Minutes of the General Meeting of the Department of Ohio Annual Convention

The 2021 Annual Meeting and Convention of the Department of Ohio, Marine Corps League begin with the Normal Ceremony and Recognitions, hosted by Eugene Doak Walker Detachment 963, Springfield, Ohio.

**Special Guests**: National Central Division Assistant Vice Commandant Mike S and Illinois Dept Commandant recognized and thanked.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**:  
Motion by Det. Cmdt Tom Martin to accept Minutes as presented, 2nd COS John Pickrel Motion passed without discussion.

No Correspondence:

**PAYMASTER REPORT**:  
Presented verbally by AdjPM Thom Seymour  
Motion to accept subject to Audit by PDC Frank Gron 2nd By Stan Williams  
Discussion Chaplain Yehl mentioned the history of the Marines Helping Marines Fund.  
Motion passed.

AdjPM Seymour also remarked that he would like to move some of the funds from the Checking Account to the Savings simply as a measure to protect some of the funds. A motion was Made by PDC Ray Daily, 2nd by Sr. Vice Gary Evans Motion passed.

**REPORT OF SICK OR INJURED**:  
Chaplain Yehl reported on his open-heart surgery, as well as; PDC Frank Head Det. 269 is being treated in a facility for dementia, Marine Dan Davis Det. 270 who lost his wife Past MCLA Dept Pres. Linda Davis. Marine Mike Williams Det. 602 is struggling with health issues, Marine Joe Burger Det 555, Inchon Marine, passed the 1st day of convention. PDC Harkness reported on his progress from back surgery.

**Senior Vice Commandant’s Report**:  
Working with Ways and Means committee to provide funding for the Dept without raising Dues. Also encourage All Detachments to develop and maintain lines of communication with the Department either directly or through their Division Vice Commandants.

**Junior Vice Commandant’s Report**:  
Working with Division Vice Commandants to realign and possible rename Department of Ohio Divisions.
Judge Advocate’s Report:

Working on correcting the proposed By Law Changes as previously reported for presentation in Unfinished Business.

Sergeant At Arms Report:

Thanked everyone for their support and as he is accepting other responsibilities within the Department he will be turning over the duties to our New Sgt At Arms Wayne Harris,

Chief of Staff:

Been rough year keeping our Commandant in line and names correct on reports. But grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Chaplains Report:

Still receiving Death Notices from previous years, received 15 today from as old as 2015. Detachments need to submit these as soon as they can after the Marine has passed to avoid complications with Membership issues including widows having to relive the pain and sorrow of losing a loved one.

Commandant Report:

As representative of the Dept. of Ohio Commandant Kirk and AdjPM Seymour will be attending the National convention in Springfield, Illinios.

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE:

Sr. Vice Evans first thanked Eugene Doak Walker Detachment for hosting this convention, as well as Dept. Jr. Vice Roger Smith, Marine Stan Williams for all their efforts in making it possible.

October Meeting to be hosted by the Det 269 in Akron on Oct 7th, 8th, and 9th.

January Meeting to be hosted by the Licking County Det. 602 at Newark, Ohio

March Meeting TBD.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:

Sr. Vice Evans reported that detachments need to step up and assist the department in raise funds through our fund-raising events. Failure to successfully raise funds will result in a dues increase.

Past efforts have been successful only because of the efforts of the Land of Legend MCLA Unit.

Jr Vice added that raising dues should be an absolute very last option as it is detrimental to recruiting new members as well as retaining old one.

Past MCLA Dept Pres. Debby Evans presented a opportunity to raise funds by a raffle that shadows the Ohio lottery. For running the raffle and because the donations will be deposited into the Land of Legends MCLA Unit account, Past Pres Evans is asking for a donation of 10 percent of the net proceeds to the Land of Legends MCLA Unit. Motion by Chaplain Dave Yehl to proceed with the proposed Fund Raiser. 2nd by Stan Williams. Discussion: Dept. Jr. Vice Roger Smith asked if there was a way to tweak the fund-raiser to inspire competition between the detachments? Individual and Detachment
Commendation awards with discussed by Dept. Jr Vice Roger Smith, Marine Keith Griffith and Marine Dan Davis. The question was called. Motion passed unanimously.

