



Office of the National Vice Commandant  
Northeast Division Marine Corps League

Michael John Waluk

*Ductus Exemplis*

230812

ANNUAL REPORT/NORTHEAST DIVISION

The Northeast Division serves three Departments and a total of one hundred and fifty-eight detachments within the states of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. To date thus far, our overall membership strength decreased 10.75% from the end of the last FY. However, despite being down in overall numbers, we are doing a much better job at getting our membership to pay their dues on time showing the Division at an operational strength of 92.03%. This is an increase of 7% over where we were at the end of the previous year where our current total strength was at 85%.

The Northeast Division boasts over ten-thousand members and we continue to encourage our Department Adjutants and Paymasters to reach out to the membership who are in arrears.

As with any organization, we also experienced a much slower operational tempo whereas all our Departments have been impacted due to voluntary surrendering or suspension/revocation of their Charter(s). In the Department of NJ, one Detachment has voluntarily surrendered their charter. All members of the losing Detachment have been transferred into other Detachments. The Department of NY has two Detachments who have also voluntarily surrendered their charters and all paperwork is complete whereas all members in good standing have been transferred to other detachments. In the Department of PA, two detachments have voluntarily surrendered their charters, one detachment is in the process of surrendering their charter and in the process of transferring said members.

On a more positive note, thanks to the due diligence of the Department of NY Officers and Staff, we were finally able to clear up the issue of the two Detachments sharing the same EIN number. A new number was issued to South Shore Detachment #244 and all paperwork is up to date and completed. Moreover, the Department of New York has established a new MAL Detachment (Empire State Leathernecks Detachment). This provides the opportunity for any member who is a MAL to be part of the Department of New York no matter where they reside.

It is also a pleasure to report that the Northeast Division is the only Division in the MCL that can boast a Member at Large Detachment in each of the Departments therein.

All of the Departments have reported in regarding the PLM Reports and IRS 990s. These are areas that also need to be monitored as there was no single Department who has reached 100% in either area. The PLMs completed were only at 76.58% which is below last year's average of 79%. Due to the fact that not every 990 is due at the same time, the numbers tend to be skewed at the midyear point. That said, the data received to date suggests that 74% of the total number of detachments in the Division have complied with the IRS 990 Requirements. This also is down significantly whereas at the close of the last fiscal year we were at 80% compliance.

The status as last taken from the IRS web site indicates the following: The Department of NJ had previously shown 6 detachments who have lost their tax-exempt status for not having filed in three years or more. Since that time, one detachment has completed the paperwork and has refiled for Tax Exempt Status. The Department of NY; 1 detachment whose tax exempt status has been revoked and 6 detachments whose filings are either late or missing in the last two years. The Department of PA is showing a total 46 IRS Form 990s being submitted through the Department but does not note any detachments as having lost their tax exemption status through the IRS database.

For FY 2023 we had a total of 1,566 Funeral Honors performed; NJ had 84, NY had 237 and PA had 1,245. Eagle Scouting numbers were relatively on the short side compared to previous years. NJ reported 63 Courts of Honor, NY only 5 (while this number may be larger, this is what was reported as the Scouting Chairman has been ill). PA reported having performed 92 Courts of Honor for the year.

The Division has also seen its share of loss through either attrition or the inevitability of death. Thus far, the Division has lost 159 Marines and 6 Auxiliary Members. The Department of NJ lost a total of 50 Marines, the Department of NY lost 49 Marines and the Department of PA lost 66 Marines. The 6 Auxiliary Members were all from the MCLA Department of PA.

Dept	# of Dets	Funerals	Eagle Scouts	Membership	% Differences	Good Standing	Arrears	% Strength	Toys 4 Tots	# Served	PLM	990s
NJ	34	84	63	2,750	-3.45	2,589	161	94.14%	1,324,425	439,133	33 -1	28 -6
NY	58	237	5	3,864	-7.24	3,506	358	90.73%	1,574,041	844,364	42 -18	53 -7
PA	66	1245	92	4,082	-5.50%	3,724	358	91.22%	1,217,687	418,855	46 -20	37 -29
<b>Totals</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>1566</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>10,696</b>	<b>-10.75</b>	<b>9,819</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>92.03%</b>	<b>4,116,153</b>	<b>1,702,352</b>	<b>121 -39</b>	<b>118 -42</b>
% Differences											76.58%	74%
N/R = Not Reported											-3%	6%
* = No additional information received												

Another issue to monitor regarding installations is the filling out of the ROI itself. We are noticing that despite our best efforts of making sure that the form is completed correctly, we continually come across handwritten forms with incomplete or inaccurate information. This will be addressed at the Leadership School Classes in the Departments which run the course.

