

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Keystone Leatherneck

October 2023



U

Greetings to all the members of the Department of PA. Since my last message in July, I have been busy attending National Convention, Detachment meetings, Veteran Council meetings, and sadly funeral services for the spouse of a member. All of this while taking care of the day-to-day things that come with the role of Commandant. Here is an overview of what is going on:

At our National convention in Oklahoma City a new slate of National Officer's were voted in. Commandant Griffin, Sr Vice Morgan, and Jr Vice Miller were all unopposed so were voted in by unanimous vote. The office of Judge Advocate which had 4 candidates running was won by David Porter. It took three votes to determine a winner. Our own Bob Ziltz came in 2nd. A full listing of all of the Division Vice's can be found on the National website at www.mclnational.org.

There were 49 bylaw and Administrative Procedure changes proposed for this convention. Twenty-two (22) were approved, twenty-one (21) were rejected, and six (6) were withdrawn by the maker. I will leave it to the Judge Advocate to summarize those that passed, but I encourage all members to go to the National website under the convention tab and scroll down to read the changes for yourself. National is working to get the bylaws and Admin procedures updated, but in the meantime these new changes are in effect and must be followed. One of the changes affects delinquent members and the need for an application to reinstate dropped members.

There was a lot of other good information passed at convention, and I and other members of staff will be discussing it at the October meeting. A few of the topics were: there is a new Director of Events at Headquarters (National) to help take some tasks off Bob Borka's plate; they are looking into the feasibility of moving National Headquarters to Quantico to reduce costs; YPF program – used to have 1000 schools, now has about 10. They are working on a program to explain how to talk to schools to get them back involved. The 2025 convention will be in Grapevine, TX. Room rates are \$159 (for 2) with no parking fees. This is flat rate, NO additional taxes or fees.

The Department is once again helping to sponsor the Central PA Marine Associates Birthday Ball. As part of this sponsorship, the Department will have 16 tickets available on a first come first serve basis. The Ball will be on November 4 at the Penn Harris Hotel in Camp Hill with cocktails beginning at 4:30 PM (1630). More details will go out in a separate email.

The official date given for the Gate closure on Fischer Road at Indiantown Gap is 1 November 2023. We will have forms that we can fill out to make access smooth for our quarterly meetings and those members of staff who visit the post outside of meeting dates. The details will be given out at the October meeting and also conveyed in email.

My final note for this message is to make sure you send in your PLM audits and file your 990 tax returns. The PLM audits were mailed to each Detachment Paymaster in July. If your detachment did not receive that audit with their detachment roster, contact me. The deadline for National to receive it is 31 December. DO NOT wait until the last minute to send it. It must arrive at National PRIOR to that date. The deadline for 990 filings for all detachments on a 30 Jun fiscal year is 15 November. This should be for all detachments. If your detachment is still operating on a calendar year, you need to contact The Department Paymaster (Stephen Smalley) or myself so we can get that corrected.

Diana Henry

Commandant, Department of Pennsylvania





Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania 2023 - 2024 Meeting Schedule

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

October 20-21, 2023: Department Fall Meetings

Meetings at Headquarters Building, Ft. Indiantown Gap

Accommodations - Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey (I-81 Exit 80)
604 Station Road Grantville, PA 717-469-0661
\$98/night +tax Code: M3G Deadline: 19 Sept 2023

January 19-20, 2024: Department Winter Meetings

Meetings at Headquarters Building, Ft. Indiantown Gap

Accommodations - Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey (I-81 Exit 80)
604 Station Road Grantville, PA 717-469-0661
\$98/night +tax Code: M9C Deadline: 19 Dec 2023

February 21-24, 2024: National Mid-Winter Conference

Sheraton Pentagon City - Arlington, VA

Accommodations – 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204
Phone: 800-325-3535 Reference National Marine Corps League
\$129/night + tax (about \$148 total) Deadline: 30 January 2024
Parking: Onsite garage - \$10 per day

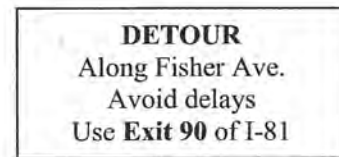
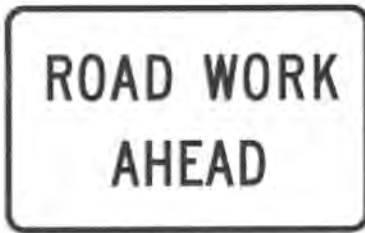
March 15-16, 2024: Department Spring Meetings

