

To: National Commandant, Marine Corps League
From: National Vice Commandant, New England Division, Marine Corps League
Subject: Mid-Winter report

Sir,

The Division now operates with six departments and 65 detachments, down by two from last year. While overall numbers have dipped slightly, this isn't for lack of effort. Our members have been out in their communities, making connections and sharing the League's mission wherever they go. Recruitment and retention remain a focus, and the Division is exploring ways to keep our detachments strong and growing.

We continue to proudly support the Boy Scouts, celebrating the achievements of 15 Eagle Scouts across New England this year. These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our members to mentoring young leaders and supporting programs that encourage service, leadership, and community involvement. Initiatives like these show that our impact goes beyond our membership and into the communities we serve.

On the compliance side, the Division recently welcomed a new compliance officer, who has already taken steps to help Departments and Detachments stay on track with 990 forms, ROI reports, and PLM audits. We're committed to providing support where it's needed so everyone can meet requirements and keep things running smoothly.

Looking ahead, the New England Division Conference will be held in Springfield, Massachusetts, from June 11th to 14th. It promises to be a great opportunity for members to connect, share ideas, and learn from one another. Attendees can expect informative sessions, workshops, and plenty of chances to celebrate the successes of the past year while planning for the future.

Even with some challenges in membership, the Division remains strong. Our members' dedication, combined with focused initiatives and active leadership, gives us confidence that we can continue to grow, serve our communities, and make a meaningful difference in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Maguire

Patrick Maguire
National Vice Commandant
New England Division
Marine Corps League



DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

31 January 2026

TO: All Hands – Marine Corps League
FROM: Department of Connecticut, Marine Corps League
SUBJECT: Report of Progress: 1 August 2025 – 31 January 2026

Department Staff

Commandant: Rich Daigle
Sr Vice Commandant: Walt Benson
Jr Vice Commandant: George Gutmann
Judge Advocate: Doug Fisk
Jr Past Commandant: Pat McMahon

Department Convention Scheduled

The Department of Connecticut annual convention is scheduled for 6 June 2026 at the Connecticut Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. This will be a one day convention to encompass League business as well as a Grand Growl for the Military Order of the Devil Dogs Connecticut Pack.

Department Social Media

Our Web Sergeant Roland “Skip” Hamel maintains our website ([MCL Department of Connecticut \(mcldeptct.org\)](http://MCL Department of Connecticut (mcldeptct.org))) and our Facebook page (Marine Corps League, Dept of Connecticut | Facebook).

Detachments

Our County Commandants are actively pursuing our Detachments to ensure IRS Form 990 compliance as well as the Detachments’ registrations with the Connecticut Secretary of the State.

We have several Detachments that participated in the fall 2025 Toys for Tots drive very successfully. And a few continue to conduct Rose Days, especially on or close to national holidays.

Three Detachments, led by the Hardware City Detachment, provide riflemen for Military Honors under the auspices of the Connecticut Army National Guard. All rifles are in compliance with TACOM.

Several Detachments provide color guards for parades and ceremonies. Members from several Detachments pulled together an honor guard for a WWII Marine Corps veteran who was related to one of our members. The deceased was cremated in Virginia and received full military honors there. His family, however, lives in Connecticut and his nephew requested some kind of honors at the graveside. We had twelve members march in with behind two flagbearers. Tom Jackson and I unfolded the family's flag, refolded it, and presented it to the family. Instead of a rifle salute, because it's inappropriate to offer two for the deceased, the twelve of us sang a slow version of The Marines Hymn. The family was extremely moved and thankful. We all felt it was the least we could do for one of the Greatest Generation.

Department Admin Procedure Changes and By Laws Changes

In 2024, the Department of Connecticut Board of Trustees proposed changes to our Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. Specifically, our annual convention has been reduced to a one-day event, as we will be consolidating with the other five New England Departments to hold a New England Division (6-State) Conference, beginning this year. We are eagerly looking forward to participating in this new format.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Daigle
Commandant
Department of Connecticut
PopPop.Daigle@gmail.com

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Department of Maine

Mid-Winter Conference Report

The Marine Corps League Department of Maine, a Department of the New England Division, covers a land area of 30,845.0 square miles and a water area of 4,534.8 square miles. It is the 39th largest state by area. Maine is nearly as large as all five New England States put together. Maine's population density is 43.1 people per square mile, making it the least densely populated state in New England. Maine is recognized as one of the most healthful, beautiful and interesting states in the nation. Maine presently reports 100,610 veterans with the Vietnam era veterans making up the largest veteran block in the state.