The Northeast Division held a hugely successful Conference on March 31, 2023, and April 1, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza Princeton Hotel and Conference Center in Plainsboro, NJ. This is the

last year that NJ will host the Conference as it will move to NY in 2024 with the election of the new Northeast Division Vice Commandant.

All the Departments in the Northeast Division have concluded their annual Conventions and elections in accordance with the bylaws. The Department of PA held their Convention on June 1,2,3, 2023 while NJ and NY held their Conventions on June 8,9,10, 2023.

Despite the issues faced regarding suspension and revocation, all the work that can possibly be done to continue being productive is proceeding as scheduled. As previously mentioned, Department Commandants need to continue working with their staff to ensure that reports are being completed and sent to the proper authorities.

As the Ex-Officio of the Public Relations and Uniform Committees, I have received the report from Public Relations, and received a missive from a “member” of the Uniform Committee which will be included in this report.

Marine Raynes ( A Uniform Committee member) provided information regarding the Uniform and Awards Bylaws that were forwarded for consideration at the National Convention in Oklahoma City, OK. Accordingly, it was reported that 10 changes for Uniforms and 11 for Awards and the Uniform Committee addressed them.

Under Uniforms: Submission numbers:

**#12 #13 #14 #26 #27 #28 #33 #34 #42 #44**

Under Awards

**#2 #15 #16 #17 #18 #19 #26 #27 #28 #29 #30**

	Member 1	Member 2	Member 3	Member 4	Recommendation
ENC. 3					
#12	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
#13	OK	OK	OK	NO	YES
#14	NO	NO	NO	OK	NO
#26	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
#27	OK	OK	OK	NO	YES
#28	OK	OK	OK	NO	YES
#33	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
#34	NO	NO	NO	OK	NO
#42	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
#44	OK	NO	NO	OK	
AWARDS					

#2	OK	OK	OK	NO	YES
#15	NO	NO	NO	OK	NO
#16	NO	NO	NO	OK	NO
#17	NO	NO	OK	OK	
#18	NO	NO	NO	OK	NO
#19	NO	OK	OK	OK	YES
#26	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
#27	OK	OK	OK	NO	YES
#28	OK	OK	OK	NO	YES
#29	OK	OK	OK	NO	YES
#30	OK	OK	OK	OK	YES

With so much going on this year and not having a Uniform Committee Chairperson who is engaged, it may be wise to consider tabling any upcoming changes until a bona fide committee is formed and can make recommendations that are forwarded to the League Leadership in time for proper discussion.

The Public Relations Committee has been very busy and productive. Their running of the Zoom Commandant's Corner gatherings, posting of video feeds and meetings to YouTube has not only garnered interest, but has grown significantly. In addition to all this, Madam Chairlady has also ventured into other areas to help grow our programs. To that end, the following has been submitted by the Public Relations Committee:

1. **Ship's Store:** This topic of discussion comes up a lot, projecting a lot of anger and nasty comments. The general complaint is that the most commonly needed items are "never" in stock. I know this to be an exaggeration, but this is the perception. As social media grows, feedback and training is being offered (privately) as to how to correct uniform violations, and the most commonly used response is "How can we get it right, when the ship's store never has what we need". Our response from the NPRC is always, "Contact the Ship's Store staff directly to advise them of your needs/wants so they can help you".
2. **HG/CG:** There is a motivated member of the HG/CG committee that has been scanning social media and offering advice/training for violations on this topic. Unfortunately, it is not being received well and morale on this topic is growing lower and lower. The general comments on this type of feedback and training are "We are volunteers, doing our best .. if our flag is not at a 45 degree angle (or similar) please take the age and/or physical limitation into consideration" or something along those lines. We discussed this in person at Modern Day Marine, just adding to my report.
3. **Good News:** The videos shared from the Commandant's trip to Europe were VERY well received as it pertains to morale. More videos from National Officers and Staff are encouraged. Membership needs to know who you are, and how motivated you all are to ensure the success of the league and keep to motivation as its highest level.
4. **Final Note:** Two Committee members were lost since the Mid-Winter Conference in February and two more are resigning from the committee. This translates to said

committee having to bring on four new members for participation. Names of perspective members will be forwarded to the National Commandant for consideration.

This report is submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the position of National Vice Commandant of the Northeast Division.

V/R

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael John Waluk".

Michael John Waluk  
NVC Northeast Division