

# Marine Corps League



## DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

State House, Room 545  
24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02231  
617-720-0414

November 15th 2022

### Commandant's Activities:

- Represented the Department of Massachusetts at the funeral of intentionally unclaimed Vietnam Veteran, Ronald J. Smith at the Winchendon National Cemetery on October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Represented the Department of Massachusetts at New England Division's zoom meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Represented the Department of Massachusetts at the Semper Fidelis Society Luncheon on November 4<sup>th</sup>
- Represented the Department of Massachusetts, alongside the Honorable Few Detachment, at Captain Jennifer J Harris's Celebration of Life. This took place in Swampscott MA, on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Represented the Department of Massachusetts at the Pequog Detachment Birthday Ball on November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Represented the Department of Massachusetts Marine Corps League at the City of Greenfield Veterans Day ceremony and parade.
- Represented the Department of Massachusetts Marine Corps League at a meeting of the Combat Vets Motorcycle Association. At this meeting, I presented a check from Department of MA for \$1,000 out of my \$2,500 Commandants Special Donations line item. The Combat Vets were raising money for their annual Auxiliary Scholarship Fundraiser. Due to this donation, two young Marines expressed interest in joining my Detachment. Oak Ridge Detachment now also has plans to collaborate with them in the spring and summer to advertise and fundraise for both of our organizations. From what I have been able to see up to this point, this specific organization is loaded with younger Marines and veterans. I believe we should be collaborating with them and similar veterans groups and encouraging cross membership.
- Represented the Department of Massachusetts Marine Corps League by holding a non veteran responsible for their fraudulent representations of being a veteran, as well as being an Officer of the Marine Corps League. This was done through contact with the fraud herself and the town manager who employs her, and when that didn't go anywhere, contact with multiple state reps and senators, with the full support of Division NVC Dave Porter and National SVC Warren Griffin.  
Thank you for your support in this matter gentlemen.

-Represented the Department of Massachusetts at the Honorable Few Detachment Birthday Ball, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

-I have finalized the Detachment Locator feature on the Department's website, to encourage new members to reach out to us to join the League.

-Due to the updated Department website, I recently have forwarded a membership request received through it to Cape Cod Detachment Commandant Ron Timm. Here's hoping that Marine becomes a solid member of their Detachment.

-All Detachments that have confirmed or provided their meeting times and locations have now been added to the Department Calendar. Please consider providing me with your fundraisers, recruitment events, or other activities so that I may add them to the calendar as well to increase your turnouts.

-I requested NVC Dave Porter to transfer the members of the former Jennifer Harris Detachment out, in order to finalize the closure of the now defunct Detachment. These Marines were given multiple opportunities to pick a new Detachment to transfer to, or go to MAL. No response. Closest Detachment is Honorable Few, but if this is a conflict of interest, Executive Detachment remains an option. Bear in mind this remains a priority for multiple reasons, especially as I signed off on The Honorable Few's request to incorporate J.J Harris into their name. Also bear in mind a Detachment isn't officially closed as long as there are members still showing in it, in the ATLAS database. Additionally, any Blackstone Marines that have not effectively transferred into another Detachment need to be moved as well in order to finalize their closure. Senior Vice Commandant Zwirblia can speak more to this during his report.

-I continue to update the Chaplains Corner regarding our deceased members, but unfortunately we are losing League members faster than I can add them to the deceased members list.

### **Commandant's Concerns:**

I am currently concerned with a number of Detachments that are extremely out of compliance with Department. Detachment names don't need to be shared here publicly, however please know that during the remainder of my term I will be looking to ensure compliance is had, and if not those Detachments will be discussed with the BOT and likely looking at suspension or revocation of charter. When you are going multiple years out of compliance regarding ANY required documentation that needs to be sent to the State of MA, or the Department, you're looking at a likely suspension until the issue is rectified. Department also has a job to do, and we are required to ensure Detachments are doing what they are supposed to. Going 5 years or more without turning in reports is unacceptable and will stop.

-Final Topic. As some of you may be aware by now, Membership recruitment and Detachment visibility are my main concern alongside compliance, which is why I am grateful to have a strong leadership team with me who help to handle other aspects of the Department. It's very much apparent to; I think all of us that we are at a crossroads with both the Department and our Detachments at this point in time. The need for new members and new volunteers to step up and contribute is painfully clear, especially with all the new younger veterans' organizations springing up in recent years.

Recently, I had overheard a League member make a comment somewhere along the lines of "I learned it's best not to volunteer for extra duties" This was disappointing to hear as we are understaffed at the Department level and could very much use more Marines to step up. With this in mind, it's my opinion that we should be doing anything and everything to bring in new members. We are sitting on a fairly sizeable amount of money at the moment, and while we should be safe to protect ourselves financially, we

should also not be hesitant to spend what we need to on advertising. All this money won't do us any good if our Detachments and the Department itself becomes defunct.

Moving the recruitment line item from \$1500 to \$6,000 was a start, but I am hoping we can do better shortly in the future. Detachments in most cases don't have anywhere near the kind of money needed to be able to afford recruitment advertising.

In the end, it all comes down to the painful reality that if we don't act soon, we will in short order find that we don't have enough volunteers at the Department level to stay open, never mind the Detachment level. As a younger Marine myself, I ask all of you for your full support in regards to the current young staff and the ideas that they have to keep our Department and Detachments alive and well. Thank you.