

MCLA NEWS

The Monthly National Newsletter for the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Inc

MARCH 2018

WE'RE ONLINE! VISIT US AT: WWW.NATIONALMCLA.ORG

National President:

Karen Aune

National Sr Vice

President:

Carol Smith

National Jr Vice

President:

Evelyn Joppa

National Judge

Advocate:

Linda Chamberlain

Jr Past National

President:

Deborah Evans

National Chaplain:

Barb Nobile, PNP

National Big Flea:

Donna Jean Peterson

National Regent:

Colleen English

Newsletter Editor:

Meg Krebs

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**Deadline for ALL
articles is the 15th
of each month.**

From the Desk of the National President

Happy Spring! Almost.

The National Mid-Winter Staff meeting in Fredericksburg, VA was a huge success, as always. Thanks so much to all those who were able to attend and participate and to the the wonderful ladies who prepared and delivered food for the hospitality room. It is greatly appreciated.



It's time to start preparing those annual reports. Please be sure that your Unit is counting all the members and activities that you participate in. Make sure you get credit for the work you so graciously do. Not just for a Certificate, but to show the League, and others, what and how much we do for our Veterans. Last year a Marine asked me for a copy of the report that I delivered to the League. He wanted to show his Detachment and Department what we do. He was very impressed with our numbers. As they should be. We are a strong presence in the services and assistance that is provided. Always be proud of this!

Since it is time to prepare our annual reports, that also means it is time to prepare for the National Convention. I realize that there are lots of Division and Department meetings that will occur prior to that time, but please be sure to encourage your membership to attend the National Convention. That is where the decisions are made, by the attending membership, on the issues that are brought to the floor for discussion. It is difficult for someone to speak on another's behalf and be sure that they are conveying the right message.

Attending the Department, Division and National meetings is something each member should strive to do. It is the opportunity to have input on the issues that matter. To assist in the operation and growth of the organization, at all levels. Because, you see, the National Staff/Officers do not run the organization. You, the member, do. We are simply the ones that carry out your wishes. You make the decisions, and we abide by them. It is our responsibility to guide the

3 Things.....

Without you, the member, there is no Units of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. There are 3 things each one of you are encouraged to do:

1. Attend monthly meetings;
2. Recruit New Members & renew current Members;
3. Volunteer

Division Conferences:

Calling all Division Vice President's: Send in the Dates of when you're Division Conference to be listed here.

2018 Central Division Conference
April 5-8, 2018 at the Radisson Hotel
111 N. Grand Ave.,
Lansing, MI 48933
Direct Reservation: 1-800-333-3333
Hotel: 1-517-482-0188
or log on to:
www.radisson.com/lansingmi
Please use promotional code: MCLA18 for your discounted group rate of \$110 plus City & State tax (currently at 13%)
Check in: 4pm/Check out: 12pm (noon)
Cutoff date: March 23, 2018

organization, ensure that we stay on the right path and encourage and nurture the membership.

I am hopeful that you have taken the time to give my previous challenge some serious thought; to have an open and meaningful conversation with your MCL counterparts. I would love to hear the results of this.

Thank you for all that you do. You are awesome!

Semper Fi,

Karen Aune

National President

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

From the Desk of the National Sr Vice President

Ladies of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary,

As of March 1, the 2018 Mid-Winter Conference has begun! This missive contains just a couple of last minute reminders for those who are in attendance in Fredericksburg.

I will be conducting the Department Presidents' Council on the morning of Friday, March 2. It will be held in our meeting room at 7:45 a.m. This meeting is intended for all department and unit presidents; however, anyone who aspires to lead a unit or department or just wants to learn more is welcome to attend.

In addition, on Saturday, March 3 at 7:30 a.m., I will be hosting a breakfast in honor of our National President, Karen Aune. Please feel free to get your breakfast from the restaurant and bring it into our meeting room as you arrive. I hope many of you will join me to thank Madam President for her commitment to the Auxiliary and to enjoy some social time together.

I am looking forward to a fun and productive weekend!

Semper Fidelis,

Carol Smith

National Sr Vice President

From the Desk of the National Jr Vice President

Auxiliary Members

Greetings Ladies!

Last month we talked about recruiting and filling out the application with the signature of the recruiter.

National MCLA Website:

www.nationalmcla.org

National MODD Fleas

Website:

www.nationalmoddfleas.org

National Marine Corps

League:

www.mclnational.org/

Let's address mentoring our current members. When was the last time your unit got together just to enjoy each other or do something fun as a group?

Our Conferences, and Division meetings give a lot of us the opportunity to accomplish a lot of work and enjoy each other.

Our units do a lot, have fun too. Maybe lunch out. I know of a Florida Unit that is planning a trip to the horse races for lunch. Let us know what you are doing to keep you unit strong by using our programs of pride. I look forward to hearing about your fun as well as promoting our goals and purposes.

