



THE MICHIGAN MARINE NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Marine Corps League, Department of Michigan



10 November 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

For 249 years, Marines have served as our Nation's sentinels of freedom. As we celebrate our Corps' birthday this year, I encourage all Marines to reflect on our legacy forged in blood on battlefields since 1775, and to rededicate ourselves to carrying that legacy untarnished into the future. Collectively, we who wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor have an obligation to uphold the ideals of self-discipline, warfighting proficiency, professionalism, and personal conduct that define what it means to be a Marine. I know you are all up to the task.

Twenty years ago this month, Marines fought and won the Second Battle of Fallujah, a brutal, grinding house to house fight, whose victory ultimately paved the way for the stabilization of the Republic of Iraq. Often in Iraq there were no true front lines, and by necessity, Fallujah was a battle in which every Marine fought, demonstrating once again our cornerstone philosophy that Every Marine is a Rifleman.

Our history bears witness to Marines of all stripes picking up their rifles and fighting for Corps and Country when the call came. From Wake Island to the Chosin Reservoir to Khe Sanh to Camp Bastion, every Marine fought. Our future battles will be no different. Our rear areas will be as vulnerable as our front lines and every Marine from our infantry battalions to our aviation squadrons to our headquarters and support elements will have to stand-to when called.

Preparing for the threats of the future requires the same exceptional standards and ironclad discipline that are the hallmarks of our Corps. Twenty years ago in Fallujah, our predecessors staunchly adhered to these virtues, earned our Nation's trust, and ensured the U.S. Marine Corps would remain the most feared fighting force in the world. It is our sworn duty to uphold those standards and stay true to our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Though technology and equipment change, the Marine Corps' culture of excellence must not. The road ahead is far from certain, but our ethos will never change – *Every Marine a Rifleman* and *Everyone Fights*.

As I've said before, it is the honor of my lifetime to be a Marine and serve as your Commandant. I'm proud to stand alongside each of you, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for our Corps. When I travel to visit Marines here at home and deployed around the globe, I find absolute confidence that this generation of Marines has what it takes to uphold our Corps' legacy and prevail in any conflict we face. Happy Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

Eric M. Smith
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps



Department Commandant Ray Rayl

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October is in the rearview mirror now, and it is time to put the lawn mower into storage and break out and sharpen up the snow shovel. The leaves have peaked, and we say goodbye to a very colorful autumn.

I have paid visits to several Detachments in the state this year. The reason for my visits was to check to see if the "Clubhouses" are in line with our Bylaws. A detachment that has its meeting hall in a VSO, i.e., VFW, American Legion, etc., and that VSO has a bar within, then no worries. That organization has a liquor license and liability insurance. But if the MCL Detachment has its own building, has a bar within that building, and sells alcohol, then the detachment should have a license and the proper insurance.

Another reason for my visits is membership. Some detachments are falling below the 15 members in good standing requirement. If this is the case in your detachment, someone needs to contact those members not in good standing and bring the detachment up to speed by getting those unpaid paid or doing some heavy recruiting of regular or associate members.

Another reason for my visit is to promote Awards. If someone in your detachment has done something for or in your detachment or community, then recognize that individual with a Certificate of some kind. There are a couple of Marines in the Shoreline Detachment who should be receiving recognition from the department. I have brought this to the attention of their membership, and hopefully, within the next few months, this will happen.

Since the Fall Staff Rally in Grayling, I have visited the Downriver, Shoreline, and Northern Michigan Detachments. They are all in good shape and very active preparing for the 249th Marine Corps Ball next month. Each detachment will have a different way of celebrating the occasion, and each detachment will have a Ball to remember. My wife and I will be celebrating the birthday with the Kalamazoo Detachment on November 8th and then the Flint Detachment on November 9th.

Have a happy and safe Winter, and see you at the Double Tree in Bay City on January 16 – 19, 2025.

Semper Fi.



Department Auxiliary President

Cathy Rayl
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Warm Fall wishes from The Marine Corps League Auxiliary. The Units around Michigan are doing well, and I plan to work with each one to help them grow and become successful.

The Fall Staff Rally had a slim turnout, but we were able to accomplish our goals. We kicked off a fundraiser for the Department Auxiliary by selling Rada Cutlery products. We are hoping to make this an ongoing project, along with our annual Rose Day program. We raise funds to support Marines in Veteran Homes and Hospitals. We support the scholarship programs for Marines, their children, and family members. We also meet the needs of the communities.