Meetings at Headquarters Building, Ft. Indiantown Gap

Accommodations - Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey (I-81 Exit 80)
604 Station Road Grantville, PA 717-469-0661
\$98/night +tax Code: M4L Deadline: 13 Feb 2024

Northeast Division Conference

Details will be posted as soon as a date is announced



FALL 2023 Department of PA Meetings
20-21 October 2023 Agenda (subject to adjustments)
Department of PA Headquarters, Ft. Indiantown Gap
Bldg. 3-95, Lackawanna Street, Ft. Indiantown Gap (GPS)

Friday – 20 October 2023

- 0900 – 1000 Budget Committee – Board Room, HQ Building
- 1000 – 1100 Audit Committee – Board Room, HQ Building
- 1430 – 1530 Department Convention Committee Meeting – Board Room, HQ Building
- 1600 – 1630 Keystone HQ Detachment Meeting
- 1700 – 1830 Board of Trustees – Board Room. HQ Building
- 1930 – ? Pennsylvania Pack – M.O.D.D. Grawl – Upper Deck, HQ Building

- 1500 – 2300 Hospitality Room – Holiday Inn, 604 Station Road, Grantville, PA
(hosted by Auxiliary – Thank You!)

Saturday – 21 October 2023

- 0900 – 1130 Commandants Council w/training– Upper Deck, HQ Building
- 1130 – 1300 Lunch Break
- 1300 – 1600 Department of Pennsylvania Membership meeting – Upper Deck, HQ Building

ALL MEETING TIMES & LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Uniform of the Day

The uniform of the day for Saturday meetings will be “red cover”
and the “Undress” uniform (short sleeves)

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES: Reports are due to the Adjutant
by 1 OCTOBER – send to pamcl.adjutant@outlook.com

From The Desk of the Senior Vice Commandant:

Greetings to all our members! I have been very busy these last few months as your new SVC. I have been working very closely with Commandant Henry and learning all there is to know about my newly elected position. Together we will continue to be the strongest Department in the League!

Recruitment & Retention Note: Check the Department website and click the "Find Us" tab, look for your own Detachment. There you will find your Commandant and Paymaster information along with hyperlinks to your Detachment websites & Face-

book. Check the information for your Detachment to include:

1. Officer information (name/number/email)
2. Meeting information (day/time/location)
3. Hyperlink to Detachment website: Click on it and ensure the link is working

Hyperlink to Detachment Facebook: Click on it and ensure it directs you to the correct Page/Group (public page preferred).

If any of this information is not correct, notify your chain of command immediately. Together we will update the information and/or delete any broken links. Spammers are out there, and targeting social media that has become stagnant. The content they are posting are in no way related to the League and most times VERY inappropriate for anyone to view.

I will always encourage a social media presence and stand at the ready to assist in tips and tutorials as to how to make it work best.

If you do NOT have a Facebook, please put the Department Facebook Page link in your website. There are Marines and Patriots looking for us, we need to ensure they do!

G. Victoria McCoy, Sr. Vice Commandant
Department of PA, Marine Corps League

Message from the Chaplain:

Greetings to all. First, I would like to thank our past Department Chaplain Jim Casella for his past service and Carol McIntosh, Department Chief of Staff, for the help in getting me started in my new position. As the summer comes to an end, I would like to remind everyone to please stay safe as we go about our lives. Please watch over each other and keep those that are in need in our prayers.

Respectfully,

James Schreiber PAMCL Chaplain

717-675-9917

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA MARINE CORP LEAGUE

Junior Vice Commandant

9 September 2023

Good Morning Marines, Sailors and Associates,

Well summer is behind us and September is upon us. And that means the Fall Department meeting is just around the corner. Looking forward to seeing all of your smiling faces, but let's try to bring some new faces to the meetings. There are a lot of members who have not been to a Department Meeting. So, if you are coming to the Saturday Department Meetings, think about bringing a member who hasn't been to one. Then they can go back and tell their Detachments what goes on, what we do and the fun we have.

Also, with the Fall Meetings, we have our Friday night Hospitality Room. And again this year we are turning it PINK for Breast Cancer awareness Month. The Department of Pennsylvania Auxiliary will be providing the refreshments. I will be running the donation part of the evening. We will have a gift basket raffle, 50/50 tickets and a contest for the most PINK worn on one person.

