



Macomb County Detachment – 154
Marine Corps League
www.macombmarines.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Membership

Q: How long are my dues good for.

A: Your dues are paid annually. When you join, your dues are sent to National Headquarters by the Paymaster along with your name and mailing address and are posted in the month they are processed. Normally, they are processed in the month you join. So, if you joined in June, your dues are covered until the end of June of the following year.

Q: If I change my address and/or telephone number, who do I inform.

A: The Detachment Paymaster. He will forward your change of address to National Headquarters so you will continue to receive your National Magazine and notice of dues payment. He will also update your records so you continue to receive your Detachment Newsletter, the Michigan Marine News and the National Semper Fi Magazine.

Q: When do I get my membership card.

A: When National processes your dues, they will mail you your membership card.

Q: I hear the term "Paid Life Member" – what does that mean.

A: Life Membership is a program in which you pay a fee and you are a member for life with no more dues to pay. You must be a Member in Good Standing to apply (Dues must be up to date). You receive a Metal Life Membership Card, a Life Membership Lapel Pin and a certificate suitable for framing. These fees are based on your age at the time you apply. You may apply for the Paid Life Membership at any time. Currently, if you cannot afford the total amount of Life Membership, we have a payment plan to spread the cost out for one year. If you are interested, contact the Detachment Paymaster for a fee schedule.

Q: What newsletters and magazines do I receive.

A: With your paid membership, you will receive the Detachment Newsletter – SKTTLEBUTT – monthly. The Department of Michigan sends out a magazine – Michigan Marine News three times a year. The National Magazine – Semper Fi – is sent to you bimonthly. If you have an email address, it would be appreciated if you receive the Detachment newsletter via email. This will save the Detachment money in printing and postal cost. See the Editor of the newsletter if you have any questions.

Note: if you let your dues become delinquent for three months, we will stop sending you a Detachment Newsletter.

Meetings

Q: What day and time of the month does the Detachment meet.

A: The General Membership Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 2000. If there is a change to this schedule, you will be notified via the Detachment Newsletter, email or phone call.

Q: Is there a Uniform of the Day for meetings.

A: Uniform of the Day is Civilian – Casual. However, an optional standard basic Uniform is the Marine Corps League Red Cover. It is available for purchase from our Detachment Quartermaster. Also, see 'Uniforms' on page 2

Q: I noticed that members have a name tag, do I receive one.

A: At the next General Membership Meeting after you join, the Adjutant will issue you one. If you lose it, it will cost you 25¢ as a fine,

Q: A fine?

A: The Sergeant-at-Arms is authorized to levy fines of 25¢ for members reporting late to meetings, wearing unauthorized devices on their Red Covers, using offensive language when the Bible is open, not wearing the Detachment Name Tag and any conduct detrimental to good order. At some meetings you may be fined at the Commandant's whim. All fines are earmarked for the General Fund.

Q: When I attend a meeting, what do I do.

A: In the front of the meeting hall, there is an Attendance Sign-in Sheet for you to sign-in. There will be copies of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting and the Paymaster's Report for you to take and read if you desire. There may be other items for your interest, such as fliers for upcoming events sponsored by the Detachment or general interest fliers and articles brought in by members. There is also a cup for you to put in 25¢ for the Attendance Raffle.

Q: What is the Attendance Raffle.

A: When you join, you will receive an attendance number based on when you join. Don't worry about this number, it is assigned to you. After the meeting, one number is drawn and if that member is present and paid the 25¢,

he/she receives all the money collected. If no one wins the raffle of the number drawn, it rolls over to the next meeting. It will keep rolling over until someone wins.

Q: What is the 50/50 ticket sales for.

A: These tickets are sold for income for the Detachment. This is optional for you to participate in. One winning number is drawn. If you plan on leaving the meeting prior to the end, please write your name on the ticket so we may contact you if you win.

Q: In what format is the meeting conducted.

A: The meetings are held in a Ritual Format as suggested by the National Headquarters of the Marine Corps League and also follows Roberts Rules of Order. The ceremony is always begins with the Pledge of Allegiance and an Opening Prayer.

Officers:

Q: What are the officers and what do they do.

A: The elected officers of the Detachment are: **Commandant** - Presides at all meetings, appoints officers that may be deemed necessary and direct and control all activities of the Detachment in such a manner that will bring credit upon the Marine Corps League. Attends the Department of Michigan Convention, Mid Winter Rally and Staff Meetings and reports back to the membership of the business conducted. **Senior Vice Commandant:** Presides at meetings in the absence of the Commandant and is responsible for recruiting new members and retention of membership. **Junior Vice Commandant:** Presides at meetings where the Commandant and Senior Vice Commandant are not in attendance and is responsible for social activities of the Detachment. **Judge Advocate:** Perform legal duties as are assigned by the Commandant. Shall rule on any disputed point of order at meetings. **Adjutant:** Keeps proper minutes of all meetings of the Detachment and is custodian of all records of the Detachment other than Special Committees and financial records. **Paymaster:** Keeps all monies accounted for including special funds for the Detachment. Is responsible for any updates or correction of member's records with the National Headquarters and the Department of Michigan. **Sergeant-at-Arms:** Preserves order at all Detachment Meetings and ensures that all is in readiness for meetings. **Chaplain:** Conduct prayers at all meetings and memorial services. He should visit all members of the Detachment who are having an extended stay in the hospital or are in ill health for extended periods of time.

