



**DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 6687, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17112-0687**

Happy New Year and Greetings!

Thank you all for your hard work in 2024 and for setting the example on volunteer service and selfless service even through ups and downs and highs and lows.

Looking forward to a new year and positive things happening in the future. I hear often within our Marine Corps League that recruitment is difficult and retention is even harder. I have had discussions with top leadership within the National Staff most recently at the Arlington National Cemetery Veteran's Day Ceremony and they echo this sentiment. It also is not isolated to just the Marine Corps League, it affects other Veteran Organizations such as the American Legion, even in other states. During a recent personal visit to California, supporting a family member and Marine Corps Veteran, the local American Legion leadership there relayed to me their greatest problem is also getting the younger generations involved in their organization.

My advice to all Detachments is to include your younger members as often as possible, listen to their ideas, encourage their participation and mentor them taking on roles within your Detachment.

All organizations should realize that we have so many war time Veterans needing services and needing volunteer opportunities and missing being a part of something greater than themselves, the most we have ever had in the history of our nation (without a draft). For the Marine Corps League to have a future, it must become more familiar and adaptable with modern technology and modern ways of volunteering and fundraising. The focus needs to be on finding new ways to attract these Veterans.

I have high hopes for our organization and thank those of you who have set the example and continue to make sacrifices for a greater cause!

Semper Fi,
Sarah Cook
Adjutant, Department of PA, Marine Corps League