YOUTH COMMITTEE:

Adj/PM Seymour reported Young Marine Regiment of Parma requested a grant in the amount of $500.00 which was approved. Cmdt Kirk explained the objectives of the Youth Committee and it’s ability to provide some funding to various youth organizations. Information can be obtained from the Dept of Ohio website. AdjPM Seymour also reminded the new form needs to be updated to the website so that applications for Grants will be received by him and past Chair PDC Leidy.

MARINE FOR LIFE: No report.

EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR: No Report

AWARDS COMMITTEE:

Dept. Jr. Vice Roger Smith recommended that Marines use the Individual and Detachment Meritorious Award as a means of recognizing individuals and detachments for their participation and assistance in local, Division, Department and National events and ceremonies. Also individuals and detachments should be recognized with this award for their recruiting efforts in addition to other awards that can be achieved. Marine Ken Griffith agreed.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Cmdt Kirk commended Jr. Vice Roger Smith for his outstanding presentation. AdjPM Seymour was also recognized for his class.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Audit of the Department Finances was conducted June 11, 2021 for the period of June 2019 to June 2021 all records were found to be in order with standard accounting practices. Audit conducted by CE Div. Vice John Klein, Chief of Staff John Pickrel, and PDC Frank Gron. The IRS 990-n filing for the Dept of Ohio Marine Corps League for the previous was filed electronically, a copy of the confirmation email is available for inspection.

VAD Committee:

PDC Darrel Logan (& VAD Chair) reported they have rehired all VSO’s Hamilton, Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus and Cleveland Areas. So far this year MCL VSO’s have represented Veterans from all services who have or will be awarded $4,850,000.00 in benefits. Note those awards were accomplished with only half the staff that is currently in place.

Also, anyone needing or wanting a COVID 19 the VA is offering it to ANY veteran regardless of discharge status. Burn pit status has changed any veteran exposed needs to check with a VSO for potential benefits. Additional benefits have been authorized for veterans and are available to those who apply. Veteran have to apply to receive any benefits. Ohio is the ONLY Department in the Marine Corps League that continues to provide assistance to Veterans with Service Officers, processing claims from Ohio and overseas veterans. VAD Dave Yehl reported that all required applications, certifications and reports have been filed for the Dept of Ohio VADs.
DIVISION VICE REPORTS:

NE DIV VICE  PDC Frank Gron reported that since COVID many Detachments are either not meeting or are conducting their meetings on services such as zoom. PDC Gron has been working with PDC John Cook to insure that because of the number of Detachments in their Division each are being contacted by either Gron or Cook. Detachments working to submit the required reports they need to the appropriate agency or officers.

NW DIV VICE  Tom Martin has visited every detachment and all except one are current with the reports they need to file with one exception, and that detachment is working with the appropriate agency to resolve their issues.

SE DIV VICE  Irene Cain: No Report

NC DIV VICE  John Marx: No Report

CE DIV VICE  John Klein has reached out to all his Detachment as yet none have responded. Klein asked for the assistance of Jr. Vice Roger Smith who has assisted in Detachment getting back on their feet.

SW DIV VICE  Stan Williams has contacted all of his Detachments and attended all meetings of those who are meeting, and assisted Det. 1191 in contacting those Marines who have displayed an interest in joining. Cmdt Kirk congratulated Div. Vice Williams for bringing back two detachments within his division from the brink of closing. Williams also wanted to thank all the detachments from his Division that have supported the Convention this year with their attendance.

