



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
National Headquarters

1 August 2023

From: Johnny Baker, National Commandant, Marine Corps League

To: National Board of Trustees  
Members of the League

Re: National Commandant's Report

1. The following is my final report as your National Commandant. It sincerely has been my honor and privilege to serve the League in this capacity. It is a responsibility that I took seriously and without reservations. Always, my intent was to leave the League better than I found it, regardless of my personal desires and direction. It sincerely made me a better person.

2. Currently, the League has approximately 56,582 members. Several years ago, the League set up a new database system that was created with the old database entries. This old antiquated system had many duplicates and many inaccuracies. The new database gave the League the ability to "clean-up" our duplicates as well as get a better understanding of our true numbers. Of major importance that has been that has greatly affected our database, is that we requested each Department Commandant assign a "Department Compliance Officer" as a department staff member. Many Departments embraced this new position, but many have not. The Departments that have assigned a "Department Compliance Officer" have seen a huge increase in the Detachment's compliance of the IRS requirements (501c4 status, 990 submissions); Report of Officer's Installation being submitted properly; PLM Audits; as well as other reports that must be submitted to National.

3. The National Executive Director worked with a company and created an "App" for the Marine Corps League. This App is now available for Apple as well as the Android products. This App has been a great resource for everything associated with the League to include the National Convention and Midwinter Conference.. It is a great advantage and support for all MCL members.

4. Over the past two years, The League has improved our relationship with the Marine Corps Association (MCA) thanks to PNC Dennis Tobin. The MCL and MCA have entered into a 30-year agreement for both organizations to co-sponsor the Modern-Day Marine (MDM) Exposition. Last year, the event moved to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in downtown Washington, DC. The level of professionalism and the level of participation by the Marine Corps has drastically increased due to the League's and MCA's partnership. The importance of this relationship drives the success of Modern-Day Marine which provides income of at least one-third of our annual budget.

5. The National Board of Trustees has increased their effectiveness due to the use of the Zoom platform for official meetings. Zoom has given the National Board of Trustees the ability to meet regularly as needed to fulfill their "fiduciary" responsibilities of running the business of the League. The Board of Trustees meets at least once a month, sometimes more often.

6. The League was very fortunate last year for the 2022 National Convention by having our Guest of Honor Gen David Berger, the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Joining the Commandant was his wife Donna as well as SgtMaj Troy Black and his lovely wife Stacey. The 2022 National Convention was a huge success and set the standard for all future Conventions. The Department of Florida, under the leadership of Commandant Scott Westervelt, did an outstanding job.

7. Our 2023 Midwinter Conference that was held in Norfolk, was a great event. It was the last year that the Midwinter Conference was to be held in Norfolk, Va. Starting in 2024, the next three years Midwinter Conference will be held at the Sheraton Pentagon City, in Alexandria, Va, just across the river from our nation's capital.

8. Finally, after two years as your National Commandant, I'd be remiss to report the shortcomings of the League. It breaks my heart to often see members and even Detachments not getting along. It often is all about attitudes and doing things our own way. Our League is governed by Bylaws, administrative procedures, guidelines, and policies. Those Detachments, Departments, and Divisions that use these resources and follow our own policies, seem to strive, and flourish as a unit. This League is not about us as an individual Marine but is about us as a team or Marine Units. Work together and do what is best for the League, not ourselves. There are a lot of "egos" out there and the "egos" should be left at the door before attending a meeting.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your National Commandant. During the last two years as I crisscrossed the country visiting Detachments, Departments, and Division, I appreciate the camaraderie, the welcome, the support, the interactions, and the opportunity to serve with you. As I transition to the Junior Past National Commandant at the 2023 National Convention in Oklahoma City, I look forward to still serving the League.

Respectfully,

*Johnny Baker*

Johnny Baker

National Commandant/CEO

cc: Bob Borke, National Executive Director, Marine Corps League