



# The Marine Corps League New London County

## **AN ORGANIZATION OF MARINES FOR MARINES**

Is Looking For A Few Good Marines and FMF Corpsmen  
Who Are Currently Serving or Have Been Honorably Discharged

**"THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN EX-MARINE"**



# **JOIN NOW**



**We are forming a new detachment of the  
Marine Corps League in New London County and we  
are looking for Charter members**

**For information on the League visit our website at  
[MCLeague.org](http://MCLeague.org)**

**For more on the new detachment or to become a  
charter member call:**

**William "TOP" Lee - New London County Commandant  
(860) 617-3306**

## **HISTORY OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

The Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of ALL Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen, who proudly wear or who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor of the Corps. It takes great pride in crediting its founding in 1923 to World War I hero, then Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune. It takes equal pride in its Federal Charter, approved by An Act of the Seventy-Fifth Congress of the United States of America and signed and approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 4, 1937. The League is the only Federally Chartered Marine Corps related veterans organization in the country. Since its earliest days, the Marine Corps League has enjoyed the support and encouragement of the active duty and Reserve establishments of the U. S. Marine Corps. Today, the League boasts a membership of nearly 61,000 men and women, officer and enlisted, active duty, Reserve Marines, honorably discharged Marine Veterans and qualified Navy FMF Corpsmen and is one of the few Veterans Organizations that experiences increases in its membership each year.

The Marine Corps League is headed by an elected National Commandant, with 14 elected National Staff Officers who serve as trustees. The National Board of Trustees coordinates the efforts of 48 department, or state, entities and the activities of over 900 community-based detachments located throughout the United States and overseas. The day-to-day operations of the League are under the control of the National Executive Director with the responsibility for the management and direction of all programs, activities, and affairs of the Marine Corps League as well as supervising the National Headquarters staff.

The prime authority of the League is derived from its Congressional charter and from its annual National Convention held each August in different major U.S. cities throughout the nation. It is a not-for-profit organization within the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c) (4), with a special group exemption letter which allows for contributions to the Marine Corps League, its Auxiliary and subsidiary units, to be tax deductible by the donor.

## **PURPOSES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

- \* To preserve the traditions, promote the interest and perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps.
- \* To band together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps, eligible FMF Corpsmen and those who have been honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps, together in fellowship, that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy.
- \* To help fit its members for the duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve ably as citizens as they have served our nation under arms.
- \* To hold sacred the memory and history of the men and women who have given their lives to the Nation.
- \* To foster love for the principles which they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic.
- \* To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines and FMF Corpsmen, uniformed and civilian, as well as their widows and orphans.
- \* To create a bond of comradeship between those in the service and those who have returned to civilian life.
- \* To perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of peculiar interest to Marines.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The Marine Corps League (MCL) is a Marine Corps oriented organization comprised of persons who are serving, or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps "on active duty", for not less than ninety (90) days, and persons who are serving, or have served in the United States Marine Corps reserve, and have earned no less than ninety (90) reserve retirement credit points, and United States Navy Corpsmen who have trained and served with United States Marine Fleet Marine Forces (FMF) units in excess of ninety (90) days and have earned the Marine Corps device (clasp) worn on the service ribbon, and those who earn the Warfare Device authorized for FMF Corpsmen, shall be eligible for regular membership in the Marine Corps League.

Interested individuals, who are not qualified to join as regular members of the League, may be accepted as Associate Members.

## **WELCOME ABOARD AND "THANK YOU" FOR YOUR SERVICE**

# **Agenda Topics**

**1. FEASIBILITY OF FORMING A NEW DETACHMENT** As a general rule, a new Detachment may be formed outside a 25 mile radius of an established Detachment. The spirit of this rule is that Detachments should not be competing for the same members - rather the MCL should be offering Detachment locations that are geographically convenient to all members. Exceptions to the distance policy can be made, but requires the consent of the Department Commandant.

## **2. WHAT OBJECTIVES, PROGRAMS AND INTERESTS THE DETACHMENT MAY PURSUE**

### **MARINES HELPING MARINES - WOUNDED MARINES PROGRAM**

The program was created to support injured Marine Corps personnel located at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, Brooke Army hospital in San Antonio, as well as the Naval Hospitals at Balboa, Camp Pendleton and elsewhere. The scope of support encompasses; financial, visits from Marine Corps League members, off site day trips to include family outings, dinners, short trips in support of the individual Marines' needs and professional sporting events as tickets and opportunities present themselves.

