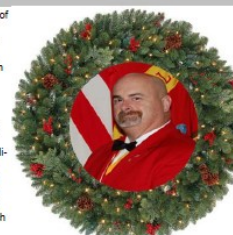


Message From The Commandant

Welcome back to Volume Two of the Laskey's Telegraph where you can find out what is going on throughout the New England Division! I am excited to say, I really enjoyed reading everything in this newsletter and you will too!

I hope everyone enjoyed the Marine Corps Birthday celebrations and had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Commandants, as the holidays are coming and going, please check on your members. The Holidays can be a tough time for some, and now more than ever we need to be there to assist our members and their families. Commandant's if any member needs assistance in this time of need, please reach out!

Everyone that was involved with the awesome program of Toys 4 Tots, please remember to fill out your after action report. Documenting your hard work, which needs to be recorded, so the



National Commandant can pass it on to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Documenting all your hard work will help the Marine Corps League prove to the Marine Corps how vital we are.

2022 Midwinter is coming upon us quickly, please check out the national website: <https://www.mclleaguelibrary.org/conference/> And a little on the personal note, it was quite an honor and humbling to be able to make it down to Parris Island with my father, David Porter Sr., and see my niece graduate. She is the third generation to graduate and become a Marine. Aug 1988, Aug 1991, and Nov 2021.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year.

Semper Fi
David Porter
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League





FROM THE EDITOR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



February 2022 — March 2022

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 1 Issue 3

Message From The Commandant

Happy New Year and welcome back to Issue Number Three. Now that we all have gotten through the holidays, it is time to move forward into the New Year making the Division stronger. I know already coming out of the gate we have a busy schedule, but looking forward to it. In a few weeks we will be heading down to Norfolk, Virginia for Mid-Winter. In the following two months, before you know it we have our Quad State Convention in April. Will be nice to get the rotation back in the swing of things. The month of May will have Modern Day Marine Expo that will have a new location this year. The Expo will be in Washington DC. The Commandant of the Marine Corps decided to move it off Quantico and closer to the Hill. In June we will have two more conventions; Department of Massachusetts and Department of Connecticut to follow.

Remember this is your newsletter, it is for the Division to let everyone know what is going on in your Department! Let's keep getting this newsletter getting better and better to show other Divisions what we are doing. We cannot change the past, but we can



shape the future on what value we can add! Let's strengthen our compliance status, focus on our delinquent members to get your membership to 100%. Let's fill out our reports to turn in for Midwinter and National Convention to let the Commandant of the MCL and the Marine Corps Commandant what the Division is doing up here.

We are always looking to hear new ideas and positive criticism to better the Division. What can we work on to help you, help motivate the Division to motivate the Departments and Detachments? What ideas do you have to help strengthen the league? I know the Division Staff will improvise and work harder to make 2022 a better year than last.

Semper Fi

David Porter
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League

of that is an event in a detachment that has been done each of the five years. Peter P. Monaco detachment does a hike to remember focused on the 22 veterans each year that commit suicide. It is a pretty big event open to veterans reserves and active duty personnel. They have Humvee's, and assorted Military vehicles. In the time we have covered the event they have gone from pictures to videos and last year Helicopter footage. I don't think we can surpass that in any of our growth but we have come a long way.

We have been to parades conventions, conferences, Modern Day Marine, National Conventions in Illinois, Florida, Oklahoma, California, and Texas. We have celebrated the hundredth Birthday of the Marine Corps League. Followed by a slew of celebrations to mark the

Division. Jim Laskey, PNC and NVC. Jack Savage PDC Connecticut, Leroy Peasley, Joseph Piczko, Leroy Pittman PDC Connecticut, Kevin Mitchell, Bernie Berube, Frank Diekman, Hershell Woody Williams Medal of Honor Recipient, Larry Herrmann, George McCreary, Harold Page, Robert Kuhn, JR Rutovich Division Paymaster, Gen Al Gray Jr., 29th Commandant of The Marine Corps, Robert Goulette, Richard Roderick PDC, Robert Renda Harold Cox, and our sixty first Chief Devil Dog Jeff Jones. Each one of these has touched us and left their mark on us as well, as on the league and we remember them here.

There has been a lot of growth here in the Newsletter and the Division and a good example



April 2022 — May 2022

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 1 Issue 4

Message From The Commandant

Welcome to the New England Division's 4th Edition of the Laskey's Telegraph

We have made it through the Winter, and Spring is here! Finally some nice weather will be arriving shortly so we may host more activities outdoors and work with our communities. We had a great Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk, Virginia. We will be bringing some great motivating improvements to help strengthen our Mission. One way is the Marine Corps League will be taking a new path to a stronger partnership with the Marine Corps Reserves and the Marine Corps Association. Both organizations had a change of command where the two Lieutenant Generals are eager to work with the Marine Corps League, T4T and the Young Marines for a strong future in our younger generation! Times are changing and we need to adapt and strengthen our ranks.



It is going to be a busy year, but an educational enjoyable year! I look forward in seeing every

one again on weekend of April 22 for the Quad State Convention and the Division Conference. Then next event to come is the Department of Mass Convention, June 3-5, followed by the next weekend in June for the Department of Connecticut Convention. But a few of us have kicked it off a little early by attending the Ahern Foundation St. Patrick's Day Gala, which raised \$30k for the Fisher House Boston. Getting the Red Blazers out, we bring attention and having people asking who are they. The Marines have landed!

I hope you all enjoy the 4th edition of the Laskey's Telegraph. This was created for you to show what your Departments are doing, and what to look for in future events. Commandant's please take advantage of this, share your ideas, and pass this newsletter down to the Detachments! We still need to strengthen your communication chain so we may strengthen our ranks.

Semper Fi
David Porter
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League





FROM THE EDITOR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



June 2022 — July 2022

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 1 Issue 5

Message From The Division Commandant

Welcome to the 5th Edition of Laskey's Telegraph. I cannot say enough how proud, honored and humbled I am to be your New England Division's National Vice Commandant. Because of everyone's hard work, the camaraderie to support each other, the enthusiasm to strive to be better is truly amazing. All your hard work does not go unnoticed. One event that highlighted everything I said was at the Quad State Convention! At the Quad State Convention everyone's Esprit de Corps came together to learn, to have fun, and to celebrate being one big family reflected how we look out for each other. But I believe the pictures can do all the explaining.

I believe we can set the bar higher by taking all this motivation and guide our Detachments to thrive and to want to set their bar high as well. Our Guest Speakers that come to New England speak very highly how everyone comes together and works as a team.

Department Commandants, I will give you my all to motivate you so you may motivate your teams. Having a highly motivating team will encourage others to want to jump on board. The summer is here to get out and show who we are, what we do within our communities and who we support. I am hearing a lot of Marines talking

about purchasing tents to set up at events with logos displayed to bring attention to the communities! Would love to hear more great ideas.



Just a quick note, Department Commandants please remember to file your ROIs and make sure the Detachment Commandants are doing the same. File your 990s with the IRS, and just everything you need is on the National Marine Corps League Member Library section. Commandants please encourage the membership to use their chain of command. This is to

have that flow of communication strong and informed.

This newsletter is for all, and for all to get involved. This newsletter is to promote and spread the word of what your Detachments are doing in your Department. This newsletter is full of great reading. Hope everyone enjoys this Newsletter. I hope see you all either at the Department of Mass Convention or the Department of Connecticut Convention.

Semper Fi
David Porter
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League

England and they secured a First Place Award.

Over the last five years we have documented quite a bit. We covered Five National Conventions including the 100th Birthday of the Marine Corps League. Illinois, Florida, Oklahoma, California, and Texas This allowed all of our members that could not get to the convention to participate in the Convention and the activities. I always felt it was great to take me to parts of the country that I would never go to. And then not only go to that part of the country but to have sights picked out for us to visit and memories to record. There were funny memories, like in Illinois when we were just coming out of Covid and the hotel had so many problems but the funniest, now that it's over, was the elevators. There were three

two hundred and fiftieth birthday of our Marine Corps. Everything we do today we succeed or fail by how well we can communicate our message. One job that I recently accepted was to Chair, The National Newsletter Committee, and this year we had 32 entries into the competition. Of that 16 were first time entries. You get to see a lot of what others are doing around the League. Some are pretty, some are historical, some are more informative than others but they all have basic messages. We inform, we invite, we report, we recruit, we let the community know who we are and what we do. But above all we embrace the comradery, support the needs of each other, and continue the Brotherhood and Sisterhood that has become our way of life. Since I am talking about the Newsletter, one of the 16 first time entries was from New



August 2022 — September 2022

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 1 Issue 6

Message From The Division Commandant

Welcome to the 6th Edition of the Laskey's Telegraph. Time is going by quickly, but hopefully everyone has been enjoying their summer. I know we have been busy in June with two outstanding conventions with some great guest speakers. Guest speaker Lt. General Charles Chiarotti (President and CEO of Marine Corps Association) enjoyed his first trip to Massachusetts. Marines represented the Marine Corps League very well by showing the General our New England Hospitality to make sure he and his wife enjoyed their trip. The partnership is vital to build a strong community! In a few months we will be tapping into that community with Toys for Tots.

I would like to welcome our newest Department Commandant, Commandant Patrick McMahon. Commandant McMahon was sworn in at the end of the Department of Connecticut's Convention. Welcome back Commandant Monnell (Department of New Hampshire) who was sworn in June. Commandant Brooks (Dept. of Ma), Commandant Lake (Dept. of ME), Commandant Drew (Dept. of VT), and my assistance Commandant Maguire

(Dept. of RI) who are all on their second term of office. I look forward in continuing working with you and your staff. You all now got your feet wet; let's see you all run with what you learned!



Our work is never done, and our knowledge keeps growing. You have to have the love for it to succeed to help grow your Detachment, Department, and your Division. As we face our challenges, we only grow stronger.

This newsletter is for all, and for all to get involved. This newsletter is to promote and spread the word of what your Detachments are doing in your Department. This newsletter is full of great reading. Hope everyone enjoys this Newsletter. I am looking forward to seeing everyone who can make it down to the National Convention in Daytona, Florida this month.

Semper Fi
David Porter
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



FROM THE EDITOR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



October 2022 — November 2022

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 2 Issue 1

Message From The Division Commandant

Welcome back New England Division for another issue of the Laskey Telegraph. A place where you can see what is going on throughout the Division. The summer went by quick with some great events, and I know the fall is not going to slow down either!

Happy 247th Birthday Marines! Commandants please check on your Brothers and Sisters and make sure no one is left behind on this Birthday!

Busy two months, Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving. Any Marine, Marine's family or Veteran in need, let's reach out. We are here to make sure our community is looked after!

This year I would like to see our Departments and Detachments really dig down and ramp up this year's Toys for Tots Program. We have a mission to strive to beat last year's numbers. Even if Departments and Detachments do not have a Reserve Units near them, you can still run a program. If you have questions or need help, please reach out to me.

Some old business reviews: Dues, please have your Jr. Vices and paymasters working on getting everyone caught up! Departments please follow up on your Detachments and make sure they are staying up on all the IRS requirements.

New Business: Please if you are attending the Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk Virginia you

need to sign up. I heard there might be a big announcement at the Conference. Information and forms are on the National website.

Next National Convention will be the 100th Anniversary of the Marine Corps League. The location will be at the Omni Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK. This one will be a very special Convention, and hope to see max participation from the Division if possible! I know the Marines out in Oklahoma will not let you down! All the info is on the National website!

Thank you to my Staff, you guys are amazing and doing an outstanding job. To the Department Commandants and to your staff, thank you for all the hard work. Sometimes it might not seem worth it in the beginning, but at the end the results are all worth the while.

Hope to see all of you soon. Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fi

David M Porter
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



car up a mountain where for the first time in my life I felt shortness of breath due to altitude. Lastly we made it to Grapevine Texas. Rodeos, food, shopping, the Medal of Honor Museum, and the place many of us wanted to go to was a gun range where you were supposed to be able to fire machine guns. Well that was true you could fire a machine gun, however, you have to rent the machine gun and pay for the ammo. You really feel the love the Marine Corps had for all of when they gave us that FREE AMMO, because that would be the only way you could fire that machine gun.

We then covered Modern Day Marine, our very own historical time machine. Two Commandants, two SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, weapon advancement visible in year after year. New ways and methods of training, some of which seems like video games and in

main elevators but only one worked so the wait was forever for the elevator to arrive so there were chairs on every floor by the elevators, where you sat to wait for the elevator. Next we went to Florida where the hotel was right on the beach, it was beautiful. The hotel was remodeled and had two parts, so if you were in the main part you would have to come downstairs in the morning and walk the length of the building and up to the conference rooms on the other side. We visited Daytona race track which was truly amazing, more so than any football or baseball stadium. Next we went to Oklahoma, cattle country but the banquet was chicken. We visited Dallas from here as well as Wichita, and it was really hot. From here we went to California and the desert at Palm Springs. We visited 29 Palms, a scenic resort that I missed while in the Marine Corps thank you God I owe you one for that. We took a cable



December 2022 — January 2023

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 2 Issue 2

Message From The Division Commandant

Merry Christmas,
Happy Hanukkah and
Happy New Year.

I am looking forward to the New Year! I know this year had some bumps in the road. Do not focus on the

The mission is more valuable than you think. We are here to carry on our history to pass on to the next generation. Doing so, we try to inspire other fellow Brothers and Sisters to join the Tribe. This mission is more important than just one person. We are here as one, one Family. When one goes down, we together pick that Brother or Sister back up. When we work together as one, we strive and can accomplish anything we set our minds to it. Everyone in the New England Division's Family has a purpose and adds value. Do not feel you have no worth, you do and we need you. Please remember you are not alone! Holidays can be tough, but we are here together. Never feel like you are a burden and a bother so you do not reach out.



negative issues we have encountered, but praise the great strides we have accomplished. Recognize the hard motivating work that brought this Division further to success. I cannot be any more proud to be part of this Family. Thank you all for what you do for the Family and Communities of the New England Division.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter in Norfolk Virginia. A zoom meeting will be held prior to be able to hear from everyone. Stay safe and looking out for one another. Semper Fi

David M Porter
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



FROM THE EDITOR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



SPECIAL EDITION

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 2

ATTENTION TO ORDERS



I mentioned that this was coming in the last Newsletter and I didn't want to hold up the Newsletter nor did I want to let this go unnoticed. Therefore I am putting out this Special Edition, which we can do for any worthy event.

We are all members of service organizations, The Marine Corps League, other VSO organizations, Police, Fire Department, EMT's Nurses etc. We serve to help others in need. We don't do it for awards and glory but because we want to help those in need from the community.

Since I have known him, Dave has always been about, promoting the Marine Corps League, encouraging all of us to do better and reaching out to help others, and do not bring negativity into the picture. I think this is something that we can all aspire to. It is gratifying to know that he is being honored by his superiors and his peers at work. The ceremony took place today, June 22, 2023 at Starlight Square in Cambridge Massachusetts, I tried to get the written citation but was unable to procure it on-line. Back in the day, in our beloved Corps there used to be a ceremony, which usually began with Attention To Orders, and the reason for the award was read to everyone in attendance. I don't think this is a bad idea for the awards we give today. We give out Marine of the Year, Associate of the Year, Young Marine of the Year, what did they do, that warrants them getting that award.

Police Officers and Firemen do have situations where their lives are on the line, with all of us it comes down to putting the needs of the community above our own. I have said before that we do not go out and seek these awards and recognition, but it does define us as people who do have that goal to help others and those



who put their need of others above our own.

This seems to be more about volunteering than about Dave, but in reality it is about him. When Dave speaks about his New England Division he always refers to it as a family. If you have a problem he is there. This year at Mid Winter I had a problem with the hotel, part theirs, part mine and I stayed at another nearby hotel, he called me in the morning to see if I was ok there. At Mid Winter and National as we go through the speakers presenting their programs and needs, Dave makes repeated trips to the microphone to pledge money and support. I can't speak for others but it makes me proud to be part of that. He constantly looks to promote the Marine Corps League throughout every community and event we attend. I saw many events we attended last year, have a growing Marine Presence at each event on our way to a sea of Red Jackets.

If I were writing the citation for this award I would write, In recognition of his exceptional Public Service both as a Police Patrol Officer and a Marine Corps League member who as a member of this Veterans Service Organization serves the community in many capacities, is awarded The Ruth and Carl Baron Award for Patrol Officer of the Year. Awarded this 22 day of June 2023.

I ask that you join me in saying Congratulations to our own New England Division Vice Commandant Dave Porter. Sir we are Proud, Semper Fidelis Brother.

Walt Benson
Editor

stand second to none. Years ago I was taking some classes in Graphic Design and the instructor told us that no matter where you are in your progress of becoming a graphic designer or artist, you should always be proud of your work and where you are in your journey, because you did it and others did not.

Where do we go from here? Let me ask you this, are your contributions documented here? Send in pictures of what you do, everyone has a camera on your phone. If you go to an event take a group photo of everyone there. You don't have to be an officer, anyone can submit. If there is something we should be doing tell someone. I have never met a Marine who didn't like something and they said oh I won't say anything, say it. Where we go is up to you, just like how far we go depends on you. Show everyone the role model you are and dare them to challenge it.

Semper Fidelis
Walt Benson

reality I guess it is. There were three Marine Corps League Commandants and two mascots. All in all a lot of technology, comradery and a lineage of Marines from Korea through the modern day middle east.

We recognized those who stepped up to accept the challenges we face today. **Five Division Marines of the Year:** 2021 Warren Griffin-MA, 2022 Larry Chretien-ME, 2023 Walt Benson-CT, 2024 Charlie Paul - ME, 2025 Wayne Salisbury Sr. - RI. **Five GySgt. Roland Knapp Award:** 2021 Peter King-MA, 2022 Walt Benson-CT, 2023 James Chase-VT, 2024 Mike Hinds - MA, 2025 Jane Deptula - RI. We recognized Young Marines of The Year, Dogs of the year, Distinguished Citizens of the year. In some cases we travelled as a Division, we broke bread as a division, we laughed, cried, celebrated and stood tall as a Division. Recently I saw in a Newsletter a department giving out an award for being a role model, if I had one I would present it to this Division as we



April 2023 — May 2023

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 2 Issue 4

Message From The Division Commandant



Welcome back to another great issue of the Laskey Telegraph. We are back on track on spreading the good word on what is going on within the New England Division. I know we have been busy, but I would like to say, thank you to everyone for all the continuous motivating hard work you have been putting in and keeping the Division on track.

