



FIRST STATE
Marine Corps League Detachment 689
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Welcome Aboard

A Guidebook for Members of the
First State Detachment 689
Department of Delaware
Marine Corps League

Proudly serving lower Sussex County, DE.
and Northern Worcester County, MD.

Marty Kwesko

Commandant
April 2020

WELCOME ABOARD

Congratulations on becoming a member of the First State Detachment, Department of Delaware, of the Marine Corps League (FSMCL). Our Detachment is the original Marine Corps League Detachment to be formed in the state of Delaware; born on 14 Apr 1989. We are extremely pleased to have you aboard. You have taken the Oath of Membership. It states: I, in the presence of Almighty God and the members of the Marine Corps League, here assembled, being fully aware of the symbols, motto, principles and purposes, of the Marine Corps League, do solemnly swear, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and of the Marine Corps League. I will never knowingly wrong, deceive, or defraud the League, to the value of anything. I will never, knowingly wrong or injure or permit any member, or any member's family, to be wronged or injured, if to prevent same is within my power. I will never propose for membership. one known to me to be unqualified or unworthy to become a member of the League, I further promise to govern my conduct in the League's affairs and in my personal life, in a manner becoming a decent and honorable person, and will never knowingly bring discredit to the League. So help me, God.

Peer Mentor

With this handbook you will be assigned a Peer Mentor. This fellow Marine will be available to guide you in how we operate. Your Peer Mentor will introduce you to all Officers of our Detachment as well as many fellow Marines. This Marine will be your buddy, answer your questions and know where to go if the answer is not known.

What Is The Marine Corps League?

The League is classified as a veterans/military service organization and was formed for the purposes of promoting the interests of the U. S. Marine Corps; to provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines, as well as to their widows and orphans; and to preserve the traditions of the U. S. Marine Corps.

The League is the only Federally Chartered, Marine Corps related veterans organization in the country. The League was organized by then Commandant John A. LeJeune in 1923. In 1937, Congress nationally chartered the League. 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. The League is presided over by an elected Commandant and other officers.

The League's Objectives:

Among the purposes for which the Marine Corps League was founded are:

- To preserve the traditions and to promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps;
- To band those who are now serving in the Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service together in fellowship that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy;
- To fit its members for duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve as ably as citizens as they have served the Nation under arms;
- To hold sacred the history and memory of the veterans 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 maintain true allegiance to American institutions; To create a bond of comradeship between those in the service and those who have returned to civilian life;
- To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines and FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains and former Marines and FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains as well as to their spouses, orphans, and parents;
- To perpetuate the history of the U.S. Marine Corps and, by fitting acts, to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

Membership Categories

A member may join more than one Detachment, becoming a Dual

Member, and may hold office in more than one Detachment, but will only have one vote in National MCL business and elections. There are three categories of membership:

Regular Member: Anyone who is serving or has served at least 180 days in the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve, or as a Fleet Marine Force (FMF) U.S. Navy Corpsman or Chaplain with the FMF for 180 or more days, and received an Honorable Discharge.

Associate Member: One who has reached enlistment age, does not qualify to be a Regular Member, but espouses the principles and purposes of the MCL. Dues are the same as for Members. Associate Members may not vote on membership, election of officers nor hold elective office. Associate Members may also become Life Members. This Detachment allows Associate Members as described in National Bylaws to vote in internal Detachment affairs.

Honorary Member: One who has been of extraordinary service to the Nation, Community, Marine Corps, or Marine Corps League.

Membership Dues

Dues are set by the Detachment and include Department and National Dues per year, unless you elect to become a Life Member. Life Membership is payable on a one time basis and covers all dues. The amount depends upon your age. Current Life Membership information can be found at the MCL National website (<http://mclnational.org/Home/Membership>).

The FSMCL Detachment has their own Life Membership Program. The criteria is as follows:

1. Active membership in our Detachment for a minimum of 5 years.
2. Dues current for each of these 5 years, paid on-time and without going into late category.
3. Attend 76% of monthly meetings (9 of 12). Waiver at Commandant's discretion for extenuating circumstances.
4. Attend one Department Quarterly meeting each of the 5 years.
5. Volunteer a minimum of 30 hours every year of the 5 year period (member to maintain hour log with event OIC's signature).

or

6. Serve as a Committee Chairperson for 4 of the 5 years.

or

7. Any Marine that is recognized as Marine of the Year is awarded

a Life Membership.

The Organization's Levels

The Marine Corps League is a national organization and, like the Marine Corps, there are levels of the organization that enable smaller unit leadership.

