



Department Of Kentucky Marine Corps League

To: Johnny Baker, National Commandant,

From: Daniel R. Antis, Department of Kentucky Commandant

Subj: 2023 National Convention Report; (7 pages)

Date: July 17, 2023

The Department Board of Trustees has changed; newly elected Department Commandant Dan Antis replaced Darrell Tharp, while Cletis Evans replaced Dan Antis as the Sr Vice. Both Dan and Cletis' are honored, and excited while looking forward with great enthusiasm to serving the Department of Kentucky in their new roles. Darrell Tharp accepted the position as Chief of Staff to support Dan.

Senior Vice Commandant, Cletis Evans:

At our March and June Department Conventions during our Detachment Commandants Council, we concentrated on the new Uniform training manual which was distributed at the Mid-Winter Conference by Craig Reeling the National Uniform Committee Chairman. Our goal for this year is to be in full compliance with the new uniform manual requirements.

Georgetown Detachment #1447 has purchased a great example of a New MCL Detachment Flag to replace the Marine Corps Flag that was traditionally used by the HG/CG at Ceremonies, Events and Funerals. It was designed and purchased by the Gettysburg Flag Company for less than \$400. Our goal is to use this flag as an example to standardize across our department.

Detachment Flag



Department Flag



Junior Vice Commandant, Ted Barber:

The Department of Kentucky currently has 724 members with 647 voting members. 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 21 new members.

Judge Advocate, Jack Mattingly:

During this year's Department Convention, the delegates passed 2 Department Bylaw/Administrative Procedure changes.

1. Marine/Associate of Year, administrative procedure enhancements.
2. Newly established Quorum requirement aligning with National.

Jr Past Commandant, Darrell Tharp:

Overall, the Department is doing well. At the Daytona National Convention and Mid-Winter Conference an emphasis was put on Uniform Compliance, for HG/CG and when wearing Marine Corps Dress Blues. Therefore, during all Department meetings, Dan Antis and I addressed uniform issues by distributing and reviewing the uniform training manual that was provided during the Mid-Winter conference. We also posted the information on the department Facebook page.

Dan Antis has been very effective in implementing the Commandants Council within the Department. The Detachment Commandants have been very responsive to the subjects brought up at these meetings and have been very instrumental in sharing the information while providing closure to issues.

The board of Trustees has been very effective in fulfilling their roles as Department officers. Jr. Vice Commandant Ted Barber was instrumental in assisting in Recruiting for the Detachments. Ted has monitored recruitment and issued citations to those Detachment that have excelled. Judge Advocate Jack Mattingly has been very attentive to the National Bylaws and instrumental in helping with Department bylaw changes.

Three new committees were created: Public Relations, Scholarship, and Veteran Services. Public Relations and the Scholarship committees have gotten off to a very slow start. However, the Veteran Service Committee is doing well, as it continues to develop further.

I am looking forward to an exciting FY 2024 and am ready to serve the board of trustees as the Jr. Past Commandant.

Adjutant / Compliance Officer, Steve Stamper:

The Department Adjutant was anointed to be our new Compliance Officer and is doing a great job following up as well as providing a Monthly Compliance Report that includes the following reports: ROI's, 990's, Secretary of State, PLM, HG/CG report, Annual report, VSO report and Toys for Tots report.

Marine for Life, JVC Ted Barber:

Information flow from the Marine Corps to the MCL Dept of KY "Marine for Life Chairperson" is nearly nonexistent, this year we had only one referral. How can we assist placement of Marines exiting active duty without referrals? We need to ensure the information is flowing adequately.

Veteran Service Officer, Jack Murphy:

Our priority this year is to identify, place and train detachment VSO's.

We coordinated three VSO training classes with the KDVA; Dec 8th, Jan 12th, and June 3rd, with a fourth in the planning stages for July/August timeframe.

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) has been very supportive with problem solving and training our newly appointed VSO's. They also provided grant money for 2023 and 2024 to cover the costs of training to include travel, meals, and hotel.

We are encouraging TRIP training and currently have two Marines TRIP Certified. In addition, we have shared PACT and Camp Lejeune Water information at every opportunity.

Public Relations Committee, Greg Sims:

A new Public Relations Liaison has been appointed and is currently compiling a database on each detachment related to Public Relations.

Disaster Relief Committee, Eastern Kentucky Floods, SRVC Cletis Evans:

Last year, on 26 July, torrential rain had impacted the Eastern Kentucky area which triggered record flooding on the North Fork Kentucky River in Jackson, KY and Whitesburg, KY.

An appendix to this report titled, "Operation Restore Hope for Eastern Kentucky", details and outlines the efforts initially started by Marine Corps League Detachment 729 out of Louisville, KY and later became a larger, team effort with assistance from various in-state detachments and out-of-state departments.

