

Department of Maine
2026 National Convention Report

Submitted: July 30, 2026

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 recently was reported to be the most forested state in the union. 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 also includes two Devil Dog pounds, the Lobster (from central Maine to the southern border of the state) and the Moose Pound (from central Maine to the northern border of the state).

The Department of Maine and its seven (7) detachments include a total strength of 304 members. This includes 263 regular members (Marines/Navy Corpsman) and 41 associate members (consisting of veterans of sister services, Gold Star parents and supporting citizens).

The Department of Maine and its detachments participate in various Marine Corps League programs. In 2025, we saw 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. 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. The department, through its detachments, provide an annual celebration of our Marine Corps birthday. Some detachments offer a banquet, others cake cutting ceremonies and others even more simplistic celebrations, all embracing, reinforcing and honoring beloved our Marine Corps heritage. For the 250th birthday of our beloved United States Marine Corps, a little extra effort was exerted by all detachments. Our largest celebration was hosted by our Central Maine Marines, Detachment #810 and exceeded 150 attendees.

While the Department of Maine and its 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 (dual memberships), a more active presence in informal settings (i.e. “detachment breakfast’s” at various locations, in uniform to present a presence and demonstrating fellowship to join the league), a greater presence at various veteran events with a focus on recruitment, interactions with the local United States Marine Corps Recruiting stations, as well as becoming more involved with the local United States Marine Corps Reserve commands 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 about scheduling meeting times relative to the time of the year. 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 pack growls, allow members to participate and feel valued to their detachment, their department and the community they service, all while recognizing their association with our United States Marine Corps history.

In regards to some recent accomplishments,

As informed or requested, our detachments continue to provide funeral honors for Marines that have passed. Our detachments have participated in various community events and parades and will continue through the year as opportunities present themselves.

Fund raising activities continue with all the detachments, allowing continued service to our numerous scholarship programs, trips and supplies to our local veteran homes, and other forms of financial assistance or support as warranted and approved by membership.

Detachments have established recruiting activities at various locations and at various events seeking to grow our ranks. Recruitment remains one of our department priorities.

Various detachments have provided visual presence, certificates and support to the Boy Scouts Eagle Scout Court of Honor, for those that have achieved such high honor here in the state of Maine.

For Memorial Day ceremonies, detachments were involved in placing flags upon the gravesites of fallen veterans across several veteran cemeteries in our state. This is an annual activity to remember veterans no longer with us. Additionally this year for Memorial Day our department/detachments supported the Lewiston-Auburn Veteran Committee, participating in the installation of a memorial in the Lewiston-Auburn Veteran’s Memorial Park located in Lewiston, ME. This memorial was in dedication to the “5 Chaplains” and was an outstanding event to recognize and memorialize into the future those 5 Chaplains, and that shipboard sacrifice we all know.

In October, we commence with our annual Toys for Tots campaign, running to mid-December. This is a program supported by all of the detachments in our department.

November will bring us our traditional Veteran's day recognition and activities and of course Marine Corps Birthday celebrations.

Our detachments participate in the "Wreaths Across America" program each year. This activity goes on yearlong. Detachments fundraise through the selling of wreaths, and in December, participate in escorting the tractor-trailers carrying the wreaths. Finally, wreaths are placed on gravesites of veterans in their memory in association with national "Wreath's Across America Day" in December, just before Christmas. In 2025, one detachment assisted in selling and placing 600+ wreaths in our various veteran cemeteries. An accomplishment they hope to exceed this year.

In sum, the Department of Maine, consisting of its seven detachments and its Devil Dog Pack 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 Department, the Department of Maine.

Semper Fidelis,

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lubas
Commandant
Department of Maine
New England Division