National: U.S., plus overseas members (<http://mclnational.org/>).

Division: Ten regional groupings of Departments. We are in the Mideast Division. (<http://www.mclmideast.com/>)

Department: The state level organization. Our Detachment is one of five in the Department of Delaware. (http://www.orgsites.com/de/mcl-dept_delaware/)

Detachment: The “local” level. We are the First State Detachment 689 (<http://www.firststatemarines.org>).

BYLAWS

Although the League is a military veterans' organization, it is democratically run. The League operates under a set of National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures (APs) that establish how the League is organized and operates. The National Bylaws and APs may be amended by majority vote of the represented members. The amendment process is open to all members, following the procedure set forth in the bylaws themselves. The National Bylaws and APs have precedence over all Department and Detachment Bylaws and APs. The National and Department Bylaws and APs are posted on our respective websites. Our Detachment also has our own Bylaws and APs.

The League is a non-political body. As such, the League and members identifying themselves as members of the League **MUST NOT** support or appear to support labor disputes, political candidates or parties. This includes the wearing of MCL uniforms at political events. Every member, however, is encouraged to participate in the American political process as an individual.

Leadership Meeting

A Leadership Meeting is held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1000. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss Detachment events, make decisions that will be brought up for Detachment voting purposes and overall to take care of the numerous items in order for the regular meetings to be concluded in a timely fashion. All Detachment members are more than welcome to attend and participate. Leadership Meetings are held throughout our area of operations and locations will be announced at the previous month's regular and leadership meeting as well as on the website.

Our meeting location is: American Legion Post 2308 Philadelphia Avenue,

Ocean City, MD 21842.

Detachment Meeting

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1200, after the close of the Leadership business meeting. Our meeting location is: American Legion Post 2308 Philadelphia Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842. Meeting locations are announced at the previous month's meeting as well as in the Monthly Meeting Minutes and Calendar found on the Detachment website (<http://www.firststatemarines.org>).

Detachment meetings are conducted in accordance with the MCL Ritual Manual. Doing so means that your attendance at the meeting of any Detachment will be familiar. The conduct of meetings shall be governed by the League Bylaws and Administrative Procedures (AP). The current Roberts Rules of Order will also be used. However, the Bylaws and APs will have precedence over Roberts Rules of Order. Regardless of the rank held in military service, every Regular Member in the Marine Corps League has earned the rank of "Marine", and that is rank enough. We usually have many items to review, however; we attempt to keep the meetings as short as possible.

Upon entering the meeting scan for the Sgt-at-Arms who will be manning a sign-in table near the main entrance. Sign in and if desired, purchase a 50/50 ticket. On the front table we provide brochures and announcement of various MCL and local area events. Feel free to review the information and secure appropriate items. When attending the meeting take part in as many activities as you prefer, make your opinions known and bring fresh ideas to the attention of the membership but overall have fun and relish in the camaraderie of once again being with fellow Marines.

Reminder: The MCL Fore/Aft Cap is the only cover that is authorized to be worn the Detachment meeting.

Detachment Officers

The Detachment has two classes of officers, Elected and Appointed. The Commandant may be elected for three consecutive terms and thereafter cannot succeed himself. The other officers may accept unlimited successive terms. Appointed Officers serve at the pleasure of the Commandant. All Appointed Officers should tender their resignation at the end of their term. They may be reappointed.

The Elected officers and their duties are:

Commandant - Presides at all Detachment meetings, serves as advisor to all

committees and is in direct charge of all functions of the Detachment.

Sr. Vice Commandant - Assists the Commandant and acts in his/her behalf during the absence or illness of the Commandant.

Jr. Vice Commandant - Assumes the responsibilities of the Commandant or the Sr. Vice Commandant if either or both are not available. Acts as Membership Chairman and is responsible for the growth of the Detachment. Oversees Guidebook and Peer Mentoring Program.

Judge Advocate - Interprets the By-Laws of the Detachment, Department, and National Marine Corps League. Also ensures that meetings are run in accordance with the Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order.

The Appointed officers and their duties are:

Adjutant - Keeps a complete record of all meetings, in a ledger or log. Keeps records of membership and handles all transmittals. Keeps necessary Corporate Minutes to satisfy state legal requirements. Additionally, maintain and send group emails for Officers, update documents, such as Guidebook.

Chaplain – Informs the membership of any member or member's family that is ill or in distress and visits same, if possible, or asks other members to do so. Maintains a prayer list of members and family in sickness or distress. Reports the death of any member to the Detachment, Department, and National on the appropriate form. Provides pastoral support for the conduct of Detachment functions. Is responsible for the Fallen Marines Ceremony. He also coordinates the flower fund and sympathy card program.

