

Marine Corps League Auxiliary

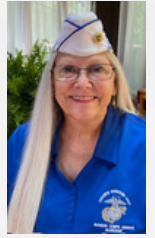


www.nationalmcla.org

Volume 7, Issue 4

December 2025

National President - Dotty Sanning



As we prepare to close out the year, I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to **Tammy Rivera** and **Karen Mastriania** for generously sharing their time, talent, and treasure by representing our Auxiliary at the Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. They proudly carried the American flag and the MCLA banner alongside other veteran service organizations — and let me tell you, it was very cold that day! With wind chills in the teens, their dedication truly shone. Ladies, if anyone has a tried-and-true method for keeping warm while wearing our Auxiliary uniform, please share — I'm all ears! I know about wearing long underwear or ski layers underneath, but I am always looking for more ideas.

I was honored to represent our Auxiliary by helping to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. While in the Arlington area, I also attended the Joint Armed Forces of Washington luncheon, where I had the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Usha Vance speak to military spouses of all ranks and branches. What an inspiring experience that was!

Division Vice Presidents:

- Have you received copies of all your Units' Reports of Installation?
- Have you received copies of all your Units' 990 forms?

If your answer is "no," please reach out to your Unit and Department presidents right away to resolve this. We want every Unit to remain in good standing so they can vote their full delegate strength at the next regular meeting. Unfortunately, some Units have missed out on voting privileges because required paperwork was not submitted. Let us all do our part to ensure every Unit and Department is on equal footing.

As the holiday season continues, I know many of you are busy caring for family, friends, and veterans. In the midst of that, please don't forget our **Members-at-Large (MALs)**. We are reaching out to those MALs whose Units have closed to help connect them with a Department or National — because every member matters.

Finally, when choosing which holiday activities to join, take a moment to consider how you can best support our organization. Ask yourself, "Does this help my Unit or Department?" Every act of kindness counts — whether it's offering a listening ear to a veteran, preparing a meal, or saying a prayer for their comfort and peace. You don't need to hold the title of Chaplain to lift someone's spirits.

Wishing you all a warm, meaningful, and joy-filled December. Thank you for everything you do to serve, support, and strengthen our Auxiliary and our veterans.

Semper Fidelis and Happy Holidays,

Dotty Sanning

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(571) 477-2780
Mon-Wed: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Wishing all our members, veterans,
and families a very

Merry Christmas

Warmest wishes for a bright and beautiful Holiday
Season. May 2026 fill your home with joy; your
heart with love, and your life with laughter.

Ramona Smith
National Secretary

Membership & Transmittals

- The transmittal deadline was November 15th to be counted in the membership report presented at the February conference.
- Membership is now past due for fiscal year 2025/26. Please submit transmittals to your Department (or directly to HQ if no Department exists) as soon as you receive them.
- Department treasurers: please forward any outstanding transmittals ASAP.

Ship Store Holiday Shopping

It's not too late to find the perfect gift! The Ship Store has new and restocked items available:

- Jewelry
- 2026 Pocket Calendars
- Luggage Tags
- Stickers
- Jackets (back in stock!)
- And much more!

If you need a cover, please order promptly. Our vendor's turnaround time is longer than anticipated **(6–8 weeks)**.

Holiday Office Closure Notice

Our office will be closed from **December 24th through January 4th** for the holiday season. We'll reopen on **January 5th** and look forward to serving you in the new year.

LIVING THE CODE

Integrity, Responsibility, Loyalty

Living the Code is what we all should strive to obtain in our Organization. What does this mean to us as MCLA Unit members?

We must have the integrity of being honest and having strong moral principles. This means being part of the whole and being undivided in unity & honor in everything we do.

Responsibility is the one thing that is required of you in your membership with your Unit. You need to become involved, work together, and not forget why you joined the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. Being responsible also means being accountable in how you conduct yourself as a MCLA member. Whether you are a member or officer, you need to do your part by attending meetings and become active with the MCLA. This may not always be easy; however, there are many creative members out there that have found ways to continue helping our Veterans. With that being said, it does not mean that we might each have our own differing ideas on how to approach and in which process a goal or project should be completed. Yet it is the responsibility of the members to learn to give and take, to find a common solution. Don't let different ideas on how to conduct projects get in the way as it is safe to say that we all have the same goal of wanting to help our Veterans. Let's keep promoting the good works we do and have fun doing them!