Remember to let your community know about the wonderful things you are doing for our service men & women, veterans & community. These things always lead to the opportunity to recruit.

Be well, be safe, work hard and enjoy!

*"Forget all the reasons it won't work and believe the one reason that it will."
– Unknown*

My door is always open, please feel free to contact me if I can be of any help.

Semper Fidelis

Evelyn B. Joppa

National Jr. Vice President

From the Desk of the National Judge Advocate

Dear Auxiliary Sisters:

Greetings from the City of the Super Bowl Champions Philadelphia EAGLES!

This month I would like to talk to you about an Auxiliary member who could use the help of her Auxiliary sisters, through Team Denise organized to assist her.

Denise T. is a Gold Star Mother and a member of the Lancaster County MCLA Unit in Pennsylvania. Denise lost her son in Afghanistan while also battling PKD, a genetic defect where her kidneys do not function correctly. As a result of her PKD, kidney failure is an absolute.

Team Denise was organized in conjunction with the 501(c) 3 non-profit Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) to raise money for her transplant. Unfortunately organ transplants are not completely covered by health insurance and in Denise's case she will need to raise \$25 - 35,000 in out-of-pocket monies prior to receiving a living donor transplant.

A transplant this summer provides Denise with the best opportunity for her body to not reject the living donor transplant. UPMC Pinnacle Health Transplant services are also actively screening living donors who may

consider giving Denise the gift of life. Even with a living donor, the out of pocket expenses must be raised. Team Denise hopes to meet the goal by June, 2018.

Ladies, I will be taking this information to my next Unit and Detachment meeting to see how we can help, and I am asking that you consider doing the same. If each Auxiliary member gave just \$2 we could definitely make a difference.

For those who feel so inclined donations may be made directly to her website COTAforteamdenise.org, or by a check made payable to: "COTA for Team Denise" and mailed to COTA, Team Denise T., 2501 W. COTA Dr., Bloomington, IN 47403.

Let's see if Denise's Auxiliary sisters and her Gold Star sisters can make this happen. If you have any questions, please direct them to me at nationalJA@nationalmcla.org. If I can't answer them, I will put you in touch with someone who can. Thank you for your consideration.

Until next month

Semper Fidelis

Linda Chamberlain

National Judge Advocate

From the Desk of the Rocky Mountain Division Vice President

Auxiliary Members,

I hope that everyone is enjoying this crazy weather we are having this year one day in the 60's and the next in the teens.

We will start out the year with National Mid-Winter Conference in Fredericksburg, Virginia March 1-3, 2018 all Auxiliary Members are invited so please come and see what we do, it's a lot smaller then National and you will learn new ideas to take back to your Units and Department.

Let's talk a little about what the Auxiliary does to get involved to support in your community helping at the VA Hospital, Fisher House, Senior or Nursing Homes, Child Welfare, youth programs, Girl Scouts, Soup Kitchen, Operation Little Angels and sending goodies boxes to deployed troops just to name a few. So, get your Units and Department and plan a day to help in your community.

Division conference is for everyone to attend to find out what is coming down from National Headquarters, find out if anyone has any questions or concerns.

Please pray for our troops and keep them safe.

Semper Fi,

Debby Krueger

Debby Krueger
Rocky Mountain Division Vice President

Happy Valentine's Day from the Northwest Division

We have been busy the past 6 months. We had a very low attendance at the MCLA Northwest Division Conference; all units participated and or attended the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Veterans Day Ceremonies and Toys for Tots. Each unit is unique in how they help their VA Hospital, veteran homes and nursing homes with toiletries, blankets and personalized notes attached. It really is heartwarming to hear about these activities from our units. This works in a variety of ways that is unique to each unit.

Our theme "Encourage with Enthusiasm", we continue to encourage new ideas from our current membership and our new members; we continue to enthusiastically get projects done or create new projects. Encouragement and enthusiasm spreads to all those we meet. With this theme we are challenging each other to recruit and sustain new members.

Semper Fi,
Susan Douglas
MCLA Division Vice President Northwest

FROM THE DESK OF THE CENTRAL DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all members of the Auxiliary,

We are looking forward to a fresh beginning and to serving and representing you once again in the coming year.

The 2017 Marine Corps League Central Division and Department of Indiana Combined Conferences (March 23rd through March 26th) will be held this year at the Holiday Inn, 6000 National Road East, Richmond, IN, 47374. For Hotel Reservations call (765) 488-1975. Special Marine Corps League Rate: \$99/King or Queen (Room Block available until March 2, 2017). Conference and Registration information can be found on the National Website (www.mclnational.org) and Central Division Website (www.mclcentdiv.net).