We had a successful Mid-Winter Conference in Norfolk, Virginia and one outstanding New England Division Conference/Quad State Convention up in Colchester, Vermont. Thirty seven certificates/awards were given out to a well-deserved group of Marines from all over the Division. Congratulations to Walt Benson (Dept. of CT) to this year's Division Marine of the Year, James Chase (Dept. of VT) being the recipient of GySgt. Roland Knapp Award, and Wayne Hamilton (Dept. of RI) as the Division's Associate of the Year. Commandant Baker also awarded Pat Maguire, John "JR" Rutovick, and I the Distinguished Citizen Gold Award (surprising all of us). A lot of needed knowledge was relayed out from the Commandant of the Marine Corps League Johnny Baker. National Executive Officer/COO Bob Borika, and the National Executive Director/CEO of the Young Marines Col. William Davis (Ret USMC) gave two instrumental presentations. New England Division's Historian Sal Sena put together a booklet and explained what important information needs to be gathered for Funeral details. New England Division's

Compliance Officer Bernie Heaney gave a great report where the Division stands. Congratulations New England Division for being 85% compliant. I know we need some more work to be done before the National Convention, but I have faith to push for that 100% compliance.

To finish up, I cannot thank you all enough for all the support you have been giving me as I travel down the challenging campaign trail for National Judge Advocate. I am heading into my last months as your National Vice Commandant, but I believe my work is not finished and I have a higher calling to accept more responsibility. We have come a long way but look how far we have come; we are on our ninth issue and one first place under our belt for the newsletter.

Pat Maguire and Mike Hinds will be sworn in as your new National Vice Commandant and Assistant Vice Commandant in August. I am looking forward in watching them bring the Division to the next level.

Semper Fi



David M Porter
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



FROM THE EDITOR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



June 2023 — July 2023

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 2 Issue 5



Message From The Division Commandant

Welcome back to another exciting issue of the Laskey Telegraph were you get to see what is going on around the New England Division. Wait, you have definitely out done yourself putting this one together. The league is never about one person, it's about building a team and working together for the good of the League. I could not be any more proud of the New England Division's staff for all the hard work you are doing. No one is perfect, but the Division has a staff that has strived and has given you their best! What you will see in this issue, you will see what I am talking about and why we call ourselves a family.

To have a successful mission, you have to look past what you can see with just the League, it's about the community the League is in. If you take care of your community, the community will over time take care of the League. Do not look for the quick results, but have patience and wait for the long term rewards. Working together, building relationships with other community organizations will strengthen our future not only within the League, but for the Marine Corps and our future leaders.

The Department of Mass's leadership changed up the venue this year, and we had a very fun successful Convention. I would have liked to see more detachment commandants attend, but this is a challenge I see throughout the League. I am looking forward to Department of Connecticut's convention at the end of this month. They have secured a highly motivated guest speaker that will probably give a little insight on the National Convention and what we could possibly see for the 100 year anniversary of the Marine Corps League. So, please sign

up and let our guest speaker see a full room of family from the Division!

I do not want to wish the summer to pass so quickly, but I cannot wait till the National Convention out in Oklahoma City in August for two reasons. The first I am excited to pass on the torch to new leadership and watch them grow and take the Division to the next level. As much as I enjoyed serving the New England Division, five years is long enough stretch as NVC. I know Pat Maguire from Department of Rhode Island and Michael Hinds from Department of Massachusetts will be outstanding National Vice Commandant and Assistant National Vice Commandant. Second, I am excited to see if my hard work traveling around the League will pay off at the elections for the National Judge Advocate position. I have not come this far to stop giving back to the League.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer, hope to see most of you in Connecticut the last weekend in June.

One last thing, my website for the elections should be up and running very soon: www.Porter4NJA.org

Semper Fi

David M Porter
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



August 2023 — September 2023

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 2 Issue 6



Message From The Division Commandant

Welcome back to another outstanding issue of the Laskey Telegraph! The time has come for this to be my last issue as your National Vice Commandant. I am honored and proud to have served you all for the past five years! I hope by the next issue, I will be your new National Judge Advocate.

As I sit here and write this, to see one of my mentor's dreams come true and really take off is truly heartwarming. We started out back in October of 2021 and look here we are at Volume 2, Issue 6. The material just keeps getting better and better. We have the best Division newsletter, and it inspires other Divisions to follow our lead. This is not about bragging (ok a little, you all earned it) but it is about strengthening the League by connecting and communicating to everyone on what is going on. So please share this with your membership and bring forward ideas - we are always looking for new material.

For my term in office I could not have been more proud of my team. Leaders by themselves are not great, they succeed because they surround themselves with great people. For it is not about one person, but functioning as a team. For this the New England Division has thrived and pushed forward to secure the past for

the future. For one chapter of the book is finishing up, a new one will be ready to be written! I am looking forward to what Pat Maguire, Mike Hinds and their staff will do taking us to the next level.

We had a great time at the Department of Connecticut's convention at the end of June. What no better way to finish off the season of Conventions. The Convention was an amazing turn out, had a motivating guest speaker SgtMaj. Maness, and an outstanding time building stronger friendships. This is what we are all about coming as a family and building our Camaraderie!

Thank you for your support and love over the past five years! Looking forward to seeing everyone in Oklahoma!

Semper Fi

David M Porter
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League
www.Porter4NJA.org



October 2023 — November 2023

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 3 Issue 1



Message From The Division Commandant

New England Division, first let me express to you how honored I am to be National Vice Commandant for New England. When I first joined the League, being in this position was the furthest thing from my mind. I just wanted to be part of an organization that could fill a void that I was missing after leaving the Corps. I found that here, over the years, the friendships that have been made and the people I have been able to network with is amazing. I owe a lot to our now National Judge Advocate Dave Porter for entrusting me to be his assistant for a few years. I've learned quite a bit from Dave, and I will take what I have learned and continue to make the New England Division the best. A big Thank you to Assistant Division Vice Mike Hinds for taking the leap with me and together we will work for all the members.

There are some things that I/we have in mind to assist, grow, and unite the Division, and to move us forward. One thing myself and Mike will be doing is attending Department and Detachment meetings. I attended the Department of New Hampshire meeting on the 24th of September, it was a good productive meeting, and it was good to meet and speak with members from NH. I already have asked the Department Commandants to provide the schedules for their



spective Department meetings and have asked that the Detachment meetings are what is listed in either the database, social media, or websites. So, either one or both of us will be dropping in for a meeting to try and get to know the members.

There have been discussions on how to motivate the membership and one idea was to maybe come up with an incentive program for accomplishments. That would be for a member and/or Detachment/Department. I foresee the Division getting more involved, in a good way, with the members.

We are a family, all striving to reach the same goals. Will we disagree, absolutely, but once the disagreement is settled, the goal is still the same. Let's all work to accomplish that goal and let's have fun doing it. As I have tactfully expressed to my managers in my civilian job, we all put our pants on the same way, one leg at a time.

I appreciate every one of you for your time and dedication to organization

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division



December 2023 — January 2024

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 3 Issue 2

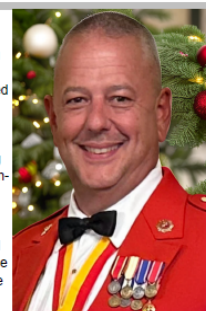


Message From The Division Commandant

New England Division,

I hope all is well with you and your families. Another year has passed where we celebrated the birthday of our Marine Corps. For 248 years we as Marines have been doing that, gathering with other Marines, Navy personnel and civilians. It's a tradition that some people just don't understand and those lucky enough to attend a birthday ball finally understand why. They see the opening ceremony, the cake cutting, they sit and listen to a high-ranking officer or senior staff NCO and realize that through it all we are an organization that is bonded by the Eagle, Globe and Anchor. They see that regardless of rank we are brothers and sisters that share something very sacred. We would do anything for the brother or sister to the left or right. Not everyone can be a Marine but those who are know how special it is, that's why we do what we do on November 10th each year. Happy Birthday again Marines!!!

We wake up the next day and honor and celebrate those veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve their nation. A nation that is grateful that there are men and women who are willing to protect against all enemies foreign and domestic. I hope each one of you were able to do something to show your gratitude for their



service. I attended the Department of Connecticut's quarterly meeting and I learned that the public schools do not close on Veterans Day. Instead, they use that day to invite veterans into the schools so that they can talk to the students. I applaud Connecticut for doing that and letting Veterans talk about their experience, it's a win win for both the students and the Veteran. Happy Veterans Day!!!

As we enter the holiday season and head into the new year, I ask that we pay attention to our fellow brothers and sisters.

Some may be struggling this time of year and they may need someone to talk to but have too much pride to ask for an ear to listen. Be that ear, it could be just what they need to get them through a difficult time. This goes for all Veterans, not just Marines.

From my family to yours, wishing you a Happy Holiday season and a very happy and healthy new year.

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division



FROM THE EDITOR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



February 2024 — March 2024

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 3 Issue 3

Message From The Division Commandant

New England Division, I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and spending time with family and friends. I also hope that 2024 has started off in your favor. Over the winter the New England Division made a change to the Division logo. We decided that we didn't want a traditional round logo, we wanted to be different. Different so that when people see it they actually stop to look at it because it's not something they're accustomed to. With the words "New England Division" across the top and in white on that background, there will be no doubt who we are part of. We hope you like it.



thank you to Marine Brooks for putting in the effort to get these accomplished.

Mid-winter will be here in a couple of weeks, if you plan on attending, let your Commandant know so he can pass that information to me. I'd like to know how many from New England will be making the trip. Just a reminder, it will be in Pentagon city rather than Norfolk this year and for the next few years.

2024 Quad State Convention/New England Division Conference in New Hampshire will be here before you know it. If you haven't booked your room or registered you are running out of

time. The Division will be holding a raffle free to all members of New England, if you haven't received information on this I ask that you speak with your Detachment/Department Commandant.



Something else that was created over the winter is a new Division website. The new website address is:

www.newenglanddivmcl.org There are some small items and pictures that need to be added. If there is something that you think would be a good addition, reach out to the friend sergeant, Brian Brooks. Brian spearheaded the logo design as well as building the website.

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division



June 2024 — July 2024

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 3 Issue 5

Message From The Division Commandant

Members, We are just about halfway through 2024 and the League and the New England Division has been busy so far. Midwinter in D.C. Modern Day Marine in D.C. and Quad State Convention/New England Division Conference in New Hampshire. I will say I attended all three and they were all successful which is attributed to the members and leadership of the league.

To that point, by now most if not all of you have received word that our National Commandant Warren Griffin has released a statement pertaining to a second year as Commandant. Here is his statement:

Members all,

As we approach our National Convention, I am announcing that I shall not be running for a second year as our National Commandant. Due to personal commitments, I would not be able to fulfill the duties of the office in a manner that it requires. I am very appreciative of the support and growth that the League has made during the past year. I am especially grateful for the friendships I have made over the years.

To those who will be elected to serve the League for the upcoming year, please know that I am here to fully support your efforts in any way I can. Hope to see many of you in Palm Springs in August.

Semper Fidelis,

Warren Griffin
National Commandant
Marine Corps League



Commandant Griffin is a man of integrity, empathy, family and faith. Another characteristic I'd like to point out, he is authentic; you will not find anything fake about him. He has always held the interests of the League first, regardless of the situation. Not speaking for the Commandant, but I am sure this wasn't an easy decision and when faced with adversity he stayed true to those same characteristics I mentioned.

Sir Commandant, on behalf of the New England Division, I'd like to say "Thank you" for your devotion, commitment, leadership and steadfastness while wearing many hats (covers) during your tenure as a Marine Corps League member. Semper Fidelis!

The "intent to run" letters have been sent out for National Commandant by National Sr. Vice T.J. Morgan, for National Sr. Vice Commandant by National Jr. Vice Commandant Russ Miller and National Jr. Vice Commandant by NJA Dave Porter. For National Judge Advocate there have been two sent out. They are Marine Bruce Rakfeldt from North Carolina and Marine Bob Ziltz from Pennsylvania. Detachments/Departments need to do their due diligence, caucus and try to get delegates out to Palm Springs. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Department of Massachusetts and Department of Connecticut conventions over the next few weeks.

Semper Fidelis!!!

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division



April 2024 — May 2024

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 3 Issue 4

Message From The Division Commandant

Members, By now, most of you have heard about the passing of John "J R" Rutovich. We have lost a great Brother, Friend & Marine. He would always greet you with a "Happy New Year" and when asked how he was doing, his response would be "better than the average bear". He was the Division paymaster for many years, he was always one who would give you his opinion whether solicited or not. We had many conversations about cigars, Marine Corps History, him being a bus driver and the wildlife he enjoyed watching in his backyard. He made you laugh without even trying. Just last week at Quad State one morning he was walking outside the hotel without shoes, just socks. He was returning from the gym to get some exercise in for his recent replaced knee, I said JR, you're not wearing any shoes. "Yeah, I went to the gym, I don't need shoes to exercise". He will be



missed and it was an honor for me to have crossed paths with him and be able to have the friendship we had. Please keep Sandy in your thoughts and prayers. Our Brother Marines passing is a reminder that life is precious. Take one day at a time and be thankful for what we have. Enjoy every moment we have with our friends and loved ones. As Dave Porter has stated, we are a family and just like

every family, we disagree and have arguments. But at the end of the day, we need to put all that aside and be there to support one another. You don't know what tomorrow will bring. RIP MARINE!

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division



August 2024 — September 2024

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 3 Issue 6

Message From The Division Commandant

Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. As we all know, the summer comes with a Marine Corps League National convention. This year will be in Palm Springs, California. It should be a good time and those who have spent their entire life living on the east coast will have a chance to see how the west coast lives. If you are headed to the convention, send me an email or text when you're out there. I want to get everyone from New England Division together to do something as a group.

I would like everyone to know New England is unique. We are not like other Division's where you must travel ten hours to get to a neighboring Department meeting. For the most part, we can be there in 3-4 hours. We are unique because we are a small Division in the sense of membership, having six Departments. We are unique because attending different League events, it's like walking into the bar Cheers, where everyone knows your name. Those who have attended the mid-winter conferences or national conventions have heard many times, me included, New England is such a tight, friendly, enjoyable area to visit. Those comments are not made because of me or any one individual. They are made because of what so many League members have built this Division to be. This Division had six strong Departments with members participating, helping at events, filling positions as officers of their respective Detachments/Departments. They wanted to keep the tradition alive and continue



to help and support local veterans and their families. They were doing it because they knew that those same veterans and/or families would not get the support they needed if they weren't there. They didn't do it for a title or to wear a particular cover. To a certain extent we have lost that. It's an issue that needs to be addressed to get New England Division back to where we once were. Now more than ever we need to get back to our grass roots of the League to get the Division where it needs to be. I am not saying that everyone needs to commit one hundred percent of their time and effort. What I do know is that we have Detachment and Department officers that have taken on all (most) of the responsibility, it's difficult to get any cooperation and support from other members.

There will always be personality conflicts, you have that with any organization. We all deal with different personalities in the units we served with. At the end of the day, we as Marines, had each other's six. As Marines of the Marine Corps League, we need to continue to have each other's six. We can't sit back and watch one of our own fail. I am respectfully asking that everyone reach out, lend a hand and help each other out. Let's not forget, we are all still part of the same team.

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division



FROM THE EDITOR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



October 2024 — November 2024

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 4 Issue 1



Message From The Division Commandant

Members,

It is amazing how the summer has flown by. The 2024 National Convention out in Palm Springs was a good time. New England was well represented, those who made the trip, I want to say "Thank you" for making the trip. I hope to see more from New England next year in Dallas/Fort Worth. As we head into the fall and winter seasons there will be a lot going on. Toys for Tots, Marine Corps Birthday celebrations, Veterans Day parades, etc. Even though it's going to be a busy time of year, let's not forget our Brothers and Sisters who are not able to participate in the celebrations and events. They may need a ride, can't do it financially, or their work schedule interferes. It's not the reason why they can't that we focus on, we need to focus on including them somehow. Reach out to them and see how you can be of assistance. It could be a simple phone call that helps them out of the



but they're in. All of us are busy with one thing or another and that one call could help them.

On a personal note, I'd like to announce that our Daughter, Jessica gave birth to Jackson Kane, born 22 September weighing in at 8.7 pounds. He is the first grandchild for Lynn and I and we are pretty excited to be grandparents. His first period of instruction will be how to low crawl before moving on to close order drill. It'll be about fundamentals and slow progression but we got some time before he steps on those yellow foot prints. Shhhh!!! Don't tell his mother.

Semper Fill!

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



December 2024 — January 2025

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 4 Issue 2



Message From The Division Commandant

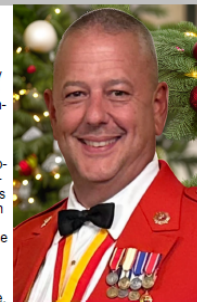
Members,

I hope everyone had a fantastic time celebrating the 249th birthday of the Marine Corps! This year was especially memorable for me, as I had the honor of attending the Commandant of the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Washington, D.C. It was truly an incredible experience, and I'm proud to have represented the New England Division. Looking ahead, next year's celebration promises to be even bigger and more impactful across the Marine Corps and the nation.

I also hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, filled with warmth, love, and gratitude. As we head into the holiday season, I wish you continued happiness, blessings, and cherished moments with those you hold dear. There are still positions that need to be filled within the Division.

They are:
New England Division Compliance Officer
Division Youth Physical Fitness liaison
mcleagueulibrary.org/youth-programs/youth-physical-fitness-ypt/
Ladies Auxiliary <https://nationalmcl.org/>

If you are interested or have questions about any of the above positions please reach out to me and I will answer them as best I can or will get the answer for you. I want to take a moment to remind everyone that the League's purpose is to make a positive difference. Whether it's supporting veterans, helping children, or contributing to the community, our focus is on doing good. It's not about titles or positions—many members are content to simply attend



meetings without holding a formal role. However, some choose to take on leadership positions because they want to make a meaningful impact and help their Detachment and Department thrive.

