



DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT 56th COMMANDANT

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The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League (Dept of CT MCL) is an enthusiastic compilation of regular and associate members, comprised of fifteen (15) detachments of varying degrees of active participation and involvement. As of the most recent roster, there are five hundred and sixty-five (565) regular members (72% of which are PLM's) and one hundred and thirteen (113) associate members.

FOLLOW-UP: Soon after the June 2022 Department of CT elections we learned that three of our fifteen detachments were out of IRS compliance. Our JA got right on this along with one of our County Cmndts, PDC Hodges. One detachment has surrendered its charter and the other two are working to get back into compliance.

On a more positive note, the Dept of CT MCL has many facets of community involvement that we are very proud of. The following are just a few;

- Young Marines - The Dept of CT MCL is proud to hold claim to being the MCL Department responsible for the birth of the Young Marines program; specifically, the Brass City Memorial Detachment beginning the first Young Marines unit (Brass City Young Marines) in 1959, chartered by the Marine Corps League at the 1965 National Convention. There are currently three Young Marines Units within the State of CT; The Brass City Young Marines (Brass City Memorial Detachment), Natchaug River Young Marines (Paul C Houghton Detachment) and the Three Rivers Young Marines (Thames River Detachment). In addition to supporting these individual units, the Dept of CT MCL adopted a policy in 2013 to formally recognize a Young Marine of the Year (YMOY) which are honored at our annual convention. We recognize our most recent YMOY, YM GySgt Mason Steele of the Natchaug River Young Marines, at this year's Dept of CT Convention
- Toys for Tots – The Dept of CT MCL is very supportive of the Toys for Tots program and numerous detachments are involved every year to ensure thousands upon thousands of Connecticut children do not go without during the Christmas holiday.
- The Dept of CT MCL maintains an Funeral Honors which provides final honors at the burials of our CT veterans, regardless of the military branch in which they served.
- One of our younger detachments is very active, such as: Backpack for Life program for needy veterans, and hosting a Hike to Remember to raise money and awareness to reduce and eliminate veteran suicides.

In closing, be assured that the Dept of CT MCL strives to maintain retention and recruit new members. We work closely with our NE Division SVC Porter and surrounding New England Departments (New England is special in that geographic regards), and continue to work tirelessly to uphold the traditions and values of the Marine Corps League.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick T. McMahon
Dept of CT MCL Cmndt

Once a Marine, Always a Marine