### **YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

A youth program emphasizing honesty, courage, respect, industry, loyalty, dependability, and a sense of devotion to God, country, community and family. The Young Marines program receives funding from Congress and the United States Marine Corps primarily because of their drug interdiction focus on drug education and prevention.

### **U. S. MARINES YOUTH PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM**

The League developed and administers a program that provides a physical fitness regimen that promotes a healthy, drug free life style for elementary and high school students.

### **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

The Marine Corps League has long regarded the program of the Boy Scouts of America as in support of the Preamble of the Constitution of the League. The League supports the Boy Scouts of America as they promote traditional family values to America's youth. The Marine Corps League participates in Scouting through assistance with units, districts, and councils, in community projects, merit badge programs, and special recognition of Eagle Scouts.

## **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Members of the Marine Corps League fund scholarships through donations from individual members and subordinate units of the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary. Children and former Marines are eligible for academic scholarships for attendance at accredited colleges and universities.

## **LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

The Marine Corps League is a member of The Military Coalition and participates in National and State legislative issues that affect military readiness, benefits and entitlements of active duty personnel as well as Veterans Benefits programs effecting former and retired Marines.

## **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAM**

The National Headquarters retains a full-time staff member who assists veterans in adjudicating claims against the government as a result of active duty service. Claims are processed through the Department of Veterans Affairs or other appropriate agencies of the federal government.

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM (VAVS)**

Marine Corps League members contribute thousands of man-hours each year supplementing staffs at VA Hospitals and facilities in providing morale, comfort and assistance to institutionalized veterans.

## **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY**

The Marine Corps League Auxiliary was chartered on September 4, 1937 as a subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League. On August 25, 1950, the Auxiliary was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia as an affiliate of the Marine Corps League. The Auxiliary was formed for the purposes of promoting the interests of the U. S. Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League and to protect and advance the welfare of Marines and their dependents. Auxiliary members participate in a wide variety of programs that benefit and preserve the fundamental rights and freedoms of every person of this Nation, young and old.

## **MILITARY ORDER OF DEVIL DOGS**

The fun and honor society of the Marine Corps League.

## **TOYS-FOR-TOTS**

Marine Corps League Detachments in nearly every community take part annually in the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys-For-Tots campaign to raise funds and collect and distribute toys to needy children. In communities where there is an existing Marine Corps Reserve Unit, the League works hand in hand supporting their campaign. In other communities, the Marine Corps League takes the lead, ensuring a successful campaign.

## **MARINE-4-LIFE/INJURED MARINE SUPPORT PROGRAM**

The League works very closely with the Marine Corps' M-4-L program, providing mentors nationwide. In areas of the country where there is no Marine Corps "point of contact", the League works directly with M-4-L Headquarters to provide services to transitioning Marines.

## ANNUAL CONVENTIONS

Members find the State and National Conventions of the League ideal vacation venues for themselves and family members. Held in a different city each year, many families attend year after year and particularly enjoy the many planned activities and tours related to these get-togethers.

**The Marine Corps League is a charter member of The Military Coalition, The National Marine Corps Council, AdHoc Committee, Navy and Marine Corps Council, the National Veterans Day Committee, and is represented on countless committees and programs serving the military and veteran community.**

**The League participates in patriotic functions such as the National Memorial Day Parade and the National 4th of July Parade in Washington as well as countless statewide and community parades around the country. We provide representation to the U.S. Congress in legislative matters affecting the United States Marine Corps, national security and veteran's benefits through our National Legislative Committee. Most importantly, Marine Corps League Detachments are actively involved in Community based programs throughout the country.**

### 3. SELECTION OF A DETACHMENT NAME

**A new Detachment shall not be named in honor of a living person. No Detachment shall select a name being used by any other Detachment in the League. Suggest your group consider submitting a (1<sup>st</sup>) choice name and a (2<sup>nd</sup>) choice option for a name selection prior to contacting the Department Commandant. If your group decides to name the Detachment after a deceased Marine, you MUST receive written permission from the family to use the name.**

**4. MCL MEMBERSHIP DUES** As for dues, there is an annual assessment fee of \$18.00 to National and a \$3.00 fee for the Department. Initially, there is a one time additional \$5.00 administration fee, for new enrollments. YOU, the membership vote on and approve the amount of dues for your Detachment. We recommend you have something stated in your local bylaws as to how fees can be changed.