Paymaster - Serves as Treasurer of the Detachment and keeps an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements of the Detachment. Also prepares and files the required tax returns and corporate registration and renewal with the state and federal government.

Quartermaster – Responsible for purchase and issuance of expendable MCL items such as uniforms, awards, birthday ball decorations, etc, etc.

Sergeant-at-Arms - Responsible for the set-up of the premises for all meetings. Shall preserve order at all meetings. Ensures only qualified members enter meeting room by establishing a position at the main entrance asking all parties to initial next to their name on the master membership roster. Sells 50-50 raffles. Responsible for the security and maintenance of all weapons owned by the

Detachment as well as all equipment stored in the Detachment shed. Maintains an inventory of all Detachment weapons and equipment.

Junior Past Commandant - This officer is the immediate past Commandant and serves to provide guidance and counsel to the standing Detachment Commandant and other officers.

Public Affairs Officer – Main point of contact for all media inquiries. Provides Detachment information to all media outlets.

Additional Appointed Officers or committee chairs may be assigned on a volunteer basis as the Commandant may desire. These may include such positions as Historian, Honor/Color Guard Commander, Toys for Tots Chairman, Birthday Ball Committee Chairman, Web Sergeant, Awards and Ribbons, etc.

Committees

We usually have several committees at any one time and they all welcome your participation. Ad hoc committees may be an Audit, Nominating, Marine Corps Birthday Celebration, Fund Raising, Golf Tournament, VA activities, Birthday Journal, Scholarship, Bethany Beach July 4th Parade, Operation Seas the Day, Awards and Toys for Tots. There is also a need for members to help in a myriad of activities that may be one-time affairs.

Detachment Communications

Communications up, down, and across the Detachment are essential in keeping all Marines informed as well as assisting in the accomplishment of our myriad of missions. During our meetings and at the appropriate time do not hesitate in speaking concerning your ideas, interests, activities, experiences, etc. We publish the monthly Meeting Minutes on our website. It is also sent via email. If you do not have an email address, it will be mailed to you. Please notify the Paymaster of all changes to personal information.

A bimonthly magazine is published and mailed to you by National Marine Corps League called *Semper Fi*. There is no additional fee for this publication.

A MCL Professional Development Program (PDP) provides all members with the what, how and why the league operates. It is recommended that all members review this program. The PDP can be found on the Department's website: http://www.orgsites.com/de/mcl-dept_delaware/_pgg1.php3

Of utmost importance is that all Marines are getting the word.

Detachment Activities

Our Detachment is one of the most active Veteran organizations in Delaware. We are continuously involved in some activity. Events are announced at the monthly meetings and posted monthly on our website. Some of our major events include:

Convention Center Events for Recruiting and Fundraising:

Nautical A/C Show; Boat Show; Home and Condo; Spring Arts & Crafts, Labor Day; Autumn Home; Christmas Craft; Holiday T4T

Additional Events:

Funeral and Memorial as need occurs; Spring and Fall Flag Placement and Retrieval - Millsboro Veteran's Cemetery; Toys for Tots Events; Youth Physical Fitness – area Schools; Annual Detachment Golf Tournament; TET Memorial Ceremony; 4th of July Parade - Bethany Beach; Operation Seas the Day; Detachment Elections; Memorial Day - Veterans Cemetery - Millsboro, Worcester County Veterans Memorial; Marine Corps Ball; Marine Corps Ball Journal; Veterans Day - Ocean Pines, American Legion Ocean City; VFW Post 7234 Ocean View, Worcester County Veterans Memorial.

Color Guard/Honor Guard: The Undress uniform, short or long sleeve, as appropriate, is normally worn by the Guard members. We carry a parade type rifle. The rifles are issued and maintained by our Sergeant-at-Arms. Volunteers are always needed. Should you once again feel the desire to march with the finest, looking sharp and feeling good, speak with the Color Guard OIC. In addition to those carrying rifles and our colors, we often fill our ranks with MCL members marching with the Color Guard. One of our prestigious marching events is the Bethany Beach 4th of July Parade. The MCL Red Fore/Aft cap is the cover that is authorized to be worn.

Fallen Marine Ceremony: The Fallen Marine Ceremony is one of the most heartfelt and rewarding programs of our Detachment. The ceremony shows respect and appreciation for the Marine's service and friendship.

When one of our members passes away, and with the agreement of the next of kin, we assemble at the Funeral Parlor, march in, the Chaplain and Commandant say a few words, we place a Marine Corps Emblem on the deceased, salute, and march out. We also have an honor guard, bugle, and rifle salute if requested, at the funeral. We rarely have a casket vigil, but will if requested by the next of kin, if possible.