From 26 July to 8 August, we organized the relief effort by asking what they needed to start the restoration process, and on 9 August, we delivered. During the initial mission, we carried tools, supplies, and items that those on the ground would directly need while performing the restoration process.

A second follow-up mission allowed us to take four 16-foot box trucks loaded primarily with toys, blankets, and coats, delivering them to Perry and Letcher counties residence. With funds remaining, we identified two organizations in each county that would be able to use those funds directly, they both received a check for \$15,000.00. **Special thanks to all who donated to Detachment 729 Relief Efforts!**

1. MOUNTAIN COMPREHENSIVE CARE CENTER – Supports Letcher County Relief Efforts.
2. KVC KENTUCKY – Supports Perry Count Relief Efforts.

The success of this mission proves that Marines, and the Marine Corps League will answer the call on a moment's notice. We are ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT!!!

Awards Committee, Marine of the year Society, Greg Sims:

This year our Department Marine of the Year was Craig D. Pyles, and our Department Associate of the Year award went to Theresa (Kathy) Mattingly. Congratulations to both for their Dedicated, Meritorious, and Unselfish Service towards the Marine Corps League Department of Kentucky.

Legislative Committee, PDC Lou Drawdy:

Our Owensboro detachment and I provide the necessary support to JEVCO related to government concerns affecting Veterans.

One of the most important items facing us is full funding for the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, as it relates to State operated Veteran Nursing Homes, Cemeteries, and the federal Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) health care facilities.

This year we sponsored 2 JEVCO-KY events, February 2nd in Lawrenceburg, and March 2nd in Lexington.

Toys for Tots Committee, SRVC Cletis Evans:

Below you can see the results of our cumulative efforts across Kentucky assisting nearly 84,000 children providing over 290,000 toys/books through the Toys for Tots program: OoH-Rah!

Ranking	TFT Code	Campaign	LCO	# Counties	Children	Toys
1	KYBOWL	Bowling Green	Janel Doyle	14	23888	114739
2	KYLOUI	*Louisville	Cletus Evans	6	16273	44141
3	KYFTKN	Fort Knox	Tonia Freeman	9	13720	27852
4	KYLNDN	* London	Cathy Sims	7	12207	29386
5	KYLEXI	Lexington	Timothy Porche	3	6348	11666
6	KYOWEN	*Owensboro	Lou Drawdy	9	5664	23513
7	KYBERE	* Berea	D.L. Madden	10	3475	7797
8	KYPADU	Paducha	Barry Bryan	9	1718	3229
9	KYGRGT	Georgetown	Scott Markey	1	525	3206
Totals				68	83818	265529
Books						25122
						290651

Scholarship Liaison, Cathy Sims:

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

B.S.A. Scout Liaison, Bill Gay / Cletis Evans:

The Department of Kentucky has two active Detachments with a working B.S.A. Eagle Scout program to date and is encouraging all detachments to become involved. In FY- 2023, 36 Good Citizenship Awards were issued to various Eagle Scouts around the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We are striving to become more actively involved in other areas and hope to see an increase in our numbers during this next fiscal year.

Marksmanship Liaison, Charles Northcutt:

We currently have three Detachment Pistol Teams competing: 729 in Louisville, 858 in Lexington, and 1447 in Georgetown.

Honor Guard Liaison, CJ Wychulis:

Below is the matrix indicating our HG/CG activity. We currently have 7 of 13 detachments that are actively serving as HG/CG when the need arises. Majority of our detachments are small so they due joint activities with their partners in the community the American Legion and or VFW Posts.

Honor Guard				
Funerals	Ceremonies	Others	Totals	Members
170	38	276	484	108

Color Guard				
Parades	Ceremonies	Others	Totals	Members
2	16	6	24	34

Young Marines Liaison, Lynne Arnold:

We are so proud of our Young Marines of Northern KY, under the great leadership of Lynne Arnold they have accomplished the following:

1. Logged over 2,000 hours of community service.
2. Color Guard for 18 different events to include presenting the Colors at 2 Dept of KY meetings.
3. Volunteered as a unit at veteran / military events.
4. Raised over \$1,725 for Special Olympics and took the Polar Plunge in February 2023
5. YM/MSgt Abby Smith went to YM’s National Advanced Leadership School where she competed and placed 2nd of 48 advanced leaders across the Country.
6. YM/MSgt Abby Smith also volunteered as a Cadre at Division 2 Junior Leadership School and will be a Volunteer Cadre at the July/Aug Division 5 Junior and Senior leadership school in Ohio.
7. In the Spring we held recruit training for 7 recruits and graduated 4 YM’s in May.
8. YM’s will send YM/LCpl Abigail Papp to Division 5 Junior Leadership School in July.

