



Hello Members all,

Well, here we are at mid-winter and it seems a little different from past mid-winters. I know Marines will always adapt and overcome but I also know Marines want to celebrate and associate with other Marines in person. But for now, it is what it is.

My compliments go out to all those detachments that have grown in numbers this past year. You are leading the way for all of us. Many detachments have had trouble in this area but please do not get disheartened. In time I hope everyone will be trending in a positive direction. The first thing we can all check is our nonrenewal list. These Marines took the time to get and produce their DD-214, fill out the application and then submit their application with the spirit of being with Marines again. If they have not renewed, they may have forgotten or they may have a problem. We can always solve problems. We can always give reminders. We don't want to lose those who have already joined. Surprisingly enough, if those people come back, we are in a positive growth for the year.

There usually are a few members in every detachment who want to do over and above to help. If you can get some members to reach out to where there are clusters of new Marine Veterans have them reach out. Many times, these Marines do not know about the League. We are a great resource for them if they only knew about us. We have employment contacts. We have the ability to help them with filing disability claims. This is an area that many Veterans are eligible for but either don't fully know how to begin the process or feel that they are not entitled BUT THEY ARE! At times we can provide funding for start-up Veterans projects. We have scholarships that are available on many levels that help these Marines and their families. Sometimes just the opportunity to talk and be associated with other Marines is a gift in and of itself. Just think, you can be a gift for someone.

Where are these new Veterans? One place to make contact is the college campuses. Now I know that might not be done immediately as I have been told by some. You know there is a pandemic, but this too shall pass. There are many colleges that have Veterans Centers and if they don't they should. This is where you have a group of Veterans in one place with some extra time and looking for a future.

One of the things that is important when dealing with our young Veterans is to listen. Their paths may be different than the more senior Veterans and let's see how we can work with them. Their thoughts and ideas may not be familiar to us but remember these are thoughts and ideas from Marines. We are all in this together.

I want to encourage all detachments and departments to use the many various social media outlets to let the public know who we are and what we do. We do so much but we have to let the secret out.

Semper Fidelis
Warren Griffin
National Junior Vice Commandant
Marine Corps League