Hospital/Nursing Home Visits: Unfortunately Marines and fellow Veterans find themselves in a hospital or nursing home. When we pay a visit, it is an absolute joy

for the Veteran. The Delaware Veterans Home is located at 100 Delaware Veterans Boulevard, Milford, DE 19963; (302) 424-6000. In addition, we visit hospitals and other facilities.

The hospital/nursing home staff is always in awe of the bond that Marines, even from vastly differently generations, have. The visited Veteran is left knowing that he is not being left behind.

Marine Corps Birthday Ball: On 10 November, 1775 the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution stating that “two Battalions of Marines be raised”. This resolution created the finest fighting force the world has ever known. This outstanding event is held as close to 10 November as possible. If authorized and you still have your blues, this day is the one to wear it. If not, our MCL uniform or suit and tie is appropriate. Join us in wishing our Corps a Happy Birthday.

Public Speakers: We are often asked to speak at schools, ceremonies, and other venues. Subjects range from flag etiquette, history, military experience, achievements, and award presentations. If you have public speaking skills or not, you are more than welcome to participate. You will find the experiences fun and rewarding.

Social Events: In addition to our monthly meetings, our socializing usually derives from our volunteer efforts at various events and locations throughout the year in addition to the Golf Tournament and Marine Corps Ball. These are prime opportunities to bond not only with fellow Marines but with friends and family members as well. Events are posted monthly on the FSMCL website.

The Marine Corps Youth Physical Fitness Program: The YPF Program is provided free of charge to schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc. The purpose is to get youngsters physically active and to set goals for improvement. There are three “measurement” days during the school year at which each child performs five exercises - push- ups, sit-ups, standing long jump, shuttle run, and pull- up. They are graded on a sliding scale depending upon their age and receive a full-color certificate upon completing the year.

Toys for Tots: We are heavily involved in the Toys for Tots program. We coordinate our efforts directly with the MCL National T4T Foundation, Quantico, VA. An extensive network with the local communities has been established. We collect toys from numerous locations, the primary recipients of the toys are schools and local fraternal, and religious organizations. Toys are sorted and distributed at “The Pavilion” office building, 11202 Racetrack Rd, Ocean Pines, MD, 21811-3276. The T4T Committee Chairperson is the registered local coordinator for T4T. The Chairperson

has the final say on all decisions. T4T is a massive undertaking and there is always a need for more volunteers.

Detachment Awards

The Detachment has the latitude to make several awards. These may range from a certificate to ribbons and medallions. The highest award at the Detachment level is the Detachment Marine of the Year, which is awarded to one member each year. The member recruiting the largest number of new members each year may also be eligible for the Detachment Recruiter of the Year.

Recruiting

Now that you have honorably earned the title, “United States Marine”, an opportunity to be with other members of the world’s most elite military group is alive and well in our area of responsibility. One of the key activities that all members can participate in, regardless of when you served, length of service, rank, etc., is the recruiting of fellow Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains, and friends of the Marine Corps, into the Marine Corps League. We have found that such simple things as putting a Marine Corps or Marine Corps League emblem on your car, wearing some form of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor on a cap or shirt, or a Marine belt buckle will get a response from a fellow Marine. Encourage them to join the League, come to meetings, and join fellow Marines in recognizing our great heritage as Marines. Try to carry an application form and be ready to hand it out to those Marines you meet. Some of our best members have been “recruited” by sticking a MCL application or FSMCL business card under the wiper blade of a car with a USMC sticker or license plate. We have business cards showing our league information. They are placed on the front table. Take all you want but use all you take. Additionally, direct any and all applicants to the Detachment website firststatemarines.org.

Marine Corps Recruiting Sub-Station

We maintain a very good relationship with our local USMC recruiting team. Recruiters are hard-working Marines who are looking for quality young men and women to join our Corps. If you know of someone you think would be a great Marine, the Recruiters would welcome your call. They are located at Marine Corps Recruiting Sub Station 3920 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19808
(302) 998-6695

Young Marines

The Young Marines is a 501(c) 4 non-profit 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 premier youth organization in its Drug Demand Reduction Efforts. More information may be found at <https://www.youngmarines.com>. We do not have a Young Marines program; however, we do support local High Schools JROTC units in the area.

First State Military Academy MCJROTC – Clayton, DE

Our mission is to provide an educational experience that focuses on the intellectual, physical, and emotional growth of the child.

