

The Devil Dogs

“The Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League”

HISTORY OF MODD

The Marine Corps League, formed in 1923 by members of what had been the Marine Corps Veterans Association, assimilated more than 40 existing marine-oriented organizations that sprang up following the end of World War 1. Comprised largely of veterans of the fierce fighting between the Fifth and Sixth Marine Regiments and the Germans, these returning veterans of the Great War (“the war to end all wars”) was called “Teufelhunde” by their German adversaries, literally meaning “Dogs of the Devil,” or as we now know, DEVIL DOGS.

Following the establishment of the Marine Corps League, the leadership of the League decided that the delegates assembling in the convention needed some time during their serious deliberations to “blow off steam.” As a result, the Military Order of the Devil Dogs was organized and created in 1939 in Boston, MA, and granted a charter as a subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League on 19 March 1940. From those early years, the Military Order of the Devil Dogs (the Order) has grown to a strength of over 6,000 members. The Order is organized in nearly every state with a Marine Corps League presence. Now in its 77th year, the Order boasts a semi-permanent headquarters in Michigan, a full-time Kennel Dog Robber, National Executive Secretary, and Bookkeeper.

The Order, the FUN and HONOR SOCIETY of the Marine Corps League, comprises only regular members of the League who have been recommended for membership by 2 members of the Order. Each member undergoes a series of initiations. First, as a Pup, in their Pound (the local organization, the basis of the Order); then, as a Devil Dog in their Pack (the State organization which meets during a Department Convention); and, finally, as a Pedigreed Devil Dog at the SUPREME GROWL held in conjunction with the National Convention of the League. Each degree must be held for one full year before candidacy for the next degree may be considered.

The Order promotes good fellowship among the members of the different Marine Corps League Detachments. It provides amusement and entertainment at all gatherings of the League, when and where advisable, preserves and strengthens the principles and ideals of the League, and

maintains true allegiance to the United States of America and its Constitution and laws. It fosters and extends American institutions of freedom and defends America against all enemies. The Order is also very active in raising funds for different charities.

Purposes

It shall be the purpose of this organization to:

1. Observe, obey and support the Constitution, Bylaws, and all Rules and Regulations of the Marine Corps League, Inc.
2. Preserve and strengthen the principles and ideals of the Marine Corps League, Inc.
3. Aid and assist in accomplishing all programs and objectives of the Marine Corps League, Inc.
4. As the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League, Inc., promoting sociability, comradeship and good fellowship, to provide amusement and entertainment at all gatherings of the Marine Corps League, Inc. when and where proper and advisable.
5. Maintain true allegiance to the United States of America and its Constitution and laws; to foster and extend American institutions of Freedom; and to defend America against all enemies whomsoever.

WHO BELONGS? Applicants must be paid-up Regular members and in good standing in the Marine Corps League, Inc. Must be active in the Detachment; Must be invited to join the Order. They must be recommended by the Detachment Commandant and be sponsored by two DEVIL DOGS or PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS. The applicants are then interviewed by the members of the Pound at a Pound Growl. (A meeting is called a Growl.) If accepted, the applicants must undergo an initiation and obligation ceremony. Then they become Pups in the Order