

24 July 2024

TO: Warren Griffin, National Commandant/CEO
Bob Borka, National Executive Director/COO
Michael Sturch, CDNVC
FROM: Raymond Rayl, Department Commandant, MI

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN REPORT

The Department of Michigan has 34 Detachments, 6 Auxiliary Units and 4 MODD Pounds and is in the Central Division. Most of these groups are very active in their communities and local area's promoting the Marine Corps League and everything the League does. We are also home to 2 PNC's (Marine brothers Jim & John Tuohy) and 1 PNP (Geri Tuohy) Past National JA, Phil Zamora and many National Officers serving the Marine Corps League at the National level.

Since the 2024 National Convention in Oklahoma City, the Department of Michigan has been busy preparing for the Department Mid-Winter Rally and Central Division Conference and 2024 Dept. Convention.

On October 14th, we held the Fall Staff Rally at the Flint MCL Hall in Mt. Morris, Michigan.

The Mid-Winter Rally was held at the Double Tree Hilton in Dearborn, Michigan on January 19 – 21, 2024. Brief comments were made at the Joint Opening by the local dignitaries. The Mid-Winter Rally was less than favorable in attendance by the Detachments. Of the 34 detachments in the department, eighteen detachments were represented. (52% representation). The event was saddened by the passing of PDC Warren Tracy on December 24th. Reports were given by all Officers present, followed by committee reports. Dept Adjutant gave a class pertaining to the Report of Officer Installation Report, the Bank/Charter Location form. What they are and what is the information in the forms used for. Other classes included were presented by Dale Erion - Dept Historian, Detachment / Department / National Awards by Art Menard. The "Missing in America Project" was presented by Sr. Vice Commandant, Phil Smith and Jr. Vice, Steven Fletcher. The Mid-Winter was concluded with the Saturday evening Banquet.

I attended the National Mid-Winter Rally at the Sheraton Hotel in Pentagon City, Virginia. The Mid-Winter opened with a tour of the Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va. Colors were presented by the Color Guard from the MCB Quantico, Drill Team. National Officers were introduced and a brief presentation by each. The 2024 Summer Convention will be held at Palm Springs, Calif. Rancho Mirage
The 2025 Summer Convention & 250th Anniversary of the Marine Corps will be held at Grapevine, Texas
The National Mid-Winter was concluded with the Saturday Banquet.

The Department of Michigan hosted the Central Division Conference at the Delta Hotels by Marriot & Conference Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan on April 4 – 7, 2024. Dignitaries present were 65th National Commandant, Warren Griffin, PNC John Tuohy, PNC Jim Tuohy, National Auxiliary President – Linda Chamberlain, Central Division National Vice President – Ann LeClaire, Central Division Vice Chief Devil Dog PDD- Joe Pollock, Senior Vice Chief Devil Dog PDD- Jeffery "JD" Jones, and Central Division National Vice Commandant, Michael Sturch.

The 2024 Department of Michigan Summer Convention was held at the Delta Hotels by Marriot & Conference Center in Kalamazoo. Following the Joint Opening, we had Memorial Service reading the passing of 12 League members and

4 Auxiliary Members for this year. Immediately followed by the Chapel of Four Chaplains Ceremony. My Aide de Camp Rich Monroe received the award this year. Congratulations! Rich. The convention was attended by 50% of the total detachments in the Department of Michigan. Following the Officers Reports in attendance, the first round of nominations took place. The Harold R. Cooley Detachment # 841 surrendered their Charter on April 12, 2024 and their funds were presented to a VSO in the Owosso area and properties will be placed in escrow.

I was very pleased to present to Dept Adjutant Tracey Tippet, the MCL Distinguished Citizen – Gold Medal. Tracey is a well deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

The topic of “Clubhouses” has been addressed. It seems that there are a few detachments in the department that have a bar and possibly no beer/liquor licenses or insurance. According to the Dept Bylaws this is not acceptable. We are looking into this.

We have brought back the “Pie in the Face” fund raiser during the convention. Members bought tickets for a dollar and had their choice of putting a pie in the face of the Commandant, Sr. Vice or Jr. Vice Cmdt. We raised \$126.00 .

Following the 2nd round of nominations an election was held and all Officers remain the same.

MEMBERSHIP

Currently, we have two detachments (Harold R. Cooley # 841 and Washtenaw # 414) that has surrendered their Charters and properties to the department. I will be instructing the Jr. Vice Commandant to contact those members with a letter and Transmittal form to determine which detachment they would like to transfer to or go MAL.

FUND-RAISING

I am excited to report that the Department Car Raffle was an Unsuccessful Success. We sold a total of 2,290 tickets which fell short of our 3500 tickets. So because of this, we reverted to a 50/50 raffle. A large number of members did not receive tickets to sell from their Zone Vice Cmdts. This Raffle helped the department financially and the word went out to a huge number of citizens all across the state of Michigan that our league was truly trying to offer a better situation to the veterans and their families that went before us and continue in the efforts of keeping the Marine Corps principles of serving our communities and giving of ourselves. Many thanks go out to Raffle Chairman Scott Hellman and all the members that bought and sold tickets.

Our Department Foundation (Director PDC Gerald Alcorn) is a 501c3 charity that raises fund to help out with our VAVS programs state wide and awards many college scholarships annually.

My wife (newly elected MCLA Dept President) and I look forward to attending the 2024 National Convention at Rancho Mirage, California in August.

Semper Fi

Raymond Rayl

Commandant

Department of Michigan

Marine Corps League