



Dianna S. Grantham
National Newsletter Competition Committee
Marine Corps League

To Johnny Baker - National Commandant
Warren Griffin – National SR Vice Commandant
Bob Borka - Chief Operating Officer

Subject: National Newsletter Competition 2023 Report
CC: Newsletter Judging Staff

Dianna Grantham – Chairman Det # 1449 Dept of AL
Donna Hildebrandt - Det# 216 Dept of NY
James D. Sparks (JD) - Det #729 Dept of KY
Terrence Taylor - Det 1435 Dept of IN
John Mauritz - Det 985 Dept of MN

Date: July 13, 2023

We had 5 judges. I think 5 judges is needed for fairness, by not judging their own detachment, Department or Division newsletter.

We had a total of 37 submissions. One from CA Southwest Division was submitted after the deadline, so was not judged.

With 36 judged submissions. We had 6 Departments 1 Division & 29 detachments submit their newsletters. This was an improvement over last year where we had 29 entries. The email that went out from National, League wide helped to get more entries.

For next year I'm asking the National officers and staff to help publicize the competition earlier and to encourage a lot more participation.

Stats of Submissions for 2022-2023

By Completion Category

I Platoon	Up to 50	3
II Company	51-100	14
III Battalion	101 +	12
IV Depart/Div		7
Total		36

By Division

New England	2
Northeast	12
Mideast	2
Southeast	12
Central	5
Midwest	0
Southern	1
Rocky Mt	1
Northwest	1
Southwest	0
Total by Div.	36



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For the judging we did not print nor mail the newsletters out. We started receiving newsletters via email June 15th and received them up until July 3rd (we extended the deadline by 3 days after the email was sent out). We asked for one PDF file containing 3 newsletters of their choice. I found many didn't not have the software to combine PDF's, so I purchased Adobe Acrobat and accepted 3 separate issues and I combined them into 1 PDF. I placed them on a shared Google drive to view the newsletters. The judges have a little over 3 weeks, until July 27th to complete all scoring. At which time, I will tally all the results and order the plaques and print the appropriate certificates for the non-winners. There will be 12 plaques, 1st through 3rd for each size category and the overall, Leatherneck award chosen from the top 4 winners. The Leatherneck Award is selected from the top 4 newsletters, and chosen not by points but instead by readability, informative, clear messaging and overall joy to read. This gives smaller detachments an opportunity to win.

We processed the judging results through Excel on the shared drive as well. There were a total of 1219 pages to read. Each newsletter averaging almost 34 pages per submission. Making a lot of reading for our judges, as they read all newsletters except for their own Detachment, Department or Division newsletters.

Winners will be announced at the convention and after will be submitted for posting on the National Website.

Attached is a breakdown of all the entries,

For the upcoming year we may make a few minor changes to the criteria mostly to help clarifying a few of the categories. The updated criteria will be completed and the information disseminated by early Sept this year.

Respectively submitted

Dianna S Grantham

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