WEBSEARGEANT:  No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

By laws changes to be addressed later in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

National Convention will be attended by Cmdt Kirk, CE Div. Vice John Klein, PDC Gron, and Adj/PM Seymour. Chaplain Yehl reported that he has two invoices to present to the Paymaster at a later time.

Cmdt Kirk reported that the Dept will be meeting in Oct or Sep at Fairlawn, (Akron), Ohio. The January Meeting will be held at the VFW Post in Newark Ohio. The 2022 National Convention will be held at Daytona Florida in place of the 2020 Convention that was cancelled due to COVID.

Nominations of Officers:

Nominations for Department Officers conducted by PDC Darrel Logan and are as follows:

Commandant Michael Kirk by PDC Frank Gron
Senior Vice Commandant Gary Evans by PDC Frank Gron
Junior Vice Commandant Roger Smith by Frank Gron
Judge Advocate Tyrone Sanders by Frank Gron
Paymaster Thom Seymour by PDC Frank Gron
DETACHMENT REPORTS:

Chesty Puller Det. 269

Det Cmdt (Dept JA) Tyrone Sanders reported they have worked with the two Young Marine Detachments on their Memorial Day service even though they did not have a Parade this year. The Young Marines conducted the Flag Ceremony. The Young Marines were also awarded Certificates by the Detachment in recognition of their service, and the Chesty Puller Det# 269 contributed $1500 to each. Plan on

Montezuma Cincinnati Det. 270 report filed.

Dayton Det. 271 No Report

Lou Diamond Det. 272 No Report.

Walter S. Kildow Det 273 No Report

Maj. S.J. Logan Det 275 No Report

McKinley Det. 277 No Report

PFC Russel Mook Det. 279 No Report

Leatherneck Det. 393 No Report

Lofton Henderson Det. 474 No Report

Tri State Det. 494 No Report

Lancaster Leatherneck Det. 497 No Report

Belleau Wood Columbus Det 508 No Report

Richland County Marines Det 527 No Report

Col. Justice M. Chambers Det. 555

PDC Frank Gron reported the Detachment participated in Memorial Day Services at the Mentor Cemetery. With the assistance of the Lake & Geauga County Young Marines over four hundred flowers were planted at the Cemetery. Even with the restrictions of the COVID the Detachment facility has survived and will continue to operate and serve,

Medina County Det. 569 No Report

Beirut 241 Det. 576 No Report

Licking County Det. 602

Cmdt John Klein reported they supplied a couple of Firing Squads to events in the area, to include the Vietnam Veterans of America. They plan on participating in the 4th of July Parade.
PDC John Cook, reported that they have a gun raffle that raises money for a scholarship fund that this year will be awarding 8 scholarships of $1000.00 each. Detachment has also provided Honor Guard to Veteran Funerals regardless of the Branch of Service.

Ohio Leathernecks Det. 845 No Report

Western Ohio Det. 923

Cmdt Dave Rothman reported their Detachment worked with the Young Marines for their Annual Area Drill Competition the weekend before the Dept Convention. The Young Marines were very impressive and drew the attention and admiration of all those present. Attendees were from throughout the Midwest. The Detachment is in the process of reorganization, and hope to be able to serve as Honor Guards in the near future.

Bobby D. White Det. 953 No Report

Eugene Doak Walker Det. 963

Jr. Vice Wayne Harris Detachment continues to maintain communication as best they can with members during the Pandemic. With the recent start of meetings they are reaching out offering assistance if needed and reminding them of meeting schedule. They have also assisted the VFW post they share and by helping out with weekly breakfast and recruiting new members for them as well. They have also recruited 6 new members during the Pandemic, as well as expand the Ranks of the Devil Dogs by six. Dept. Jr Vice Roger Smith shared that the local papers have reported on the Department of Ohio Convention and used Photos of their Detachment from the Memorial Day Parade for the Article. After the Memorial Day Parade the local stations used their float to broadcast their show. Marine Murgatroyd reported the Detachment averages between 1 to 3 Funerals per week during the pandemic expending over 3000 rounds of ammunition. Cmdt Kirk congratulated their Detachment for all they have accomplished and thanked them again for hosting the convention.