Please encourage your wives, sisters, daughters, grandmothers, granddaughters, daughter-in-law, aunts, nieces, mother-in-law, sister-in-law of a Marine, and associate members who wish to join us in our efforts and become part of this gratifying organization.

Happy Birthday, Marines. Semper Fi,
Blessings.



Department Sr. Vice Commandant

Phil Smith
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The following is sent out since both the Department Convention in Kalamazoo and the Fall Staff meeting in Grayling, Michigan.

Since the Department Convention in Kalamazoo, I have been pretty busy; first off, I did not attend the National Convention, as someone needed to stay behind and cover the Department in case something transpired, and both the Department Commandant and Jr. Vice attended the National Convention. I would like to have been present at the Convention. However, I have been to the National

Continue on page 3

Department Sr. Vice Report –continued

Convention in the past years since I belonged to the League and my Department Staff positions.

Keeping the Commandant informed of anything that needed to be taken care of, things were quiet, and things went smoothly.

Since that time, I have been trying to locate the Detachment Commandant of Sgt G.P. Porta but have yet to be successful. No one is home at his house, I'm trying to contact members on the list of G.P. Porta, and only one call returned, wanting to keep them; my response your at 7 members; you need 15; let's move on. The Commandant was the same; he was tracking down weapons, including ceremonial weapons, on what detachment had.

On another note was the Washtenaw Detachment; as I turned in the Charter, still trying to find out who was in what position, a Past Detachment Commandant showed up at a meeting, only one there, and wanted to keep it going. One member responded, luckily, that there were no ceremonial rifles, but where was their banking account?

Just as a reminder, the Detachments need to keep their Zone Commandants and the Department up to date on their records and locations. As such, it would be difficult if the Department had to track things down. That's one reason the election reports need to be updated and submitted.

I attended the Central Division meeting on Zoom. As the Commandant could not attend, we discussed, like others on Zoom, the Youth Physical Fitness Test (YPF), membership and Young Marines, and Recruiting and Retention of members. I was asked if I attended the National Convention. My response was no, but I had attended the National Mid-Winter in Arlington, VA, which will take place again in 2025.

Moving forward, at the Fall Staff in Grayling, I mentioned a Raffle, and I guess my intention of ending it in May was not perceived well. The Department needs a Fundraiser; after looking at the Budget and how it is going, funds are needed, not just to donate, but to have funds in cases of emergencies. The case is to donate to those departments that were affected by the Hurricane that hit the states of North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, and Georgia. Funds are needed. So, I am proposing a Raffle and extending it out to the September/October 2025 timeframe. I am aware Detachments are doing raffles as well.

The SE Zone Commandants ensure that the detachments that fall under your purview have up-to-date

records. We don't need to try to track down things such as the Charter, Bank accounts, and ceremonial weapons.

I'm visiting River Rouge High School. It's a new school year, and Gunny Robinson is trying to retire. At this point, there is a Master Sergeant in training. She was an Instructor at the Navy NJROTC in Northern Michigan.

Respectfully submitted,



Junior Vice Commandant Report

Stephen Fletcher
Jr. Vice Department Commandant

Happy 249th Birthday Marines!! I hope everyone is ready for the time change. Remember to set your clocks back so you can get that extra hour of sleep.

Membership is doing well, but as with everything, it could be better. Check your cover; if it says life in the back corner, you are good; if not, then remember that all non-life members expire every year on August 31st. If you haven't paid your dues, get them into your paymasters. This is very important with the upcoming MCL Conventions (mid-winter in Bay City). Paid membership determines voting strength.

Recruiting is needed to keep our department (especially your Detachment) strong. We need good people to build our numbers and do the work of the Marine Corps League (which is, of course, helping our fellow Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains). Everyone is a recruiter, and you may recognize the task you are asked to complete at the close of every MCL meeting: Marines, the (Detachment/Department) thank you for your attendance and requests that you secure new members.

With new member recruiting in mind, it is a reminder that the department has a recruiting award for which members can be put in. Detachment Commandants (Paymasters) track your new members and submit their recruiters for next year's department recruiting award. The reporting period is from 30 April 2024 until 01 May 2025, with the deadline of May 15, 2025. Your awardee must have recruited at least five new members in that timeframe to be eligible. Remember to start recruiting now. Grow your league—strength in numbers.

