



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NORTHEAST DIVISION 2026 MIDWINTER REPORT

(1 JULY 2025 THRU 31 DECEMBER 2025)



Overview

The Northeast Division (NED) is the largest Division in the Marine Corps League by membership and consists of the Departments of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The Departments within the NED are home to 152 active Detachments that together have 10,407 members or 20.4% of the total membership of the League.

Division Conference

The 2026 Conference is planned for May 16, 2026 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. This conference is all about training and education on topics important to the Marine Corps League and the Division and is open to any member of the League. More information is available on the Division website or by contacting the Division NVC or ANVC.

Administrative Activities

Compliance

The mid-year Compliance report was released to the Departments concurrent with this report. In the Northeast Division, compliance activities consist of tracking IRS Status (990 submission, revocation, 501c compliance and tax deductibility), Department of State Status (Registration & annual filing) and MCL Status (PLM Audits, ROIs and Membership.) The report contains sensitive information and will not be posted to the National website. Interested parties can contact either the Compliance Officer, ANVC or NVC.

Membership

Membership continues to be problematic. On the positive side, 55 (36%) NE Division Detachments were at 100% Membership last year with 31 (20%) exceeding 100%. That is the good news. The bad news is that despite these efforts, membership in the Division continues to decline by over 3% per year.

And there is another problem. This year the Division compliance team began auditing the PLM audits for accuracy. The reason for such an audit was that many Detachment rosters list members with MCL Join Dates in the 1990s or earlier, yet very few member deaths are ported. The audit showed that many hundreds of deaths go unreported – this artificially props up rosters and has other obvious deleterious consequences. The PLM audit is expected to be completed prior to the Midwinter Conference. The expectation is that the impact on the Division will be a 6-7% net membership loss.

YPF Program

Coaches and schools in the NE Division have been active in this program for over forty (40) years and in at least one case a coach started with the program in the 1960s. Let that sink in. Forty years. Sixty years. The longest serving coach in the YPF Program is Bob Martini from Penn Hills high school outside of Pittsburgh. The second longest serving coach is Lou Schlanger from South Bronx, New York.

The YPF program is a great way for the League to “promote the future” and do our part in developing the youth of our country. To that end, the NE Division has established a fund for the YPF program to establish and support a Division-wide meet. Steve Lord, the NED YPF coordinator is working on developing the program within the Division. There are meets scheduled for 2026, contact Marine Lord for more information.

VSO Program (MCL Principally Accredited VSO)

The Division reported appointment of a NED VSO last summer. Since August, there have been additional volunteers who “answered the call” and are proceeding through the training program. New York and New Jersey have appointed Department-level VSOs who will join the VSO team after certification. In addition, Pennsylvania, in coordination with the NDVS, is pursuing funding through the Commonwealth of PA under Act 66 which provides funds for offsetting the cost of paid VSOs. There are also five (5) cross-accredited MCL VSOs already operating in the state, two of whom are MCL Members.

Marine-for-Life (M4L)

Two interesting items to report. First, the Division Coordinator, Richard Buck, is highly active in this program in and around his area of New York. Second, the M4L Western PA Representative, Kevin Zaffino, is also serving as the Sr. Vice Commandant of the Washington County Detachment (#1138) outside of Pittsburgh. Both of these Marines are “Gungy” about this program and are ready, willing and able to assist Marines!

VAVS Program

The Division has recently appointed Carlos Garcia from the Department of New York to serve as the Divisional representative to the National VAVS Committee.

Division Planning

Last year, the Division reported completion of a NED SOP that included written caucus and NED MOY/AMOY procedures. Over the last two quarters, the NED leadership has completed Division Business plan. There are three planned deliverables for this fiscal year in the plan that include changes to the Division Conference, upgrading the Division website and completing a Division Compliance SOP. Administratively, Division is also supporting the NED YPF Rep’s effort to grow the program within the Northeast Division.

Department Reports

The data listed below were reported by the individual Department Commandants. Data that is normally reported through other channels (e.g., Toys for Tots) is omitted to avoid duplication.

New Jersey

Department Convention	April 23-26, 2-26 / Seaview Hotel / Galloway, NJ
Department Commandant	Chris Soldano / Elected 2025
Membership (1 February 2026)	2,384 Paid / 155 Unpaid / 2,539 Total
Detachments (#)	34
Detachments Reporting (#)	20
# At-risk Detachments ¹	See Division Compliance Report
# PLM Audits Submitted	30 (93.8 %)
# ROI Submitted YTD (2025-26)	15 (42.9 %)
Programs and Activities:	
# Funeral Honors Reported	53
Service Hours ² (Total)	29,226
Transitioning Marines (M4L)	Not Reported
Other	Toys-for-Tots program reported to T4T Foundation.

New York

Department Convention	June 4 - 6, 2026 / Collegian Hotel / Syracuse, NY
Department Commandant	David Wiggs / Elected 2025
Membership (1 February 2026)	3,541 Paid / 276 Unpaid / 3,817 Total
Detachments (#)	55
Detachments Reporting (#)	11
At-risk Detachments ¹	See Division Compliance Report
# PLM Audits Submitted	38 (70.4 %)
# ROI Submitted YTD (2025-26)	4 (7.0 %)
Programs and Activities	
Funeral Honors	101
Service Hours ² (Total)	15,051
Transitioning Marines (M4L)	17 (Active M4L Program.)
# Eagle Scout Awards	139
# Toys Collected for T4T:	3,270
Donations for T4T Rec'd (\$)	\$ 3,025.00
Other Comments	Most data for the Toys-for-Tots program reported to T4T Foundation directly. Data listed are for non-LCOs.

¹ Compliance report is confidential and is available on request and need-to-know basis.

² Service hours are and should be reported for all hours spent on MCL activities – this aspect is not widely understood and results in under-reported hours. Hours listed are what was reported by the Departments.

Pennsylvania

Department Convention	June 17-21, 2026 / Kalahari Resort/ Pocono Manor, PA
Department Commandant	G. Victoria McCoy / Elected 2025
Membership (1 February 2026)	3,706 Paid / 345 Unpaid / 4,051 Total
Detachments (#)	63
Detachments Reporting (#)	28
At-risk Detachments ¹	See Division Compliance Report
# PLM Audits Submitted	49 (81.7 %)
# ROI Submitted YTD (2025-26)	2 (3.2 %)
Programs and Activities	
Funeral Honors	1,310
Service Hours ² (Total)	22,633
Transitioning Marines (M4L)	139
# Children helped via T4T	105,027
# Toys Collected for T4T:	241,012
Donations for T4T Rec'd (\$)	\$ 124,213
Other	Strong Toys-for-Tots Program.

Conclusion

The Northeast Division remains the largest Division in the Marine Corps League and continues to deliver meaningful programs and services across New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. While membership challenges remain, the Division is actively addressing them through stronger reporting, improved compliance practices, and a renewed focus on accurate membership accountability. This reporting period reflects the commitment of our Detachments and Departments, steady growth in youth, veteran, and community programs, and the completion of a Division Business Plan that sets clear priorities for the year ahead. The Division is focused on helping every member to succeed and to that end, all members are encouraged to participate in the 2026 Northeast Division Conference, where training, shared experience, and collaboration will help strengthen our Division and the League as a whole.

Semper Fidelis,



Robert Zitz

NVC, Northeast Division

Cc: Dean Lawton, ANVC, NE Division