



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Office of National Senior Vice Commandant

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From: National Sr. Vice Russ Miller
To: TJ Morgan, National Commandant, MCL, Inc.
Dist: National Board of Trustees, MCL Membership
Subj: NSVC 2026 Mid-Winter Report

As we all have wrapped up one more trip around the sun in 2025 and are well on our way down the trail marching forward into 2026, I wish to thank everyone for your continued support of our beloved League. It's hard to believe that what seemed like just yesterday, sitting in Mr. Goering's 5th grade classroom celebrating our nation's bicentennial, was in fact 50 years ago. Much like last year as we celebrated our Corps' 250th Birthday as Marines and FMF brothers and sisters seemed to come out of the woodwork to celebrate with us, make sure that your detachments are taking advantage of the boost in patriotism this year and look for more of them to celebrate our nation's 250th. Hopefully Dept. Jr. Vice Commandants from across the nation will continue to participate in NJVC Porter's Zoom calls and share what detachments in their AOR's are doing to capitalize on the heightened patriotism that the Semiquincentennial is bringing.

MDM2026

Some changes have been made to the personnel roster for the 2026 Modern Day Marine Expo in Washington DC as more members of local detachment's are stepping up to stand posts. They can then share what the MCL is doing in the area where many of the event attendees are currently stationed or attending school to become a Marine and FMF Naval Officers or are currently serving in those capacities. The event continues to grow and evolve through our partnership with the Marine Corps Association and Foundation. Along with AJ Cox and his podcasts, all of us working the event will continue to chip away at the worn-out adage; "The Marine Corps League is the best kept secret in the Marine Corps". By recruiting more local Leaguers to operate the event, we are pairing back the need to bring in help from other states and thereby reducing hotel costs and travel reimbursement, thereby increasing the profitability to the MCL from MDM2026.

Divisions vs. Districts

In the Department Commandant's Council (DCC) at this Mid-Winter Conference we will be discussing how our larger Departments with a higher population of Detachments have broken

their State into smaller “Districts” much like some of the other Veteran Service Organizations have. Currently there is no AP, or SOP for that matter, in place across the nation for this and it does bring about some confusion when dealing with HQ and at times within the Departments where this structure is being utilized. I plan to work with the NJA following the DCC discussions to draft amendments for submission in advance of the 2026 National Convention that will help standardize the practice. So, as Departments may grow and choose to implement the practice within their own chains of command, there will be consistency across the League.

Toys for Tots

I am somewhat saddened to report that this past holiday season we saw a drop for the second year in a row in the number of Detachments conducting a Toys for Tots campaign as well as a significant drop in the number of toys collected/distributed and the number of children assisted by MCL as the Local Coordinating Organization (LCO). While some of this attrition can be attributed to a few detachments with aging membership that felt they could no longer physically continue the rigors of managing a local TFT Chapter; some of those same passed the baton to other community organizations, continued to support the new coordinator, and submitted a MCL TFT after-action-report. The number of MCL AARs submitted went up dramatically this year to almost 100 Detachments reporting their local efforts across the nation in support of a Marine Reserve Unit or Other Local Coordinating Organization. Please see the TFT Committee Report located under the Conference tab for more detailed accounting.

Road Show

It’s that time of year again for the many Department Conventions and Division Conferences. “Just Bob” refers to them as the “Road Show”. My wife has referred to them as “Russ’ Beauty Pageant Season” for these past eight years or so. While there is no bouquet of roses or a tiara in my future for sure, I am looking forward to attending a few of these conventions/conferences across the nation to get a glimpse of so many of the great things that our League and its members are doing. The leadership of many detachments attending those state or division wide events may never make a trek to a National Convention or Mid-Winter Conference. So, having National Officers/Staff attend and share training, tips, and advice, could mean the difference between a detachment being reinvigorated to grow, or deciding to voluntarily surrender their charter. I encourage as many as are able to attend their Department Conventions and/or Division Conferences. You might just learn something you hadn’t picked up on yet and have fun in the process.

Very respectfully submitted,

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