Lately, though, it seems that those in leadership roles have faced challenges with cooperation and unnecessary conflict. Leadership within the MCL is demanding, but we should all strive to support one another, not create obstacles. As Marines, we are built to help each other succeed, not contribute to failure. It's time for us to come together as a team, refocus, and remember the positive impact we can make when we work in harmony. If you feel leadership is not performing at its best, there is always a proper process for nominations and elections. This may sound familiar, but it's important to reiterate. There are so many incredible opportunities for our League and its members to positively impact the community, and I truly believe that, as a Division, we can do even better. Let's continue to focus on our mission and the good we can accomplish together.

As we embrace the warmth and joy of the Holiday season, I want to take a moment to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas filled with love and laughter, and a New Year brimming with hope, peace, and new beginnings.

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



February 2025 — March 2025

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 4 Issue 3



Message From The Division Commandant

Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, it's clear this year will be as busy as ever. But what makes this year truly special is that we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of our beloved Marine Corps. There will be plenty of birthday balls to attend, and we're all looking forward to honoring this monumental milestone together.

As many of you may have heard, the Division is in the process of planning our own 250th celebration, and although putting together the logistics has proven to be more challenging than anticipated, we are working hard to ensure it will be a memorable and enjoyable event for all. Stay tuned for more details as they become available!

Looking ahead, we have the Midwinter Conference coming up in Virginia. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend before, I highly recommend it. It's a fantastic chance to spend a few days with League members from around the country. You can learn more about the conference here.

In addition, this year the New England Division Conference/Quad State Convention will be held in Portland, Maine. For more information, please visit www.marinecorpsleaguemaine.org. The Department of Maine is putting in a lot of effort to ensure this will be an event to remember. And just like last year, the Division will hold a raffle for those attending, with prizes including reimbursement for hotel expenses, travel costs, or banquet meals. We understand how expensive it can be to attend these events, and we hope this helps make



it a little more accessible for everyone.

Earlier this year, I sent a letter to the six Department Commandants expressing my intention to run for a second term as New England Division National Vice Commandant. I've been incredibly grateful for the support I've received so far, and I humbly ask for your continued support as I strive to serve you for another term. I'm fortunate to work with a dedicated team that truly puts service before self, and we're all committed to making this Division the best it can be.

Another event worth mentioning is the National Convention in August, which will take place in the great state of Texas. You can find more details here. I'll be sure to remind everyone as we get closer to the event.

In closing, I'm hopeful that this year will bring more submissions from Detachments for our Division newsletter. Our editor, Walt Benson, does an outstanding job putting it all together, but he can't highlight the amazing events happening in every Detachment without your help. Please send your updates and information so we can all stay connected and celebrate each other's successes.

I look forward to seeing you all at Midwinter and in Maine!

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



April 2025 — May 2025

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 4 Issue 4



Message From The Division Commandant

Members,

I hope this message finds everyone in good health and spirits. As we approach April, I'm eagerly anticipating warmer weather, which will allow us to kick off our outdoor league activities.

This year's Quad State marks the final time we will refer to it as such before it officially transitions to the New England Division Conference. Beginning next year, the event will follow a rotating schedule among the six departments, with Massachusetts taking the lead. I truly believe this new structure, where each department plays an active role in planning and highlighting their unique contributions, will bring even greater value to our members and strengthen the bonds across our divisions.

But before we get ahead of ourselves and look toward next year, let's focus on this year's Quad State/New England Division Conference. We'll be gathering in Portland, Maine, from April 25th to 27th. I'm excited to see what the Department of Maine, under the leadership of Department Commandant Peter Lubas, has prepared for us. The business meeting will be packed with valuable information. COO Bob Borka will present an



informative session to ensure everyone is up to speed. We'll also have representatives from the Marine for Life program, MODD, and our National Sr. Vice Commandant Russ Miller. We are fortunate to have Col. Dan O'Brien, USMC (Ret.), as our guest speaker, and he's looking forward to the opportunity to speak and spend the weekend with New England Marines.

In addition to the Division Conference, I'd like to note the following department conventions:

- Department of Massachusetts: Burlington, MA — May 29th to June 1st
- Department of Connecticut: June 27th to 29th

These conventions are fantastic opportunities for our members to connect, share experiences, and build camaraderie. They also provide a chance for significant others to meet people from other departments. I hope to see many of you at these events.

Semper Fidelis!!

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



FROM THE EDITOR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



June 2025 — July 2025

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 4 Issue 5

Message From The Division Commandant

Members,

It's been a couple of months since Quad State, and I'm pleased to report that the event was a great success. A heartfelt thank you goes to Maine Commandant Peter Lubas and the members of the Department of Maine for organizing an event that will be remembered for years to come. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate those who received awards this year.

First, Marine Jane Deputa was honored with the GySgt Knapp Award. Marine Deputa has made significant contributions to both the Department of Rhode Island and the New England Division. She consistently embodies the principle of "service before self" in all she does. One of her most notable efforts is coordinating the Chapel of Four Chaplains event in Rhode Island. Each year, this event grows in popularity, filling the church to capacity. Her dedication to this ceremony has made it a highlight at veterans' events across the region.

A big congratulations also goes to Marine Wayne Salisbury Sr., who was selected as this year's Division Marine of the Year. Nominated and chosen by his peers, it was a true honor to present Wayne with this well-deserved award. Wayne has done so much for the League, always the first

his back and provide anything you or your family might need. It's a privilege to call him a friend. Several other members were recognized by the Division for their dedication and hard work and were awarded the Distinguished Citizens Medal - Silver

• Walt Benson of the Department of Connecticut continues to do a tremendous job producing the Division newsletter.
• ADVC Mike Hinds and Chief of Staff Joe Afonso were acknowledged for their unwavering support and commitment not only to the New England Division but also to their respective Departments of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The event was also honored by the presence of several distinguished guests:

- NED/COO Bob Borka
- Sr. Vice Commandant Russ Miller
- CDD PDD J.D. Jones
- Auxiliary President Dottie Sanning
- National Chaplain and Marine Corps League Foundation Chaplain of Four Chaplains Howard Schaeffer
- National Sgt at Arms Lisa Solarczyk

Notably, out of the 10 Divisions in the League, 6 were represented at this gathering in New England.

Thank you again to everyone who made Quad State such a memorable and impactful event. We look forward to build-



August 2025 — September 2025

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 4 Issue 6

Message From The Division Commandant

Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer!

To those who attended the Conference in Maine or the Conventions in Massachusetts and Connecticut, you may recall me saying, "I have two asks." I'm reaching out again with those same two important requests.

We urgently need:

1. A New England Division MCL-accredited Veterans Service Officer (VSO)
2. A New England Division Liaison for the Marine Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) Program

Since then, several Marines have expressed interest. I've shared the necessary information and directed them to the National website. For those still considering, you can find full details in the Member Library under VSO and YPF.

The National Convention is just weeks away, and unless something changes, our Division will once again be the only one without these billets filled. I won't sugarcoat this—it may sound like I'm begging, and frankly, I am. Because I believe in this Division, and I know we have Marines who have the passion, integrity, and capability to thrive in these roles. I just need you to take the first step.

These are not just titles. They are deeply rewarding opportunities:

- As VSO, you would be directly assisting Veterans and

motivating young people across New England—instilling in them the values of discipline, fitness, and teamwork.

Here's a brief excerpt from the YPF Standard Operating Procedure to give you a sense of the mission:

- a. Maintain communication with all Departments MCL YPF Representative within their Division.
- b. Be the recipient of Quarterly Reports from all Department MCL YPF Representatives.
- c. Act as the POC between the Division and all the Departments within their Division, with the MCL Chairman of the MCL YPF Committee.

- d. Assist the Departments to plan, organize and conduct the annual state or regional MCL YPF Meets as required.
- e. Maintain contact with any organization providing financial support for any event held under the MCL YPF Program.
- f. Ensure training and assistance is provided to the Departments at National, Convention, Mid-Winter Conference and Monthly Zoom Session.
- g. Ensure compliance of the MCL YPF Guidelines & Program documents located on the MC website.

Please, take a moment to seriously consider stepping up. If you're ready—or even just curious—reach out to me directly. I'll gladly help you navigate the process.

I will see



October 2025 — November 2025

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 5 Issue 1

Message From The Division Commandant

Dear Marines,

As we proudly celebrate the 250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps—a momentous occasion that honors not only our illustrious past, but also the enduring spirit that defines what it means to be a Marine.

For two and a half centuries, Marines have stood as our nation's elite warriors—fighting with honor, courage, and commitment in every clime and place. From the legendary battles of Belleau Wood and two Jima to the deserts of the Middle East and missions of peace and humanitarian aid around the globe, we have forged a legacy written in sacrifice, valor, and unwavering brotherhood.

Yet our service does not end when we remove the uniform. As members of the Marine Corps League, we continue to uphold the sacred values instilled in us at boot camp—leadership, integrity, discipline, and a commitment to those who served alongside us. We remain bound by duty: to care for one another, to support the next generation of Marines, and to serve our communities with the same dedication we gave to our Corps and country.



In this 250th year, we are not just celebrating our history—we are actively writing its next chapter. Whether it's mentoring young Marines, assisting veterans in need, participating in patriotic events, or preserving our heritage, our mission continues. The League offers us a unique opportunity to channel our experience, wisdom, and pride into action that matters.

So let us raise a glass—not just to 250 years of the United States Marine Corps, but to the unbreakable bond we share as Marines, past and present. And let us reaffirm our oath—not to a rank or uniform, but to a lifelong call to serve.

There will be many celebrations throughout the country. As we celebrate the 250th, let us also pause to remember those who are standing watch—at posts near and far, on land and at sea, in silence and in sacrifice. They carry forward the legacy we helped build, and they remind us why we continue to serve.

Semper Fidelis
Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



December 2025 — January 2026

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 5 Issue 2

Message From The Division Commandant

Dear Marines,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed time with family and friends!

November was an exceptionally special month as we celebrated the 250th birthday of our Marine Corps. It's a milestone that reminds us of the proud history, tradition, and sacrifice that define our Corps. I had the privilege of attending several celebrations throughout New England, and I was truly inspired by the energy, camaraderie, and dedication of our League members. During these events, I had the opportunity to meet so many of you—the heart and soul of our Detachments. I heard firsthand about the remarkable work being done in communities across the region. From supporting veterans and their families to running community programs and local events, you embody the Marine Corps League's mission in every sense of the word. It makes me proud to see our members stepping up, day after day, to serve and support others.

Many of our members are modest and don't seek recognition for their hard work—but the truth is, your contributions deserve to be celebrated. That's why Laskey's Telegraph exists: to give every Detachment a platform to share achievements, milestones, and stories that inspire others.

Whether it's a community service project, a fundraiser, or a local initiative, your efforts matter. Don't be afraid to brag a little—your accomplishments are worth sharing, and your peers will be inspired by

your example. So go ahead... BRAG!

As we move into December and the holiday season, it's a perfect time to reflect on what we've accomplished together and to appreciate the people around us. The League is more than an organization—it's a family. And like any family, the support, dedication, and pride we share make all the difference.

This Christmas season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each of you and your families. May your holidays be filled with joy, laughter, and the spirit of giving. Take a moment to cherish the memories, the traditions, and the simple pleasures that make this time of year so special. And as we close out this year, let's carry the same enthusiasm, camaraderie, and Marine Corps pride into 2026. There's no doubt that with your dedication and commitment, the League will continue to thrive and make an impact in every community we serve.

Thank you for all that you do—your efforts make a difference, and together we embody the Semper Fidelis spirit every single day.

Semper Fidelis
Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League





FROM THE EDITOR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH



February 2026 — March 2026

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 5 Issue 3



Message From The Division Commandant

Members,

We are one month into 2026, and the year is already moving quickly. As we look ahead, there is an important issue we must address together: membership across the Division is down. When membership declines, Detachments are put at risk. When Detachments dissolve, our presence in the community weakens, and fewer Marines are able to see what the League truly stands for.

Growing our membership is something every one of us can help with. It is not just an administrative task or an officer responsibility—it is a shared effort. Our ability to serve Marines, advocate for their needs, and provide meaningful support depends on a strong and active membership.

Many of us joined the League looking for camaraderie, purpose, and a continued connection to those who understand our experiences. There are Marines in our communities today who are still searching for that same sense of belonging. If they don't know who we are, or if there is no local Detachment for them to find, we miss the opportunity to support them when they need it most. Each conversation matters. Each invitation matters. Simply sharing what the League means to you can make a difference. Let's work together to strengthen our membership, protect our Detachments, and ensure the League remains a place where Marines can find support, purpose, and fellowship—now and in the future.

Looking ahead, we also have important oppor-

tunities this year to come together as a League. The Mid-Winter Conference will be held February 26-29 in Pentagon City, Virginia. For those traveling from New England, I look forward to seeing you there. Additionally, the New England Division Conference will take place June 11-14 in Springfield, Massachusetts, hosted by the Department of Massachusetts. This conference represents an important change. After considerable effort to align bylaws across all Departments, this event will no longer be referred to as the Quad State Convention. This will be on a rotating basis among the six Departments. One of the driving factors behind this change was attendance. Participation at past Quad State conventions in Massachusetts and Connecticut, had declined. The Division recognized that something needed to change, and this new approach is intended to bring more members together in a positive and unified way. We truly hope this change is met with enthusiasm and renewed participation as we continue working together to strengthen our membership. Hotel details have been provided to Department Commandants, and the agenda is still being finalized. Once complete, the agenda and registration information will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Thank you for all that you do,
Semper Fidelis

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



April 2026 — May 2026

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 5 Issue 4



Message From The Division Commandant

Members,

Get ready for a great few days this June! We're excited to announce that the New England Division Conference will be in Springfield, Massachusetts from June 11th through June 14th. This year is a little different—in a good way. It's our first time not having a Quad State Convention, which means we get to focus on a true Division Conference. It's a great chance for all of us to come together, spend more time with each other, and build stronger connections across the division.

This conference isn't just about meetings—it's about catching up with friends, meeting new people, and enjoying time together. There will be plenty of chances to share ideas, learn from each other, and have some laughs along the way.

We've also got some great activities lined up. You can hit the golf course, check out the NBA Basketball Hall of Fame, take a tour of the Springfield Armory National Historic site, or spend some time at MGM Springfield. Whether you're looking to explore or just relax, there's something for everyone and members are encouraged to bring their significant others and families to enjoy it all. It will be at the Springfield Monarch Sheraton, and room rates are available through May 11th—so be sure to get your room reserved soon. Booking links will be available on the New

England Division website.

You'll also find the agenda and registration

form links on the New England Division website, making it easy to plan your trip and sign up. As has been done over the last few years, the division will also be holding raffles to help members cover the cost of attending the conference. These may include assistance with transportation, hotel rooms, or banquet tickets.

Make your plans, reserve your room, and join us in Springfield for a great time together. In celebration of America 250, this will be the Conference logo. Shirts will be available.

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



June 2026 — July 2026

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 5 Issue 5



Message From The Division Commandant

Marines and Members,

We're just a few days away from the Division Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts, and things are starting to come together pretty quickly. This is one of those weekends where there's a mix of business and just getting a chance to see everyone again.

We'll handle the League business, but it's not just about sitting in meetings. It's also about showing up, staying involved, and staying connected with what's going on across the division. We'll have guests from National there as well, along with some partners we've worked with before and a few new ones we're starting to build relationships with.

Springfield was picked after looking at a few different locations, and the goal was to keep it fair for everyone across the division. It's a good central spot, and hopefully that helps bring more people in. Registration is okay right now, but there's still time for those numbers to climb, and it would be good to see more members make the trip.

Outside of the meetings, there's a few things going on. Friday has golf for whoever wants to play,

plus an armory tour. Six Flags is close by, there are a couple museums in the area, and downtown Springfield has plenty to walk around and check out. The Basketball Hall of Fame is always a popular stop, and the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum is worth seeing if you are a motorcycle enthusiast. There is also a casino nearby for anyone who wants to stop in there and drop a dollar or a quarter into a machine.

At the end of the day, hopefully everyone leaves with a few good conversations, some new ideas, and a little motivation to bring back home.

What really matters is not just showing up for the weekend, but what we do with it after. Take what you hear, what you learn, and who you connect with, and put it to use when you get back.

That's how things keep moving forward—one member, one detachment, one department at a time.

See you in Springfield!!

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



August 2026 — September 2026

LASKEY'S TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of The New England Division of The Marine Corps League Vol. 5 Issue 6



Message From The Division Commandant

Marines and Members,

I hope your summer is going well and that you've had the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to say that the first New England Division Conference, held in Springfield, Massachusetts, was a success. Thank you to the Department of Massachusetts for hosting this year's conference. There was some uncertainty about how the new format would be received, but based on the survey results from those who attended, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Members also shared a few suggestions for improvements and additions, and we will be working to incorporate those ideas into future conferences. Overall, I believe the conference was a great success. A sincere THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped plan the conference, as well as those who volunteered throughout the weekend. Your hard work and dedication made this event possible.

The presenters provided valuable information that each of us can take back to our Detachments. I would like to recognize them once again and thank them for taking the time to support the New England Division Conference:

- National Senior Vice Commandant Russ Miller
- National Junior Vice Commandant Dave Porter
- National Executive Director/COO Bob Borka
- 62nd Chief Devil Dog PDD Joe D'Angelo
- Marine For Life Representative Dave Ossian
- H.A.M.S.A.L. Representative Brian Gillespie

• National Chaplain Howard Schaeffer

Congratulations to our 2026 New England Division award recipients:

- Marine of the Year: Dave Porter
- Associate Member of the Year: Pat Anthony
- GySgt Knapp Award: Bob Mayers

Congratulations to each of you on these well-deserved honors. We were also honored to have representatives from the Quilts of Valor Foundation join us. Quilts of Valor is a nonprofit organization that presents handmade quilts to service members and veterans. Each quilt serves as a tangible expression of gratitude, recognizing their sacrifices and providing comfort and support. Congratulations to this year's Quilt of Valor recipients:

- Bob Mayers - Vermont
- Peter King - Massachusetts
- Wayne Salisbury Sr. - Rhode Island
- Wayne Caron - Maine
- Bill Lee - Connecticut

Looking ahead, the 2027 New England Division Conference will be hosted by the Department of Rhode Island. Additional information and registration details will be shared as planning is finalized.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the Marine Corps League and to the veterans, Marines, and communities we proudly serve.