If you would like to donate a basket or an item to be raffled off, or a monetary donation, please contact me. We will also need some help setting up if you are around the hotel on Friday October 20th around 12 noon, we would appreciate your help.

Any Questions about Hospitality Room Please feel free to Contact Me.

James P. Diamond

Jr. Vice Commandant

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania

717-425-0624





COMMUNICATION INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Revised 07/11/2023

DETACHMENTS SHOULD SEND DOCUMENTS
TO THE DEPARTMENT P.O. BOX (at right)
EXCEPT WHERE NOTED BELOW

Marine Corps League of PA, Inc.
P.O. BOX 6687
Harrisburg, PA 17112-0687

DOCUMENT	How many copies?	Additional Instructions Additional Recipients
TRANSMITTALS	Original & ONE (1) copy	Attn: PAYMASTER
You should include <i>this information</i> in the DEPARTMENT section of your Transmittal: Paymaster name: STEPHEN SMALLEY // Phone 914-941-7413 // email: 53marine1973@gmail.com		
DSCB 15-5110 Penna. Non-Profit Annual Report	ONE (1) copy of <u>Accepted</u> filing. You may email to 53marine1973@gmail.com	Attn: PAYMASTER
PLM Audit due by 31 DECEMBER	Original with signatures see National Administrative Procedures Section 7055	Attn: PAYMASTER Department Sends to National HQ
IRS 990 Confirmation	ONE (1) copy Send the page that reads <u>Accepted</u> not Pending. email preferred to 53marine1973@gmail.com	Attn: PAYMASTER Department Sends to National HQ
RIFLE INVENTORY	ONE (1) copy	Attn: ARMORER <u>Copy of ONLINE inventory verification</u>
Report of Installation and Supplemental to report <u>any</u> changes	ONE (1) copy with <u>original</u> signatures no other copies are required or needed	Snail mail <u>only</u> (#10 envelope 1 stamp) Attn: ADJUTANT
NOTICE of DEATH	ONE (1) copy Email transmittal preferred Chaplain James Schreiber willvs1948@hotmail.com	Snail mail if necessary Attn: CHAPLAIN
Marine and Associate of the Year nominations	ONE (1) copy See rules for submission in Department Administrative Procedures ENCLOSURES NINE and TEN	Snail mail Attn: Commandant Hand deliver to: Secretary, Marine of the Year Society no later than close of business Thursday of Convention. e-mail MOYSociety.PA@gmail.com
POSTINGS for Dept. FACEBOOK page	https://www.facebook.com/MCL DEPTPA/	PAO John Taylor johntaylor713@hotmail.com
Update/Correction to Department WEBSITE (Changes related to Detachment Officers, Meeting Place & Time <u>must</u> be submitted by way of a supplemental Report of Installation to the Department Adjutant)	www.pamcleague.com	Commandant Diana Henry mclpa.department@gmail.com

: rom the desk of the Department Auxiliary President . . .

October is membership month and everyone should be busy recruiting new members and contacting those members you have not seen in a while. Check with Sr. Vice President Tammy Rivera for ideas she might have picked up at the National Convention. Everyone needs to know they are appreciated and/or missed! Invite them to join us at the Department Meeting on October 21!

As you read this edition, you can see that many people contribute of their time and talent to bring you the KEYSTONE LEATHERNECK. Please make note of any and all information that applies to you and the Auxiliary. This is the perfect time to make reservations for all the upcoming meetings. You can always cancel them if you later find you are unable to attend, but you don't want to find you are able to attend but not able to get a room.

All Unit Presidents and District Vice Presidents should develop an email list of their own so that they can forward the newsletter and other information sent out by the Department to the members in their Unit/District. Remember that this newsletter is available on the Department of PA website www.pamcleague.org Webmaster Teena Foster has been hard at work keeping the Auxiliary webpage up to date. *Check it out!* In fact, make plans to check it at least once each and every month.

Our Jr. Vice President, Pam Beaver will have some garden flags and light-weight MCLA backpacks for sale at the October Meeting. Come take a look!

By the time we meet in October, hopefully most of you will have all your transmittals in to the Department Treasurer. Remember that National dues goes up on January 1, 2024. Don't hold those transmittals!

You are each asked to follow the chain of command. Concerns are first handled in house at the Unit level. If more assistance is needed, please contact your District Vice President. If still more help is needed, your concerns need to be shared with your other Department officers. If need be, you can then contact your National Division Vice President (me) with any questions and/or concerns you have. If I can't help, then it is my responsibility to contact the appropriate National officer. You have elected knowledgeable ladies. Follow the chain of command and allow those you've elected to serve you and do their job. Remember, you don't start at the top, you work your way up to the top.