The Department of Maine consists of seven (7) Marine Corps League local Detachments spread across the state. The Department of Maine has a Military Order of Devil Dog's Pound, which includes two Devil Dog Packs. The Lobster Pound (from central Maine to the southern border of the state) and the Moose Pack (from central Maine to the northern border of the state). Our largest Detachment in the state, Southern Maine Detachment #1324, operates with a combined Regular and Associate membership at 67.

The Department of Maine and its seven (7) Detachments include a total strength of just over 300 members. This includes 260 plus regular members (Marines/Navy Corpsman) and 40 plus Associate members (consisting of veterans of sister services, Gold Star parents and supporting citizens).

The Department of Maine and its seven Detachments participate in various Marine Corps League programs. In 2025, we saw a very successful Toys for Tots collection. This program is going so well in some Detachments, that discussions are being held on how to support or staff the growing generosity of the Maine communities being served. The Department of Maine, and its detachments, offer several scholarship programs to graduating seniors as well as veterans heading into either a secondary school or trade training programs. The Detachments across the state either led or supported various veteran memorial services, performed final respects at MCL members funerals and performed various types of fund raising activities from raffles, breakfasts, golf outings or simply "shaking cans" at local businesses. All for the purposes for funding the various community programs across our state.

Our Detachments have participated in additional community programs including Wreaths Across America, selling, placing and removing wreaths on veteran gravesites, placing veteran urns at gravesites, placing flags on veteran gravesites each Memorial Day, participating in and leading the "Remember the Maine" parade and community event. This annual event offers remembrance regarding the explosion and sinking of the "USS Maine" on February 15, killing 268 sailors, or three-quarters of her crew. This was the first USN Battleship named for the state of Maine, and its sinking contributed to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War.

The year 2025 saw the 250th birthday of our United States Marine Corps and Detachments celebrated this monumental event in a variety of ways. Some were larger and others a bit smaller, however each celebration was performed with recognition of our unique and robust history, with an enthusiastic look forward, towards the future of our Corps. The largest birthday event in our state was held in Auburn Maine, hosted by our Central Maine Marines, Detachment #810, and reported greater than 150 Marines, guests, community members and as well as the leadership from our New England Division in attendance.

The MCL Department and Detachment meetings are well planned and coordinated, and offer inclusive discussion and direction to membership regarding its activities and community involvement, while also offering the fellowship as directed by our charter.

While the Department of Maine and its seven Detachments provide good community involvement, like many other Departments, the Department of Maine struggles with recruitment. It is a priority of the Department as well as its Detachments. The Department is looking at various opportunities to grow membership. Some things being explored are recruiting from other veteran groups, a more active presence in informal settings (i.e. Detachment breakfast's in public, in uniform to present a presence and demonstrated fellowship to join the league), a greater presence at various veteran events with a focus on recruitment, meeting with the local United States Marine Corps Recruiting personnel, as well as becoming involved with the local United States Marine Corps Reserve command in the state.

Along with recruitment, we realize we must also focus on retention. Many of our Detachments are made up of older members so Detachments offer flexibility, scheduling meeting times relative to the time of the year to increase member availability/participation. Additionally, the Detachment Commandants are encouraged to make their meetings meaningful and participative, to keep the interest of our members, both new and old. The activities planned, at both our MCL business meetings as well as Pound or Pack Growls, allow members to participate and feel valued to their Detachment, their Department, their Pound and Pack and the community they service, all while recognizing their association with our United States Marine Corps history.

In sum, the Department of Maine, consisting of its seven Detachments and its two Devil Dog Packs (One Pound) are working in the traditional Marine Corps spirit of "Gung Ho." Our Marines and Associates are working hard on recruiting new members, retaining our current members, upholding the traditions of our beloved United States Marine Corps, providing fellowship to each other and bringing that spirit into the communities within our Great State of Maine.