All other officers are appointed by the Commandant elect. Some appointed positions maybe, but not limited to: **Quartermaster:** Purchases and sells unique Gung-ho merchandise, **Highway Clean-Up Officer:** Schedules the clean-up and notifies the County Road Commission of our clean-up. **Honor Guard Commander:** Contacts members of the Honor Guard for an occasion that we are invited to and ensures that all equipment is present at the occasion. **Newsletter Editor:** Publishes the Newsletter for the Detachment and is responsible for informing members of any function sponsored by the Detachment on a timely basis. **Service Officer:** Assists members and their families with the development of claims for veterans benefits and transmitting them to the Marine Corps League, Department of Michigan (Also see 'Veteran Benefits' on page 4). **Historian:** Acquires and displays at meetings, artifacts, memorabilia, pictures, etc., depicting the history of the Detachment.

Uniforms:

Q: Does the Marine Corps League have an authorized uniform.

1. The basic uniform of the Marine Corps League is the Marine Corps League Red Cover. This may be purchased from our Quartermaster. When wearing this cover, you may not affix any pins or patches not authorized. The only patch that may be worn on the cover is the Military Order of the Devil Dogs Patch and only if you are a member of that organization.
2. Members also purchase an optional Detachment Red Shirt with our logo on it to wear at meetings and other events. It is available from our Quartermaster.
3. Elected or appointed officers of the Department (state), wear the Red Cover with Gold Crown.
4. Elected or appointed National Officers, wear a Gold Cover.
5. For ceremonies, most of us wear the Undress – Short Sleeve Marine Corps League Uniform. This is a white shirt with military creases, two pockets with button down flaps and shoulder epaulets (Airline Pilot Style) with no tie, Marine Corps League Sunburst insignias on collar with shoulder patches as authorized. Marine Corps League Ribbons –or- Department of Defense authorized ribbons, wings and badges. (Marine Corps League and Department of Defense ribbons cannot be mixed and NO medals are to be worn on the uniform). Trousers are, blue dress with NCO Red Strip, with the Marine Corps Khaki Web Belt with Brass Buckle. Black shoes with plain toe (highly glossed). This uniform is worn by the Detachment Honor Guard.
6. You may also wear the Casual Dress Red Blazer. This is worn with a white plain collar shirt. No button-down collar (no sunburst insignias on the collar). It is worn with a black tie with Marine Corps gold tie bar. Black trousers and black sock and shoes. This uniform is normally worn at Department functions and/or other functions on a more formal meeting.

Events:

Q: What events does the Detachment sponsor.

A: The most important event the Detachment holds is its Annual Marine Corps Birthday Party. We host it on the 10th of November each year regardless of what day it falls on. This is classified as a Party not a Ball. Dress

code is Civilian – Casual. At this event we have Quartermaster sales, raffle sales, food and refreshment. The cake cutting ceremony is also held with the youngest and oldest Marine present. All members are notified of the event starting in October. It is open to the public and is usually held between 1500 and 2100. Invite a Marine you know that is not a member of the Marine Corps League to join in the celebration.

We also participate in Memorial Day and Veterans Day Ceremonies and various parades. Notification is sent to all members on when and where these ceremonies and parades are held.

Also on our agenda is a Detachment County Highway Clean-up community service. Currently we pick up litter on 16 Mile Road between Dodge Park and Van Dyke four times a year. There are two signs posted on 16 Mile Road recognizing our efforts. As long as we participate, the signs will remain. This one mile of clean-up usually takes approximately one hour. Notification will be in the Detachment's newsletter.

Q: Does the Detachment provide any funeral services.

A: Given enough notice, our Detachment Honor Guard may provide a military service at the funeral home and/or cemetery for a member of the Detachment. If you want the Detachment Honor Guard to perform services for you at the funeral home and/or cemetery, please let your family know your intentions.

Q: What is the Honor Guard and what do they do.

A: The Detachment Honor Guard is comprised of members who participate in Memorial Services, parades and other events. It is voluntary. Most of the members wear the Marine Corps League Undress (Short Sleeve) Uniform. If you are interested in joining, or have any questions, contact the Honor Guard Commander.

Q: What other events can a member participate in.

A: The Detachment has a shooting team which you may join. At the present time, members target shoot with military rifles at a rifle range designated by the Shooting Team Captain. Awards are presented for the highest score. You do not need to have your own military rifle. Notification of the event will be posted in the Detachment Newsletter on the specifics.

Subsidiary Organizations:

Q: What is the Military Order of the Devil Dogs.

A: The Military Order of the Devil Dogs is the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League. We are interested in quality members, not quantity. Its purposes is to provide added strength to the League, to promote camaraderie among all members, and to help make the experience of being a member of the Marine Corps League memorable in every respect. Membership qualifications are:

- You must be a regular member of the Marine Corps League in good standing (dues up to date).
- Must be of good character and reputation (we have a little wiggle room here).
- You must have at least one (1) year in the Marine Corps League.