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League





2026 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CONFERENCE



MCL Massachusetts Commandant Mike Hinds offers a welcome to the Conference as the host Department. L to R Walt Benson Division Adjutant, NVC Pat Maguire, Asst Vice Commandant Michael Hinds, Division Chief of Staff Joe Afonso.



MCL National NE Division Vice Commandant Pat Maguire opens the conference after the memorial service. From L to R Walt Benson Division Adjutant, NVC Pat Maguire, Asst Vice Commandant Michael Hinds, Division Chief of Staff Joe Afonso.



2026 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CONFERENCE



The Conference was on an extremely tight schedule with presentations by NVC Pat Maguire, The 62nd CDD Joe DeAngelo, Help A Marine Save A Life or HMSAL, Brian Gillespie, National Sr. Vice Commandant Russ Miller, National Jr. Vice Commandant David Porter Jr., David Ossian on Marine For Life, Bob Borka, on Database, Transmittals, and finally a few awards.



At the banquet the guest speaker was, Steven George Xiarhos. Massachusetts State Representative, Ret. Deputy Police Chief of Yarmouth Police Department and Gold Star Father, who lost a son in service, and while he told his story he had called up two MCL members who had lost relatives in service as well. He was joined by National Sr. Vice Commandant Russ Miller and Richard Michaud from the Department of Connecticut. When he was finished there was not a dry eye in the house.



David Porter was the Marine of The Year, Pictured to the left, Mike Hinds Assistant New England NVC, David Porter Jr. National Jr. Vice Commandant, Pat Maguire, New England Division National Vice Commandant.

Associate of the Year was Patricia Anthony, no picture was available for this award.





2026 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CONFERENCE



PNC Warren Griffin
with Steven George
Xiarhos



National Jr. Vice Commandant David Porter
Jr. NE Division Asst Vice Commandant Mike
Hinds with Steven George Xiarhos



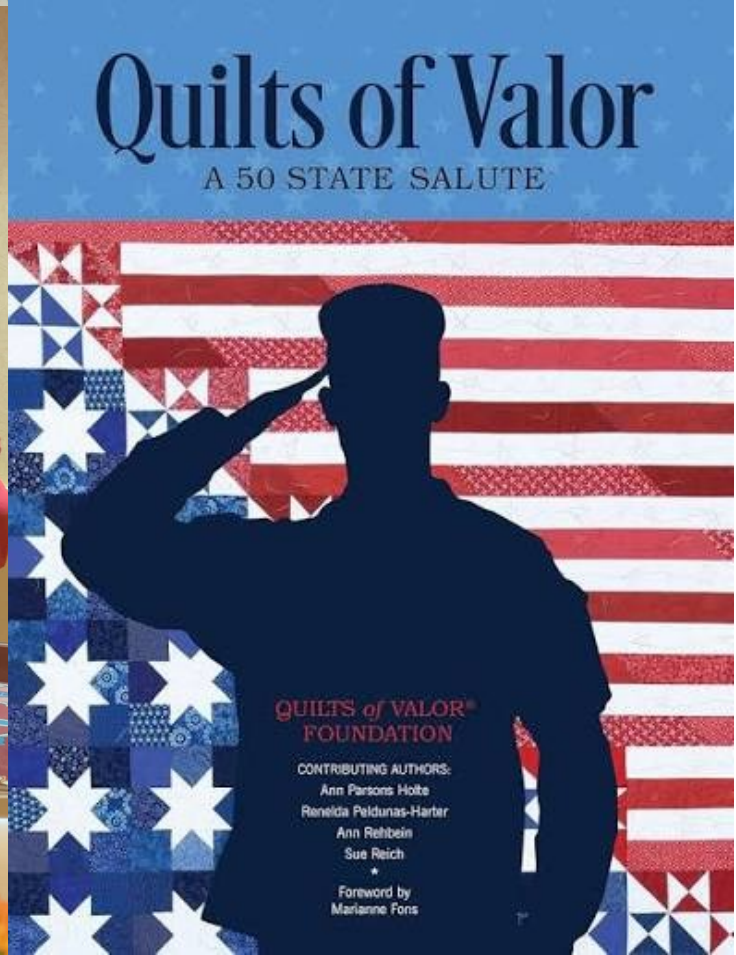
NE Div. Asst Vice Commandant Mike
Hinds with Steven George Xiarhos



NE Division NVC Pat
Maguire, Presented Certifi-
cates of Appreciation to the
women from Quilts of Valor.
Various Members of the NE
Division were wrapped in
Quilts of Valor Including Top
Lee above center who
seemed to return to the days
of Liberty where every Marine
had a girl for every arm



2026 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CONFERENCE





2026 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CONFERENCE



The final event of the night was the swearing in, the Six New England Division Commandants. NE Division NVC Pat Maguire swore in Walt Benson Commandant of Connecticut, Joe Afonso Commandant of Rhode Island, Robert Mayers, Commandant of Vermont, Cody Dumont, Commandant of New Hampshire, Peter Lubas, Commandant Maine, Michael Hinds, Commandant of Massachusetts





2026 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CONFERENCE SURVEY



2026 New England Division Conference

A survey was sent to those who attended the conference. Below, you will find the feedback provided by our members, including their ratings of various areas of the conference as well as their suggestions for future improvements.

Conference Evaluation Survey Summary

The New England Division thanks everyone who completed the 2026 Conference Evaluation Survey. Your feedback helps us continue improving future conferences and ensuring we provide the best possible experience for our members.

Survey Responses Received: 18

Overall Conference Rating

Member Satisfaction

Excellent  15 (83%)

Good  3 (17%)

The conference received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with 100% of respondents rating the conference Good or Excellent.

Registration Process

Registration Experience

Excellent  15

Good  1

Fair  2

Members commented that registration was simple, organized, and easy to complete.



2026 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CONFERENCE SURVEY



Banquet Experience

Banquet & Food Service Rating

Excellent  14 (78%)

Good  3 (17%)

Fair  1 (5%)

Members enjoyed the banquet program, entertainment, and fellowship. A common suggestion was to consider additional menu options for future conferences.

Conference Highlights

Members praised:

- ☐ Excellent organization and communication
- ☐ Strong fellowship throughout the weekend
- ☐ Smooth registration process
- ☐ Well-run conference schedule
- ☐ Professional and productive business meetings
- ☐ Outstanding support from Division leadership
- ☐ Appreciation for the Department of Massachusetts hosting the conference

Member Suggestions for Future Conferences

- Continue keeping business meetings focused and efficient
- Allow additional time for member interaction and fellowship
- Expand banquet menu selections
- Add training sessions and educational presentations
- Continue programs that support leadership and member development



2026 NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CONFERENCE SURVEY



Overall Conference Success

The inaugural New England Division Conference held in Springfield, Massachusetts was a success.

Members overwhelmingly rated the conference as Excellent, recognized the effort put into organization and hospitality, and expressed strong interest in attending future Division conferences.

The New England Division extends its sincere appreciation to the Department of Massachusetts for hosting and to all members, volunteers, and participants who helped make this event successful.

The feedback received will guide future conference planning as we continue building an event that benefits the entire New England Division.

Semper Fidelis!

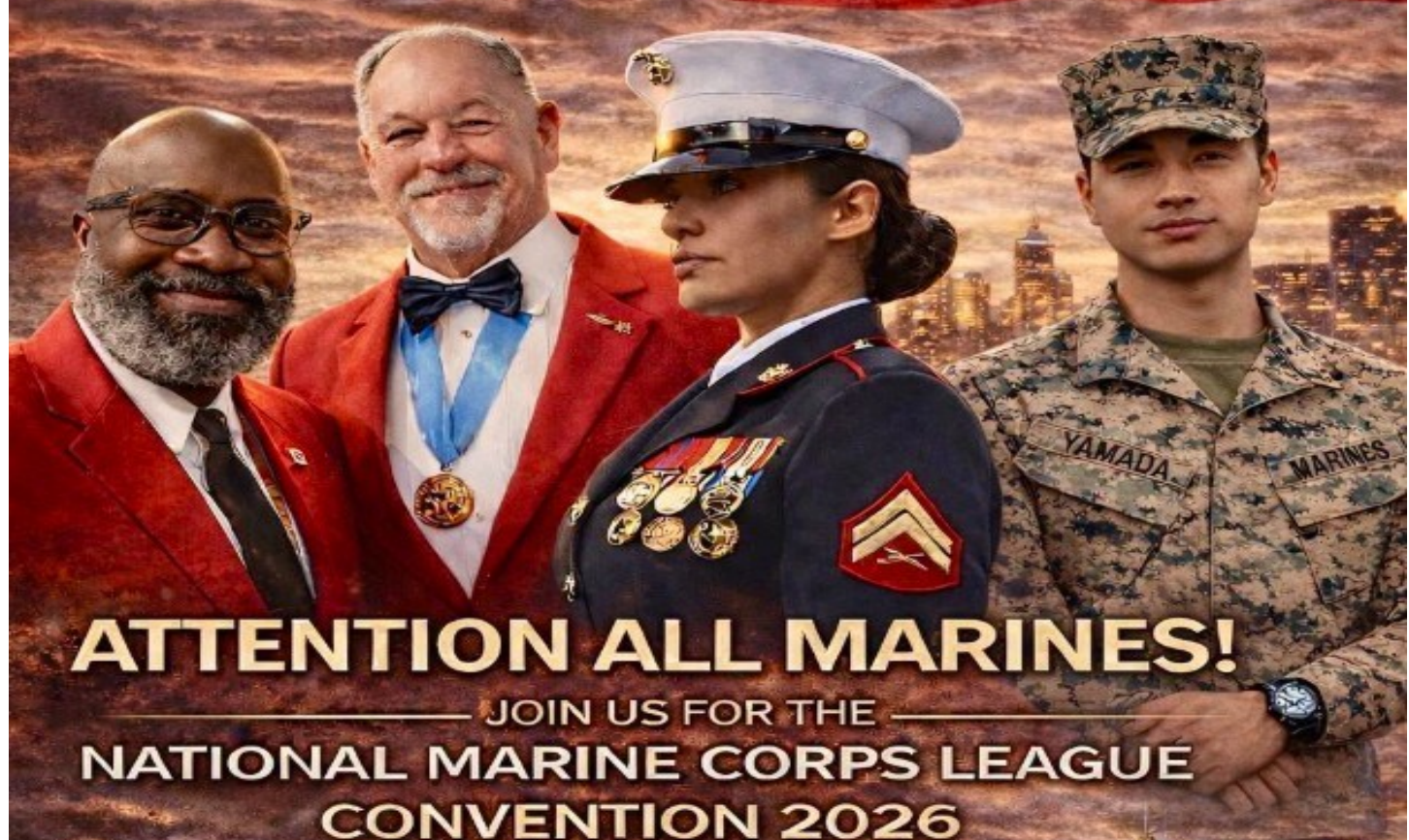
Patrick Maguire

National Vice Commandant

New England Division



NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



ATTENTION ALL MARINES!

JOIN US FOR THE
**NATIONAL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
CONVENTION 2026**
AUGUST 10 - 14, 2026

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN ARMS,
THIS IS THE PREMIER GATHERING
OF MARINES FROM ACROSS
THE NATION!

-  In tribute to the Fallen
-  Camaraderie & Networking
-  Workshops & Seminars

OORAH! DON'T MISS OUT!

Indianapolis, IN



NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



★ 9/11 ★ DAY OF SERVICE

★
COMMEMORATING THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY
★ OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ★



**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026**



10:00 A.M.
LOCAL TIME

FIND A
PARTICIPATING LOCATION



SCAN QR CODE



OR VISIT
[CARRYTHELOAD.ORG/
PATRIOT-DAY](https://carrytheload.org/patriot-day)

★ PARTICIPATING NATIONAL CEMETERIES NATIONWIDE ★



CARRY THE LOAD



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery
Administration



NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



NCA in partnership with Carry The Load and Just Serve is organizing the National Day of Service to commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9/11 on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10:00 am (local time). The event includes a brief ceremony and instructions to volunteers on headstone cleaning and beautification. This is a great service opportunity for employee engagement, youth groups, and individuals. Participants are encouraged to post on a Veteran's memorial page at VA's [Veterans Legacy Memorial](https://www.veteranslegacy.com/).

Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10:00 am (local time)

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.carrytheload.org/patriot-day/>

Find your cemetery here:

<https://www.cem.va.gov/volunteer/National-Day-of-Service.asp>

Forty-seven 9/11 victims are buried in VA national cemeteries and more than 16,000 Veterans from the Global War on Terror.





NEW ENGLAND DIVISION VSO WANTED



New England Division Seeking a Veteran Services Officer (VSO) The New England Division is seeking a dedicated Veteran Services Officer (VSO). This vital role is focused on serving and advocating for U.S. Marine Corps Veterans, as well as Veterans of all U.S. Armed Forces, their families, and survivors. The VSO ensures that Veterans and their families receive the Department of Veterans Affairs, state, local government, and non-government benefits to which they are entitled.

Every other Division in the League currently has a VSO, providing essential support to Veterans in their regions. With the leadership of Director Philip Du and the accredited VSOs across the League, countless Veterans and their families are already benefiting from their guidance and expertise. The New England Division is eager to fill this important position and continue expanding the League's mission of service to Veterans. If you are committed to advocating for Veterans and have the dedication to make a meaningful impact in the New England community, we encourage you to begin the process of becoming a VSO.

For more information click on the link below:

[Veteran Services – Marine Corps League](#)

Please contact: NVC Patrick Maguire with any questions or if you're interested in the VSO position.



CONNECTICUT



Commandants Corner



Hello Marines and Associates;

The one day convention has come and gone and most seem to feel it was a success and to me it was because we got everything we wanted to accomplish done. We elected new officers, myself as Commandant, George Guttman Jr., Senior Vice Commandant, Ulysses L Carr, Junior Vice Commandant, PCDD Doug Fisk Judge Advocate, Tom Jackson Paymaster, and Charise Hewitt Adjutant.

We raised the Department dues from \$5 to \$10. We had two honored guests National Jr. Vice Commandant, David Porter, and National New England Vice Commandant Pat Maguire. We also had New England Vice Chief Devil Dog Pat McMahon on board who also calls this home. We moved on and elected New Pack officers for the pack, all in a day.

So as we look forward and take that first step into our new year; where do we go, and what do we do? The number one goal we have is recruiting and that has been our goal for a while and we will continue to pursue new members as we have not yet succeeded. We recently received a recruiting guidebook from National, that I sent out to all detachments. There are many ideas in there some old some new. One such simple idea was to take our old Semper Fi magazines, and leave them at your doctors office or dentist office. Cover the address label with a label containing the contact information for yourself or someone in your detachment or department that is willing to talk to someone about joining the league. We have new recruiting brochures for the League and the Dogs they will be distributed in the August Department meeting and The September Growl. The Dogs is the next target looking for new pups. Those should be easier since Dogs have to be League members first.

The guidebook has a lot of good ideas but we are not limited to those ideas, what ideas do you have? I would like to bring back the activities committee. I



want to find some ways to celebrate our successes and bringing in new members, while having some fun.

This year we had our first six state Division Conference, which was held in Springfield MA. Connecticut had a good showing I believe we had 10 People attending, and we had a few laughs and got to visit some local attractions. But we could have had more it was so close to all of us. To me it was amazing Marines from all of New England gathered in one place. There was plenty of time for catching up with old friends and brining new ones into the fold. Some of us keep in contact during

the year either in person at other events, or on Facebook. I believe next years is in Rhode Island. At one of the past Quad States I was in New Hampshire I stayed an extra day because I spent some time there in my youth and route 1 went along the water so close that it splashed on the rocks and onto the road. I got lost and wound up at the gate to the base at Portsmouth where a cop from the base saw me looking at the map and came over to help. He had me follow him onto the base, and he took me everywhere giving us a history lesson on all the improvements done to the base including the prison it was a great time. Had I not gone to Quad State (at the time) it never would have happened. All of these Conferences bring with them opportunities, take advantage of them.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the people who worked so hard on all the committee's for our Convention, but a special thanks to Jr. Past Commandant Rich Daigle and PDC Adele Hodges, who as usual went the extra mile. I would also like to thank Rosena Taylor for all her work on the raffle.

Semper Fidelis,

Walt Benson

Commandant
Department of Connecticut



CONNECTICUT



**Hike To
Remember
Not To be Forgotten**

HIKE XIV



.....
CALLING ALL RESERVE, GUARD, ACTIVE DUTY, AND VETERANS
.....

WHERE: 980 CHESTNUT HILL RD.
S. GLASTONBURY, CT 06073

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
CHECK-IN 0430 | STEP OFF 0530

\$50 ENTRY || DONATIONS WELCOME

All active military and veterans are invited to sign up for the 22k.
Hikers must have served in one of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

**TO REGISTER VISIT:
MCLDET40.ORG**





CONNECTICUT



AUGUST 22, 2026



Join us for our Annual Benefit Ride

Meet up at **Hubbard Park** in Meriden, CT.

Registration is from 9:30 to 10:45 with kickstands up at 11:00.

Our ride will end at the **Svea Social Club**,

999 Kensington Rd, Kensington, CT 06037.

Come out rain or shine, with or without a bike. Enjoy food, music, and raffles.

All proceeds go toward scholarships and animals in need of medical attention.

\$20/Per Bike
Includes
Passenger

\$10/Person
not on Ride

For any questions, please call/text us!