When I looked up the definition of Loyalty, it stated that loyalty is to have a commitment to a group and/or a cause, to have a strong support of allegiance, faithfulness, and obedience. What does this mean as MCLA members? We have all been initiated as a new member, whether it was just a few months or many years ago. We saw the following items, the Globe, the Anchor, the Bald Eagle, the Star, and the American Flag emblems which are representative of what our Marines have given and sacrificed for us. We took the oath of obligation to comply with all the laws and regulations of this Auxiliary and be loyal, thereto; to bear true allegiance to the government of the United States, and to our Flag, Constitution, and Laws. All this was promised on your honor.

Even though this is a volunteer organization, we have to continue to "Live the Code" under the oath we took. Being a MCLA member doesn't have to be stressful. Please share with me the different ways you and your Unit have been able to continue to support Veterans in your group projects by sending them to me at marybmimcla@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing your creativity and would like to share some of those projects and the ways you implemented them in my next article. Let us begin to encourage and inspire one another once again by sharing our innovative ideas as we showcase our integrity, responsibility, and loyalty to one another and our Marines.

I pray that You and your family stay safe, healthy, and have a Merry Christmas!

God Bless,

Mary Brief

National Sr. Vice President



As the newly appointed Vice President of the Northwest Division, I am deeply honored to serve alongside such a passionate and committed community. The Marine Corps League Auxiliary has long stood as a beacon of service, camaraderie, and tradition and our division exemplifies those values in every way.

While I'm still learning the full scope of our rich history and operations, I've already been inspired by the pride and dedication of our members. I look forward to building strong relationships across auxiliaries, supporting your efforts, and working together with our Marines to uphold the spirit of Semper Fidelis in all that we do.

The auxiliaries in our Northwest Division continue to demonstrate extraordinary dedication to our communities and veterans. Their efforts are as diverse as they are heartfelt, each unit bringing its own spirit of service to the forefront. The following are small examples of what they are doing now.

- Columbia River Unit has embraced the holiday season by adopting several Marines for Christmas, ensuring they feel remembered and supported during this special time.
- Melvin M. Smith Unit is spreading cheer by decorating the Community Living Center (CLC) at the VA Hospital and preparing thoughtful gifts to be included in care boxes for hospitalized veterans. Their generosity also extends to supporting the Toys for Tots program.
- Pappy Boyington Unit contributes both donations and volunteer power to Toys for Tots, while also tending to the needs of veterans at the Veterans Home in Coeur d'Alene with compassion and commitment.

As the Division Vice President, I also serve as the resource person for any questions you may have regarding the Northwest Division and your Auxiliary's role in the chain of command. Whether it's support, guidance on forms, or help with communications, I'm here for you. Communication is our best friend—it's the key to strengthening our connections, resolving challenges, and ensuring that every member feels heard, supported, and valued.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Remember the true reason for Christmas and enjoy your family.

Semper Fidelis,



Evelyn Joppa

Programs of Pride

North West Division



Longview, WA - 250th Marine Corps Birthday Dinner
Cake Ceremony

Youngest Marine - Larry Jones

Oldest Marine - Howard Blitz

Submitted by Mt St Helens Auxiliary

PAPPY BOYINGTON 250 MARINE CORPS BALL - COEUR D'ALENE, ID



Left: Tina Batha, Canyon Willey (Youngest Marine 18 yrs.) and guest.

Bottom Left: Ballroom - 350 guests!

Bottom Middle: Tina Batha (Ball Organizer and Mike Flynn, NW P VC

Bottom Right: Mike Quinn, Dept Comdt. and Tina Batha



CIVICS COMMITTEE



As your National Civics Chair, I am always amazed at the work accomplished by our Auxiliary Units each year.

Civic Activities are actions taken to work and participate with others in your community. Here are some examples of activities in which members participate:

- Report assistance given by driving people to doctor's offices, hospitals, nursing homes, and work done in civilian hospitals. You may not report activities or donations given by you to your own family members.
- Report work with community projects such as park cleanups, public health initiatives and social or humanitarian issues such as families in need, homeless shelters, food banks. You may also report on Church work and volunteer time with a choir.

It is important to report your volunteer hours to your committee chairs each year. Your many hours of volunteer service are the backbone of our mission and reporting your hours is one way to showcase our dedication to our auxiliary and the people we serve in our communities.

Thank you for all you do and especially for the time you spend helping others. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to you and your families.