The National Budget & Finance Committee annually recommends the dues fees for approval by the Marine Corps League Convention Delegates assembled. At this time, the MCL Dues are:

- National Dues: New member - \$23.00  
Includes yearly fee of \$18.00 and a one time initiation fee of \$5.00
- Department Dues: as set by the Departments
- Detachment Dues: as set by the Detachments

A MCL member will be considered delinquent if their annual dues are not received at National HQ by their due date and will be carried for only one (1) year in a delinquent status before being dropped from the MCL membership roll.

**5. ORGANIZATIONAL OPENINGS** A **Temporary** Commandant, an Adjutant and a Paymaster are to be selected by the new members of the forming Detachment. These temporary officers shall act as their respective officers and with the cooperation of all the new members, are to secure additional new members before the date set for the closing of the Charter Application, when the permanent staff of Detachment Officers will be properly elected. Subsequent elections are to be held in accordance with ARTICLE FIVE of the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. (Two (2) copies of the MCL Bylaws, one (1) copy of the MCL Ritual manual, and a copy of the MCL Guidebook for Detachment Officers should be issued with the new Charter). These manuals are to be identified as Detachment property and passed down to newly elected officers, annually.

[A copy of the MCL Bylaws is available on the Marine Corps League - National Headquarters Website at <http://www.MCLeague.com>]

**DETACHMENT COMMANDANT:** Directs MCL activities within the community, presides at all Detachment meetings, serves as advisor to all committees of the Detachment, and is in direct charge of all functions of the Detachment. After being sworn into office by the Department Commandant (or any authorized Officer) may administer the OATH of MEMBERSHIP to new members.

**DETACHMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT:**, Shall give every assistance to the Detachment Commandant, and during the absence or illness of the Commandant, perform the duties of that office; shall assist all committees, and, with their assistance, initiate and implement such dynamic programs as will increase the effectiveness of the League and their Detachment.

**DETACHMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT:** Shall create and promulgate such membership incentives and programs as will engender enthusiastic response that will result in continuous membership growth. In the absence or illness of the Detachment Commandant and the Senior Vice Commandant, shall perform the duties of the Detachment Commandant.

**DETACHMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE:** Shall interpret the Detachment, Department and National Bylaws (the later two in the event there are no Detachment Bylaws; shall advise, construe, counsel and render opinions on questions of law and procedure to the Detachment Commandant during meetings. Make decisions on the local level in disputes or if unable to do so, refer the problem to the next higher echelon of the League, i.e. Department or National. NOTE: There is no investigative or punitive authority at the Detachment level.

**DETACHMENT ADJUTANT:** Shall keep a true record of all meetings, typewritten or neatly hand written in ink in a ledger or log book; keep a record of all members and forward notices of meetings, events, etc., of the Detachment to the membership, and work closely with the Paymaster to maintain an up to date membership file of the Detachment active (paid up) and inactive (delinquent) members. The Adjutant shall also handle and keep a record of Detachment correspondence, as directed by the Detachment Commandant, and perform such other duties as directed by the Detachment Commandant.

**DETACHMENT PAYMASTER:** Shall keep a true record of all monies received and expended by the Detachment, and in close cooperation with the Adjutant, prepares an up to date record of dues by the membership and forwards notices to members when their dues have lapsed and also such other duties as may be assigned by the Detachment Commandant.

**DETACHMENT ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER:** Combination of the duties listed above.

**DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN:** Shall perform such duties at meetings as prescribed in the MCL Ritual Book; takes an active part in all memorials and funeral services in which the Detachment participates; visits the sick to inquire about their needs, and performs such other duties as directed by the Detachment Commandant.

**DETACHMENT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:** Shall preserve order at all meetings; sets up the meeting room, (checks on the Bible, Colors and the Charter); and performs such other duties as are required by the Detachment Commandant. Also he/she will fulfill all duties as are prescribed in the MCL Ritual Book.

**OTHER STAFF & PROJECT OFFICERS:** The preceding officer delineations cover the basic officer corps of a Detachment. These are the officers minimally required to serve the Detachment and meet the requirements of both National/Department and Detachment Bylaws, and the minimum obligations for meetings and programs. Other appointed positions that can be considered are: WEB SERGEANT, HISTORIAN, NEWSLETTER EDITOR, COLOR GUARD COMMANDER, PUBLIC RELATIONS/INFORMATION OFFICER, AMERICANISM/EDUCATION OFFICER, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION VOLUNTEER SERVICES (VAVS) OFFICER. These position duties are established and printed in the "GUIDEBOOK FOR DETACHMENT OFFICERS", available from National HQ ship stores, for a nominal fee.