Arnold 860-637-3834

Tina 860-637-3834

Sheri 203-848-7524





CONNECTICUT



Coffee with Veterans

9 AM – 11 AM

1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

AMERICAN LEGION POST 68 HALL

**COME ENJOY FREE COFFEE, HOT BREAKFAST
& GOOD CONVERSATIONS!**



*Feel free to bring
ONE guest!*

IF YOU NEED A RIDE PLEASE CONTACT:

MO JORDAN

860-268-8969

AMERICANLEGIONAUXPOST68@GMAIL.COM

154 Porters Pass, Berlin CT 06037



CONNECTICUT



2026 CONNECTICUT CONVENTION

The Connecticut One Day Convention opened with our memorial service for all the members we lost this year. We then went into the opening of the Convention with the role call of officers and the welcoming of dignitaries. We welcomed National Jr. Vice Commandant David Porter Jr., New England National Vice Commandant Pat Maguire, New England National Vice Chief Devil Dog Pat McMahon. Followed by PCDD Doug Fisk, PDC Lou Verrette, PDC Pat McMahon, PDC Jack Dougherty, PDC Adele Hodges, PDC Jim Lauber, PDC David Rosa.. The biggest items on the agenda were the raising of the Department dues from \$5 to \$10, first raise in 30 years. The status of the two detachments surrendering their Charter, reported on by Dept Judge Advocate Doug Fisk. The Paymaster Tom Jackson delivered the new budget from the Budget Committee, for approval. The audit Committee was unable to complete the udit so it was tabled to the August meeting The Credentials Committee report was delivered by Jim Soder and once delivered we were able to proceed to elections.



National Jr. Vice Commandant David Porter Jr., Swore in the officers and Staff Front row from L to R Ulysses Carr JR. Vice Commandant, George Gutmann Jr. SR Vice Commandant Walt Benson Commandant, Doug Fisk Judge Advocate. Second Row L-R, Roland Hamel, County Commandant, New Haven, Jim Soder, County Commandant, Middlesex, Gregg Timms, County Commandant, Ray Burington County Commandant, Tolland, Peter DePaola, County Commandant, Hartford, William Lee County Commandant, Windham, Adele Hodges, County Commandant, Fairfield, Charise Hewitt, Department Adjutant, Tom Jackson Department Paymaster.



CONNECTICUT



2026 CONNECTICUT CONVENTION



Above left, National Jr. Vice Commandant David Porter Jr., Swears in Walt Benson as Connecticut's new Commandant.

Above, New England National Vice Commandant Pat Maguire, assisting David Porter as Sgt-At-Arms escorts the new Commandant to his post.

Left, National Jr. Vice Commandant David Porter Jr., Congratulates the new Commandant and all the newly elected officers



CONNECTICUT



2026 CONNECTICUT CONVENTION

No convention is complete without awards and we had a few very deserved awards. First being Department of Connecticut Marine of the year which was I am very proud to say Adel Hodges.



MOY Committee Chair PDC Jack Dougherty presenting the award, with PDC Lou Verrette looking on.



MOY Adele Hodges, Committee Chair PDC Jack Dougherty with PDC Lou Verrette and NENVCCD Pat McMahon looking on.



Commandant Walt Benson presented Jr Past Commandant Rich Daigle for Leadership which read

**RICHARD J. DAIGLE JR.
COMMANDANT DEPT. OF CT
2025 –2026**

**FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND
LEADERSHIP**

**THIS GAVEL WAS PRESENTED TO YOU AS AN
EMBLEM OF YOUR AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.**

**AT THIS, THE END OF YOUR TOUR OF DUTY,
YOU CAN MARK THIS TASK WELL DONE.
I CONGRATULATE YOU, SIR COMMANDANT**

SEMPER FIDELIS



CONNECTICUT



2026 CONNECTICUT CONVENTION

The day concluded with the Grand Growl where elections were held and officers installed



Above: New England NVCCD Pat McMahon, Swears in the newly elected Pack Officers, assisted by Bill Schmidt. L to R. Rivers McCalop, Watch Dog, Roland Hamel Jr, Barking Dog, George Guttman Jr., Dog Robber, John Dougherty, Dog Trainer, William Lee, Police Dog, Rich Daigle, Mad Dog, Tom Jackson, Jr, worthy Vice Pack Leader, Jim Lauber, Sr. worthy Pack Leader, Walt Benson, Worthy Pack Leader, PCDD Doug Fisk, Smart Dog.

Below Jr. Past Commandant Rich Daigle Presents Melissa Wheelock with The Associate of the year Award





The 9th Annual Flag Field for Heroes

The Connecticut Landmarks hosted the 9th Annual Flag Field for Heroes ceremony on Sunday, July 5th, at the Nathan Hale Homestead in Coventry, CT.

Marine Corps League members, Peter and Jamie DePaola, assisted in installing over 600 flags earlier in the week. Nine years ago, there were less than 100 and it has grown to over 600 this year.



These American flags were put into the ground bearing a tag to honor a specific military veteran or active-duty member. American Legion Post 52 and Marine Corps League members worked tirelessly in the heat to prepare this year's Flag Field for Heroes to celebrate our country's 250th anniversary of independence. Veterans continue to serve veterans and honor their service. The display may be viewed daily from dawn to dusk through July 25.

Jamie DePaola

Photo Right Peter and Jamie DePaola





CONNECTICUT



I started working on this about three years ago, and due to time and life I put it aside and said later. Then at the CT had a Challenge Coin we do not even have our own logo. Other states have their own version EGA in the center and a combined with it. This is got some help from AI to logo and if we like it our I believe everyone should that you look at it, pick it any changes you would it out and start over. I think of recognizable logo to Departments, but it thing I created. It also use it as our challenge coin. Tell me what you think.



conference I was asked if and of course we do not, own logo. Other states which is a circle with the silhouette of the state the one I envisioned and I create this image as our coin down the road. Since have a say in this I ask apart and come up with like to make to it; or throw we should have some type distinguish us from other doesn't have to be some- does not mean we should

Every Great Detachment HAS A STORY. Share It!

A NEWSLETTER KEEPS YOUR DETACHMENT CONNECTED, INFORMED, AND MOVING FORWARD—TOGETHER.

- SHARE YOUR SUCCESSES**
Highlight events, programs, and accomplishments that show the difference you're making.
- STAY CONNECTED**
Keep members informed and engaged with news, updates, and important announcements.
- BUILD STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS**
A newsletter builds trust, strengthens community, and shows appreciation for your members and supporters.
- INSPIRE INVOLVEMENT**
When people know what you're doing, they're more likely to get involved, volunteer, and support your mission.
- LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT**
Your newsletter creates a record of your journey and the legacy you're building together.

Don't keep it to yourself. TELL YOUR STORY.

START A NEWSLETTER TODAY AND LET YOUR DETACHMENT SHINE!
Together, we're stronger. Together, we're making a difference.

START YOUR DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER TODAY!

I stole this from the Dept of Georgia and their Newsletter, because I love the effort. A lot of detachments used to have Newsletters. Some had a regular schedule for theirs and others offered them when ever they had time, but the value of a newsletter cannot be measured as it has so many purposes. It informs others of what you are doing and the events you are hosting and supporting. It is a non invasive tool for recruiting when you speak to a possible recruit and they say they have to time or not right now, ask them if they would like to receive your newsletter that way everytime you create one they will get a copy and they are aware of what you are doing. It allows others in the Department, Division, and the league to see what

your detachment and your people are doing and how they are supporting our mission. Lastly, they are a history of your organization. They will store all of the events that your organization was responsible for. Every Convention, every Conference, every Birthday Ball, Parade, Color Guard, Rose Program, Award Ceremony, all preserved. The graphic says every Detachment has a story to tell and indeed they do. It is about the mission we strive to deliver but more importantly it is the people who bring that mission to life and touch the Veterans and fellow Marines who we serve. One of our Marines has this on his email signature, Semper Fidelis, its not just a quote, it's a way of life.

Walt Benson



Young Marine of the Year Award

We extend our congratulations to Young Marine SgtMaj Mason Steele on receiving the Young Marine of the Year from the Marine Corps League Department of CT.

Young Marine Mason Steele has been recognized for his leadership and dedication to the Young Marines. He has been awarded the Young Marine of the Year from the Natchaug Unit, from the Regiment, and Division 1. This is his second time being awarded the Young Marine of the Year by the MCL Department of CT. As part of his selection as Young Marine of the Year SgtMaj Steele, appeared before a panel of seven members of the Department of CT. consisting of YM Liaison Peter DePaola, Dept. Commandant Rich Daigle, PDC Adele Hodges, William Lee, PCDD Doug Fisk, Sr. Vice Commandant Walt Benson, and Dept Webmaster Roland Hamel, where he was interviewed on his accomplishments, what he has gained from being a Young Marine, and how this will influence him going forward in his education and life.

Young Marine Steele is an honor student at Bacon Academy in Colchester, CT. Congratulations on your many accomplishments and your dedication to helping others. He is an inspiration to others and a leader throughout the Young Marine Program.

Congratulations Young Marine
SgtMaj Steele. Semper Fidelis

S/F

Peter DePaola

YM Liaison

MCL Dept of CT





CONNECTICUT



WOMEN VETERANS DAY



June 12 | 10:00 am
Gold Star Auditorium
Rocky Hill Veterans Home
287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT

All are welcome!

On June 12, 1948 President Harry S. Truman signed the Armed Services Integration Act permitting women to serve as permanent regular members of the armed services.



Rosena Taylor, Adele Hodges, Jamie Depaola

The history behind June 12th

Women have served in America's military since the very beginning, often without formal recognition, official status or the same opportunities. For generations, we stepped forward in times of war and peace, contributing as nurses, support personnel and in combat roles.

Historically, women were allowed to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces only during times of war. Only nurses could remain in the regular and reserve forces during peacetime, while all other women were sent home after each conflict. Yet time and again, women demonstrated that their contributions were essential, not just in wartime, but always.

This recognition became official on June 12, 1948, with the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act. This landmark legislation granted women the legal right to serve as permanent, regular members of the U.S. Armed Forces. No longer confined to temporary or auxiliary roles, women could now build full military careers and help shape the future of our armed services.

Women Veterans Recognition Day exists because of this moment. It is not simply a celebration, it is a commemoration of growth, perseverance and the formal acknowledgment of women as an integral part of our military strength: past, present and future.



CONNECTICUT



Happy 250th Birthday America

On July 4th we celebrated the 250th anniversary of America and the Declaration of Independence. Great celebrations were held across the country from big cities to small towns to remember what the founding fathers accomplished. Completing and signing the Declaration of Independence was nothing short of a miracle.

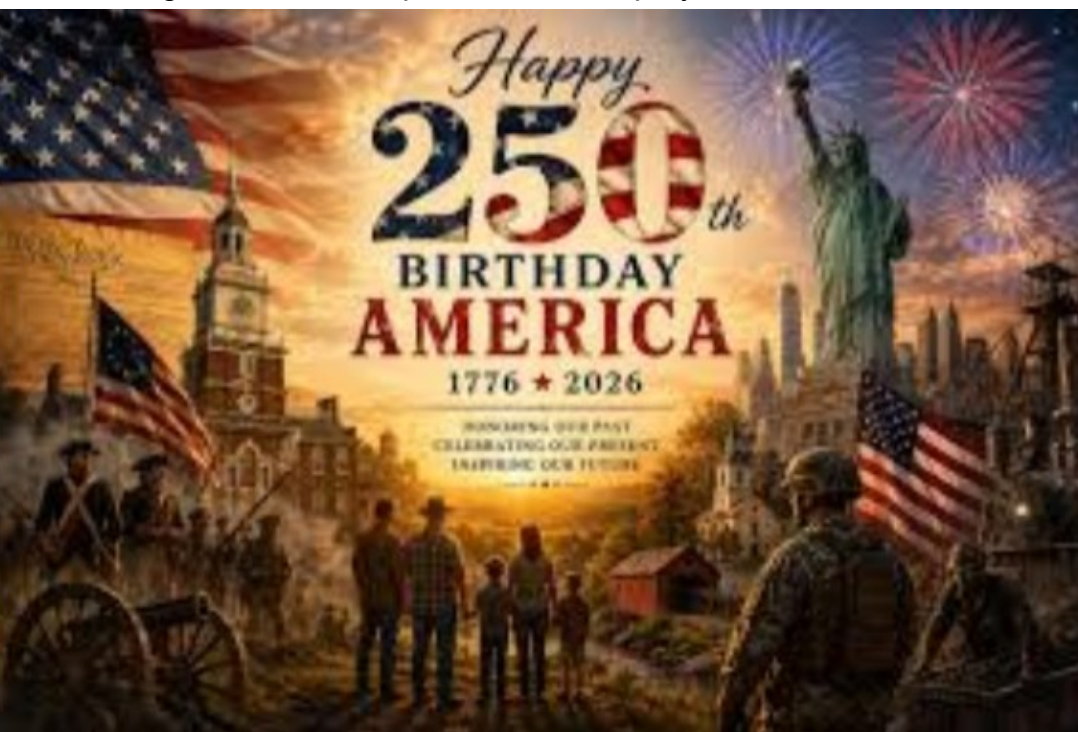
One of the founding principles was the idea of God as present. The Founders wrote in the last line of the Declaration that, "For the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."



They believed in a Bible-based view of God as actively involved in the lives of human beings. Their faith was so strong that the success of becoming a new nation would not happen otherwise. This was the view of many early Americans, and something that greatly impacted their thoughts and actions at that time.

As Marine Corps League Chaplains we open and close every meeting with a prayer. Always asking our Heavenly Father to bless all who are present and to guide us in our

deliberations. The 56 signers of the Declaration of Impendence pledged everything to each other and to the great cause with profound faith. I pray we never lose that fervor of devotion to our



God, to each other, or to the great country serve. Happy 250 th birthday America.

S/F

Peter DePaola

Chaplain

Department of CT



FROM THE WORTHY PACK LEADER



Woof, Woof Dogs of the Order,

We are days away from our National Convention and our Supreme Growl, I don't know what our donation to the children's hospital will be but I hear we are over One Hundred thousand again. I am pretty sure we have no one advancing at this convention and that is very sad. I cannot say why everyone joins the dogs because there are too many reasons to list. It used to be said that if you were a Dog you were the best of the best, because the Devil dogs were the honor society of the Marine Corps League. That may or not be true but the one thing we did have, we were the fun society. I think the phrase that described us the best came from the movie, Christmas Vacation, "The craziest bunch of assholes this side of the nuthouse". Somewhere along the way we lost that. We have tried some games that were entertaining, but we need more. The fines we pay in bones were never meant as punitive but rather fun and to bring to the forefront that we are all capable of doing dumb things and we shouldn't be afraid to laugh at ourselves. Looking at this from this point of view we should be out there looking to bring in as any mutts as we can. And once you are in, it is almost an obligation to continue to advance and become a PDD. When you are a pup or a dog you keep quiet a lot because you are afraid to report as you will inevitably make mistakes but when you go to national to advance you report so many time it become second nature. You will also learn more about the Corps and the Dogs than you ever thought you would. While everyone else is reporting to meetings everyday in uniforms or red shirts and black pants you get to dress in casual attire wearing your dog vest and traveling in squads to finish the advancement process as the #1 squad. If you get a choice that McMahon Dog runs a pretty good squad. I can tell you from experience, it is work, it is educational, you will meet a lot of past chiefs and the all have knowledge and stories to share. The final day there is a light schedule, photos with the Chief and the Supreme Growl when you will attend as a PDD. It is a great day, a day you will remember and a day you're proud of. So Next year we are in Buffalo, start planning now to do it.



Semper Woof,
PDD Walt Benson
Worthy Pack
Leader.





CONNECTICUT



SUPPORT OUR IWO JIMA MONUMENT



***SPONSOR OUR ETERNAL FLAME
"IN MEMORY" OR "IN HONOR OF"***

\$15 FOR A DAY

\$100 FOR A WEEK

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Or mail a check to: Iwo Jima Memorial Foundation, Inc.

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Newington, CT 06131

Questions: Contact Elaine at IwoJimaMem.CT@gmail.com



FROM THE COMMANDANT Greetings from the Great State of Maine

The "Quad State" while part of our division history, is clearly in our rearview mirror. I am certain that those that attended the FIRST New England Division Conference in Springfield were impressed with the program presented by our hosting department, the Department of Massachusetts. The Department of Massachusetts, partnered with our Division, its Officers and staff, certainly earned a Marine Corps "Well Done Marines!" The bar is set high for next June and I am certain that the Department Of Rhode Island will be up for the challenge.

As expected, the Conference was robust with activity. The presenters were knowledgeable in what they shared and various Marine Corps League related programs were discussed with many questions answered. Bob "Just call me Bob" Borka, from National presented on a variety of topics and is always a wealth of information (more about that later). The Devil Dog Division Growl was a howling success. Our National Chief Devil Dog, Chief Joe DeAngelo, was in attendance. Chief DeAngelo spoke about the present direction of our "fun and honor society" of the league and he later participated with "Woofish" enthusiasm in our Division growl. While I'm certain others contributing to this issue of our Division Newsletter will share more detail about many of the activities, and honorable attendees of our first New England Conference, I wish to take a moment and return to my friend Bob. While Bob Borka spoke on a litany of topics, some informational, some administrative, some motivational, what really



stuck with me, and I think many of us in attendance, was his comments concerning recruitment. I know we all spend time thinking about how best to recruit new members. We all realize, including our state of Maine, that finding and getting new members to "enlist" in the League can be both a challenge and sometimes quite difficult. Like other Departments and their detachments, we host events where membership drives are a focus, we always have membership applications at the ready, and I suspect that some of the stories of active members chasing individuals with a Marine Corps sticker on the back of their pick-up trunk are most likely true. We need to recruit members for the good of our league, for the future of our league and we are all responsible to contribute to that effort. We need an active and participative membership.

However, what we also need to ensure is that we are addressing retention of our current members, as Bob skillfully shared with us. While we need an effort to "seek out and engage" potential new members, we also need to ensure that we keep our present members involved, interested and coming back. Who has seen a new member attend a meeting, maybe a few more, and then just fade away? What happened to keeping that member engaged? What can we do to get them to return? Is the effort worth it-absolutely. This is where some reflection and discussion with our members, our officers, our Detachments, our Departments and even our Division is important. What are we doing to keep our members engaged and do I dare suggest having fun? Yes, dare I sug-



MAINE



gest the Marine Corps League is supposed to be fun? Well, with the pace of life currently, if some fun or fellowship is not included in “the program,” why should busy Marines and Associates want to keep coming back?

