From: National Chairman Youth Physical Fitness  
To: National Commandant of the Marine Corps League  

Subj: 2022 Chairman Report of Youth Physical Fitness  

Commandant Baker, Board of trustees, and general Membership:

The following information is the Annual Report for the National Convention concerning the National Youth Physical Fitness (YPF) program of the Marine Corps League (MCL) covering the period September 2021, to August, 2022. This report reinforces the goals and objectives of our National Commandant’s commitment to support the U.S. Marine Youth Foundation (USMYF) Inc.

As the National Chairman, I am the voice and liaison between the MCL’s National Commandant and the Executive Director of the USMYF Inc. Our retired 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Alfred Gray, sits as Chairman of the board for the USMYF, Inc.

Per MCL administrative procedures during August 2021, I submitted a resignation letter as Chairman of the YPF after serving 2019-2021 under Past National Commandant Dennis Tobin. In September, I was requested to serve as chairperson under the leadership of our newly elected Commandant, Johnny Baker. During my initial meeting via phone conference with Commandant Baker and the Chief Operating Officer (COO), Bob Borka. I was informed of the initial meeting with Headquarters Marine Corps liaison for the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC). The conclusion of that meeting produced a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for students to earn the Community Service Ribbon and Medal from the MCL.

The signing of this agreement in 2021, has created a partnership between the MCJROTC and the MCL. Collectively, this program will strengthen America’s youth through community service activities, physical fitness opportunities, and recognition for those future leaders. The MCL YPF award can be awarded to any cadet who scores 350 or more points on the MCL YPF test. This award will be presented to any qualifying cadet on an annual basis. The Senior Marine Instructor will determine eligibility.

This newly created direction is to help our Departments and Detachments get involved with the YPF program. Our COO offered this information to the leadership of the Young Marines Program. He requested that the YM to have discussions of possibly instituting the program to allow the YM participates authorization to participate in the ribbon program. The COO’s intent is to possibly bridge the gap between YPF, USMYF, and YM.

November 2021, I attended USMYF semi-annual board meeting at MCL National headquarters in Stafford, VA. Since the Covid shutdown we had not met since September 2019. As you are aware, the National competition was cancelled 2020 and 2021 because of the myriad of restrictions throughout our Nation. This year the meeting was well attended and received. We had much discussion for the need to have a YPF meet. I reassured General Al Gray (RET) of our Commandant Johnny Barker’s commitment to support the program during his tenure as Commandant.
In attendance was SgtMaj Jernigan (Ret) from Catholic High School of Little Rock Arkansas. SgtMaj Jernigan had over 20 years’ experience participating and winning many MCJROTC YPF competition. SgtMaj Jernigan offer his expertise and school connections to possible have our National Meet in Dallas Texas or Little Rock Arkansas. Once contact was made with Dallas and Little Rock, Little Rock was open for our required timeline during the month of May. During the month of January, the USMYF board of directors voted to have the 2022 YPF Meet in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Our 2022 MCL National Meet was held the weekend of May 6-7. The event was extremely successful and well attended considering our recent bout with COVID. Catholic High school went well out of its way to host the event and put out its own funding for new equipment for the meet. Sgt. Major Jernigan was a rockstar logistically throughout the entire process. I learned quickly NFL owner Jerry Jones Dallas Cowboys sons attended Catholic High School when they were young and Mr. Jones had recently invested a new state of the art football field, weight room and locker room facility at Catholic High School. The field was beautifully set up with new scoreboards for the event as well as signs in both the billeting areas and the hotel welcoming the athletes to Little Rock and to the National YPF Competition.

Right is an overview of our 2022 Team winners from the Highschool and JROTC Schools.

Left, the overall winner for the Boys team was MCJROTC Catholic High School of Little Rock Arkansas, this meet was the end of a 22 year for SgtMaj Jernigan.

Right The overall winners for the Girls team were Bethpage Highschool of Pennsylvania.
Sir Commandant as our Nation navigate through the many changes, we found ourselves adjusting to ensure our YPF can execute our mission with success. After bearing witness of all the support, we received from Catholic High School and the city of Little Rock, I look forward to doing it again. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Chairman of the MCL Youth Physical Fitness.

Semper Fidelis,

Devell aka Bull Durham Jr
National Youth Physical Fitness Chairman
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