



# Department Of Kentucky

## Marine Corps League

**To:** Johnny Baker, National Commandant,

**From:** Darrell E. Tharp, Department of Kentucky Commandant

**Subj:** 2022 Department National Convention Report

**Date:** 1 August 2022

The Department of Kentucky has started to get back on track and is not affected as bad as it was last year by the COVID19 pandemic. The Department Board of Trustees remained the same, except for the Department Senior Vice Commandant (Dan Antis). Dan has taken an active roll in the department and is looking forward to conducting Detachment Commandants Council during the next Department meetings.

### **Senior Vice Commandant:**

At our June Department Convention during our Detachment Commandants Council, we concentrated on recruitment. Many ideas were exchanged and overall, it was a very successful meeting. At the September meeting we will follow up on the recruitment items and add retention to our subject matter.

Working with local vendors we put our KY State MCL Logo on a Red SS shirt, that will be added to our Department of KY undress uniform spec. Currently they're ready for the Department Officers to wear at our up-coming meeting in September where we will discuss the possibility to offer them for sale to all KY detachments.

Need to develop a system to communicate with our members at large as it pertains to department information sharing, and emergency conditions contact.

### **Junior Vice Commandant:**

The Department of Kentucky currently has 783 members with 717 voting members. The Department Jr. Vice Commandant and I have been working on a recognition program for recruitment. During FY 2021 the Department recruited 12 new members, FY 2022 the Department recruited 53 new members. So far during FY 2023 the Department has recruited 6 new members.

### **Judge Advocate:**

During the 2022 Department Convention the delegates passed 4 Department Bylaw/Administrative Procedure changes. 2 for Marine/Associate of Year, 1 for the Veteran Service Officer and the other for the Awards committee.

### **Adjutant:**

The Department Adjutant has been working on closing 4 delinquent Detachments (#s 584, 617, 971, and 1006) which has been in progress for four years. He is also keeping up to date with the Detachment ROI's, 990's, and other responsibilities required to keep their Charters current.

### **Web Master/Facebook Page Administrator:**

A message from the Department Web Master/Facebook Administrator. Create strong passwords, when creating a password, think beyond words or numbers that a cybercriminal could easily figure out, like your birthday. Choose combinations of lower and upper-case letters, numbers, and symbols and change them periodically. It's also better to create a unique password instead of using the same password across multiple sites—a password manager tool can help you keep track. Don't overshare on social media (Facebook).

We all have that one friend who posts too many intimate details of their life online. Not only can this be annoying, but it can also put your personal information at risk. Check your privacy settings so you are aware of who's seeing your posts, and be cautious when posting your location, hometown, birthday, or other personal details. Watch out for links and attachments.

Cybercriminals are sneaky and will often compose their phishing scams to look like legitimate communications from a bank, utility company, or other corporate entity. Certain things like spelling errors or a different email address than the typical sender can be a clue that the email is spam.

### **Marine for Life:**

Thanks to the Commandants Corner on YouTube, Marine for Life program subject answered a lot of questions, as a result our Department Marine for Life program will be compliant with the Marine corps Program as directed.

### **Veteran Service Officer:**

A new Veterans Service Officer (VSO) has been appointed and is learning how to function as a Department/Detachment VSO. The VSO program is still new to the Department and the new VSO has requested and received guidance from National. The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs has been very interested in supporting the Department VSO and has been helping in his training and has offered support as needed.

### **Honor Guard Liaison:**

A new Honor Guard liaison has been appointed. He is very excited to take over the position and is learning his responsibilities and those of the Detachment Honor Guards/Color Guards.

**Public Relations:**

A new Public Relations Liaison has been appointed. The Sr. Vice Commandant and I have been working with him to help get the Department on track as far as Public Relations goes. He is currently compiling a data base on each detachment related to Public Relations.

**B.S.A. Eagle Scout Liaison:**

Since the start of COVID the B.S.A. Eagle Scout program has declined and has yet to recover.

**Scholarship Liaison:**

We have also appointed a Scholarship Liaison to assist in getting National Scholarship information out to the Detachments and to aid as needed.

**Young Marines:**

At the June Department convention, the Northern Kentucky Young Marines presented the colors at the beginning the convention. After the colors were presented the Young Marines (YM) with help of their adult leader Lynne Arnold gave a Young Marine presentation. The Northern KY unit of Young Marines has been busy. In the past quarter they have held a Graduation Ceremony for 7 members who completed and passed Recruit Training, held a Retirement Ceremony for one YM who spent 7 years in the program, sent 2 YMs to National Leadership School in OR, sent 4 YMs off on National Adventure Trips, 12 of their crew volunteered at a GLOCK/GSSF match in Lawrenceburg KY, presented the Colors for the Honor Flight Pre-Flight Dinner at the KY Historical Society in Frankfort KY, presented the Colors for the opening of the KY School Resource Officer Conference in Richmond KY, had their senior-ranking YM selected as 1STSGT for the Division 2 Junior Leadership School in Maryland this Fall and are currently raising funds to send 2YMs and 2 volunteer Adult Staff members to DC in August to present the Colors for the remaining members of the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (a WWII Division that fought in the Battle of the Bulge) at their Annual Reunion.

**Disaster Relief:**

Since the Mid-Winter report, the Western Kentucky Tornado relief has assisted two Marines. \$5,000.00 for roof repairs and another \$5,000.00 for a Marine who lost everything. There is still a lot of recovery to be done in Graves County. A lot of rebuilding is going on; however, contractors are really backed up.

We are now conducting buddy checks as best as we can on Marines that were involved in the East Kentucky flooding. We have located one Marine that has lost everything and says he currently not in need of assistance. Two Departments have contacted me to provide aid as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darrell E. Tharp

Commandant, Department of Kentucky