Chosin Reservoir Det. 968

Detachment continues to provide Honor and Color Guards as best they can when asked. They also worked with their Young Marine Detachment as best they can.

Pvt Robert B. Crites Det. 995 No Report

PFC Leonard F. Mason Det. 1063
Report Filed. In addition the Local VA facility was moved to the 3rd floor of the St Rita’s Medical Center. The Detachment identified and assisted a local woman in producing a collage that depicts every battle the Marine Corps has been in and donated it to the VA. Estimated cost was $2500. Since then she has expressed a desire to do one for each branch of the service, which the Detachment is now working to fulfill that ambition.

James J. McClelland Det. 1148 No Report

Col William E. Barber Det. 1191 No Report

Fireland Det. 1192 No Report

Lt. Terrence C. Graves Det. 1330 No Report

Wayne County Marines Det. 1343 No Report

Cleveland Police Det. 1410 No Report

Sgt. Bob O’Malley Det. 1436 No Report

Sgt Justin F. Hoffman Det 1437 No Report

Cmdt Kirk reminded all Division Vices to insure their reports are filed with Division Vice Coordinator Tom Martin. And also thanked all the detachments present for attending and participating in the Convention.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

National Central Division Asst. Vice Commandant Mike Sturch spoke on the structure and staff of the National Central Division. The National Central Division is funded by contributions from each Department within the division. It is suggested that each Dept. donate $100 to meet the Central Divisions needs. With six states in the Division $600.00.

Phil Zamora will be running for National JA at the National convention.

Each Detachment should have a Marine for Life representative.

Banking Info for Detachments need to be registered with COO Bob Borka to avoid returned checks for Life Member Dividends.

Detachment and Department officers, as well as MCL Members need to check the Library for current forms such as; Transmittals, Report of Installation Forms as well as any other current National forms.

PM’s need to also report Date of Death as well as regular reporting requirements.

Plastic Membership Cards are being provided for New Members and Annual when they are processed by National. Life Members wishing to get a Plastic Membership Card will have to register on line and pay the $10. Fee to receive one.

Status of this year’s National convention estimates are that at least 500 will be attending.

Status of 2022 National Convention will be in Daytona to make up for the contracts that were written for 2020 and because of COVID the convention could not be held. Because National and so many others
stood to lose a lot of money, the 2020 contracts were renegotiated to bring the convention back to Daytona in 2022

2023 will be the 100 year anniversary of the Marine Corps League. Because that is going to be such a big deal there are many events / plans in the works for the celebration. One of those will be a design contest for the 100th Anniversary Challenge Coin. There are currently four contenders for the 2023 Convention they are Pittsburgh, PA; Albany, NY; Oklahoma City, OK; and Las Vegas, NV. Because that will be decided this year they should all be putting their best efforts in winning the bid.

National is considering a Marine Corps League Riders Club much like the Legion Riders of the American Legion. The idea is as the Marine Corps League was founded to combine several other Marine Veteran organizations that formed after WWI. The Marine Corps League Riders would hopefully combine groups such as the Semper Fi Riders, Leatherneck Nation, and others to better serve all Marine Riders.

National is attempting to remedy the Mess Dress Uniform issues which evolved around the wrong material being used which also was the wrong color. COO Bob Borka is reaching out to former suppliers of Marine Corps League apparel to see if other options can found.

The Database is currently up and running. There are two levels of information and access. Members can review information and offer corrections. Detachment and Department Commandants and Paymaster can log in at their level of access and review and recommend changes that National must approve before they become effective.

Mid Winter National is set for Feb 24 thru 27 at Norfolk Water Front Hotel in Virginia. It continues there because of a contract that required a three year commitment. Recommendations are to move it after that contract expires to a more central location in the US so that everyone doesn’t have to travel from all over the country to the east coast every year.

