



DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

17 July 2026

TO: New England NVC Pat Maguire – Marine Corps League
FROM: Department of Connecticut, Marine Corps League
SUBJECT: Report of Progress: 25 July 2025 – 17 July 2026

Department Staff

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

The elections and installation of Department officers were conducted during our First Department One Day Convention on 6 June 2026. The Report of Installation was completed the same evening.

Connecticut was represented at the 2025 National Convention, the 2026 Mid-Winter Conference, the Semper Fi Society Luncheon in Boston, and the 2026 New England Division Conference in Springfield MA. The Department of Connecticut held a Cake cutting Ceremony at the State Capitol for the 250th Birthday of the Marine Corps. This was in addition to A Birthday Ball at the Brass City Detachment, a Birthday Dinner at the Paul C. Houghton Detachment, and a Cake Cutting Ceremony, at the Housatonic and Greater Bridgeport Detachments.

Department Awards

Marine of the Year: Adele Hodges (Greater Bridgeport Detachment)
Associate of the Year: Melissa Wheelock (Southington Memorial Detachment)
Outstanding Service and Leadership: Richard Daigle (JR Past Commandant)

MODD Connecticut Pack Award

Pack Dog of the Year: There were no nominations at the Grand Growl.
PIA Award: Rivers McCalop Jr. Who has held the office of Watch Dog for at least 12 years.

Department Social Media

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

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 two detachments that are in the process of surrendering their charters. These Detachments have received their final notice from The Commandant and the Judge Advocate. Our Judge Advocate is waiting for responses from the members about whether they want to be transferred to another detachment or become Members at Large. We also have another detachment that has made known they are planning to surrender their charter. I would like to find a way to postpone this for at least one year while we intensify our efforts to try and rebuild this detachment. In the past several years we have lost, even though they still have charters, four detachments, no organization can sustain this type of loss without severe consequences.

We have several Detachments that participated in the fall 2024 Toys for Tots drive. 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.

Department Admin Procedure Changes and By Laws Changes

After a meeting of the Department Officer, The Judge Advocate put forth a motion to change the Department dues from members from \$5 to \$10. We have not raised our dues in 30 years and it was impossible to meet budget demands. The Motion was passed and accepted

Respectfully submitted,

Walt Benson
Commandant
Department of Connecticut
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