PDP Judy Blackmer
National Civics Chair





Here's a round-up of where things stand in Congress, what's driving the drama, and what to watch in the coming weeks. I gathered the following information from several sources and, as I understand it, it is correct as of this writing. With the daily, sometimes hourly, changes taking place within our government, I can't say that the information will be accurate when it arrives in your inbox.

1. The Shutdown Ends — for Now

After a 43-day stalemate, the United States Congress passed a funding measure, and the President signed it, formally ending the most extended U.S. federal government shutdown in history.

Key details of the deal:

- Funding is extended for most agencies until January 30, 2026, though some full-year appropriations bills (for example, for Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, and the legislative branch) are included.
- Back pay is guaranteed for federal workers furloughed during the shutdown.
- The deal does not extend the enhanced subsidies under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which many Democrats had demanded. That fight has been shifted to next month.

Why this matters:

While the immediate crisis of the shutdown has been deferred, the underlying fault lines remain — particularly over healthcare subsidies, budget priorities, and the legislative-executive dynamic. The short-term patch buys time but also sets up another showdown for December/January.

Implications:

- Federal agencies can resume more normal operations, and the economic ripple damage may begin to recede.
- But the lack of resolution on ACA subsidies means millions of Americans could face premium hikes or coverage uncertainty if no deal is reached.
- The partisan dynamic is still sharp: the vote was along party lines.

2. Healthcare Subsidies — The Next Front

One of the most important unresolved issues: the expiring ACA premium tax credits and enhanced subsidies. Democrats pushed hard for their inclusion in the funding deal. They were unsuccessful.

- The Senate was promised a vote in December on the extension, but the House has not yet made a binding commitment.
- Hakeem Jeffries (House Democratic Leader) announced efforts to force a floor vote via a discharge petition for a 3-year extension of subsidies.

What to watch:

- Whether Democrats can muster enough signatures for the discharge petition, and whether Republicans decide to engage.
- Whether Republicans will put forward their own amendment or proposal to cap or restructure the subsidies.
- The potential economic impact: If subsidies expire, insurance premiums for many could rise significantly.

3. Emerging Legislative Themes

Beyond the shutdown and healthcare, a couple of other items call for attention:

• **Veteran gun rights protections**

The appropriations package that reopened the government also included a provision protecting veterans' Second Amendment rights — specifically, barring the Department of Veterans Affairs from revoking a beneficiary's firearm rights solely because a beneficiary was assigned a fiduciary.

• **Early childhood & childcare bills**

The First Five Years Fund has published a list of bipartisan bills in the 119th Congress aimed at boosting childcare access, supporting the early learning workforce, and improving quality.

These may not dominate headlines yet, but they reflect a quietly growing area of congressional cooperation.

• **Forest & wildfire legislation**

The Fix Our Forests Act, designed to reform federal forest-management and wildfire prevention practices, is still under discussion in the Senate after passing the House earlier this year.

As forest fires increase in scale and impact, such legislation may gain traction across party lines.

4. What to Keep an Eye on in the Coming Weeks

- December deadline: Action on ACA subsidies will be critical; failure to act may ignite another funding battle or shutdown threat.
- Appropriations process for FY2027: While the current patch runs through Jan 30, 2026, the full FY2027 appropriations bills (and beyond) loom large. The shorter the patch, the earlier Congress must confront funding priorities again.
- Filibuster & procedural rules debate: Some Republicans and the President have floated undoing the 60-vote threshold (the “nuclear option”) to ease legislative gridlock. That remains speculative but politically potent.
- Mid-term election signaling: With the 2026 elections approaching, both parties are positioning on funding, health care, family policy, and broader spending. Legislative choices now will inform campaign narratives.
- Policy-adjacent areas to watch: Early learning/childcare, climate/forestry policy, veterans' affairs, immigration reform (especially workforce visas), and election administration measures may not dominate the headlines today, but they could accelerate.

5. Bottom Line

Congress has cleared the immediate hurdle of reopening the government, but the underlying tensions are lingering. On budget, health care, and procedural reform, the next few months are likely to be busy. For now, Americans get relief from the shutdown's worst effects. The question is: will lawmakers use the short window granted by this deal to build consensus, or will we be back at another impasse within a few months?

For now, I hope our country can come together to wish all Americans a blessed holiday, regardless of their religious or political beliefs. A special blessing for our military and their families this holiday season.

