



DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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

September 18th 2022 Department Meeting

Department Commandant report is as follows:

1. On August 13th, I attended the Honorable Few Detachment's Captain Jennifer J Harris Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser and motorcycle ride. It was extremely well attended, and professionally run. Junior Vice Mike Hinds can speak more to this if he would like. I was honored to have been invited and attend.
2. Also on August 13th, Commandant Jim Summers from the Honorable Few Detachment accepted an appointment to District Vice Commandant for the Boston North District. I am very encouraged by Commandant Summers participation in the Department moving forward and we are all lucky to have him aboard.
3. Department polo's have been ordered and a check is in the mail for payment. A total quantity of 56 has been ordered. All Detachments were encouraged to order, as the idea was for everyone to feel included, to represent the Department publicly, and to encourage Detachment members to participate in Department. Further, all Detachments were given multiple chances to order, and order quantities were offered fairly for each Detachment. Discussion was had with Senior Vice Jon Zwirblia and Junior Vice Mike Hinds as to the best line item use for this purchase. Total cost to Department was \$1731.00, and the majority is coming out of the Department Advertising line item that was recently increased. Senior Vice Zwirblia may speak more on this.
4. I would very much like to find a League member who would take on the responsibility of collecting news from Detachments in order to put together a Department newsletter, which could then also be shared with the New England Division Newsletter. As you may recall me stating previously, MA is very much behind in this regard and consistently has little to offer Division. For those of you who take the time to read this newsletter, other NE Departments have a lot to offer, and frankly MA is usually the only one that doesn't. I have previously taken the time to do my best to have something to offer, and Walt Benson has as well. It would be great if we could do better in this regard. Please bring this to your Detachments and inquire who would be willing to take a

Department position in this regard. Requirements would be reaching out to Detachments to inquire about their events, via phone and email.

5. Open District Vice positions. We are still in need for North Central and South Central District Vice Commandants. Please ask your Marines to step up and contribute to the Department. The only requirements are the ability to communicate efficiently via both email and phone. Members would occasionally be asked to conduct officer installation in their District, as the Senior Staff has been running around conducting installations themselves and are already stretched thin. Further requirements are communicating with your Detachments to ensure all reports and other paperwork is filed on time. It would be great if we could further assist the Division Compliance officer so he may report on full MA Detachment compliance to Division. Members who have had already demonstrated difficulty communicating via email or phone will not be considered.

6. Website Detachment Locator: This is in the works to assist new prospective members to find their closest Detachment. Please ensure your Detachments confirm their locations and times by resubmitting the information to the Department Adjutant. I am still missing quite a few Detachments and thus have not been able to activate this feature yet.

7. Department Communication: Lastly, I would like to bring to your attention a Department level lack of communication recently. In this specific case the 25th Marines burger burn, which is a Department paid for event, where not a single member of the senior staff was invited or notified. Further, the Senior Staff, who all would have enjoyed speaking to Marines around our own age to foster League growth, did not get that chance. It is very discouraging for me to see this happen. League members who have been around longer should be actively looking to work with younger League members to pass on knowledge and help us facilitate League growth. Further, I think we would all agree that it does not encourage today's young Marines to want to join the League, when they see no one at all who is around their own age present. I ask that those responsible for what I can only hope is an accidental oversight to please do better in this regard moving forward.

Thank you.

Brian Brooks
Department of MA Commandant

We are a non-profit organization whose officers are all volunteers and contributions are used to assist other Marines, further the brotherhood, and honor our fallen brothers and sisters. We are registered as a 501(c)(4) not for profit corporation with a special group exemption number GEN-0955 since July of 1946. This special exemption from federal income tax also allows contributions made to us to be deductible by the donors in arriving at their taxable net income in the manner and to the extent provided by section 23(o) and (q) of the Internal Revenue Code. An IRS letter 99-1035, dated November 29, 1998 further recognizes this special exemption GEN-0955

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