The Division Conference is held each year for the benefit of each Department and Unit in the Central Division. We get together to discuss any problems you may have and to help you plan and execute means and methods to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of your units and departments. Please let us know if there are specific areas you would want us to provide training in so we may provide the appropriate materials.

All Department Presidents should bring a short report covering the units in your state and your department. The report should include any

accomplishments performed this year and any ideas or projects you may have coming up. If you are unable to attend please send or email your report to me.

Our Operation Little Angel this year will be Girls Inc. of Wayne County Indiana. Their mission is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold. Girls Inc. programming is designed to build girls' capacity to become adults who are responsible, confident, economically independent and personally fulfilled.

The program is designed to provide a safe constructive learning environment for girls during the critical after school hours (1:40 to 5:30pm) and during the summer (7:30am to 5:30pm). The girls are exposed to a comprehensive age-appropriate program. Through these sessions, Girls Inc. provides the tools the girls will need to become confident and responsible members of their communities. (There will be a Wish List available at the Mid-Winter Conference).

Thank you for all you do for our veterans and to those who are serving and who risk their lives every day to protect us.

Semper Fidelis,

Judy Blackmer

Judy Blackmer
Central Division Vice President
Jbmarines_81@yahoo.com

FROM THE DESK OF THE GIRL SCOUT CHAIRMAN

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a girl can earn in Scouting. Our Auxiliary has a Good Citizenship Award to present to these girls in recognition of their achievement.

You can contact the Girl Scout council in your area to learn of the girls names to put on our award. The awards are to be purchased from our National Office.

A congratulation letter should accompany the award. The following is an example that you can use.

Congratulations Girl Scout _____,

The _____ Auxiliary wishes to congratulate you on achieving the **Girl Scout Gold Award**. We know it took a lot of dedication and effort to achieve this milestone. This is an achievement, which we, of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, are proud to recognize.

You have now accepted the mark of a citizen who is most worthy of distinction. It is a mark of a person who will conduct herself with honesty, loyalty and sincerity. There are few codes of life, which can be expressed so simply and yet so eloquently as the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Your experiences in Scouting have helped you learn the 3C's of Girl Scouting: Character,

Commitment and Courage. May they continue to be your guide in life for years to come through all of your endeavors and life experiences.

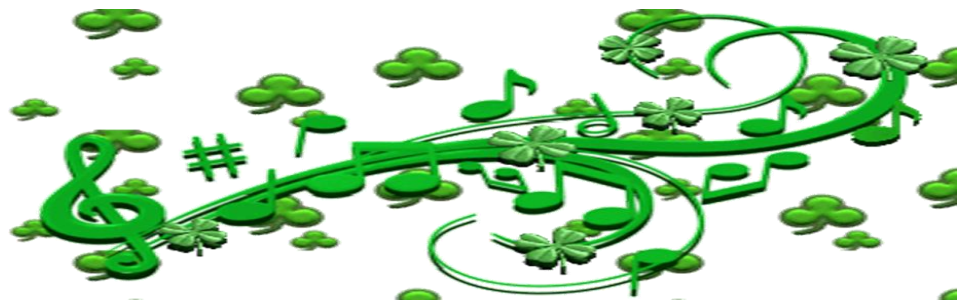
We join the wishes of your family, Girl Scout Advisors and friends, that you will continue on the trail of leadership and service, using the skills and abilities you have developed to provide inspiration and guidance to younger Girl Scouts or to other activities you might pursue in the future.

Always remember you are an **exceptional girl** of whom we are most proud.

Best Wishes,

If you have any questions about doing the award please contact me for help.

Carole Lyston National Girl Scout Chairman at carolelyston@gmail.com.



NATIONAL CHAPLAIN MARCH 2018 NOTES

NINA JO PEARMAN * 11/04/2017 Frank J. Carroll Unit, Co. Condolences to: Jennie Pearman, 8800 Grove St., Westminster, CO.

SANDRA MOORE*12/18/2017 Spring Hill Unit, Florida,

EVELYN SWANER * 1/16/1018 Holiday Unit, Florida, Condolences to: Beckie Swaner, 1007 W. Locust lane, Robinson, IL. 62454.

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MAY THE BLESSINGS OF EACH DAY, BE THE BLESSINGS YOU NEED MOST.

PNP, Marilyn Loeven lost her brother. Cards of condolence may be sent to her at: 355 raven Street, Levittown, NY. 11756. Their Florida address is: 2062 Brian Ave. S. Daytona, FL. 32129.

Past Mideast Division Vice President, Judy Horensky, lost her husband after a long illness. Judy had been taking care of her husband at home for some time with the aid of Hospice. Cards of condolence may be sent to her at: 430 Winterberry Drive, Middletown, DE. 19709.

Helen Pixton is mourning the passing of her Marine husband after a fall at home. Cards of condolence may be sent to her at: 12006 Sawhill Blvd. Spotsylvania, PA. 22553.