Lynda Hartwick
Legislative Chair

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NATIONAL CONVENTION LIAISON

They say Time Waits For No One and with the way the hours, days and months seem to go flying by that quote certainly seems to hold true.

So, don't let time pass you by, if you have not made your hotel reservation for the National Midwinter Conference in Arlington, VA (February 26, 2026 – February 28, 2026 (check-in 2/25, check out 3/1) there is no time like the present to do so, February 3, 2026 will be here before you know it.

Have you registered or purchased your Banquet or Museum trip tickets yet? There is no time like the present to do this also.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Sheraton Pentagon City 703-521-1900 (Hotel) or 800-325-3535 Reference National Marine Corps League. Or online via the MCL Website <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/conference>.

Conference Registration, Banquet Tickets and Bus Tickets for the Museum trip are only available on the MCL Website <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/conference>.

Now onto the National Convention

The Indiana Convention Committee has only held two (2) Zoom meetings to date, with the next meeting scheduled for November 30th. They are still in the planning stages and getting their various committee chairs in place. As additional information becomes available, I will share it with everyone in the Newsletter.

If you are planning to attend the Convention and have not made your hotel reservations, what are you waiting for? Sooner is better, later may be too late. Remember reservations can only be made through the MCL Website

<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/convention>, click on "Click Here to Make Hote Reservations" this takes you right to the MCL Block. **PLEASE** do not make more than **2 Room Reservations**.

If you have any problems making your reservation for either the Midwinter Conference or the National Convention, please contact me via email at natlpresmcla22@gmail.com or phone/text at (215) 485-3095. We cannot fix a problem if we do not know there is a problem.

In closing I would like to wish all my Auxiliary sisters and their families a very Happy Holiday and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Hope to see as many of you as possible in Virginia in February.

PNP Linda S. Chamberlain

MCLA Convention Liaison

natlpresmcla22@gmail.com



RITUALS AND RESOLUTIONS

Donna Rae Smith

Hello everyone.

I hope everyone was able to attend a Marine Corps Birthday Ball, or a Marine Corps Birthday cake cutting ceremony. What a wonderful age - 250 years!!

By the time you all read this, you will be recuperating from Thanksgiving dinner. I hope you all had an enjoyable day. Now it is time to get ready for Christmas.



RESOLUTIONS: For those members, Units or Departments considering submitting a resolution for a national convention, you may find the submission process on page 32 of the National Administrative Procedures, Chapter 10 Miscellaneous, Section 1010 Resolutions, Submitting and Processing.

Key points of the process -

1. Resolutions are presented at MCLA National Convention by the committee and voted on by the membership. If approved by the membership, the approved resolution is on in effect for One (1) year
2. Resolutions may be submitted by member in good standing, a Unit or a Department.
3. All submitted resolutions **MUST** be turned into National Headquarters by July 1, 2025. All submitted resolutions must be typewritten with an original and 3 copies. All submitted resolutions "shall be drawn on such form as will identify it as being adopted by the Marine Corps League Auxiliary in "National Convention assembled.""

If anyone has questions, please feel free to reach out to me via email at donnarae.mcla@gmail.com or call me at 815-973-0073.

Donna Rae Smith

Rituals and Resolutions Chairperson



Looking forward to another successful year with Operation Little Angel!

I spoke recently with Anastasia from St. Ann's in Maryland, the children, youth and family center that we have served in the past in the DC area.

We will again shower them with our gifts this Midwinter. The gals will be on hand during the weekend to speak to us and receive the gifts. At the below link you will find the current wish list:

<https://www.stanns.org/donate/wishlist>

They praised us for all the autism items we sent last year and are well stocked in that area for now.

I would remind members we DO NOT give the home checks. If your unit brings a check it should be made out to MCLA HQ with OLA in the memo area. It will be given to Ramona and sent back to HQ and put in our account. You may send that check to Ramona early and she will let me know. As always, they love the gift cards so they may purchase items as needed. But, the list is very detailed and I am sure there are items we can find for them that fit our Unit budgets.

The home thanks us for our generous contributions stating they are vital in supporting the mission and providing essential services to mother's, youth, and children of St. Ann's Center. They sincerely appreciate our giving spirit in helping meet the need of their residents.

We will have lovely items on the raffle table and encourage you to stop by. Remember, this is the only way we raise funds other than your donations.

In this time of severe need, we thank you in advance for what you do locally for children and families.

