

Department of Oregon Mid-Winter Report

This report is submitted by the Department of Oregon for use at the Marine Corps League National Mid-Winter Conference.

The information provided is a compilation of data submitted by reporting Detachments. Comments provided for the Member At Large Survey are views provided by Detachment Commandants and the Department Commandant.

Charitable Activities:

Toys for Tots Activities:

Do you support a Marine Corps Reserve Center - One (1) Detachment support a Reserve Center the other nine (9) do not.

Do you support a Marine Toys For Tots Foundation Local Area Coordinator - Yes

Name of Campaign Supported: Toys for TOTS NW Oregon, Portland Oregon

Is the Local Area Coordinator a US Marine/FMF Corpsman - One Detachment does, others do not

Is the Local Area Coordinator a Marine Corps League Member/Associate/Auxiliary - Yes

Total number of toys collected by Department - 12,504+

Total amount of monetary donations collected by Department \$1,250.00

Noteworthy event(s) participated in or sponsored by Detachment / Department:

- Fill the Truck at LUM's Auto Center.
- MC Birthday Ball members had to bring a toy.
- Volunteered for box & poster delivery and installation.
- Collection and delivery of boxes to MCB Swan Island for counting and inventory
- Filled orders for distribution

Distance Driven to Support Toys for Tots - 459

Hours supporting Toys for Tots - 19

Other Charitable Activities:

Thanksgiving - worked with Salvation Army to pass out food to local community

Member At Large Survey:

1. To ensure we are 100% in membership and grow our Department. At this point, due to COVID restrictions, our goal is to maintain current membership while trying to recruit new members. Continuing to have monthly communications via email or online (where possible). One Detachment had two (2) New Members, two (2) Transfers from within the Department, and one (1) MAL join the Detachment.
2. No - Who would monitor this Detachment? Its already hard enough just trying to keep current memberships. It would be preferred the MAL join the local Detachment, become more involved and possibly hold a position.
3. Yes - We have a new Detachment in the Department. Several Detachments were successful at retaining their membership numbers. Creating a new MAL Detachment would of course increase the Department's numbers, but its unknown as to how many. One Detachment cannot maintain the minimum 15 members to retain their charter, having a MAL Detachment and the required management of it would not be in the best interest of local Detachments struggling to retain their members; its envisioned where there would be a Department of MAL with Detachments withering on the vine.

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4. Increased our membership by 35 new members. IF we can get a successful, continual conversation with the Recruiting community to provide a quarterly IRR roster we *might* be able to connect with the recently discharged Marines in our local areas to try attracting them to join the Detachment.
5. Yes - How to provide the MAL information, how to transfer them into the proper Detachment. Since there are no guidelines / SOP would make the process a lot smoother. Knowing what leadership would look like within the MAL Detachment. Some feel training from National would be unnecessary or not beneficial.
6. 4 - Average score from reporting Detachments
7. 5 - Average score from reporting Detachments
8. For the love of our Corps. To ensure our Detachment is up to date and to have fun. To see the smiles on the kids at Christmas time with Toys for Tots. For the Brotherhood and helping/supporting members and other Veterans. Some Detachment Commandants enjoy being the Commandant, working to grow the membership, and the camaraderie.
9. No - This will burden the Department Paymaster in maintaining the MAL list and trying to get the MAL members to pay their dues. Without any "intel" on the MAL initiative we can't support it. Others will support it and do the best they can.
10. Yes - We are growing professionally. No - We don't think our involvement in creating a MAL Detachment would make us feel more accomplished.
11. Ownership of the Detachment, Funds, Members in general. At this point we don't see any Pro's on creating a MAL Detachment. *Maybe* a Department level MAL Detachment would work but what would it look like?
12. No - Information and training before initiating. There's no resources. We received the Nov Rosters from National - there were only 44 names on it.

Summary:

The MAL Detachment concept may work on the eastern side of the U.S.A where towns are relatively close together and driving times from a person's residence to the MCL Detachment's meeting location are a few miles. In the western Region that's simply NOT the case. Its not uncommon for there to be significant drives required to "get to town." There just isn't the population levels - especially Marines - to support much more than the bare minimum memberships to retain charter.

If the MAL Detachment concept were to be implemented WHO is going to be the Commandant of that Detachment? Where are the other officers coming from? Where do they meet - with several thousand square miles of territory in Oregon, the east does not come west and vice-versa. The energy required to maintain this Detachment - at initial blush - appears to be too great for a Department staff to sustain for any length of time.

MAL members should be encouraged to reach out to the closest local Detachment and join. But as I've said, a MAL residing 200 miles from a Detachment just isn't going to do that. They will remain MAL.

Sadly, there's also the "Tradition" mentality of members that prevent changing our activities, meeting times, etc. to attract the younger Marines to join and participate. Indeed, COVID has had a dramatic negative impact on attendance, participation, and therefore retention. Members who used to be willing to drive 75 miles to attend meetings, events, etc. are becoming less inclined to do so. In essence we are becoming trained to hibernate and not be social.

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Hopefully, if there are lifting of restrictions SOON, we may be able to attract once active members back to the fold and encourage the young Marines to join and participate. We will surely have to adapt and overcome; we must change.