Our school will provide a structured learning environment and a strong culture of academic rigor, military discipline, citizenship, and leadership, and the application of strong moral values.

Graduates will develop respect for themselves, those on whom they depend, and those that depend on them, ensuring successful entry into adult life.

The goal is to enable your son or daughter to acquire not only subject matter knowledge, but the skills and attributes he or she needs to succeed and thrive in life, college, and the careers of tomorrow.

<http://www.fsmilitary.org/>

Conventions and Conferences.

Attending a convention or conference is a great way to learn more about our League, its activities, and people to contact. The Department of Delaware holds their Convention in the spring. It is held in various locations throughout the state. There is an annual Mideast Division Conference held in the early summer months. Locations will vary depending on the host Department. There is a National Convention in August of every year. The National MCL moves the sites around the country so everyone has the opportunity to attend a national convention. There is also a National Mid-Winter Conference held in the Washington D.C area each February. This is a very informative meeting that covers all of the activities of the League in a shorter period of time than the Convention.

If possible we highly recommend you attend MCL conventions and conferences.

Grievances and Discipline.

As in the Marine Corps always utilize the Chain of Command. There is a well-defined and published procedure for handling grievances and violations of the Bylaws or oath of membership. As formal hearings are time- consuming and expensive, it is best to resolve these by mediation at the local level if possible. However, if mediation does not work, then a grievance or charge may be filed. A hearing will be called by the Department in procedures spelled out in the National

Bylaws. The hearing board results may range from a resolution of a grievance to suspension or expulsion of a member.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The National Marine Corps League has many activities and competitions available to its Detachments and members. Here are some of them:

Americanism Competition - Awards are made to Detachments at the National Convention for the top three Americanism scrapbooks in each of three categories - up to 50 Members, 51 - 100 Members, and over 100 Members. The scrapbooks contain pictures, articles, and narratives on activities that the Detachment has participated in during the past year. All Detachments who enter a scrapbook receive an Americanism certificate.

Newsletter Competition - Plaques are given at the National Convention to the top three Detachment newsletters in each of the three categories. Certificates are given to all Detachments who enter. Also, suggestions on what makes a good newsletter are on the Newsletter web page at the National MCL website - <http://mclnational.org/Programs/MCLCompetitions/Newsletter/tabid/719/Default.aspx>.

Marksmanship Competition - The League sponsors a National Rifle and Pistol match for both individual and team competition, in both the service pistol and service rifle categories. The courses of fire, allowable weapons, and targets are described on the Marksmanship web page at the national MCL website - <http://pamcleague.org/docs/National%20Marine%20Corps%20League%20Marksmanship%202012%202013.pdf>.

Marine for Life Program - The “M4L” program is sponsored and administered by HQMC and is designed to help Marines leaving active duty to find employment in the communities to which they are returning. League members can register to assist these Marines or to line up employers to hire veterans. To learn more, go to www.MarineForLife.org.

MCL Auxiliary - Spouses, parents, grandparents, and other relatives of Marines are eligible to join the Marine Corps League Auxiliary (MCLA), which supports and assists the Marine Corps League. The MCLA is a subsidiary of the National Marine Corps League. The MCLA has its own officers and organization.

Military Order of Devil Dogs - The Military Order of Devil Dogs (MODD) is the

fun and honor society of the MCL. Membership is by invitation only. Membership is open to all MCL members who have served a year in good standing and are active in our Detachment's activities. Members usually join and are “initiated” at separate Devil Dogs Growls (meetings) throughout the year. MODD information may be found at <http://www.moddkennel.org>.

VAVS “Competition” - The Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service was founded to allow volunteers to augment the staff at VA hospitals and clinics. There is a short training session required to be registered, but the hours that are volunteered by members of organizations like the League are tallied and awards made.

Detachment awards are bestowed. The volunteers, once trained, must have their affiliation to the League noted to the Medical Center or Clinic which they serve. Further information may be found at http://www.mclcal.com/?page_id=92. Although awards are given to the top units, this is one where everybody wins.

National Committees – The National Marine Corps League has many committees that help in the functioning of the League. While some are dedicated to National Activities (Bylaws, Uniforms, Conventions, etc.), there are also Committees that can provide much needed advice and assistance to the Detachments, like the Homeless Veterans Committee, POW/MIA Committee, YPF Committee, Boy Scout Committee, Professional Development Committee, etc.

MCL SUBSIDIARIES

MCL Foundation - The MCL Foundation is a 501(c) (4) subsidiary of the League. The Foundation distributes the funds for the Scholarship program and also makes emergency grants up to \$750 to Marines in need and their families. Application for such a grant normally goes through the Detachment Commandant.