Semper Fidelis,

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lubas

Commandant
Department of Maine
New England Division



Marine Corps League



DEPARTMENT of RHODE ISLAND

Report of the Commandant

Mid-Winter Conference

- **New Members Since this past National Convention:**
 - 2 new members: Bucci-Atwood
 - 2 new members: Kent County
- **Fundraising events:**
 - Several Rose Collections conducted.
- **By-Laws Committee**
 - By-Laws have been reviewed for the Department and sent to National JA for approval.
- **Membership continues with the United Veterans Council (Rhode Island) and our partnership with the other Veterans organizations strengthen.**
- **We have participated in many events throughout the state to promote the League and recruit new members.**
- **The Department of Rhode Island will continue to promote the values of the Marine Corps League and continue to grow in prosper. We will strive to become a role model for other Departments to emulate.**

Semper Fidelis,

Joe Afonso, Commandant

Department of Rhode Island

New England Division Chief of Staff

Department of Vermont - Status Update and Highlights

As it presently stands, the Department of Vermont is still currently operating with two active detachments: Donald Cook Detachment #608 and Brattleboro Detachment #798. While the Green Mountain Detachment (Montpelier) has officially closed, no contact has been able to be made by the Department of Vermont Commandant, by visiting the place of their meetings for the Charter and any other belongings of the Marine Corps League. The Department of Vermont still continues to move forward with absolute determination and Pride in our active units

The Robert H. Vincellette Detachment #1282 remains on the books, sustained by the commitment of four members. While they are not currently holding meetings or engaging in Department activities, their continued interest reflects the spirit of our Marines. No contact has been able to be done by land line calls and visits to the places that the Dept. Commandant has made to the places of where I was told they held meetings.

A very encouraging development still continues at the, Donald Cook Det. #608. Last year, being faced with the possibility of a "Charter Surrender" the Detachment found new life with a few motivated Marines stepping forward in leadership positions. The dedication and leadership continues the Detachments mission.

Toys for Kids - Another tremendous Success

Of the most outstanding and uplifting stories from 2025 was the unbelievable success of the "Toys for Kids" project throughout the Department. Donald Cook Det. #608, along with Marines and volunteers, did an outstanding job covering the Colchester area and beyond. In Caledonia County and Orleans County a small but determined and mighty duo of Marines and highly excited and motivated community members made sure that the children of the respected areas had a "Joyful" holiday season.

The teamwork, dedication and generosity by all that were involved, Truly made this an outstanding year for the "Toys for Kids". We are all excited and very optimistic that this coming years "T4K" drive will be even better, as we are always getting more peoples interests involved.

SEMPER FIDELIS

Robert A. Mayers

Comm. Dept. of VT.



Marine Corps League
Department of New Hampshire
PO 121 Concord NH 03302



The DNHMCL has 6 detachments which cover the majority of NH. All work together to provide Military Honors for Marines and other veterans as needed. The DNHMCL facilitated 2 Marine Corps Birthday events. In the morning of the 10th, we raised the USMC flag over the NH State House and had the cake cutting ceremony with the Governor of New Hampshire. We estimate about 70 Marines were in attendance. That following evening we held a traditional ball with 200 Marines in attendance, and representatives of all detachments in attendance.

Commandant Dumont has been attending several of the detachment meetings to assess the status and discover the needs of each detachment. Many of the detachments are in a state of concern as participation continues to decrease. One detachment (#823 CAPT PAUL L GORMLEY JR has officially disbanded). The Demers Detachment (#1111) is down to a handful of members. To help locate new members Commandant Dumont has created an event called "Lunch with Leathernecks" and has schedule outreach events every Saturday from Jan to May. Where the members host a lunch event in the areas of the most need, to increase visibility and strengthen membership. We are also going to increase participation in events such as "Old Home Days" and other large events like state fairs. In May the department will be hosting the annual Memorial Day event at the New Hampshire Veteran Cemetery.

Respectfully Submitting
Cody Dumont
DNHMCL Commandant