Please remember those members of our entire Pennsylvania Marine Family dealing with health issues in your prayers. Our hearts are with them all, as well as with the members of the military who serve whenever and wherever they are needed.

Semper Fidelis,

Ruth S. Moyse

PNP Ruth S. Moyse
President MCLA of PA, Inc.

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania

Preserving Traditions...

Providing Fraternity...

Promoting the Future

Mission Statement

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Navy Personnel who wear or have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

Do you want to tell your story in Keystone Leatherneck? Submit your photos with captions to the Keystone Leatherneck!

Pictures must be jpg. Format and of high resolution. Keep a good light on the faces. Automatic cameras usually expose for the brightest object in the frame. So you want the brightest light on the faces.

Captions with the story should identify everyone in the picture. Please use this format: As you look at the picture, ID each person from left to right...just as you read a book. If people are in a group, try to list them by row from left to right. For example, Front row, left to right: name, name, name. Then 2nd row or middle row from left to right, etc.

In your paragraph explain what is going on. Use this checklist: Who was involved? What was the event? Where and when was the event?

Include your phone number and email so that I can clarify any details. Send to doug@graves.org —Editor



Marine Corps League of
Pennsylvania Foundation, Inc.



Assisting Marines in Need



Pennsylvania Department MCL Marksmanship Program

The 2023 marksmanship season is coming to an end. The number of competitors and Detachments attending both rifle and pistol matches continues to increase. Scores are improving and the competition is heating up. Over the next few weeks, the final scores will be in, and we'll announce the 2023 Department match winners in the next newsletter. There has been interest in having reloading classes after Toys for Tots has ended. The classes are intended to instruct interested shooters how to properly reload their ammunition enabling them to practice more economically. Anyone interested should contact me at willys1948@hotmail.com.



Lt Gen. John R. Chaisson 1916-1972

In the summer of 1971, John Chaisson was mentioned twice in LIFE magazine as a potential successor to then Marine Commandant Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. True to character John Chaisson was largely dismissive of these comments. He was always realistic about the politics of Washington and specifically his standing with the Nixon White House.

He had joined the Marines in the autumn of 1940 when he was drafted out of law school. The Marines were his first choice because President Coolidge had spent the summer in Swampscott, Massachusetts, his home town. Coolidge had a Marine unit as his protection that summer. While at OCS, his unit



marched in FDR's third inauguration in 1941. By spring, 1966 he was a colonel serving as the G-3 for III MAF in South Vietnam, then commanded by Lt. General Lewis Walt. He often had VIP visitors and, in the picture attached, he is seen with the actor John Wayne in the middle and then Brigadier General Jonas Platt, the Chief of Staff III MAF during the summer of 1966.

The picture has a story to tell because Wayne always had one to share. Wayne had met with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge just before meeting with Chaisson and Platt. Lodge had a long record of public service. He

had served previously in the Army during WW II, U. S. Senator from Massachusetts, Ambassador to the United Nations 1953-1960, GOP nominee for Vice President in 1960. He served as our Ambassador to South Vietnam 1963-64 and 1965-67. In early 1964 he entered the New Hampshire primary to be the GOP nominee for president. He won the primary, beating Barry Goldwater whom Wayne had supported in the primary.

During his dinner with Chaisson and Platt, Wayne discussed his recent meeting with Lodge. He added that Lodge recalled the campaign as well. He said, "Lodge did not forget that I had been there working for Barry. He then told me that he understood he could easily get someone killed in Saigon for just \$20." Wayne added, "I do not think he was kidding" and laughed heartily.

Earlier in the spring, Chaisson encountered the "friendly" forces which were opposed to the central government and threatening more hostile action against it. These threatened hostilities pitted the U.S. Marines against the South Vietnamese forces threatening action against the government. On three occasions Chaisson had to intervene directly to stop hostilities from escalating further with attacks on American installations and harming U.S. forces. These encounters shaped Chaisson's view of the war. When asked, he would say it was an internal civil war among the "friendlylies" within a larger civil war. (Cont. next page)

(Lt Gen. John R. Chaisson 1916-1972 continued from page 10)

The internal civil war was between the SVN Army and the SVN Air Force and the larger civil war between the North Vietnamese and the South Vietnamese. These three encounters placed him between forces of the South where hostile actions were about to harm US Marine forces. The first encounter was reported in an article in TIME magazine on April 22, 1966. All three were described more completely in the Silver Star citation Chaisson subsequently received for preventing wider hostilities that could have devolved into major civil war among the “friendly” forces.