United States Marines Youth Foundation - The Youth Foundation is a non-profit that sponsors physical fitness activities for young Americans. There are three main programs of the Foundation. They are:

National Youth Physical Fitness Program: A program to encourage youngsters from K-12 to participate in physical fitness. Certificates are given free-of- charge for each grade level and manuals on how to conduct the program are available for interested schools and organizations.

National High School Physical Fitness Program: A program of competitive fitness with regional and national meets. This is open for both boys and girls and also for MCJROTC Units.

Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence Program: Certificates are sent to deserving high school band members that are nominated by their band directors.

Semper Fi Magazine - This full-color magazine comes out every two months and covers current Marine Corps news and articles as well as information on the League. It is considered by many as the premier veterans organization magazine.

MCL Member Benefits and Discounts - Membership in the Marine Corps League entitles you to several discount and group insurance programs. Some of the discounts include Health, Life, Auto and other Insurance; Federal Credit Union Membership; MCL Logo Checks; and ID Theft Protection. For up-to-date information on discounts and plans available, call the Marine Corps League National Headquarters at 1-800-625-1775 or visit their website at <http://www.mclnational.org>.

Scholarships - The League provides scholarship assistance to the spouses, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of MCL or MCLA members that are enrolled in an undergraduate program or technical school. Members requiring rehabilitation training not covered by government programs are also eligible to apply. Applications are due by 1 July of each year and may be found at <http://www.mclnational.org/Programs/MCLPrograms/Scholarship/tabid/717/Default.aspx>.

Legislative Committee - A committee keeps track of proposed legislation that may affect Marines and veterans and visits key members of the U.S. Congress to express the views of the League.

MARINE MILITARY EXPOS

The Marine Corps League co-sponsors three expositions of military equipment each year. These Expos are Marine West, held at Camp Pendleton in February; Marine East, held at Camp LeJeune in April; and Modern Day Marine, which is held at Quantico in September. Each Expo provides Marines of all ranks the opportunity to see what equipment is available and being developed. It also allows vendors and developers to talk with those using and needing the items. These Expos have proven very popular with all hands. League members are welcome to attend and particularly to provide information about the League to active duty personnel and vendors alike. Look in your issues of *Semper Fi* magazine for dates and more information.

Marine Week - Every year, the Marine Corps selects one major U.S. city in which to hold a week-long exhibition of Marines and their capabilities. It usually features the Silent Drill Platoon, the Drum and Bugle Corps, USMC aircraft, martial arts demonstrations, and much, much more. The Corps does not have the manpower available to do the detailed planning and work that must be done on the local level for the year leading up to the event. The local League Detachments and Departments are called upon to provide much of the heavy lifting required to pull this major effort off in a professional manner.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE UNIFORMS

There is an official Uniform Code of the MCL which can be accessed online at <http://www.mclnational.org> and is located in the National by Laws, Uniform Code. Additionally, this information may be found on the First State Detachment website: firststatemarines.org. It defines the authorized uniforms that are approved by the National MCL and the Marine Corps itself. An excerpt from the Preface states: “Because many features about these uniforms clearly resemble United States Marine Corps uniforms, it is very likely that an unmindful public may see that we are the Marines; and when today’s Marines see us wearing uniforms that are a likeness to their own, they will be seeing us as one of their own. Our appearance reflects upon the Marine Corps and Marines everywhere, and we should be ever aware of that responsibility. Uniforms prescribed in this Uniform Code are considered appropriate to preserve the respect and dignity of the Marine Corps League and the United States Marine Corps.”

Our standard monthly meeting uniform is the MCL red “fore-and-aft” cover. Purchase of this cover is highly recommended. However, uniforms are not required to be a member of the MCL or our Detachment. Your Peer Mentor will walk you through our uniforms and introduce you to our Adjutant who will assist you in being issued or ordering uniforms items. As with USMC uniforms requirements are standard and must be adhered to.

You may be issued or wish to purchase authorized uniforms to wear to activities and participate in Color Guard or other such activities in which the Marine Corps is best represented by those in uniform. However, you should start out slowly and make sure that you have the time as well as the desire to participate fully, and therefore justify the expenditures that are involved with uniforms. Please remember that this is an organization of Marines and, no more than you would have modified the USMC uniform “because you wanted to”, you are not free to modify the MCL uniforms, either.