See you all in Bay City.

Department Judge Advocate Report

Scott Hellman

Dept. Judge Advocate



Good day, Marines and Associates,

I hope all are in good health and spirits. The subject I would like to address this time is how as members of the MCL what we can do for our communities besides just parades and funerals. Those are very important duties and responsibilities that we are honored to do.

Our constant mission is to show the world the values that the Marine Corps has instilled and developed in each one of us. Leadership, honor, integrity to name just a couple. If you are out in public and your work environment, we are looked at with different expectations than most. It came with the title that we portray when we wear a cover or jacket that shows our pride with the EGA or similar symbolism. There is a responsibility whether we know it or not, or even want it or not. That is why the oaths and bylaws were given to us to uphold. Just remember the ones before and after us did maintain those roles or will continue to for all to know why we are feared and loved for our dedication and devotion to God, Country and Corps.

So, step out among those you live with, show them how we support the community with assistance to fellow Marines and veterans that have a need in their lives, whether short term or long term. Let them know when we have our hands out it is for a noble endeavor to lift individuals, so they can hold their heads up with gratitude and the desire to pass it forward.

Thank you for all you do.

Department Adjutant Report

Tracey Ann Tippet

Adjutant Department of Michigan



Fall Staff is behind us, and it was great seeing everybody again. And that means more work ahead for all of us. From September

to the middle of May, it is time for all of your Detachments to do your Officer Installation Reports and fill out your Bank and Charter Forms. Also, you should already have filed your 990's and Lara Corps filing and doing all of this keeps your Detachment in COMPLIANCE. There are consequences for your Detachment's not being in compliance, and the Department DOES NOT want to have to take those measures.

Please ensure you are using the current and updated Officer Installation Report and Bank and Charter Forms found on our website. Older forms and incomplete forms will not be accepted and will be rejected to be corrected. There is a lot of information to complete your installation reports, which can be found on your Detachment Rosters.

If you need anything or have questions, I am only a phone call or email away. We are here to help you and your Detachments and want everyone to succeed.

The website is always a constant and ongoing work in progress. If you see something on the site that isn't correct or up to date, a link that isn't working, or if you want to see something on there, please let me know. Also, letting me know where you are finding the issue on the website is very helpful, too. All this help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you. (www.michiganmarines.org)





Jonathan VanTol, PDC

Watch Out for Scams.

Marines,

Keep serving and supporting your communities. I'm amazed at the many different projects and the impact your service does. Unfortunately, there is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Email scams are always present, and scammers find new ways to fool honest people. They get hold of an e-mail address from an organization president and then start their scam. This recently happened to me as the District Governor for Lion District 11D1.

Always be careful when answering an e-mail that makes an appeal for financial assistance. The email appears to come from a trusted account. They could say that they are in a meeting and ask if you can do them a favor. If you answer yes, they will ask you to get some Visa gift cards or similar cards. They will also ask for the codes from them so they can be used. They then use them for their own benefit and NOT for serving those in need.

If the email sounds unusual, click on the email address from which it's coming. As an example, if it says "DG Jonathan@abc.com", compare it to the email address you have for me. It would be different from what you have for me, as my address is jvantol@svsu.edu. Call the sender to alert them that their email may have been hacked and they should change their password. Chances are you may be the first person to alert the person from whom the email appears to be coming.

Unfortunately, scammers are always trying, so everyone needs to be VIGILANT AND CONFIRM the identity of the sender. If it sounds suspicious, ALWAYS check the sender's email address.

Upcoming Events:

Marine Corps Ball Nov 10, 2024

Dept Mid-Winter Rally Jan 17 – 19, 2025
Double Tree Inn, Bay City

National Mid-Winter Feb 27 – Mar 1 2025
Sheraton Hotel Pentagon City, Va

Central Division Conference Mar 27 – 29, 2025
Clarian Hotel Joliet, Ill

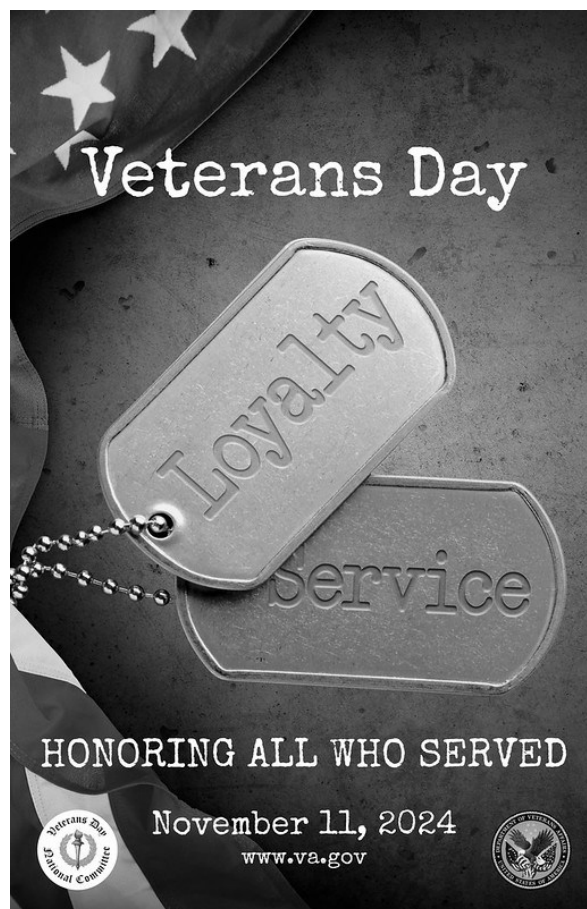
Dept of Mich Convention June 6 – 8, 2025 TBA

Shoreline Detachment is Seeking Donations.

Marines, if you are interested in a donation to support a great interest. Please think about the Veterans Park in Holland, MI. The Shoreline Detachment #1027 is in the planning stages of constructing a Veterans Park on land donated by the Park Township. The committee is looking for donations from businesses, individuals or detachments to make this happen.

Please consider making a donation

Ray Rayl, Department Commandant





Department of Michigan

Marine Corps League

Incorporated by Act of Congress

www.michiganmarines.org

Department email: michmarines@gmail.com

01 November 2024

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From: Tracey Tippet, Adjutant, Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League
To: Department Staff
 Detachment Commandants
 Cathy Rayl, President, Department of Michigan, Marine Corps League Auxiliary
Subj: Official Call to the 2025 Mid-Winter Rally

Our Department Mid-Winter Rally will convene at the Doubletree by Hilton Bay City-Riverfront, Bay City, Michigan on January 17-18, 2025. On January 17th there will be a Joint Opening Ceremony with the Department League Auxiliary.

The Department of Michigan and Department of Michigan Auxiliary will be co-hosting this event, assisted by John C Rock Detachment 902 and Edson-Kline-Vanslyke Detachment 1423. Registration for rooms are to be made with the Doubletree By Hilton Hotel Bay City-Riverfront, Bay City, Michigan at 1-989-891-6000. Room rates are for a standard room \$154.29 (including tax)—mention code MCLMICHIGANMIDWINTER. Deadline for room reservations at these rates is 26 December 2024.

Banquet reservations must be in by December 26, 2024, if you wish to attend the Mid-Winter Banquet. Also, please help by taking out an ad in the Mid-Winter Rally Booklet. The advertising helps the host offset the cost of putting this Rally together. Mid-Winter Rally packets and forms are available at the Department's Website: www.michiganmarines.org.

The Uniform for the Opening Ceremony and the rest of the weekend is civilian casual with cover for membership. Department Officers will be in undress uniform black trousers preferred. The Saturday evening banquet is formal with no cover. At the Friday meeting we will make an effort to have all Officer Reports presented, after reports are given the session will recess for the day.

NOTE: The recess is an excellent opportunity for all Department Committees to meet and discuss their individual business.

ALL Elected Officers and Detachment Commandants: One copy of your report of activities is to be given to the Department Adjutant. On Friday following the Joint Memorial Service, we will convene the meeting with the regular order of business. After the meeting, classes will be held for all members. **ALL** members are encouraged to attend these informative classes.

If you are a Department Officer and are unable to attend the meeting for a valid reason, please contact me **PRIOR** to the meeting. You may notify me at (906) 250-3189 or email me at tracerduck@aol.com. Officers not following the aforementioned procedure will be listed as absent.

*By Direction of the Department Commandant
 Raymond Rayl*