Finally, they are spending the year learning about the Heroes and History of Perl Harbor, while fundraising so we can attend the Perl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony this December in Oahu Hawaii

Historian & Anniversary Committee, Mike Leaverton:

The next two pages are the report we put together of the “History of Kentucky Marine Corps League”. It was sent to Greg Ciesielski the National Historian in mid-April to be part of the MCL 100th Anniversary History Book.

Department of Kentucky History

General Information:

Kentucky is known as the birthplace of Bluegrass music and well known to be the Thoroughbred and Bourbon Capital of the World. So, when you visit Kentucky, you must be prepared to enjoy Country Music, Horse Racing, and Great Bourbon.

Kentucky is also the birthplace of some very famous people. Just to name a few: Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Boone, Muhammad Ali, Johnny Depp, Jennifer Lawrence, George Clooney, Loretta Lynn, Chris Stapleton, Billy Ray Cyrus, Dwight Yoakum, Wynona Judd, Naomi Judd, Jefferson Davis, and Mary Todd Lincoln.

Another famous Kentuckian is Col Sanders. Even though he was born in Indiana he moved to Corbin, KY as soon as he could where he started selling fried chicken, later franchised as KFC. OoRah!

The Department of Kentucky was Chartered on April 27, 1985, and Incorporated on May 1, 1987. As of December 2022, the department consists of 13 detachments, 771 members of which 56 are associates.

Past Dept. Commandants:

Name	Dates	Name	Dates
Gene Sacket	1984-1985	Jack Ditmar	2002-2003
Byron (Bud) Winters	1985-1986	Bill Willis	2003-2004
Bill Thomason	1986-1988	Bill Gay	2004-2006
Robert Travis	1988-1989	Ed Burtner	2006-2008
Morris Futrell	1989-1990	Louis Drawdy	2008-2010
Jerry Stahl	1990-1991	Ron Bricking	2010-2011
Cedric Benson	1991-1992	John P Hensley	2011-2012
Earl Houchens	1992-1993	Denver L Madden	2012-2014
Al Fulkerson	1993-1994	Zeddie L Harmon	2014-2016
Tom Denny	1994-1996	Robert D Cross	2016-2017
Don Dixon	1996-1998	Errol Heindel	2017-2019
Roy Thurman	1998-2000	Elmer Mansfield	2019-2020
Joel Bowles	2000	Darrel E Tharp	2020-2023
Ron Bricking	2000-2002	Daniel R Antis	2023-TBD

Early Detachments:

On May 24, 1947, Prior to their official incorporation in 1987, Kentucky had 5 detachments of which Frankfort and Lexington are still in place today.

1. Ashland; Rayburn Sloan detachment
2. Covington; Northern Kentucky detachment
3. Frankfort; Frankfort detachment
4. Lexington; Dan Daly detachment
5. Louisa; Skaggs Hanners detachment

Current Detachments:

Number	Name	Location	Incorporated	Chartered
402	Parry Braden	Elizabethtown, KY	5/6/1987	6/24/1977
729	Kentuckiana	Louisville, KY	10/15/1991	10/15/1990
804	GySgt William J Norris	Owensboro, KY	5/15/2001	3/26/1992
858	Dan Daly	Lexington, KY	4/4/2001	7/20/1993
1012	Blue Grass	Richmond, KY	2/11/1999	2/11/1999
1095	Franklin R Sousley	Bowling Green, KY	7/14/2003	2/1/2002
1113	Harold G Epperson	Winchester, KY	10/2/2002	10/16/2002
1150	Pennyrille	Cadiz, KY	6/13/2005	12/8/2003
1342	Lt Presley O'Bannon	Frankfort, KY	1/21/2010	10/13/2009
1345	LtCol Vance Houston	Flatwoods, KY	9/12/2011	12/4/2009
1390	PFC James M Yancey	Paducah, KY	5/2/2012	12/7/2011
1447	Victor H Carr	Georgetown, KY	12/16/2016	2/22/2017
1448	J C Paul	Williamsburg, KY	2/9/2018	3/3/2017

Famous Kentucky Marines:

LT. Presley O'Bannon.

The first lieutenant commissioned in the USMC famous for his exploits in the First Barbary War, and the first Marine to lead a campaign on Foreign soil. He was presented with a sword for his efforts to restore Prince Hamet Karamanli to his throne in Tripoli. This sword became the model for the Mameluke Sword that was adopted in 1825 as the Marine Officers Sword which is still part of the formal uniform today. He later became a member of the Kentucky State Legislature, and the Kentucky State Senate. There is a monument located in the Frankfort Cemetery to honor LT O'Bannon.

PFC Franklin R Sousley.

He was one of 6 Marines who raised the American flag at Mt Suribachi in Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945, as shown around the world in that iconic photograph. Unfortunately, Sousley was killed in action less than one month later on March 21, 1945. He also has a memorial that is in the Elizaville cemetery, Fleming County, Kentucky.