## 6. APPLICATION PROCESSING

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHARTER APPLICATION PROCESS

1. A standard charter application shall be signed by no less than twenty (20) eligible applicants who are requesting regular membership in the MCL. To be eligible, a Marine must have served a minimum of ninety (90) days of HONORABLE service in the U. S. Marine Corps or in the U. S. Navy as an FMF Corpsman assigned to a Marine Unit. A certificate of service or DD 214 will serve as proof of eligibility.

2. Before signing the Charter Application, applicants must pay their annual dues as determined by the persons forming the Detachment. If a prospective member desires to become a LIFE Member, the initial ANNUAL dues must be paid first. Once this is accomplished, the member may then become a LIFE member by payment of the dues required for such membership (according to their age). The dues transmittal form must indicate a request for Regular membership on one line and a request for Life membership on the next line.

3. If a member of an existing Detachment wishes to transfer to the new Detachment, they must first sign a Request for Transfer form and obtain the approval of transfer from their existing Detachment.

The Charter Application shall be accompanied by a Dues Transmittal Form, which is to include two (2) separate checks, one for National dues and one for Department dues for all applicants who have signed the Charter Application. Make sure you list the names on the Transmittal Form in the same order as they are on the Charter Application Form. The Dues Transmittal Form shall be signed by the person forming the new Detachment.

The Charter Application and Dues Transmittal Forms are then mailed to the Department Paymaster, who checks the Dues Transmittal against the Charter Application to verify the dues of all applicants have been paid. The Paymaster shall take the Department dues check from the packet and forward the Application packet to the Department Adjutant.

After the Department Commandant approves the Charter Application, it shall be signed and forwarded to the Division Vice Commandant for approval and signature.

When the Application has been signed by the Division Vice Commandant, it will be forwarded to the National Commandant at National Headquarters (along with the National HQ dues check). After the National Commandant authorizes approval, the Charter is typed and signed by the National Commandant and National Adjutant/Paymaster.

The approved and signed Charter is then returned to the Divisional Vice Commandant, who signs the Charter and forwards the Charter to the Department Commandant for signature and to make arrangements for formal presentation of the Charter to the new Detachment.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

**Pass the word and recruit.**

**Next meeting** \_\_\_\_\_

## Recommended ideas for getting the word out

- Placing posters on bulletin boards at supermarkets, restaurants & bars, at other veteran organizations, firearms ranges/shops, police stations, or any other location that will be seen in high traffic areas. Posters used should look as professional as those available from League National HQ (Make sure you list a contact person)
- Contact the Marine Recruiting office, a Marine Base, or a Marine Reserve unit nearest the proposed Detachment locale. Solicit active and reserve Marines to participate. Ask for leads of former Marines who have visited their offices, base or unit. Leave information and a name of a contact person
- Seek permission to set up a manned table in a Mall, or high traffic area, to advertise for eligible members and to have information available about the League, blank application forms, and/or a blank form to collect phone numbers of potential members.
- Information should be sent to local newspapers and other papers that get distributed regularly. An article for a local paper, or notice to the community calendar section of the paper will let the community know about the League (normally, at no cost).
- Brief commercial spots on radio and cable TV may be made FREE of charge to non-profit organizations. Contact the local media stations for information.
- Presentations at local veteran and service organizations, letting their members know there is an organization of Marines for Marines. This will alert potential members as well as the community to the existence of a Marine Corps League forming in their area.
- Letters to Chambers of Commerce, local political offices, Veterans organizations and clubs, and other community service organizations can provide other contacts.
- Periodic participation at swap meets/flea markets, either having a paid space or a sharing arrangement with a sales booth, to fly the AMERICAN and/or a USMC FLAG. Be prepared to provide brochures, MCL information, MCL applications forms, and MCL materials.
- Direct advertisement in newspapers, local magazines, USMC and other military publications, and AD mailers can attract attention, although there may be a cost associated with this approach.
- A flyer (with MCL application forms) that can be placed under the windshield wiper of vehicles bearing a Marine decal or bumper sticker, with a brief description about the League and a person to contact. (with a phone number or e-mail #). Check out the parking lots at local sporting events, malls, and movie theaters.
- Notification for a meeting, with a press release to newspaper and media, may result in press coverage and interviews. Getting the word out initially means working with a limited budget as well as limited manpower. Posters, merchandise, entry fees to an event, and advertisements can be expensive, so request help from National HQ (They have MCL materials available to assist). But the more ways that the "word" can be distributed, the better the odds of reaching more eligible members. The best way to recruit is by "word of mouth," particularly when the person recruiting is already a member of the forming Detachment.

**NOTES:**