

# MIDEAST DIVISION

Delaware ♦ District of Columbia ♦ Maryland ♦ North Carolina ♦ Virginia ♦ West Virginia



from the desk of  
**Assistant National Vice Commandant Craig Reeling**

Mideast Division membership,

This is a summary of my notes from the 101<sup>st</sup> National Convention. I drove to California with my youngest son Nick (age 21). Making memories, stopping at historic sites and visiting museums were highlights of our trip. If you have questions, feel free to contact me.

Semper Fi,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CP Reeling".

Mobile/Text: 443-477-0670

Email: Craig.Reeling@MarylandMarines.org

## 101<sup>st</sup> National Convention Notes

### Rancho Mirage, California - August 2024

- **YouTube:** National Headquarters has a YouTube channel '**The Marine Corps League**'. Please like and subscribe to the channel. National posted video updates every day during the convention. Watch the videos, there is no need for me to rehash the same information from those videos.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/@TheMarineCorpsLeague>
- **Ad Books:** Detachments and Departments are encouraged to place ads in all books that they can financially support.
  - National Mid-Winter Conference, National Convention, Mideast Division Conference, Department Convention.
- **Public Relations Committee:** Chairman Victoria McCoy spoke about the YouTube channel, Marketing Guidebook posted on the Member Library, and the monthly zoom meetings **MCL Scuttlebutt**. Scuttlebutts have different topics every month. ALL members and associates are invited. Next three dates are 10 Sep; 8 Oct; 12 Nov. 1900 EST
  - GUIDEBOOK FOR RECRUITING, RETENTION, AND MARKETING
- **Departments Commandants Council:** Recruiting was the primary focus. Many ideas were shared. Get out in your community at local events. Participate in USMC IRR musters. Participate in USMC Recruiting poolee days. Purchase lunch for recruiters once a month (or once a quarter) and much more.

- **Marine Corps League Foundation:** This is the Leagues official non-profit foundation. It is an IRS 501(c)3. They offer humanitarian assistance and administer the Leagues scholarship funds among their good works. This past year they had more funds distributed than donations received. All detachments should consider an annual donation of at least \$100 to the MCL Foundation in their budgets.
  - <https://www.mclfoundation.org/>
- **Marine For Life (M4L):** Connect with M4L Representative in your area. Attend M4L events. Request a M4L representative attend a Det or Dept meeting to talk your membership.
  - <https://www.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/transition-readiness/marine-for-life-network>
- **PNC Society:** The Past National Commandants are available to mentor our current leadership. They are a resource for Detachments and Departments. The PNCs recommend that when members attend a National Convention, they should pass down that information to your local membership.
- **YPF: Youth Physical Fitness** (YPF) program of the [US Marines Youth Foundation](#). The new MCL Chairman Sean Patten spoke about the rebuilding of the YPF program. This is a no cost program to MCL detachments. There is a YPF SOP on the League Library. To contact Sean, email [YPF@MCLeague.org](mailto:YPF@MCLeague.org)
- **Bylaws:** All the proposed changes to the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedure were voted on and a few were withdrawn by the maker. Once updated the documents will be posted to the League Library. Those that were approved are now in effect.
- **Helms Brisco:** Chris from Helms Brisco, a convention company that supports our National Convention & Mid-Winter Committees, can also help with local convention contracts. He can support Department Conventions or any Detachment that needs more than 10 sleep rooms per night. Helms Brisco gets paid through the hotel, so it's no cost to local Dets/Dept. Contact Chis first before you contact a local hotel.
- **Director of Events:** Rob Brooks was hired by National HQs to be our National Director of Events. His roles and responsibilities are currently being defined. Some of the items he will support are Modern Day Marine Expo (MDM), National Conventions, our MCL mobile App.
  - Email [rbrooks@MCLeague.org](mailto:rbrooks@MCLeague.org)
- **2025 National Convention in Texas:** 10-16 August 2025. Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport (Grapevine, TX 75261). Sign up for emails & newsletters at their website. Rangers Baseball game where MODD Hospital Donation check will be presented & MCL Color Guard.
  - <https://mcl250.org/>
- **2026 National Convention in Indiana:** We voted on two hotels in Indianapolis. Wyndham Indianapolis Airport was the winner. More details to follow next year.
- **MCL Mobile App:** Available to download on Android & Apple devices. A digital Membership Card is available. Lists of upcoming events and links to various MCL & USMC websites. Director of Events Rob Brooks is the POC for the MCL Mobile App. You can add Division, Dept & Det events.

- **Veterans Service Officers (VSO):** COO Bob Borka gave a great presentation on how the VSO program helps fulfill the MCLs congressional charter. We are looking to have VSOs have their Primary accreditation with the MCL. Most are co-accredited with the MCL. They currently have their primary with the DAV, VFW, American Legion, etc. Sometimes this involves state funding of VSO positions. We are looking for inroads to get state funding for MCL VSOs. Growing the program through the Divisions and Departments. Bob Borka is the current POC until National HQs can hire a new VSO Director in the future.
- **Marksmanship Committee & Insurance Requirements:** Our current policy through Rust Insurance does not cover Marksmanship events. Your Detachment would be required to obtain its own policy through a local vendor. Members can shoot as individuals, but not as a MCL team. Color Guard / Honor Guard Rifle Details are authorized (since we shoot blanks). When holding raffles, do not display the actual weapon. Photos would be better. Maybe a website link (or QR code) to the weapons website for additional details.
- **Americanism Awards:** They need more Detachments to participate. More info on the League Library.
- **Young Marines:** Dets should support their local YM Unit. Sign up with the YMs to become an Adult Volunteer. Start a YM Unit in your area if there is none.
- **Toys For Tots:** 875 campaigns for 2024 season. 92% of the population is covered. They are working towards year-round expansion. The Marine Toys For Tots Foundation and the MCL are two separate non-profit organizations. We need to work together. If you have any issues, contact the MCL TFT Liaison Russ Miller.
- **Membership Awards:** National Junior Vice Miller gave out Det/Dept/Div awards.
  - The **National Recruiter of the Year** had 40 new members join.
  - We need more members to submit for individual awards. A **Recruiting Medal** is authorized and should be presented at the Department and Detachment level too.
- **12<sup>th</sup> SgtMaj of the Marine Corps Gene Overstreet:** SgtMaj Overstreet gave a motivated talk to the membership.
- **Installation of Officers:**
  - **National Commandant TJ Morgan** Dept of Washington
  - **National Senior Vice Russ Miller** Dept of Colorado
  - **National Junior Vice David Porta** Dept of Massachusetts
  - **National Judge Advocate Bruce Rakfeldt** Dept of North Carolina
  - Division National Vice Commandants
  - Division Assistant National Vice Commandants
  - Appointed Officers
- **Banquet:** Great speaker and dinner. Awarding of National Marine of the Year, National Associate of the Year, and MODD Kennel Dog of the Year.