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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

National Headquarters

July 15, 2021

From: Bob Borka//COO//
To: Dennis Tobin//National Commandant/CEO//
Subj: Annual Report

Sir Commandant,

We are in a position to make a positive difference every day. I am so blessed to be able to perform this duty and am grateful every day to God and to the Marine Corps League for allowing me to serve. There has been an ongoing effort to serve our membership in new and better ways. Change management can be difficult but as we continue forward, it is our hope that the long-term benefits will be visible. It has been an honor to serve you and the Board of Trustees. I stand ready to continue to be a servant leader for our League.

Current Membership

- 61,873 total members
- 34,172 Life Members (55% of total membership)
 - 1,144 people became Life Members in FY21
- 18,931 Regular Paid Members (31% of total membership)
- 8,770 Unpaid members (14% of total membership)
- 45,891 Voting Members (74% of total membership)

Paid Life Member Distribution FY21

- 62% of detachment PLM funds were distributed (via EFT) \$45,682.00
- The remaining balance of detachment PLM funds remained in the PLM Investment Account
- 100% of department PLM funds were distributed (via EFT) \$73,768.90

Equipment

- The purchase of the trailer in FY19 has continued to be a benefit and it is stored inside our building which avoids weather exposure.
 - For a \$1,000 donation, we will place a 12" diameter detachment, department, or division logo on the trailer.
- We received a donation from National Convention Committee Chairman Jim Ransom of large speakers. Coupled with the other A/V equipment, we are self-sustaining at conferences and conventions. His generous donation is the capstone to that change effort.
- The plastic membership card transition has been trying. We eliminated the company that was going to print and mail them for us as it ran into too many errors. We have been printing them in-house with JD Foster, Membership Supervisor, as the only person printing. We have made equipment investment to have more card printing stations placed at Membership employee

desks. This way, when a new member is processed, a card can be printed when the transmittal is processed. We know this will reduce the time it takes to get the card back to the detachment.

- Office restructure has been ongoing in preparation for people to return to work. We have socially distanced the workforce to foster a safe environment for our employees. This week we have had most of the workforce in the office and it is certainly odd coming back from COVID-19 Remote Operations. Only about 50% of the population is vaccinated and many people are still getting sick. We need to continue vigilance for the sake of our family's health. In general, people are hesitating to take jobs where they go to an office. We still need to hire a few people and are working on that. Our intent is that membership employees are assigned to states or groups of states. This allows Paymasters to get used to speaking with the same person at headquarters.

Library Website

The Marine Corps League Library is an excellent and primary source for member resources. Please visit www.MCLeagueLibrary.org as a resource for information.

- The *Semper Fi Magazine* no longer password protected. You can read the current edition as well as the past editions we have made with Chipotle Publishing.
- A Calendar tab is populated with activities from all over the League. These events are entered by Departments and Divisions.
- The Member Library tab is password protected. The password is for all members and available through the Detachment or Department Commandant.

Headquarters "Ship's Store"

- The goal of the store is to support the membership with uniform items and operate at a net positive by the end of each fiscal year. We keep the mark-up standard to ensure costs are covered but not overprice items.
- Covers – We have purchase orders requesting covers and cap strips that have not been filled by the vendor. The vendor is prepared to make the covers but has struggled to get the material. We do frequently get bought-out by department or detachment stores which leaves an empty bin waiting for new covers to be made. That happens with any item in the store. However, the material shortage during COVID-19 has been especially challenging.
- New items – We continue to test interest on new items such as ball caps, knives, patches, canteen cups, flasks, long sleeve button-down shirts with button-down collars (two colors: red and black), black polo shirts, zippo lighters, and other interesting items. While these are not uniform-focused items, we feel these are value-added to the operation.
- Red Blazers have been a tough subject for years. We have negotiated contracts with companies like JCPenney's but could not sign because they include exclusivity agreements. We realize people want to go to a place of their choosing. To support, we have provided eight (8) links to places that make a red blazer. The links are in the library.
- The Red Evening Mess Dress Jacket is exclusively made at the Marine Shop in Quantico, Virginia. They are hand-crafted by a tailor. The making of Marine Officers did not slow during COVID-19 but the ability to make their dress uniforms did. The Marine Shop has over 1,000 back-orders to make uniforms and forecasts at least 12 months to get out of the hole. Thus, the red evening mess dress jacket is not being made until the needs of the Corps are met.

Database

- The database committee, chaired by Wendell W. Webb, continues to meet weekly to discuss challenges, improvements, requests, and issues.

- Database 101 video is available in the Member Library for Detachment Commandants & Paymasters
- Database 102 video is available in the Member Library for Department Commandants & Paymasters.
- We are hopeful that detachments are getting used to basic data changes in the Member Portal (email, phone, address). If they are maintained in the system, they will no longer be needed on a transmittal.
- Quarterly Rosters are still generated by the Membership Supervisor. They are generated two weeks after the end of each quarter. This is to allow maximum input of data at the end of the quarter.

Online Payment Systems

- The National Conference Registration is now online through the Library's Conference tab with online payment (or you can mail a check).
- The National Ad Book submission is now online through the Library's Conference tab with online payment (or you can mail a check).
- The National Convention Delegate Registration is now online through the Library's Conference tab with online payment (or you can mail a check). The delegate registrations are electronically sent to the Credentials Committee instead of mailing them.
- TRANSMITTALS – There is a new transmittal form that will allow many more than just 6 people. If the member's profile is correct, the address is not needed (save some processing time for detachments). Transmittals and payment are sent to Department. Departments can now submit the transmittal electronically through the website and pay electronically (or you can mail a check).
- Report of Officer Installation, Transfer Request, Notice of Death, Roster corrections, PLM Audit submissions, and other formal notifications to headquarters should be done via email attaching the files.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Many departments and detachments have made significant progress in this area.

- We are a 501c4 organization with Parent Group 0955 and a deductibility of "1."
- I wrote 86 letters to the IRS during FY21 (during COVID-19) in support of MCL, MODD, & MCLA.
- If you are not sure if your detachment is compliant, please reach out to your department point of contact or to me.

Summary

The Marine Corps League is approaching its 100th anniversary. It continues to work through change and adversity. The patriotic volunteerism exhibited by our members supports the welfare of our communities. The efforts of Toys for Tots, funeral honors, and helping transitioning Marines has a direct and positive impact. The National Headquarters will continue to evolve in support of you. Thank you!

Semper Fidelis,
 Bob Borka
 Chief Operating Officer
 Marine Corps League