MAY YOUR JOYS BE AS DEEP AS THE OCEANS, YOUR TROUBLES AS LIGHT AS ITS FOAM, AND MAY YOU FIND SWEET PEACE OF MIND, WHEREVER YOU MAY ROAM. (IRISH BLESSING)

HAVE A MAGICAL SPRING,

WITH REGARDS, NATIONAL MCLA CHAPLAIN, PNP BARBARA NOBILE

Deadline for ALL articles is the 15th of each month.

GREETINGS FROM MADAM BIG FLEA

To the ladies whom attended the National Flea Scratch last year I want to say, "Thank you for this opportunity to serve you as Madam Big Flea."

To the new members of our Marine Corps League Auxiliary whom are now wondering, what in the world is this article about? Fleas, scratches, hides, etc?, it promotes new friendships thru a fun group called fleas.

You have maybe heard of our Marines whom have Devil Dogs, the fun society. We the Auxiliary have Fleas as all dogs have Fleas.

Over the years, it seems our Local Hides, State Hides and now National Hides are not growing. Any Unit can start their own Hide. See the next page for more information.

At our National Convention in New York this year, I have chosen as a theme "The Gatsby Era." This is back in the roaring twenties era. Fleas are asked to dress in something simple from that era. A plain summer dress with a fringe, a headband and feather, an old time pantsuit and be comfortable, nobody is going to see your feet, so wear your flip flops to the scratch. This is a fun, let your hair down group.

Let's get some new hides in our Units and Departments.

Donna Jean Peterson, Madam Big Flea



Fleas 101



The Military Order of Devil Dog Fleas is the complimentary organization to the Military Order of Devil Dogs, the fun and honor society of the Marine Corps League.

The object of this organization is to be patriotic, fraternal and entertaining, to promote loyal and unselfish service, to promote good fellowship through fun and companionship with the Devil Dogs and the Devil Dog Fleas and To further promote, perpetuate, and honor the memory of all who have passed on to their eternal rest.

The purpose of the Military Order of the Devil Dog Fleas is to band together in good clean fun to pester, pinch and otherwise make the life of the Devil Dogs one of chasing, scratching, rolling and rubbing pests to get them out of their hair and hide and to create a bond of fun and comradeship between the Military Order of the Devil Dogs and their Fleas.

Money collected such as the dues both local and national, fines for minor violations such as wearing (or not wearing) a prescribed article of clothing which is determined by the Hide at any given Scratch and the selling of flea collars (to give the dogs limited protection against biting and pestering fleas) and other things. These funds minus minimal operating costs are given to charities such as the scholarship fund, the memorial fund, or a favorite charity.

There are Local Hides, State Hides, and a National Hide and different colors of ribbon depicts the level each person has attained. To become a nit or specimen one must be a member in good standing of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. Upon initiation the nit or specimen at the Local level will become an egg, Eggs are initiated by the State Hides and after their harrowing initiation they are considered crawlers. The only way to achieve the level of FLEA is to be initiated at a National Convention. Ribbons the Nits are allowed to wear are black, Crawlers are allowed to wear red ribbons, and Fleas that have been through the imitation at National Convention are the ones that wear gold ribbons.

The officers are nominated to become Trusty Fleas #3 and then advance up the chairs to attain the exalted level of Madam Big Flea. The office titles are as follows:

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Madam Big Flea | (Queen of the Hide) | Medium Flea | (Lady in Waiting) |
| Little Flea | (Drone Flea) | Smart Flea | (Judge Advocate) |
| Scrappy Flea | (Scrap Book – Initiation Chair) | Holy Flea | (Bible and Prayer Chair) |
| Police Flea | (Guard) | Studios Flea | (In Learning -Publicity) |
| Waggy Flea | (Banner Carrier) | No Name Flea | (Color Bearer) |
| Trusty Fleas | (there are 3) | (Fines and Collections) | |

The job each office is required to do is similar to the office held in the Marine Corps League Auxiliary.

The time spent together in this organization is called a SCRATCH not a meeting and calling it that is one of those little violations one can be fined for. A Flea Scratch usually takes place at the same time as a MODD Growl. The Dress code is casual; the idea is to have fun.



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554-7771

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
MARCH 2018

**EVERYBODY'S
IRISH
ON
ST.
PATRICK'S
DAY**

A green logo for St. Patrick's Day featuring a shamrock and the text "EVERYBODY'S IRISH ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY".

Article Submissions: The Deadline for all articles is the 15th of each month, without exception and is strictly upheld. All articles will be subject to both appropriateness and to space available, and should be of interest to all Members not just one individual or Unit/Department. Email your articles to Meg Krebs at MCLA-Newsletters@msn.com in a Microsoft Word formatted document.

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