



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT



June 10, 2023

MCL Department of Oregon 2023 Convention - Commandants Report

Some of what I report today has been sent to the Commandants in previous communications from me.

Staff Changes – Recently we have made one change and added two positions to the Department Staff.

1. Web Sgt/Webmaster – After several years serving in that capacity, Derral Hunt decided to step down, and we thank him for the contributions he has made to the Website and the Department of Oregon. After learning of Derral's decision, I sent out a request to the Commandants for a replacement, and Christy Munro answered the call. Christy has been serving in the same capacity for the USS Oregon Detachment #470. I would like to personally thank Christy for taking on the vital position.
2. Department Representatives – Recently, there have been requests for a department representative for various organizations. As the positions are filled, the names will be added to the department staff. Two recent positions filled are,
 - a. United Veteran's Groups of Oregon (UVGO) – Department of Oregon Representative – UVGO is a coalition of military, veterans, and uniformed services organizations whose mission is working in joint pursuit (in tandem) to reach shared goals and unified positions on matters concerning the welfare of Oregon's veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Fynn Phillips from the Daniel E Crockett Detachment #1228 assumed the position.
 - b. Eagle Scout – Department of Oregon Representative – There was a request for Department representatives whose name will be provided to the National Eagle Scout Committee Chair which will go onto a National Roster for use when National is contacted by Eagle Scouts which are requesting contact names within their state. Allan Stewart from the Calvin E Murphy Detachment #578 assumed the position. Allen is an Eagle Scout and a member of the National Eagle Scout Society.

Communications – As previously stated, active communication within your Detachments and outside your Detachments is vital to the health of the Marine Corps League. I hope you have an active communication process with your members. However, some of the detachments need to improve communications outside your detachments.

1. Response to my request for information or just a response still has a lot of room for improvement. I'm not receiving a bad email response, so I can only assume you

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are receiving my emails. Some of you are great in acknowledging my emails and providing requested information.

2. We have a department website and department Facebook page. They are there for your use. You should be letting others know what you have planned and showcase the activities your detachment has completed. Some of you are following or like the page but have not added any content.
3. Social Media – The Department website shows links to detachments websites. Some of the links are broken and other websites have old information. Make sure to check the links and content. If you have a Facebook page or new Website, let Christy know so she can add a link.
4. Department Paymaster – Remember that Dues Transmittals and Report of Officer Installation “Must” go through the Department Paymaster. The distribution instructions state this. If you have any subsequent issues that need National attention, please go through the Department Paymaster. If necessary, the Department Paymaster may solicit assistance from the NVC Northwest.

Membership - While new members are critical to the future of Detachments, retention of current members is as important if not more. We need to make every effort to ensure that our current members want to remain active members. Overall, the Department membership numbers have gone down over the past 12 months.

	PLM	Yearly	Total
Reg	-8	-117	-125
Ass	-2	-55	-57
Mul			
Total	-10	-172	-182

1. **Regular Members to Associate Members Ratio** – While there are no National guidelines on the subject, you should take the ratio into consideration. I asked our NVC Northwest John “Moose” Moysiuk to comment on the subject and this is what he stated, *“The concern is to try to keep more members than associated in a detachment. Reasoning, since Associate Members can’t vote on detachment issues, the concern is having more associates members basically voting and trying to steer/run a detachment. Associate Members cannot hold the elected positions, but having more voting Associate Members puts the elected officers in a bad position. Those are the concerns from national.”* commented on it as follows. You need to review your membership ratio and adjust as necessary.
2. **National Transmittal Processing** - I know there are issues with the National processing of Dues transmittals. I’ve raised the concern up the chain of command; however, I can’t guarantee that the issues will be resolved.



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Remember if you have issues that require escalation, utilize the Department Paymaster.

3. **NOD Processing** – This subject includes my position as Department Chaplain. In November of 2022 I sent out an affirmation on the processing of NOD. Some of you saw this as a “Change”. However, it wasn’t a change but a clarification on the documented process found in the ‘National Administrative Procedures’ Section 7010. In summary it states,
 - a. Detachment Chaplain will complete the NOD.
 - A copy of the NOD will be sent to the Department Chaplain who will forward it to the National Chaplain.
 - A copy of the NOD will be sent to the Detachment Paymaster.
 - b. The Detachment Paymaster will initiate a ‘Dues Transmittal’ indicating the name of the deceased with a code of NOD.
 - The Dues Transmittal and NOD will be sent to the Department Paymaster who will forward the two documents to the National Membership Manager.

Awards – In previous communication I mentioned that I would like to present Department level awards. My hope is that this becomes a standing process for those Department Commandants who follow me. I would have liked to have seen more nominations for the various Department awards. In some cases, there was only one nomination for a category.

As department funds allow, I would like to see more prominent way of recognizing award winners, such as plaques. This year at the banquet I will be awarding certificates. In addition, perpetual plaques with the ‘Department Marine of the Year’ and “Department Associate Member of the Year” names on it.

If the Detachments do not have an active awards program, I would strongly encourage you to implement one, and as with the Department, make it a standing process.

Detachment Reports – Prior to the National Convention and prior to the National Mid-Winter, every Department Commandant is required to provide a report. Obviously, the source of the report is the Detachment Reports. Every detachment should have a method of recording the detachment and members activities throughout the year. This would make your work of producing the reports a lot simpler and avoid the need to guess. I previously mentioned that my home detachment 373 created a ‘Community Service Report’ which allows members to tack their activities, monthly. This is like the process carried out by the VFW. I would like to report that everyone is providing the report but are not there yet.



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Administrative Tasks – A Reminder

IRS and State of Oregon – The IRS website states, “Form 990 is due on the 15th day of the 5th month following the end of the organization's taxable year. For organizations on

a calendar year, the Form 990 is due on May 15th of the following year.” In addition, you need to make sure you are doing your Annual Report with the Oregon Corporation Division. They are due on the anniversary date of your registry date. You should receive a notice approximately 45 days before the due date.