He wrote several times a week to his wife during the two and half years he was there. On one occasion, he told her that he and other Marines played volley ball with local Vietnamese citizens who appeared friendly. One night there was a guerilla raid that attempted to come through the lines. The next morning they found the body of one Vietnamese with whom they played volley ball. He commented that it was a strange war because it was often hard to know who the enemy was. Sometimes it was the friendly forces threatening civil war and other times it was the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces.

Later that year, Chaisson was promoted to brigadier general and was assigned as Director, Combat Operations Center, MACV in Saigon for the next 18 months. In this role there were many briefings of Washington officials and other VIPs traveling to Saigon. It was an assignment where there was a clear view of the total war and how complicated it was both in Vietnam and at home. When he left Vietnam in the Spring of 1968, he was skeptical that a clear victory was achievable. He served in various positions in Washington culminating in his assignment as Chief of Staff, HQ USMC.

In the autumn of 1971, I was assigned to Marine Barracks, 8th and I in Washington. That Christmas, Helen Twomey, the wife of the barracks Commanding Officer Colonel David Twomey, invited me to dinner to meet someone she thought I ought to know. My dinner partner was Jane Chaisson, the general’s daughter. We married three years later. General Chaisson was correct. He would not be named CMC because he knew General Cushman was close to Nixon since he had been his aide when Nixon was Vice President. Chaisson had declined the same assignment and knew this would not be forgotten. Sadly, he died unexpectedly less than two months after his retirement in July 1972. He is buried at Arlington Cemetery near Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, a fellow Harvard alumnus and native of Massachusetts. David Twomey (later Lt. General) was also a Swampscott native and buried nearby as well.

Joseph G. Blake

Editor’s note: The author, Bethlehem Det. 284 member Joe Blake, was a classmate of mine in 1969 at OCS and TBS and currently lives with his wife in Bethlehem, Pa. — Editor Doug Graves

One Marine's Story By James Ulinski

Marine Leadership

When I left the Marines in 1971, due to my injuries and belief that I could no longer serve the Marines and my country effectively, I thought what skills do I have that are transferable to civilian life.

After all, I was a combat Vietnam Marine (0311) and most of my skills did not actually make me a good applicant for many good jobs.

I felt as if my career opportunities were going to be limited as a disabled and MOS defined civilian.

I was so wrong! I went to college to not only earn a B.S., but also went on to achieve a M.A. All while working and with the support of a loving wife.

I quickly rose in the ranks of health care to very high-ranking positions of leadership, taught college courses in various majors including leadership, and had my own successful company which provided leadership and other principles to health care professionals, including doctors, nurses, construction management crews, etc.

How did this happen? Looking back, I realized that the Marines taught me much more than how to handle weapons and fight. They taught me perseverance, integrity, team work, work hard, belief in oneself, timeliness, ethics, adaptability, discipline, pride, problem-solving, motivation to succeed even when it does not seem likely and yes, leadership!

Today, I try hard to remember those principles and use them to encourage others to develop their own skills. Oftentimes, they, like me, did not realize how prepared we are to carry on after the Marines.

Why do so many Marines excel in civilian leadership roles? The answer is we were taught well while we served our nation!

As the saying goes, "once a Marine, always a Marine"!

Semper Fi!

News from around the Pennsylvania Department



Bantam
Marines
Detachment
#743

Howard Schaeffer of Lehigh Valley Detachment 296 received the Distinguished Citizen Gold award at the MCL National Convention in August at Oklahoma City.



News from around the Pennsylvania Department



Bethlehem Detachment
284 visits one of their own
at a Senior Citizens home.

N. E. Detachment Marines Jim Cassella (l) and Ed Erb (r) received certifates of appreciation from 60th Chief Devil Dog Alan Sanning.



News from around the Pennsylvania Department



First Capitol Detachment #521, Marine Corps League, York Pa.

Marine Corps League 287 Johnstown, PA held their first MCL Pistol Match on June 24th at Daisytown Sportsman Club! Six shooters competed from Conemaugh Valley Det, Three Rivers Det, and Ohio Valley Det. They competed for the Dept of PA Annual Pistol Match.