Cover: The basic uniform item worn by members to be considered “in uniform” is the standard MCL red cover, or “fore-and-aft” cover. This cover is worn with all other MCL uniforms. The insignia authorized for wear on the MCL cover is the solid gold Marine Corps Emblem, or in the case of Associate Members, the MCL “Sunburst” emblem, worn on the left side of the cover. The Devil Dog patch, if authorized, will be worn on the right side. The First State Detachment identification strip will be centered on the right side. If you become a “Life Member” that strip will be worn above all other strips. No pins or ornaments of any other description are to be worn on the Marine Corps League cover.

There are four types of full uniforms- Casual, Undress (Summer & Winter), Formal, and Ceremonial.

Casual: Red blazer, with MCL crest on pocket, long sleeve white shirt, black tie and black trousers. If earned, the Devil Dog ribbon, with dog tag, is worn around the neck. If earned, a Marine of the Year ribbon can be worn but the two may not be worn together. Up to three large medals may be worn with this uniform. Black belt with MC buckle or ratchet belt, black socks and black shoes, plain toe, (shiny) complete this uniform. MCL emblems are not worn on the collar of the white shirt. No name tag is authorized.

Undress, Summer: White short sleeve shirt with military creases, open collar, aviation style with epaulets and two flap pockets. The MCL sunbursts are worn on the collar, centered ½” inside the collar tip, with wings on the emblem parallel to the deck and anchors facing inboard. The MCL patch is worn on the left sleeve. An American flag is worn on the right sleeve. The field of blue is worn to the right (wearer's front). If you are a Devil Dog, the MODD patch will replace the American flag. One eighth of an inch over the left pocket you may wear either your D.O.D. service ribbons or MCL ribbons, but not both. Your name tag goes over right pocket. The Detachment Commandant will authorize either blue trousers with NCO red stripe or black trousers. With blue trousers, the USMC web belt is worn. If you are a Devil Dog the MODD dog tag is optional. Black socks and black shoes, plain toe, (shiny) complete this uniform.

Undress, Winter: Same regulations as Summer Undress except sleeves are long and a black field scarf and USMC or MCL tie clasp is worn. The long sleeve shirt consists of military creases (airline pilot style, with two pockets, button down flaps and shoulder epaulets.

Formal Uniform: There are two variations: The red blazer or the red mess jacket. With either one, a formal white shirt is worn. The shirt is pleated, no ruffles, and with a regular collar. Black military style bow tie and gold cummerbund or gold vest. Black tuxedo or plain black trousers are worn. Blue trousers with the NCO stripe are authorized for the red mess jacket but not with the red blazer. Miniature medals are worn on the left lapel. Wearing of large medals are authorized but miniature medals look best. Remember, D.O.D. or MCL but not both. Gold MCL approved cuff links or studs may be worn. Black socks and black shoes, plain toe, (shiny) complete this uniform.

Ceremonial Uniform: As authorized by the Detachment Commandant. May include white pistol belt with SNCO buckle or MCL satin jacket.

Female Member Uniforms

Similar rules apply for female uniforms with a few distinctive modifications. Females may wear either female or male style covers. For specific information on female uniforms go online to the official MCL Uniform Code. It defines the authorized uniforms that are approved by the National MCL and the Marine Corps itself. It can be accessed at <http://www.nationalmcla.org/Forms/Enclosure20%20-%20UNIFORM%20AND%20REGALIA%20CODE.pdf>.

Ribbon and Medal Precedence

MCL and Devil Dog ribbons and their precedence may be accessed online under <http://www.mclnational.org/Documents/NationalByLaws/tabid/697/Default.aspx>; located in the National Bylaws/Uniform Code/MCL Ribbon Chart in Order of Precedence - 2011

Associate Members Uniforms

Associate Members will wear the same uniforms as Members with the following some exceptions. A MCL “starburst” insignia will be worn in lieu of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor on the cover. The 1/2” x 1/2” gold “MCL” insignia will be worn on the shirt collars; the MCL “Associate” patch will be worn on the left sleeve 1 1/2” below the seam; no blazer crest will be worn; the Dress Blue Trousers may be worn, but without the red “NCO” Stripe.

Where to Purchase Uniforms

Some uniform items can be ordered through the Marine Corps League's Ship Stores. The Ships Store carries not only MCL uniforms and accessories, but a wide range of Marine Corps-related items. You can browse through their items online through the National MCL website

<http://mclnational.org/Portals/11/Documents/Ship%20Stores/March%202015%20price%20list.pdf?ver=2015-08-02-190324-380>. Items may be purchased by telephone (1-800-MCL-1775) or through the website. Another source is the Marine Shop in Quantico, VA. Their toll-free telephone number is (877) 640-7195; their website, www.marineshop.com. Items such as the Blue Trousers and NCO Stripe (or “blood stripe”) may be ordered through the Marine Corps Exchange.