While I do not suggest I have all the answers, this theme of retention, as shared by Bob, has stuck with me since our conference. My thoughts are to ensure that we are holding events that are bonding and offer fellowship activities. Business meetings, while necessary for planning, participation and execution of Detachment (Department or Division) activities, my experience is that they are not often, what one would call fun. They spell out a mission, direct the activities required and move to the execution phase of the event, whether it be Toys for Tots, fundraising efforts, placing flags on veteran gravesites or any of the other numerous things we do as League members.

I would suggest that we continue with our Detachment breakfasts, wearing our red covers and letting “the world” see who we are, while also sharing boot camp stories around the breakfast table, as I recently experienced with our local Central Maine Marines Detachment, Detachment #810. Remembering and reflecting upon our unique and uniting common experience of Marine Corps boot camp (be it east or west coast). Detachment Breakfasts and other similar activities help retain members.

Summer being upon us is picnic season. Living in a great state with the state motto of “Vacationland” this should be self-evident. I am hopeful that you are discussing or hosting detachment picnics or other similar activities, maybe a day at the beach, some pistol or rifle shooting at a local range. What Marine does not love to press a trigger to the rear, hear the report of the fire, feel a bit recoil, smell the burnt powder and check out the hits (or misses) on a target? In addition to these concepts, I would encourage joining with another detachment if possible. Bring some fresh faces to your group, maybe some sort of fun competition, new stories and possibly even some new ideas. Yes, retention Marines, recruitment is necessary for the good of our league, however keeping a present member excited, engaged and returning in our league, well that is also very important, and will most likely help your recruitment efforts into the future.

Thanks Bob!

Semper Fidelis

Peter Lubas

Commandant

Department of Maine

www.marinecorpsleaguemaine.org



MASSACHUSETTS



HEY MARINES!



IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED THE
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE,
★ WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? ★

Stand shoulder to shoulder with those who've worn the uniform.
Continue the mission. Strengthen the bond. Serve your community.

★
MARINES FOR LIFE.
JOIN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE TODAY.



SCAN TO JOIN

SEMPER FI.

GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DETACHMENT TO JOIN TODAY.

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 membership@mclnational.org
 (703) 640-0200

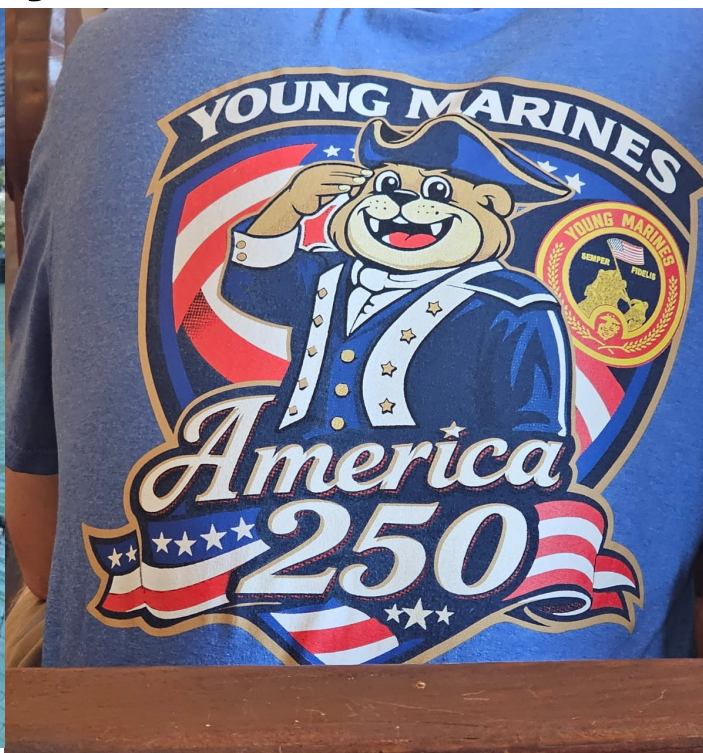
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 Marine Corps League



MASSACHUSETTS



Massachusetts Young Marines Reenact the Tea Party In Boston Harbor



National Jr. Vice Commandant David Porter Jr. and Wilson Lee prepare to recreate the tea party

Young Marines Trip on Duck Boats and Tea Party





MASSACHUSETTS



National Jr. Vice Commandant David Porter Jr. and The Young Marines in Boston

Below the infamous Duck Boats





NEW HAMPSHIRE



OORAH! NEWSLETTER

Granite State Detachment #542
Marine Corps League

June 2026 Quarterly Issue 2026-002

Commandant's Corner

Members and Associates of the Granite State Detachment,

It has been almost a year since I was nominated to be your Commandant. In that time, I have been continually humbled by the dedication, commitment, enthusiasm and creativity of our members and associates as we work to fulfill our common goals of serving our community and veterans. To have experienced the level of support I have received as a leader, and to see you all supporting each other as well in these tasks and the personal challenges that come up in our lives has been inspiring. I cannot imagine a group of people who are more unified and effective for what we are and what we do.



The kind of experience and talent we have is reflected not only in the three major awards individuals in our detachment have received from the NH Department, but in the endurance and willingness to voluntarily serve at the various events and fundraisers throughout the year. Perhaps nowhere did all of the above come into play more clearly than at the marathon sessions at our recent fundraiser in Lebanon NH --- 4-hour sessions with over an hour of driving on either end. Given the older demographic of our detachment, this really tested the physical limits of

what our volunteers should be doing. Next time, with such a distant site, to cut the time commitment, I will split those sessions and try to get more of us involved in taking the slots. But to those six who faithfully made this a success with an effort above and beyond, thank you.

Lastly, it is good that Cody Dumont, having filled all his officer billets, will continue as our Department Commandant because he clearly sees the major longterm survival challenge of the League which is to bring in the next generation of Marines. His initiatives such as "Lunches for Leathernecks" and personal visitation and encouragement to all the detachments will help recruit the younger Marines and their families so the League can continue to grow. However, we can support him (ideas, presence at his events) in this will benefit the detachment and the League.



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Sr. Vice Commandant's Message



Marines!

As we take this moment to reflect on Memorial Day and honor the profound sacrifices made by those who gave their lives for our freedom, our organization remains dedicated to fostering community and upholding cherished traditions.

In the spirit of continued engagement and support, we are pleased to announce a series of fundraising initiatives scheduled for the upcoming months. A significant focus of our current efforts is the meticulous planning for our esteemed Marine Corps Birthday Ball. A dedicated committee has been actively formed and is diligently working to curate an unparalleled celebration, ensuring an evening of distinction and camaraderie.

We are delighted to confirm that the Marine Corps Birthday Ball is slated for November 10, 2026, and will be hosted at the elegant Puritan in Manchester, New Hampshire. Please be advised that comprehensive details regarding ticket procurement and pricing are currently undergoing finalization and will be formally disseminated to all interested parties in due course.

Semper Fi.

Jesse L. Stufflebeam. SVC

JVC's Message

Call for Leadership: Junior Vice Commandant Needed

Granite State Detachment 542 is seeking a dedicated member to step into the role of Junior Vice Commandant.

This position plays a vital part in strengthening our Detachment by:

- Creating membership incentives and programs that foster growth and enthusiasm
- Supporting leadership continuity by stepping in when needed



If you're passionate about serving veterans and building community, this is your chance to lead with purpose and make a lasting impact.

Whether you're a longtime member or newly active, your voice and energy matter. Let's shape the future of GSD 542 together.

Interested? Reach out to the Commandant to learn more or express your interest.

[**Email Commandant**](#)



NEW HAMPSHIRE



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[**Email Commandant**](#)



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Chaplain's Message

Memorial Day Reflection



We reflect, remember & honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. As a combat veteran I witnessed many Marines who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I will always be grateful for their service for us. Memorial Day is a time to give thanks to all the deceased members of the United States Services. We should never forget their great sacrifice. On the 30th of May at 11:00am I was present at the Boscawen Veterans Cemetery and gave the invocation and prayer for our fallen. I am honored to carry out this sacred duty as Chaplain of the Marine Corps League. We salute the men and women in all services of our Country yesterday, today and tomorrow. With all of our faithful servicemen & women in all the military branches we can look forward to a stronger country. They too are our heroes.

Amen

Paymaster's Message

Joe Duquette, Chaplain

Paymaster Second Quarter 2026

Report

This quarterly report covers activities, progress, and donations for the Granite State Detachment, Marine Corps League from April through June 2026.

Progress and Activities

Throughout the second quarter, our detachment continued to advance its mission of supporting veterans and promoting community engagement. We organized several outreach initiatives, including participation in local Memorial Day ceremonies and volunteer service projects.

These efforts helped strengthen our presence in the community and foster camaraderie among members.

Donation Trends and Impact

During the second quarter, GSD #542 demonstrated a positive increase in outgoing donations. This upward trend highlights our detachment's ongoing commitment to supporting veterans and local community groups. By maintaining steady and impactful contributions, our organization continues to fulfill its mission of service and support.





NEW HAMPSHIRE



Revo Casino Lebanon, NH Fundraising Contributions

Funds raised from our designated days at the Revo Casino are specifically allocated to assist Marines, veterans, and community organizations or individuals in New Hampshire

who are in need. These proceeds are distributed with careful consideration to ensure they directly benefit those requiring assistance, consistent with our dedication to service within the state. The following section details our donations made during the second quarter of 2026:

April Donations

- NH Troopers Association: \$500
- Manchester Central HS students – Chaos STEM Ed Robot Competition: \$1,000

May Donations

- Fiddle Ensemble Organization 2026 Concerts – Program Book - Full Page Advertisement \$500
- Manchester Veterans Medical Center – CLC VETS Bingo: \$120 (three-month supply of Bingo Bucks)
- Meals on Wheels: \$500
- TUN Tavern Legacy Foundation – engraved GSD #542 4"x 8" Brick - USMC Fundraiser: \$517
- Frank A. Diekmann GSD #542 Scholarship
- \$500 Scholarship Award to college student Rachel Otto

June Donations

- Frank A. Diekmann GSD #542 Scholarship
- \$2,000 Scholarship Award to college bound high school 2026 graduate Arwen Feng

Looking Ahead

As we enter the next quarter, the detachment will concentrate on broadening outreach initiatives and maintaining our commitment to assist veterans and community organizations in need. Members are encouraged to remain engaged and actively participate, helping us build upon the achievements from the previous quarter. By working together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have served.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Romano



NEW HAMPSHIRE



GSD 542 Scholarship Program 2026 Winners

The Scholarship Committee is thrilled to announce the winners of the 2026 Frank A. Diekmann Academic Scholarship. We had several excellent candidates from our area schools and which made a hard decision for the committee to select the winners. We commend all the students hard work and determination in their academic excellence and extra curricular activities.

We selected two outstanding students, one from a high school and one from a college who had received one of our high school scholarships in years past. Congratulations to **Arwen Feng** from Hollis-Brookline High School who has been accepted to Johns Hopkins University in the fall. Her goal is to become a pediatric cardiovascular heart surgeon and wishes to explore regenerative technologies and bio manufactured hearts. As the step-granddaughter of a Marine veteran, GSD 542 is proud to award Arwen with \$2000 toward her dreams.

Below: Arwen Feng receiving the scholarship from George Robinson of the GSD 542 MCL Scholarship committee at the Hollis-Brookline High School Awards night.





NEW HAMPSHIRE



Congratulations to **Rachel Otto**, currently attending the University of Rhode Island and a former winner of the Frank A. Diekmann Scholarship. Rachel is currently pursuing a degree in Animal Science and is strongly considering becoming an animal physical therapist. With her hard work and dedication to her studies she is working toward this goal. As the granddaughter of GSD 542's Chaplain, Joe Duquette, we are proud to award Rachel \$500 to continue in her academic goals.

Below left: Rachel Otto receiving the scholarship award from SVC Jesse Stufflebeam. Next to Rachel is her grandfather Joe Duquette and her mother.

Below right: left to right is Rachel's mother, grandfather Joe, Rachel, Joey Duquette, and Jesse Stufflebeam.



Boscawen NH Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day Events

Due to the weather on Saturday May 30th, which was cold (39 degrees), rainy and windy, the Cemetery Director, Shawn Buck made the decision to move the ceremony indoors, with seating in the Chapel for the main featured events and overflow seating in the nearby Veteran Learning Center (with live broadcast inside). All the early arrivals, cemetery staff, MCL NH (which was hosting the event), and veterans organizations helped set up the extra chairs needed. Cody Dumont, Commandant of NH MCL, also arranged 250 cupcakes with red, white





NEW HAMPSHIRE



Boscawen NH Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day Events

and blue frosting in an American flag on a table in back. The event began at 11:00 with the colors and singing of the National Anthem by the Manchester Memorial Choir. Bryan Westover, (Dillon Detachment Judge Advocate), led the Pledge of Allegiance, our Chaplain, Joe Duquette, did the Invitational prayer. Shawn Buck introduced the distinguished guests before they each spoke. This included Major General Mikolaities, Governor Ayotte, Senator Hassan, Senator Shaheen, and Congresswoman Goodlander. Between the speeches of Governor Ayotte and Senator Shaheen the Choir sang a beautiful arrangement of the poem "Flanders Fields" The featured speakers program then began with Cody Dumont introducing the two Marines he had chosen to speak. 1st Sgt. Leon Rideout spoke passionately about the need to pass the Richard Star Act in Congress which would correct the injustice of retired veterans' disability benefits being counted against their pensions. "A Song for Unsung Heroes" by the Choir followed: very appropriate to the subject matter of my speech which dealt with Defense Secretary Robert McNamara's ill-advised "100,000" Project (a deliberate drafting of physically and mentally unqualified recruits during 1966-1970, Vietnam War) and the results of that program. "America the Beautiful" followed, and then Commandant Dumont assisted Governor Ayotte in laying the Memorial Day Wreath. After Chaplain Duquette's fine Benedictory prayer, the firing detail of seven men, made up from all the state MCL detachments performed the 21-gun salute, and the bugler played taps (regally played on a "Herald Trumpet").





NEW HAMPSHIRE



Department of NH Marine of the Year Award

At the April Detachment membership meeting, Cody Dumont, Commandant of the Department of NH presented GSD 542 member Chris Peirce with the Department of NH Marine of the Year Award. The following was read during the ceremony. For professional achievement in superior performance of his duties as a Marine, we honor Christopher Peirce as the Marine of the Year for the Department of New Hampshire Marine Corps League.

Christopher has been a member of the Granite State Detachment #542 since 2020 and has the distinction of serving his country first as a Marine and a soldier. After leaving the service Christopher has continued to serve his country and community by working tirelessly to help veterans wherever and whenever there is a need. Christopher has supported his detachment by providing the benefit of his wisdom and experience, but also as the judge advocate through very difficult times and on more than one occasion, was the only officer remaining and thereby prevented the dissolution of the detachment. Christopher served as the Commandant, Sr Vice, Jr Vice, and other billets as needed, while the Detachment searched for qualified members to hold these roles. He often performed the duties of several vacant offices, while simultaneously mentored others into their new roles.

Christopher not only works within the Detachment and Department, but is frequently found assisting various other veteran groups as well. Christopher is continuously volunteering on several various veteran awareness hikes ranging from 5 Kilometers to 22 Kilometers, connecting various other veteran groups together with each other. He serves tirelessly on several veteran councils and provides a voice for all veterans throughout the state to benefit not only the League, but the greater veteran community. Christopher truly embodies what is meant by taking care of the troops first. Christopher's dedication, professionalism, perseverance, and commitment to excellence reflects great credit upon himself, his family, his Detachment and the Marine Corps League, and is keeping in the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and Naval service.

CONGRATULATIONS CHRIS!





NEW HAMPSHIRE



Revo Casino-Lebanon May 11 - 20, 2026

Thank you to all that made the trip to Lebanon, NH during the Granite State Detachment Charitable Gaming days in May. If not for the volunteers to cover the table, we would not have had a presence at the event which is important for the players at the casino to know who their play supports in the community. We will not know what our proceeds for these 10 days will be for about another week, but rest assured, we are working on a plan as to how we will distribute these funds back into the community, right now.

Below: Paul Coutu and Chris Peirce covering the information and donation table at Revo Casino in Lebanon, NH.

#PlayLikeARebel #RebelsWithACause





NEW HAMPSHIRE



**Charter Member and Life Member of GSD 542,
Arthur Allison Passed at the age of 91,
on March 7, 2026**

Arthur Allison 1934 – 2026

The passing of Arthur Allison was first announced in a blog post in March on the GSD website and we wanted to share in the next possible newsletter as well. The date for the cemetery services have not been announced yet, but we will send out an email to all when it is announced.



To see the full write up done on Arthur back in 2021 GSD 542 newsletter as well as his obituary at this link. <https://granitestatemarines.com/arthur-allison-1934-2026/>

VA BINGO Afternoons

Bingo at the VA Hospital is on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Each month the GSD 542 MCL members volunteer to help the residence of the VA to play bingo. If you are interested in helping your fellow veterans and have some fun in the process, please contact Joe Duquette.

Our next Marine Corps Bingo will be on Sunday, July 19, 2026 and then August 16, 2026. We meet at the lower level parking lot at 12:30pm. VA Hospital at 318 Smyth Road, Manchester.

Please call Joe Duquette if you are available to volunteer. 603-540-9807



NEW HAMPSHIRE



CHAOS 131 FIRST Robotics Team

During the April GSD Membership meeting students from the Central High School Chaos 131 FIRST Robotics Team gave a presentation to the membership. Five students of the team shared what the team was about and how being a part of the group has affected their lives.

They advised us that two well-known Marines graduated from Central High School, Rogers Blood and Rene Gagnon and that the bell from the ship named after Blood is located at Central High School and is rung every Memorial day during their ceremony.

The students and team mentors did a wonderful job explaining about FIRST and their hopes of qualifying for the national competition in TX. They are raising money for the team to travel and participate in the national competition if they qualify this coming weekend.

GSD 542 donated \$1000 to their fundraiser which helped them travel to TX for the national finals which they did qualify to go to.





NEW HAMPSHIRE



Meals on Wheels Check Presentation

At a recent meeting the membership of Granite State Detachment 542 approved a donation to the Manchester Meals on Wheels organization. Below is GSD 542 SVC Jesse Stufflebeam presenting the check to Zach Paone, Director of Development for Meals on Wheels.