The local level of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs is called a Pound. The Detachment has one called Macomb Mongrels and currently meets at the American Legion, Post 351. Announcements for this assembly is made at meetings and in the newsletter.

If you meet the qualifications and are interested, see any member with a Devil Dog Patch on his cover.

Q: I have heard of the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League, what are they all about.

A: The Young Marines are a youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through completion of high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on character building, leadership, and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines is the focal point for the U.S. Marine Corps Youth Drug Demand Reduction efforts.

The Young Marines are open to all youth ages 8 through completion of high school. The only membership requirement is that the youth must be in good standing at school.

Young Marine units are community based programs lead by dedicated adult volunteers. Many of these volunteers are former, retired, active duty, or reserve Marines who believe passionately that the values they learned as Marines had a positive effect on them. It is through these caring adults that Young Marines learn the inner values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

Upon joining the Young Marine unit, youth undergo a 26 hour orientation program affectionately called "Boot Camp" After graduation; Young Marines learn new skills, earn rank, wear the Young Marine uniform and work toward ribbon awards. Young marines earn ribbons for achievement in areas such as leadership, community service, swimming, academic excellence, first aid, CPR, and drug resistance education.

During the summer months, Young Marines have the opportunity to attend the Young Marines National Summer Programs of: Adventures, Challenges, Encampments, and Schools.

It **is not** our goal to mold children into Marines. We do not teach weapons, warfare or tactics. But we do wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor on our cover and our uniforms are similar to the United States Marines. We take pride in our appearance and conduct. The Young Marine program is not a summer camp, day care or military school. It is a challenging, exciting and motivating program that requires commitment to excellence.

If you would like to know more information on the Young Marines, please contact the Detachment's Young Marine Liaison.

Q: Is there an Auxiliary for the Detachment.

A: Yes. The Auxiliary meets on the same day, time and place as the Detachment. Contact any Auxiliary member for qualifications to join their organization.

Veteran Benefits:

Q: What benefits do I have as a veteran and where do I find out about them.

A: The Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League currently has a Veterans Service Office. It is located in the McNamara Federal Building in Detroit. The Veterans Service Office has Service Officers that are certified by the Veterans Administration to represent you in receiving Veterans Benefits you are entitled to. They will assist you in any claim you might have for Veterans Administration Benefits and will also file a claim with the Veterans Administration on your behalf. Their assistance is free to you as a veteran. The telephone number to the Marine Corps League Veterans Service Office is: (313) 964-6830.

Miscellaneous:

Q: Who may join the Macomb County Detachment and what are the qualifications.

A: There are three types of membership. Regular, Regular Active Duty and Associate.

1. **Regular Membership:** Any Marine who served more than 90 days and the character of service was Honorable or Under Honorable Conditions. Also, Navy Corpsmen who have trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of 90 days and earned the Marine Corps Device authorized for FMF Corpsmen are also eligible. Currently these dues are \$31.00 annually.
2. **Regular Active Duty Membership:** These are Marines currently serving on active duty. Marines serving in the Reserves and not classified as Active Duty. Their dues are on joining - \$23.00 and \$18.00 each year thereafter.
3. **Associate Member:** These are individuals not qualified for regular membership but espouse the principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League. They may not wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor on their Marine Corps League Red Cover and are not able to vote on a membership application, an election of officers, or hold an elective office. Their dues are \$31.00 annually.

Q: What other functions do members participate in not sponsored by the Detachment.

A: The Department (State) holds three events each year. A Mid-Winter Rally is a Department Staff Meeting held in January or February. A Department Convention is held in June and a Fall Staff Meeting is held on call. These are held throughout the state each year. National holds a Mid-Winter Rally in February and a Convention in August of each year. Any member may attend each of these functions. There may also be functions that members bring to the attention of the Detachment

Q: Should I notify anyone if I become sick.

A: Yes. Please notify the Detachment Chaplain if you are sick, hospitalized or in distress.

Q: Where do I get the phone numbers of officers or their email address.

A: All officers' telephone numbers are listed in the monthly newsletter. Their email addresses are located at the Detachments Web site www.macombmarines.org.

Below are some rules that must be followed as a member of this Detachment and the Marine Corps League:

1. You may not make any commitment on the part of the Detachment without prior approval. No may not write any article to newspapers, radio or other new media using the name of the Detachment without prior approval of the Commandant and first being cleared on the floor by the Detachment.
2. Any motion passed by the membership is in effect for a period of one year from that date. At the end of that period of time, if the motion has not been incorporated into the Bylaws, it shall be considered null and void.
3. If you attend any political event, **DO NOT** wear any Marine Corps League Uniform or any Marine Corps League article of clothing. The Marine Corps League is a Non-profit Organization authorized by the Internal Revenue Service and is Nonpolitical. If you feel you must present yourself as a veteran, wear some sort of Marine Corps item.

If you have any questions or clarifications on this write-up or questions on anything not covered by this write-up, contact me or any of the Officers of the Detachment.

Semper Fi!

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