** The First State Detachment Guidebook is a confidential, proprietary, internal document. All information contained herein is for the sole use of the First State Detachment members and is the property thereof. Any disclosure, commercial or non-commercial use of this Guidebook by any unauthorized persons or companies is unlawful.*

Addendum A

Websites

Marine Corps League

<http://mclnational.org>

Marine Corps League Library

<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/>

U.S. Marine Corps

<http://www.marines.mil>

Department of Delaware

http://www.orgsites.com/de/mcl-dept_delaware/

First State Detachment

<http://www.firststatemarines.org>

Marine Corps League Auxiliary

<http://www.nationalmcla.org>

Marine Corps League Foundation

<http://www.mclfoundation.org>

Marine for Life

<http://www.marineforlife.org>

Military Order of Devil Dogs

<http://www.moddkennel.org>

Youth Physical Fitness Program

<http://www.marineyouthfoundation.org>

Young Marines

<http://www.youngmarines.com>

MCL Professional Development Program

http://www.orgsites.com/de/mcl-dept_delaware/

MCL Newsletter Competition

<http://mclnational.org/Programs/MCLCompetitions/Newsletter/tabid/719/Default.aspx>

MCL Marksmanship Competition

<http://pamcleague.org/docs/National%20Marine%20Corps%20League%20Marksmanship%202012%202013.pdf>

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Competition

http://www.mclcal.com/?page_id=92

MCL National Scholarships

<http://www.mclnational.org/Programs/MCLPrograms/Scholarship/tabid/717/Default.aspx>.

MCL Uniforms

<http://www.mclnational.org>; located in the National Bylaws/Uniform Code

MCL Female Member Uniforms

<http://www.nationalmcla.org/Forms/Enclosure20%20-%20UNIFORM%20AND%20REGALIA%20CODE.pdf>

MCL Ribbon and Medal Precedence

<http://www.mclnational.org/Documents/NationalByLaws/tabid/697/Default.aspx>; located in the National Bylaws/Uniform Code/MCL Ribbon Chart in Order of Precedence - 2011

Ship's Store

mclnational.org

Addendum B

Major Marine Units in Our Area

National Museum of the Marine Corps
18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
Triangle, VA 22172
Phone: 877.635.1775

Marine Corps Base Quantico
3250 Catlin Ave, Quantico, VA 22134
Phone: (703) 784-2121

Marine Barracks Washington DC
8th and I Streets SE
Washington, D.C. 20390
Phone: 202-433-6660

Bulk Fuel Company B, 6th Engineer Support Battalion,

4th Marine Logistics Group
3921 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, DE 19808
Phone: 302-252-3401

Air Force Mortuary Affairs
The Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs
116 Purple Heart Drive
Dover AFB, DE 19902
Marine Corps/Navy Liaison: 302-677-2018

Addendum C

FSMCL Officers

Commandant:	Marty Kwesko
Senior Vice Commandant:	Richard Pounsberry
Junior Vice Commandant:	John Daddezio
Judge Advocate:	Bill Russell
Past Commandant:	Frank Del Piano
Adjutant:	John Sushinsky
Paymaster:	Bob Broderick
Chaplain:	David Kline
Sergeant at Arms:	Jeff Cywinski
Historian:	Vacant
Public Affairs Officer:	Vacant
Web Sergeant:	Bob Broderick
Quartermaster:	Jack White
Eagle Scout Coordinator:	Fred Wise

Addendum D

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE RIBBONS

SHOWN IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

			
Distinguished Citizen Gold	Distinguished Citizen Silver	Distinguished Citizen Bronze	Division Marine Of the Year
			
Department Marine Of the Year	Detachment Marine Of the Year	Distinguished Service Bronze	National Recruiter Gold
			
National Recruiter Silver	National Recruiter Bronze	National Staff Elected Silver	National Staff Appointed Bronze
			
Department Commandant	Department Staff Elected Silver	Department Staff Appointed Bronze	Department Recruiter Silver
			
Detachment Commandant	Detachment Staff Elected Silver	Detachment Staff Appointed Bronze	Detachment Recruiter Bronze
			
Community Service	Board of Trustees Commendation—V. Fisher	National Meritorious Unit Commendation	Department Meritorious Unit Commendation
			
Individual Meritorious Commendation	Kennel Dog of The Year	Chief Devil Dog Individual Commendation	Pack Dog Of the Year
			
Pack Leader Commendation—Individual	Pound Dog Of the Year	Pound Keeper Commendation—Individual	Past Chief Devil Dog
			
Pack Leader	Pound Keeper	Marine Corps League Membership	