Central Division Conference is set for, oddly enough Springfield Ohio next year. That will be the weekend of March 18th and 19th, that should be a good convention.

In closing please be careful on Social Media. People monitor that and because of our Non Profit status comments, posts, opinions can affect the status of the Marine Corps League and all of it’s Departments and Detachment.

Chaplain Dave Yehl moved the Department contribute $100.00 to the Central Division for its operating expenses. 2nd by PDC Ray Daily. Hearing no discussion Cmdt Kirk called the vote and the Motion Passed.

**AWARD COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS:**

- **Recognition for** the Staff of Hotel presented by Cmdt Kirk with certificates of Appreciation
- Distinguished Service Medal Bronze Awarded to Amy Smith
- Distinguished Citizen Medal Silver presented to:
  - Roger Smith,
- Distinguished Service Award Silver presented to:
Gary Evans, Thom Seymour, Tyrone Sanders, Dave Yehl, Frank Gron, Lora Leway, Tom Martin, Irene Cain, John Klein, Stanley Williams, Darrel Logan, Don Perry, Dan Perry.

Victor Fisher Trustee Award presented to:

John Pickrel, Christopher Lynch,

Meritorious Unit Commendation Eugene Doak Walker Det. 963

JR VICE COMMANDANTs Award approved for the Following Detachments.

269, 270, 272, 275, 277, 279, 494, 508, 555, 569, 602, 758, 782, 837, 923, 963, 1063, 1148, 1192, 1343, 1410, 1436, 1437.

**PROPOSED BY LAW / ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE CHANGES**

Proposed by Judge Advocate Tyrone Sanders

Proposed Administrative Procedure change 410 Division Alignment Change.

Ray Daily moved to adopt, John Pickrel 2nd

Discussion Chaplain Yehl asked if it was necessary for the body to vote on the proposal of if it would be something the executive committee could decide and vote on.

Jr. Vice Roger Smith moved to amend the Motion as follows: Motion 2nd by Stan Williams

279 moved to Lake Division, 497 listed twice, remove from Lake Division, 1410 not listed add to Lake Division, 508 not listed add to Central East Division.

Discussion: Ken Griffith asked which Det in River Div. Logan called the Vote.

Logan moved the original amendment Motion passed.

Proposed Administrative Procedure to add 310 Budget

AdjPM Seymour moved accept as previously presented PDC Logan 2nd. Motion passed.

Proposed change to Administrative Procedure Add to Section 315 K Dept MOY Society (Attached)

Motion to Accept Stan Williams, 2nd by Marine Keith Murgatroyd 2nd Motion passed,

Proposed Administrative Procedure to add Section 315 Expenses (of Trustees and Dept. Officers)

Ray Dailey moved to reject Darrell Logan 2nd

Discussion: PDC Logan remarked on the potential of increased expense to the Department.

Roger Smith speaking on behalf of Division Vice Commandants should be considered for compensation
Motion to reject approved; Returned for consideration and rewrite

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Caucus for Division Vice Commandant Election**

Lake Division  Frank Gron - John Cook  
North West Division  Tom Martin  
North East Division  Vacant  
Central East Division  John Klein  
South East Division  Vacant  
South West Division  Stan Williams  
River Division  Ken Griffith

Dave Yehl moved as there are no contested races, to cast one unanimous for Division Vices

2nd by Mike Kirk.  Motion passed.

**Election of Department Officers**

Commandant Michael Kirk

Senior Vice Commandant Gary Evans

Junior Vice Commandant Roger Smith

Judge Advocate Tyrone Sanders

Paymaster Thom Seymour

2 Year Trustee Christopher Lynch

2 Year VAD Dave Yehl

PDC Frank Gron moved as there are no contested races, to cast one unanimous for Department Officers,

2nd by Stan Williams,  Motion passed.