BELOW



BELOW

NH Troopers Association Check Presentation

At the April GSD 542 Membership meeting we invited the NH Troopers Association to present them with funds that were approved at a previous meeting.

Trooper John Janocz from Troop B in Bedford and an enlisted Marine for five years shared a little bit about what the NH Troopers Association does and how funding like GSD 542 helps them meet those objectives. An example that he shared was that they covered the travel costs to have four troopers from NH go to an out of state service for a fallen trooper.

For more details on how they support the community please visit <https://www.nhtrooper.org/>. A check presentation was done with John Janocz, Eric Anthony and Sara Steffen.

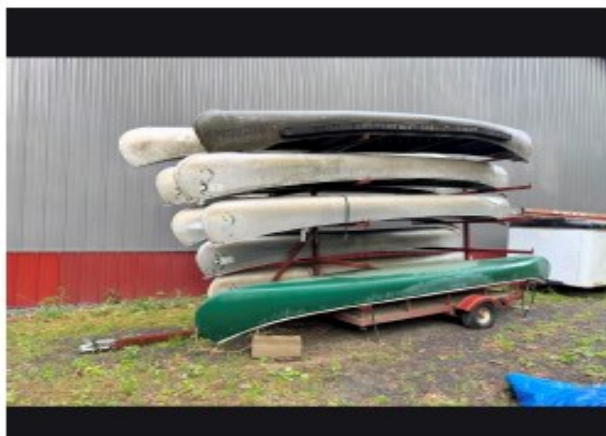


NEW HAMPSHIRE



Boy Scout Canoe Trailer Check Presentation

At the June GSD 542 Membership meeting a check was presented by Eric Anthony to Kaylee Bass, member and representative of the local Boy Scout troop that the detachment donated funds to purchase a canoe trailer for the troop. This donation was made name in memory of a member that has passed, this is the Dan Fedor Campership Scholarship. We hope to have pictures in the future with Kaylee presenting the check to the troop and will share those in the next newsletter.



For The Good of The Order

From member Sara Steffen about her son and his accomplishments with being accepted into the John Philip Sousa National High School Honors Band. A few things about Noah.... Noah plays multiple instruments with his main instrument being the euphonium. He is also a student athlete at Goffstown High School and is on the Varsity Volleyball team.

Noah's dad served in the USMC and has many family members that served and continue to serve our country. He was selected for NH Allstate last year and this year made 1st seat. Noah was also participated in music festivals held at UNH and Plymouth State University. Noah enjoys helping veterans and volunteers with the GSMCL. To the right is a picture of Noah with Sgt. Selmer from when he played with the 39th Army Band last Veterans Day.

If you are interested in learning more about the John Philip Sousa National High



School Honors Band performances and about the organization in general, please go to [Festival | John Philip Sousa National High School Honor Band](#). The tickets should go on sale soon for the July 12-15th festival.



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Discounts for Veterans

We are starting a list of businesses in our area that offer discounts to Veterans. If you know others please email us at granitestatemarines542@gmail.com.

Bass Pro Shops - Hooksett

The Home Depot

Lowes

Tucker's Restaurant - Bedford, Hooksett, and Merrimack

T-Bones - Bedford, Derry, and Concord

VIP's Tires and Service - Bedford - offers discounts for veterans and offer free NH state inspections, check their website for other locations for their offerings. For a list of Veteran Owned Business in NH please visit:

www.veteranownedbusiness.com they have a listing of discounts based on location.

9/16/25 The Homeland Heroes Foundation (Limited time offer)

www.Homelandheroesfoundation.org - they recently received a call from a local roofing company that would like to donate two new roofs to veterans in need. The company is willing to go from the Mass border to Rochester, NH. If you know of someone with this need please contact the editor of this newsletter [Jo Zurwell](#) and she will get the contact information.

LinkedIn - One Year Free for Veterans

Get one year of LinkedIn Premium and LinkedIn Learning for free.



Social Impact

In collaboration with SheerID, LinkedIn offers eligible members of the U.S. military community one year of access to LinkedIn Premium. You'll also get unlimited access to more than 10,000 courses through our LinkedIn Learning platform as a part of the program.

Click on the button below and it will bring you to a form to fill out to sign up for one year of free usage of LinkedIn.

Sign Up for LinkedIn



NEW HAMPSHIRE



David "Doc" Freschi - Bet You Saw Stuff

Running errands, busy day, lists to finish

“You a Veteran?”

A thought- Guess he can read the words on the hat

The answer, “Yes sir I am.”

“What did you do?” Here we go

“Corpsman, as in Medic with the marines”

“Wow, I bet you saw some stuff.”

Unsaid, you think?

“Some, a few things I saw, a few.”

Thoughts flow

Can’t have the details though

Not yours to have. They’re mine to keep

Sure, I saw things, still do

A pittance of what I lived

Sights, sounds, tastes, smells

Fear and anger, rage and joy, all there

They’re mine “Thank you for your service”

Meant? Or just a phrase to repeat because you heard it?

Don’t matter, don’t matter, move on

“Appreciate it sir – Have a good day.”

A message from Doc - I am willing to listen to any veteran's story and try to construct a poem for them. Done a number of them. So if anyone is interested, they can reach out to me. For Doc's [email click here](#).



NEW HAMPSHIRE



Membership in Granite State Detachment 542

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.

Our **mission** is to voluntarily aid and render assistance to all Marines, FMF Chaplains, FMF Corpsmen and former Marines, FMF Chaplains and FMF Corpsmen and to their widows and orphans.

Our Membership **Coverage Area** is the greater Hillsborough County with some towns in Rockingham County. For the full list of towns we encompass, please check out our [membership](#) page on our website.



Monthly Meetings

When: Monthly Meetings of the Granite State Detachment are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month

Where: The American-Canadian Genealogical Society (ACGS), 1 Sundial Ave, Suite 317, Manchester, NH 03103

Time: Meetings begin promptly and 1800

Info: Membership is not a requirement for attendance and guests are always welcome to attend these events.

[Visit our Website for More Info](#)

[Membership Application](#)



NEW HAMPSHIRE



VA News



Below please find some links for the VA website that may be helpful to you.

Outreach events

VA benefits can help Veterans and their families buy homes, earn degrees, start careers, stay healthy, and more. Join an event for conversation and information.

Outreach Materials

Use our outreach materials to help Veterans manage their journey with VA and learn about their benefits.

State Departments of VA Offices

Select a state or territory below to visit the website for that location's Department of Veterans Affairs office.

Download or Print out your VA Welcome Kit

Whether you're just getting out of the service or you've been a civilian for years now, the VA Welcome Kit can help guide you to the benefits and services you've earned.

Revo Casino - NH Charitable Gaming



Granite State Detachment #542 MCL has partnered with Revo Casino and Social House with the NH Charitable Gaming in the last couple of years, and has been selected to participate again this year.

The funds we receive from our assigned days at the Lebanon, NH Revo Casino will be designated to support local NH based Marine and Veteran organizations or individuals in need.

#PlayLikeARebel



NEW HAMPSHIRE



New Facebook Page for GSD #542

Some of you may have noticed that back in May our Facebook page was no longer published on the social media site. It seems that someone attacked (hacked) our page and made it so that it was unpublished and no matter what we did to fix it, nothing worked.

Therefore, we have had to recreate our Facebook page with a slightly different page name.

Below is the link for the new page, we ask that you go to the page and click the follow button so that you can see all of our posts.

New Facebook Page

Veteran's Creed

The eight-point Veteran's Creed is:

1. I am an American Veteran
2. I proudly served my country
3. I live the values I learned in the military
4. I continue to serve my community, my country and my fellow veterans
5. I maintain my physical and mental discipline
6. I continue to lead and improve
7. I make a difference
8. I honor and remember my fallen comrades

Source: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2018/6/veterans-organizations-establish-veterans-creed>



SCRATCHING'S FROM THE DOGS



★ MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS ★ **OPERATION** **CHOWHOUND**

★ NO BOWL LEFT EMPTY. ★



A **DEVIL DOGS** INITIATIVE
TO SUPPORT LOCAL
ANIMAL SHELTERS
THROUGH DONATIONS OF
DOG FOOD AND FUNDING.



PURCHASING DOG FOOD
FOR LOCAL SHELTERS



SUPPORTING ANIMAL
CARE & WELFARE



STRENGTHENING OUR
COMMITMENT TO
COMMUNITY

FEED THE PACK.
SUPPORT THE SHELTER.

★ **DEVIL DOGS** ★
TAKING CARE OF THOSE
WHO CAN'T TAKE CARE
OF THEMSELVES.

SCAN TO DONATE



OPERATION CHOWHOUND

BAYOU BLOODLINE. ✿ SEMPER FIDELIS. ✿ NO BOWL LEFT EMPTY



RHODE ISLAND



TRIBUTE TO FALLEN SOLDIERS VISITS COVENTRY, RHODE ISLAND

For the past 17 years, the Tribute to Fallen Soldiers Memorial Torch Motorcycle Ride departs Eugene, Oregon enroute to Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, to honor post 9/11 fallen service members. Tribute to Fallen Soldiers Northwest is a group of extremely passionate, patriotic and caring people from all over the country who gather each summer to honor and fallen service members. As they graciously extend their ilies of every fallen service pledge that the Gold Star be forgotten. (Tribute to Fall-501(c)(3) non-profit corpora- tion.)



This year the group to meet Ed and Regina Rob-LCpl Holly Charette. Holly bomb in Fallujah on June 23, serving with the Lioness program which provided security and screening for Iraqi females in Fallujah. Her job was to search Iraqi women and female children who entered the city in support of an effort to secure the area of weapons threats. It was her first chance to work in the field, but the mailroom was where her heart was. Holly deployed with Headquarters Battalion, 2d Marine Division, as a mail clerk. She, along with Corporal Ramona Valdez of Bronx, NY, were the first two female Marines killed in Iraq in that horrible bombing. On July 27, 2005, several Marine Corps League members landed at Ed and Regina's home to be present for the Tribute to Fallen Soldiers visit. LCpl Charette was our sister, which now makes her parents our family too. NE Division Vice Commandant Pat Maguire and MCL Member at Large, Jamie DePaola, joined in the flag detail. The Coventry, RI fire department provided the ladder flag and the police department assisted in coordinating the traffic detail. The entire family and many friends were on hand to provide witness to this memorable event.

Although it has been twenty-one years since LCpl Charette died, her Gold Star family never forgets and shares Holly's spirit with all who meet them. If you would like to support the work of the Tribute Ride – which is all volunteer and at their personal expense, there website is:

The 2026 Tribute Ride – Tribute To Fallen Soldiers Northwest

Peter DePaola,
Chaplain
Dept of CT
Marine Corps League



NEW ENGLAND DIVISION



Hello to the members of the New England Division and their families. I am honored to have been asked to once again present HAMSAL (Help A Marine, Save A Life) to your membership at the Division Conference in June. I last presented to your Division 2 years ago and have since added more pertinent information as well as resources. For those of you who do not know about HAMSAL, it was created when New England Division member, Past National Commandant Warren Griffin wanted to do more for our membership and their families regarding mental health and wellness. So, this is when HAMSAL was created. HAMSAL centers around taking care of yourself, as well as taking care of each other, suicide awareness and prevention, mental health and substance use, as well as my journey.

I have attended many Division Conferences upon request and presented the HAMSAL PowerPoint to talk about the things that we don't talk about enough. What's that you say, you don't like talking about these uncomfortable topics? Well, I am here to tell you that those days are gone. We are our brothers and sisters keeper, whether you know it or it like it. As leaders in our communities, we must do this together, we cannot do this alone.

As a retired Police Officer and Marine Corps veteran in recovery, I understand about suffering in silence and fighting that stigma, especially within our community. Now I stand tall and recover loudly and help others with their mental health and substance use. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time and contact me at shoremarines@gmail.com and 732-921-7411. I hope to see you in June, make sure you come up and introduce yourself to me. Semper Fi!

Brian Gillespie



MARINE FOR LIFE



Connect to resources and opportunities:

Whether you're just starting the transition process, or you've already made the move to civilian life, the Marine for Life Network is here to help you grow your professional network and provide the support and guidance you need to succeed beyond the military.

Strengthen your professional relationships and expand your network.: Networking is crucial in today's professional world. The Marine for Life Network facilitates your networking capabilities through two lines of effort: virtual and face-to-face communication.

Virtual: Join the [Marine for Life Network's](#) growing community of Marines, Veterans, and military community members on LinkedIn. This premier professional networking site is an excellent resource for accessing career tools, staying connected with peers, and developing your professional brand. To connect, start by setting up a profile and joining a Marine for Life regional net-

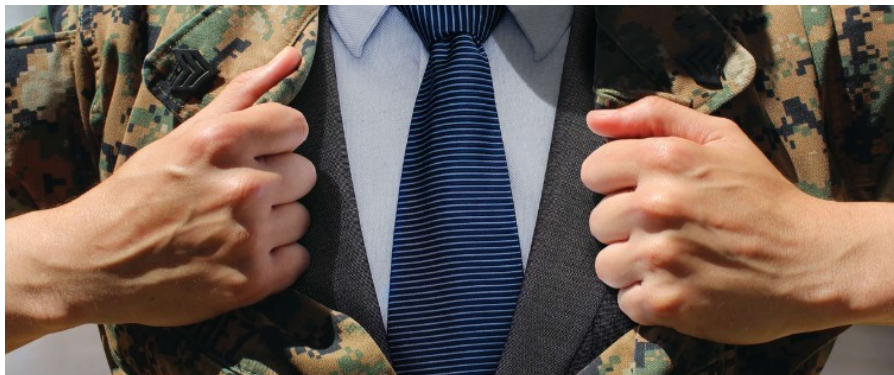
work group.

Face-to-Face: More than 70 Marine for Life Representatives serves our program as

hometown links. These representatives create a bridge between the military and civilian communities across the nation, connecting you to military-friendly job op-

portunities, career resources, and networking events. Your local representative will help you build relationships and explore employment, education, and community resources in your current area or the area where you plan to move.

Military Spouses too! The Marine for Life Network is committed to helping military spouses build relationships and connections that can benefit them in both their personal and professional lives. By leveraging the power of the Marine for Life Network, military spouses can tap into a wider network of employers, academic institutions, entrepreneurship resources, and more!





MARINE 4 LIFE



MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

Connecting transitioning Marines and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service.

ONCE A MARINE,
ALWAYS A MARINE!

Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



Career & Technical
Opportunities



Educational
Opportunities



Entrepreneurial
Endeavors

NETWORKING IS KEY

Linked in



Our online network utilizes LinkedIn to help Marines network with one another and connect with employers who want to hire Marines.

Face to Face Network



We focus on connecting Marine Veterans to local and national resources, as well as encouraging networking through Marine For Life events and meet ups.

[company/marine-for-life-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-life-network)

marineforlife.org

866-645-8762

[/MarineForLifeNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/MarineForLifeNetwork)

WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

WWR Fact Sheet

District Injured Support Coordinators & Field Support Representatives

District Injured Support Coordinators (DISCs) and Field Support Representatives (FSRs) are an integral part of the Wounded Warrior Regiment's (WWR) support structure. They act as a conduit to Marine Corps, Veterans Affairs (VA), and civilian resources for Marines recovering away from a military installation or transitioning to veteran status. DISCs are Marine reservists and FSRs are contract support geographically dispersed to provide assistance and community liaison where needed.

The goal of DISCs and FSRs is to return well adjusted wounded, ill, or injured (WII) Marine veterans to their communities with the knowledge and skills to self-advocate and assist other WII Marines.

What Services do DISCs and FSRs offer?

- Outreach through calls or face-to-face contact with WII Marines and their families requiring assistance.
- Assistance with accessing VA and community resources.
- Facilitate veteran medical care through VA patient advocates or OIF/OEF Coordinators.
- Information on family and caregiver support services (i.e. respite care, scholarship opportunities, counseling support).
- Access to education and employment resources in their local communities (i.e. resume development, interview skills, network/employment opportunities, and application completion).
- Support in working with representatives from medical facilities, the VA, legal authorities, businesses, and non-profit organizations.
- Immediate access to the WWR's medical section and VA for psychological health resources and support, including referrals to local resources to ensure WII Marines receive timely and appropriate care.

Who They Support

- Marines transitioning to veteran status
- Reserve Marines
- Marines recovering in remote locations away from military or federal resources
- TDRL/PDRL Marines

Where They are Located

DISCs and FSRs are geographically dispersed across the country and are generally collocated with VA-operated medical centers, vet centers, and outpatient clinics offering primary and specialized care.

Related Fact Sheets

- Wounded Warrior Regiment Call Center
- Medical Section
- Transition
- Recovery Care Coordinator

MSgt Charles You
District Injured Support
Coordinator (DSC)

508-740-4331

Charles.you.mil@usmc.mil



Fact Sheet: Transition
Released: 03012018v2



YOUNG MARINES



SAVE THE DATE



September 25, 2026



Join us for a day of fun and friendly competition on the greens as we raise funds and awareness for the Young Marines Program!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE YOUNG MARINES PROGRAM



Old Hickory
— GOLF CLUB —



HUMOR AROUND THE DIVISION



A barber gave a haircut to a priest one day. When the priest tried to pay for the haircut, the barber refused, saying "you do God's work." The next morning the barber found a dozen Bibles at the door of his shop. A policeman came in for a haircut, again the barber refused to accept his money. "You protect the public" he said. The next morning, the barber found two dozen donuts at the door of his shop. A politician came to the barber for a haircut, again the barber refused payment saying "You serve the people." The next morning the barber found a dozen politicians waiting in line at his door for a free haircut



**If my body
was a car,
I'd trade
it in for a
newer
model.**

**Cause
everytime
I cough
or sneeze,
my radiator
leaks and
my exhaust
BACKFIRES.**

**Be warned...
the coffee hasn't
kicked in.**



**SOME PEOPLE ARE
LIKE A BAG OF DIAPERS
SELF-ABSORBED
AND FULL
OF SH!T.**





Building a strong relationship to secure the future

As a member of the Marine Corps Association, you will be well-connected with the Corps with MCA's membership benefits:

Resources:

[Leatherneck – Magazine of the Marines and The Marine Corps Gazette](#) are our monthly flagship publications that feature valuable information from the Corps. Members can select print and/or digital issues and can access more than one hundred years of issues of both magazines online for free. Non-members do not have access to our Magazine archives. [Click here](#) to see sample issues.

