

## Senior Vice Commandant Report:

First and foremost, let me apologize for being absent during the Winter Quarterly meeting. I was diagnosed with RSV and would not take the chance to either get worse or pass the virus to another person at the meeting. I am better now and ready to charge into 2024! I hope you all are as well.

**RECRUITMENT:** If your Detachment is struggling to recruit new members you are not alone. However, there are many “tools” at your disposal of which too many do not use. The new generation of Marines require a different way of thinking as it pertains to recruiting. Remember the definition of insanity quoted by Albert Einstein is “Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result”. In this case, you cannot do the same thing as years ago, recruitment requires a different, new & fresh. Please use the resources and advice to help you. I will now, and always make myself available to help fill your “toolbox”. It's up to you to implement change.

**RETENTION:** So you got a new member, what next?

1. Assign the new member with a “mentor”, if not for any other reason to sit with them at the meeting and help answer questions.
2. Listen to your new member when they have a new idea or suggestion.
3. Never throw them into a job that they are not ready to do. If they are the last resort and need to fill the billet, then mentoring again must play a large part in this process.
4. Give out awards. Recognizing the hard work of your members lets them know they are appreciated. Time away from family and personal life that they give to the Marine Corps League cannot go without recognition if you want them to continue on.
5. Have social time – a formal meeting one month, and the next month a social gathering. Time away from “Robert’s Rules of Order” helps morale along with an opportunity for some “offline” chat.

**AWARDS:** Deadlines are fast approaching to get your award submissions to the Department. There are many things that can be done at a Detachment level but consider a higher award for your hard charging membership. Also, if you host a website or Facebook and/or produce a newsletter, please read the criteria carefully. There have been changes to these very recently. I look forward to signing off on many awards and presenting at the annual convention. I encourage you all to recognize your membership for all their hard work.

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING:** Leadership Training has been scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>. Applications for enrollment are being accepted now and seating is limited to the first 30 that submit a completed application and enclose payment. It will be held at the home of Cpl. Brandon Hardy Chester County Detachment and all information can be found on the Department website. Note: Leadership Training is NOT just for your Detachment leadership, all members in good standing are welcome to attend.

**DIVISION MEETINGS:** It was my pleasure to attend District meetings for District One & Two so far. They have proven to be very productive, and I encourage all District Vice Commandants to ensure they hold their District meeting prior to convention. I look forward to more invitations to attend.

**COMMANDANT'S COUNCIL:** During Commandant's Council at the Spring Meeting we will have a guest speaker to inform us of all the updates as they pertain to "Homecoming 250" and "The Tun" project in Philadelphia next year. We will also have training on the MCL APP (for smartphone users) as well as training on the Database Portal. This portal allows you (the member) to access and change your personal information. It also allows you to input your email address.

Please be prepared to report your Detachment's events when called upon. If you are the only representative for your home Detachment, please ensure you have a report prepared (ask your officers for input to report). **It is highly encouraged to have a report written and submitted to the Adjutant.** These reports are posted to the Department website for all members to read. Take this time to share all the great things you are doing for your Veterans and community.

In closing, if you are on Facebook, please join the Department Facebook page where a wealth of information is continuously being posted. Share this information on your Detachment pages and if you are ready to start a Detachment Facebook, contact one of our Public Affairs Officers. Keeping your members informed is very important, no matter what route they get their information.

Semper Fidelis!

Respectfully Submitted,  
G. Victoria McCoy