



Department of Illinois 2023 Annual Report

My first year as the Department of Illinois Commandant has been anything from boring. It has been very challenging with several speed bumps along the way. Several serious medical problems encountered to key staff members with no established back-ups in place: but, due to several dedicated past and present staff members, we managed to right the ship.

The terrible beginning didn't stop the department from moving ahead in a very much needed direction, training. The department held two (2) training sessions, one (1) in March 2023 that covered the Offices of Detachment Commandant and the 2nd one in June 2023 that covered the remaining offices. The Training Sessions were highly welcomed by all that attended. Everyone wanted to know if they'll be more such training in the future and I promised that there will be on-going training at each staff meeting. We're presently planning the fall training session for October 2023. It was pleasing to see more and more RED HATS attending staff meetings and Department Convention. New membership is increasing, also. The new membership is definitely welcomed.

We had a good showing from our department that attended the Central Division Convention in Plainfield, Indiana. The department was instrumental in getting the Marine Corps League Commendation Award for the Heartland Young Marines in Mt. Vernon, Illinois for their outstanding service to the community and the Marine Corps League.

A recommendation has been sent to the National Committee to make Past Department of Illinois Commandant, John M. Bigwood a Honorary Past National Commandant posthumously.

I'm looking forward to having a great year with new ideals and a new staff.

See you in OKC!

Semper Fidelis

Ronald E. Burns, Sr.
Commandant
Department of Illinois
Marine Corps League
Life Member in MCL & MODD