- [The MARINE Shop](#) is our retail store that assists Marines with their uniform requirements regardless of rank and offers many Marine Corps themed gifts and apparel.

MCA Group Insurance Program features valuable insurance products with your needs in mind – all backed by an association you can trust. We leverage the buying power of our MCA members to bring you competitive group rates and offer one convenient source for the following products:

[Term Life Insurance](#)

[TRICARE Supplement](#)

[Dental Insurance](#)

[Vision Insurance](#)

[Pet Insurance](#)

[Long-Term Care Insurance](#)

[Medicare Insurance Plans](#)

[Individual and Family Health Insurance Plans](#)



To learn more about the benefits of the Marine Corps Association Group Insurance Program, [Click Here](#) or call (800) 845-4685.

Networking Opportunities:

Discounted [Professional Events](#): Our members receive discounted rates for our MCA professional dinners and events held annually throughout the Corps. Our dinners provide members with access to senior leaders of the Marine Corps, Department of Defense, and industry. Active-duty members can attend for free.

Professional Development:

[MCA Battle Study Packages](#): Members will have access to all of our Battle Study Packages and learn from the lessons of the battles of the past to excel in the Corps battlefields of the future.

[MCA Decision-Making Exercises](#): Members can practice solving issues to increase their ability to make decisions through dozens of tactical and ethical decision games

[MCA Corps Voices](#): Hear the Corps' icons from Chesty Puller to Alexander Vandegrift to Al Gray discuss issues, challenges, and battlefield tactics in these audio excerpts recorded over the last one hundred years.





2026

AUGUST

2026



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
CONVENTION						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



2026

SEPTEMBER

2026



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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6	7 	8	9	10	11 	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



CLASSIFIED SECTION



HELP WANTED

Each edition I will list any job a Department has that is open. We need to encourage Marines to step up and fill these positions. Many people think that those of us that hold positions have some special skills that allow us to do these things we do but that is not true. We are all here because we feel we have more to offer and more to do. We appreciate that you come to the meetings but think how much more you could help by stepping up. I think by now I have heard just about every excuse to why people can't do things but you can and that is a conversation you need to have with yourself. No one ever joined the Marine Corps because they thought there were easy no stress jobs here. There are jobs listed here that if not filled would prevent a Department from functioning.

Department of CT— Is seeking an Americanism Chair. Your duties would include overseeing the Departments participation and entries into the Americanism program.

Department of CT— Is seeking a VAVS NORTH and VAVS SOUTH. These position have been open for a while there are training videos available on the National Website.

Department of CT— Is seeking a Boy Scout Liaison

Department of CT— Is seeking a Youth Physical Fitness liaison to make contact with schools to set up the program and help out wherever needed.

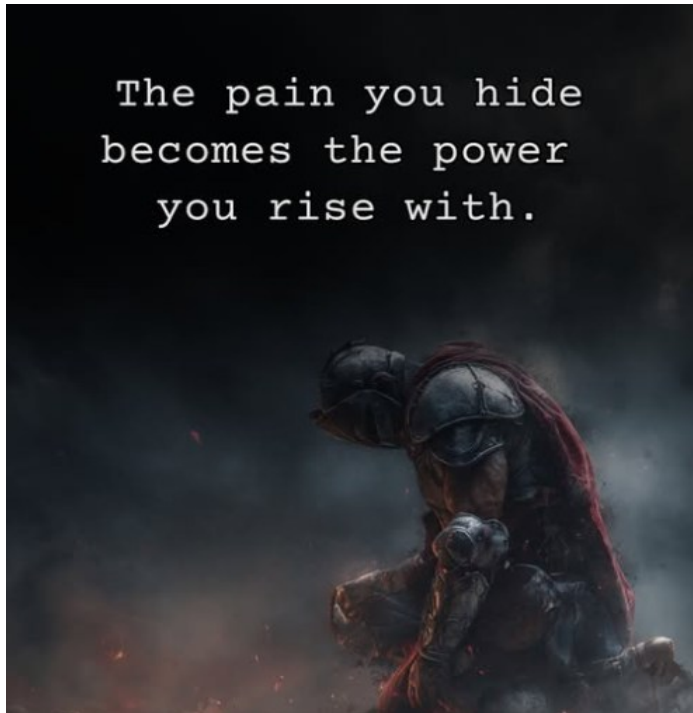
Department of CT— Is seeking a Historian

New England Division— is seeking a Historian, who will take over keeping the history and accomplishments of the Division.

New England Division— is seeking a Legal Advisor and for this position you would need skills to advise the Division on all legal matters.

New England Division— is seeking a Auxiliary Liaison . This position needs to be filled by a strong individual who would basically bring the Auxiliary back to life. You would need good communication skills as well as drive and ambition.

New England Division— is seeking a seeking a Youth Physical Fitness liaison to make contact with schools to set up the program and help out wherever needed.



Every scar on your body and every weight on your soul is proof you kept going. Pain can drown a weak man, but it forges a strong one. The world never sees your silent battles — only the strength you walk out with. Rise with the very pain that tried to break you.

Turn it into something unstoppable.

Turn it into the version of you that refuses to die



INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



HELP 'STUFF A BUS' FOR THE V.A. HOSPITAL IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA!



WE NEED YOUR
DONATIONS OF:

- BLANKETS
- TOILETRIES
- SOCKS
- MONETARY GIFTS

Online Needs List



**THE YOUNG MARINES
AND THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

To donate online QR code -



Let's honor these Veterans for their service to our
country by supporting them in their time of need!

**RICHARD L. ROUDEBUSH VA MEDICAL CENTER
1481 WEST TENTH STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46202-2884**

Items may be sent directly to the VA USE MCL—INDY



INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



**THE CHECKERED
FLAG CIRCUIT**

Indianapolis 500
START YOUR


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INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



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INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



Sunday, August 09, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0730 - 1630	M.O.D.D. Initiates	Quincey's
0800 - 1100	MCL Bylaws Committee Meeting	International Boardroom
0900 - 1300	MCLA Budget Committee Meeting	Director's Row 2
1000 - 1200	MODD Staff Growl	Golden Ballroom 6-7
1000 - 1300	MCLA Bylaws Committee Meeting	Director's Row 1
1100 - 1230	MCL Foundation Meeting	International Boardroom
1300 - 1700	MCL Ship's Store	Golden Ballroom 1-2
1300 - 1700	MCLA Ship's Store	Director's Row 3
1300 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
1300 - 1600	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
1300 - 1600	*MCL National Board of Trustees Meeting	International Boardroom
1300 - 1600	*MCLA National Board of Trustees Meeting	Director's Row 2
1300 - 1700	MCL Registrations	Director's Row 4
1300 - 1700	MCLA Registrations	Convention Hall Lobby
1300 - 1700	M.O.D.D. PDD Registration	Golden Ballroom 4-5
1300 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Registration (Dog House)	Golden Ballroom 4-5
1530 - 1700	Scholarship Committee Meeting	Director's Row 1
1600 - 1700	First Timers Welcome - MCL Commandant, MCLA President & MODD Chief Devil Dog	Hall of Champions
1700 - 2100	Early Bird -	

*At Call of Commandant. MCL: President. MCLA: Chief Devil Dog. MODD



INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



Monday, August 10, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvene
0730 - 1630	M.O.D.D. Initiates	Quincey's
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Flag Pole
0800 - 1600	MCL Registration	Director's Row 4
0800 - 1600	MCLA Registration	Convention Hall Lobby
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Registration (Dog House)	Golden Ballroom 4-5
0800 - 1600	MCL Ships Stores	Golden Ballroom 1-2
0800 - 1600	MCLA Ships Stores	Director's Row 3
0800 - 1600	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
0800 - 1600	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
0900 - 1700	VA Benefits Claims Clinic	International Boardroom
0900 - 1700	VA Mobile Clinic for Comp & Pen Exams	Parking Lot
0900 - 1200	Joint Opening Session (MCL&MCLA) Guest: VA Secretary Collins	Hall of Champions
	flow	MCL & MCLA Chaplains
	Transitional 5 Minute Recess	
	Chapel of Four Chaplains	
1100 - 1200	Past Chief Devil Dog Society Meeting	Golden Ballroom 6-7
1200 - 1300	Break for Lunch - Grab and Go	Convention Lobby
1300 - 1600	MCL Business Session	Hall of Champions
1300 - 1600	MCLA Business Session	Fortune Square A/B/C
1300 -	MCL Opening Session	Hall of Champions
	Rules of Convention	Bruce Rakfeldt
	Dedication	TJ Morgan
	Newsletter Awards	Walt Benson
	Public Relations	John Taylor
	Closing Ceremony	TJ Morgan
Right after	Department Commandant's Council Meeting	Hall of Champions
1700 - 2000	Comedy Show	Quincey's

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvene
0730 - 1630	M.O.D.D. Initiates	Quincey's
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Flag Pole
0800 - 1600	MCL Registration	Director's Row 4
0800 - 1600	MCLA Registration	Convention Hall Lobby
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Registration (Dog House)	Golden Ballroom 4-5
0800 - 1600	MCL Ship's Store	Golden Ballroom 1-2
0800 - 1600	MCLA Ship's Store	Director's Row 3
0800 - 1600	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
0800 - 1600	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
0900 - 1700	VA Benefits Claims Clinic	International Boardroom
0900 - 1700	VA Mobile Clinic for Comp & Pen Exams	Parking Lot



INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0900 - 1200	MCLA Business Session	Fortune Square A/B/C
0900 - 1200	MCL Business Session	Hall of Champions
0900 -	Call Convention to Order	TJ Morgan
	Credentials Committee Report	Teresa Terry
	National Commandant	TJ Morgan
	National Senior Vice Cmdt & Dept Cmdt Council Rpt	Russ Miller
	National Junior Vice Commandant	David Porter
	National Judge Advocate & Resolutions	Bruce Rakfeldt
	Conventions/Conferences Committee	Jim Ransom
	2028 Presentations	Jim Ransom
	Vote on 2028 National Convention Proposals	Jim Ransom
1130 - 1230	MCLA President's Council Meeting	Director's Row 2
1200 - 1300	MCLA Past National President Luncheon	Private Dining Room
1200 - 1300	Break for Lunch - Grab and Go	Convention Lobby
1300 - 1500	MCLA Business Session continues	Fortune Square A/B/C
1300 - 1600	MCL Business Session continues	Hall of Champions
1305 - 1320	Young Marines - Presenting James Laskey Award to NYMOY	Bill Davis
1600	Closing Ceremony	TJ Morgan
1600 - 1700	Americanism Committee	Director's row 1
1800 - 2000		

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvene
0730 - 1330		
0730 - 1630	M.O.D.D. Initiates	Quincey's
0745 - 1345	MODDF Scratch	Fortune Square A/B/C
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Flag Pole
0800 - 1200	MCL Registration	Director's Row 4
0800 - 1200	MCLA Registration	Convention Hall Lobby
Closed	MCL Ship's Store	Golden Ballroom 1-2
Closed	MCLA Ship's Store	Director's Row 3
0800 - 1300	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
0800 - 1600	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
0800 - 1300	M.O.D.D. Dog House	Golden Ballroom 4-5
0800 - 1000	Marine of the Year Society Meeting	Director's Row 1
0900 - 1700	VA Benefits Claims Clinic	International Boardroom
0900 - 1700	VA Mobile Clinic for Comp & Pen Exams	Parking Lot
0900 - 1200	M.O.D.D. Initiation	Hall of Champions
1300 - 1500	National Convention Committee Meeting	Director's Row 1
1200 - 1630	M.O.D.D. Supreme Growl	Hall of Champions
1600 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Dog of the Year Society Growl	Golden Ballroom 6-7
1900 - 1930	Hospitality Cash Bar	Preconvene Hall
1930 - 2130	Mischief & Merriment Dinner hosted by the MODD and Fleas	Hall of Champions



INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



Thursday, August 13, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvene
0700 - 0900	PNC Society	Private Dining Room
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Flag Pole
0800 - 0900	MCLA Div Vice President's Workshop	Fortune Square A/B/C
0800 - 0900	PNP Society Board Meeting	Director's Row 1
0800 - 0900	PCDD Board Meeting	Director's Row 2
0800 - 1600	MCL Registration	Director's Row 4
0800 - 1600	MCLA Registration	Convention Hall Lobby
0800 - 1600	MCL Ship's Store	Golden Ballroom 1-2
0800 - 1600	MCLA Ship's Store	Director's Row 3
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
0800 - 1600	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
0800 - 1700	M.O.D.D. Dog House	Golden Ballroom 4-5
0900 - 1700	VA Benefits Claims Clinic	International Boardroom
0900 - 1700	VA Mobile Clinic for Comp & Pen Exams	Parking Lot
0900 - 1200	MCLA Business Session	Fortune Square A/B/C
0900 - 1200	MCL Business Session	Hall of Champions
0900-	Opening Ceremony	TJ Morgan
	Credentials Committee Report	Teresa Terry
	Budget Committee Report	Budget Committee
	Bylaws Committee Presents Proposed Changes	Bruce Rakfeldt
	Marine for Life	David Ossian
1000 - 1200	MODD Staff Meeting	Golden Ballroom 6/7
	Youth Physical Fitness / US Marines Youth Foundation	Sean Patton
	Marine Corps League Foundation	Jerry Holt
1200 - 1330	Break for Lunch - Grab and Go	Convention Lobby
1330 - 1530	MCLA Business Session continues	Fortune Square A/B/C
1330 - 1530	MCL Business Session continues	Hall of Champions
1330	Call Convention to Order	TJ Morgan
	PNC Council Report	Warren Griffin
	Nomination of Officers	TJ Morgan
1530	Closing Ceremony	TJ Morgan
1700 - 2000		



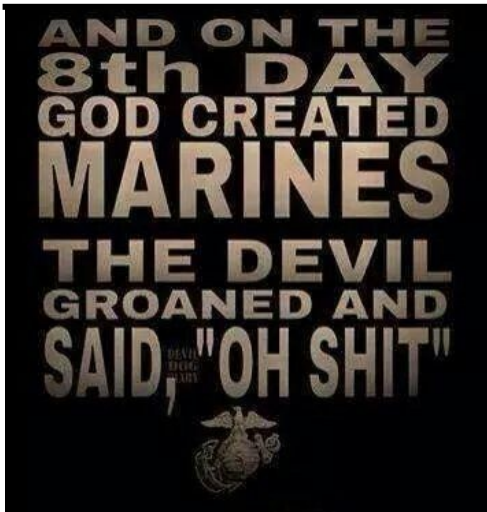
INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION



Friday, August 14, 2026

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvene
0745 - 0845	MCLA Past President's Club	Director's Row 1
0800 - 0815	Morning Colors	Flag Pole
0800 - 1200	MCL Registration	Director's Row 4
0800 - 1200	MCLA Registration	Convention Hall Lobby
0800 - 1200	MCL Ship's Store	Golden Ballroom 1-2
0800 - 1200	MCLA Ship's Store	Director's Row 3
0800 - 1200	M.O.D.D. Quartermaster	Golden Ballroom 3
0800 - 1200	Indianapolis Room - Local Ship's Stores (MCL & MCLA)	Fortune Square D
0800 - 1200	M.O.D.D. Dog House	Golden Ballroom 4-5
0900 - 1700	VA Benefits Claims Clinic	International Boardroom
0900 - 1700	VA Mobile Clinic for Comp & Pen Exams	Parking Lot
0900 - 1200	MCLA Business Session	Fortune Square A/B/C
0900 - 1200	MCL Business Session	Hall of Champions
0900 -	Call Convention to Order	TJ Morgan
0900 - 0905	Credentials Committee Report	Teresa Terry
0905 - 0915	Chief Devil Dog Report for MODD	Joe Deangelo
0915 - 0925	President MCLA Report	Dotty Sanning
0930 - 0940	Marksmanship Awards	Mike Sturch
0940 - 0950	Americanism Awards	Jon Zwirblia
0950 - 1000	10 minute Break	
1000 - 1030	VA Volunteer Service and Veteran Service Officer Awards	Philip Du
1030 - 1130	Moderated Panel Discussion - Dept of VA Under Secretaries of NCA (Cemetery), VHA (Health), and VBA (Benefits)	Philip Du
1130-1300	Break for Lunch - Grab and Go	Convention Lobby
1300 - 1500	MCLA Business Session continues	Fortune Square A/B/C
1300 - 1500	MCL Business Session continues	Hall of Champions
	Call Convention to Order	TJ Morgan
	Toys for Tots	David Cooper/Russ Miller
	Remaining Reports Not Given	TJ Morgan
	Motion to Accept All Reports	TJ Morgan
	Unfinished Business/New Business/Good of the League	TJ Morgan
	Credentials Committee Final Report	Teresa Terry
	Election and Installation of Officers	TJ Morgan
1500	Closing Ceremony	TJ Morgan
1800 - 1900	Formal Reception (Cash Bar)	Preconvene Hall
1900 - 2200	Grand Banquet - Close the Convention	Hall of Champions

Event Time	Event	Location
0630 - 0800	Breakfast	Golden Preconvene
0800 - 1200	*MCL National Board of Trustees Meeting	International Boardroom



Regardless of the situation, the Marine Corps has an answer for almost everything.

A Marines Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family.

Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my Country and

the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer. Amen

WORD OF THE DAY

Over the centuries, certain Latin phrases have been used widely enough in English to get included in the dictionary. This is one of the favorites:

Semper Fidelis

sem-per fi-dey-lis;

"Always faithful"

These two words have long served as motto for families, schools, and organizations – most famously, since 1883, for the United States Marine Corps.

EXAMPLE:

He will receive the Semper Fidelis Award for his support of the Marine Corps University Foundation.

Source:

Merriam-Webster Dictionary - <http://bit.ly/1evC7oa>

Image Source:

barrykibrick.files.wordpress.com