Have a blessed Holiday season.

*PNP Barb Nobile, Darlene MacCubbin, Tracey Killinger,
Teena Foster, Janet Anders*





VETERANS DAY



Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery





INSPIRATION



**MCLA Southwest MO
Unit serving lunch at
the Ronald McDonald
House, October 29th.**

**Members of MCLA
paying respects to
the 61st Chief Devil
Dog, Jeff Jones.**





NEW JEWELRY HAS ARRIVED!





Happy Birthday to our Fabulous Members with December Birthdays!

- 3-Dec – Darlee Lebo
- 4-Dec – Betty Hood
- 4-Dec – Karen Vance
- 4-Dec – Josephine (Joe) Larsen
- 4-Dec – Donna Schneidtmiller
- 5-Dec – Catherine Bennett
- 6-Dec – Susan Baethke
- 7-Dec – Rosemary Beall
- 8-Dec – Eileen L. Ditullio
- 8-Dec – Geraldine Abramchak
- 9-Dec – Sandra Mangum
- 11-Dec – Linda Yapple
- 11-Dec – Katherine Witham
- 12-Dec – Indiana Favata
- 12-Dec – Efthimia Tikos
- 13-Dec – Lucetta Burke
- 13-Dec – Janice Meredith
- 14-Dec – Barbara Griffith
- 16-Dec – Angela Bollwerk
- 16-Dec – Karen Francis
- 17-Dec – Janet Jackson
- 17-Dec – Sharon Klenotiz
- 17-Dec – Mary Jacobi
- 24-Dec – Kathleen Stafford
- 28-Dec – Michelle Gosiewski
- 30-Dec – Lynn Harkness
- 30-Dec – Faye Porter

We love recognizing our member's birthdays and would never intentionally leave out a celebration! Please make sure your member profile in the MCLA database has your birthday listed by ensuring membership transmittal forms accurately include the birthdate of each member or by sending an email to MCLAHQ@nationalmcla.org with the information.

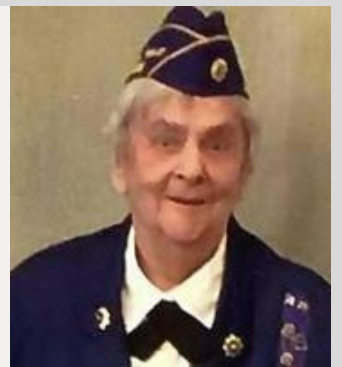
CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

MITZY ABEYTA

Moving into the MCLA Chaplains position has been a learning process every day. I have and will make mistakes as I grow into the position, so please bear with me as I strive to do my best for our auxiliary. I am so grateful to have Angie Pitts as Assistant Chaplain.

Violet Tolsky 11/03/25

Violet Tolsky of the Burbank Unit, Central Division passed away November 3, 2025. Cards can be sent to her son: George Tolsky, 20135 N. Westport Dr., Frankfort, IL 60423



Jeanette Winder 11/08/25

Jeanette Winder of the CPL Mason O Yarbrough Unit passed away November 8, 2025. Cards can be sent to her son: Mark Winder, 2581 Ridgeway, Jackson State, MO 63755



Anne Bird 11/14/25

Anne Bird of the Semper Fidelis Unit, Northeast Division, passed away November 14, 2025. Cards can be sent to: Ron Bird, 20 Jones Ave., Deptford, NJ 08096



Rest in peace precious souls!

Chaplain's Corner Notes

All Division Unit member, Joanne Bryan, had hernia surgery. Her address is: 2100 Blackhorse Drive, Warrington, PA 18974-2117

Marine Keith Baker had surgery to remove damaged small intestines. Cards to: Keith and Laura Baker, 2579 Old Toll Road, Jackson MO 63755

A Nationwide Prayer Alert has been requested for Sue Cummings of the Landis-McCleaf Unit, Dept. of PA. Sue has been diagnosed with Stage 4. B cell lymphoma. It is very aggressive but said to be curable. Her Navy Veteran husband, Wayne, began radiation November 21st for prostate cancer. The power of prayer is needed for this amazing couple.

Blessings to everyone. Please say an extra prayer for those around us who have a hard time during the holiday season.

Mitzy Abeyta, Chaplain

ELECTED OFFICERS

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Jr. Vice President Darlene MacCubbin	darlenemaccubbin@gmail.com
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Dated Material: December

Address Service Requested