



Department of Indiana

Commandant Baker, NVC Sturch

The Department of Indiana is strong, but recruitment and retention are a challenge as the department has a 15% delinquency rate. There are currently four detachments that have clubs under the detachment's EIN and the Board of Trustees is working with those detachments to get the clubs separated from the detachments.

In June of 2022, the Department of Indiana saw an immediate need to help the displaced children of Ukraine and wanted to bring a little brightness to them, for at least one day. With community connections and supporters, the department came up with a plan. They collected donations and raised funds to purchase over 6000 toys to pass out to the children. They took it a few steps further by coming together to help load a shipping container, had it shipped to Estonia and set up a distribution network. Then, October 2, 2022, Marine Corps League members flew to Estonia for 14 days and handed out the toys to each of the children personally. This last step was very important to the Marines of the Department of Indiana as it had a much greater impact on their mission, but most importantly, a greater impact on the families and children of the Ukraine. It showed them the human connection behind the simple gift of giving the children toys. I would like to commend the Elkhart Area Marines who took the lead on this endeavor and did an outstanding job!

Lastly, I would like to address something that was brought to my attention. I was told I have a rogue detachment that performed Colors in their Dress Blues at their Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The detachment advertised the ball and invited all Marines in their community to attend. Their Birthday Ball is always open to the public as this is one way the detachment recruits for new members. The members of the Color Guard are mostly in their 30's and meet all Marine Corps standards to wear the Dress Blues. They put in hours of practice, and practice until they are perfect. This is the only Marine Corps League function in which they wear the Dress Blues uniform. For all other functions they are in the MCL undress uniform as prescribed in the Admin Procedures. Also, these Marines are active in their detachment, to include being elected officers and committee chairs. I personally have attended their Birthday Ball and the ceremony is better than any I have attended, to include when I was on active duty.

If we don't want Marine Corps League members to wear the Dress Blue Uniform then it needs to be put in black and white and written into the by-laws that "league members are forbidden to wear the Marine Corps Dress Blue Uniform for any reason or occasion while you are a MCL member."

From the reporting detachments

Honor Guards: 196 performed

Color Guards: 22 performed

Detachment Life Audits: 100% complete.

0955 Group exemptions: 23 of 24 (waiting on IRS for last one)

2022 990's: 100% complete

2022 ROI's: 100% completed and submitted

Currently no Chapter 9's

Attached is our current Detachment status report

Respectfully submitted.

Kelly D. Gillihan

Commandant

Department of Indiana

Marine Corps League