PDC Logan recessed the meeting in the proper fashion and ceremony in preparation for Department Banquet.
9:35 am June 11, 2021

Commandant's Council

Conducted by Dept. Sr. Vice Cmdt Gary Evans

discussing changes in By Laws regarding Ohio Divisions changes.

Chaplain Dave Yehl mentioned if Bd of Trustees can change Dept. Divisions

AdjPM Seymour compared National Divisions and Departments as an example that Departments (States), can change Divisions within their boundaries/jurisdictions.

Seymour asked if proposed by laws had been submitted and approved by National, JA Sanders said that they had not.

Evans commented that Department By Law changes do not take affect until they have been submitted to national, and have been approved by national.

Yehl stated that his detachment submitted by law changes to then Dept. JA Paul smith, who advised corrections which the detachment adopted.

Evans reported that his Detachment attempted to change their by laws but He (not sure who he is) wanted to change their name from Licking County Marines to Newark Marines. Eventually the detachment bypassed him and sent the changes to National Directly.

Evans reported that Detachments are not supporting the Department and better communication needs to be developed for Detachments and the Department staff can work together to help both.

Costs are increasing in almost every area, and the only way to keep from increasing the Department Dues is for Detachments to support Department Fund Raising Efforts.

10:35 AM Paymaster Class

Changes in National procedures things moving to Online

National website information Mcleague.org directions on accessing Members library section

Instructions for reporting Deaths within your detachment

Detachments need to insure that someone preferably the Adjutant and/or Paymaster has email and internet access in order to communicate effectively with National and the rest of the Marine Corps League

Accountability through audits as instructed and required by Department and Detachment By Laws to insure that all units are in compliance with all local, state, and national rules regulations and laws.
Signatures on Checks was discussed by PDC Ray Daily, Adj/PM Seymour, DivVice Tom Martin, Cmdt Mike Kirk.

Recommendation that a notice/letter from the Judge Advocate addressing the issues of two signatures

Types of forms discussed and how each are required to be forwarded in accordance with current National Instructions.

Division Vice Commandants

11:25 AM

JR VICE Commandant Class

OUTLINE PROVIDED

Change is a natural process. Whether we like it or not, change occurs. For things to progress, for things to grow for things to be useful, they need and will change.

Example, Training at Convention is currently conducted on Friday. The most Attendance at Convention is on Saturday, why not have training on Saturday morning before the business session begins?

We need to be able to provide information to those who need it, in a way they can get it.

Understanding the challenge helps drive the change for

1. Create a Clear Vision and Direction for your organization.
   Know what you have and what you need

2. Anticipate or drive changes.
   Identify what you need to do to make things better

3. Effective communication
   Establish a consistent link to provide what everyone needs to know

4. Detachment Public Service and Relations
   Membership Involvement at every level

5. Create a Strategy for Change and Planning
   Once you have identified what you need to do need,

6. Ability to Make Difficult Decisions
   Not all change is easy, and sometimes to do the right thing is not
7. Forge effective teamwork, working relations with life members
   People with experience are necessary, ultimatums are not.

8. Effective Management
   Find people to do the job and “let them” do it. Micromanagement is not effective management.

9. Learn from mistakes
   Remember what worked, and what didn’t and know why. Admit what you did right AND
   WRONG, learn what you need to do to correct it.

10. Qualify Officers and Appointees
    Don’t just put someone in the job to fill the seat. You are better off to leave the office vacant

11. Address Issues while being tactful.
    The worst attitude even if the issue is critical, makes the problem worst. Devise courteous
    responses and address issues before they become a battleground that drives participants away.
    Praise in Public Reprimand in Private.

12. Know the Marine Corps and the League as it changes.
    History can be interesting, but “Shared” experiences Equal time in the conversation develops
    the relationship and builds comradery.

Commandant Kirk asked JV Smith for after action report