

Marine Corps League Auxiliary



www.nationalmcla.org

Volume 6, Issue 4

December 2024

National President Dotty Sanning



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the Board of Trustees members who joined our Zoom gathering at the end of October. It's always valuable to connect between the National Convention and the Midwinter Staff Meeting. With our in-person meetings limited to twice a year, technology allows us to stay connected and informed. Just as you meet frequently within your units and departments to track progress and support one another, it's equally important for the Board of Trustees to come together, ensuring we stay aligned in our efforts to assist our members nationwide.

In October, a few of us from the auxiliary had the opportunity to gather for a relaxed Gathering of the Dogs in North Charleston, South Carolina. Although we're not Devil Dogs, it was a wonderful chance to unwind, reconnect, and explore the city. I also had the honor of signing the charter for our newest unit, the Choctaw Unit in Louisiana. Wouldn't it be great to see a new unit forming in your area? Remember, the Presidents Council topic from the last National Convention was on recruiting. Have you tried any of the ideas that we discussed? The holiday season is the perfect time to invite potential members to your next meeting while attending craft festivals or other community events. Offering a "no-pressure" welcome packet when they attend can help newcomers understand what our auxiliary is all about.



National President (Con't)

November brought some meaningful opportunities to represent the auxiliary. I had the privilege of attending the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, hosted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and attending the Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Our Banner Bearers, Tammy Rivera and Karen Mastriana, always do an outstanding job at the Parade of Flags—a central part of the ceremony. I was joined by our dedicated secretary Ramona Smith and her husband. It was truly a patriotic and inspiring event.

As we go through December, I encourage you to make time to reconnect with members you haven't seen in a while. Whether in person, by phone, email, or zoom, maintaining those connections is essential.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas season filled with joy and peace.

Dolly Sanning

MCLANatPres2024@gmail.com





VETERANS DAY



Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery





Happy holidays ladies!!

In my last article I asked you to hold training. If you need a subject for your next meeting, I believe this could be a great place to start.

POINT OF ORDER

Noun phrase, formal

: a query in a formal debate or meeting as to whether correct procedure is being followed.

When a member thinks that the rules of the assembly are being violated, she can make a Point Of Order ("to raise a question of order," as it is sometimes expressed), thereby calling upon the chair or Judge Advocate for a ruling and an enforcement of the regular rules. The point of order is a tool, which is used to draw attention to a breach in rules, an irregularity in procedure, the irrelevance or continued repetition of a speaker or the breaching of established practices or contradiction of a previous decision.

I'm sure you can come up with an example to share where this had been used or could have been used in a meeting. Show how the Judge Advocate or committee member can assist in clarification and resolution. Members will feel more empowered knowing your unit and departments are running by the rules.

Semper Fi,

*Lynn Cortright, USN Ret.
MCLA National Judge Advocate
Holy City Unit #522*





10 November 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

For 249 years, Marines have served as our Nation's sentinels of freedom. As we celebrate our Corps' birthday this year, I encourage all Marines to reflect on our legacy forged in blood on battlefields since 1775, and to rededicate ourselves to carrying that legacy untarnished into the future. Collectively, we who wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor have an obligation to uphold the ideals of self-discipline, warfighting proficiency, professionalism, and personal conduct that define what it means to be a Marine. I know you are all up to the task.

Twenty years ago this month, Marines fought and won the Second Battle of Fallujah, a brutal, grinding house to house fight, whose victory ultimately paved the way for the stabilization of the Republic of Iraq. Often in Iraq there were no true front lines, and by necessity, Fallujah was a battle in which every Marine fought, demonstrating once again our cornerstone philosophy that Every Marine is a Rifleman.

Our history bears witness to Marines of all stripes picking up their rifles and fighting for Corps and Country when the call came. From Wake Island to the Chosin Reservoir to Khe Sanh to Camp Bastion, every Marine fought. Our future battles will be no different. Our rear areas will be as vulnerable as our front lines and every Marine from our infantry battalions to our aviation squadrons to our headquarters and support elements will have to stand-to when called.

Preparing for the threats of the future requires the same exceptional standards and ironclad discipline that are the hallmarks of our Corps. Twenty years ago in Fallujah, our predecessors staunchly adhered to these virtues, earned our Nation's trust, and ensured the U.S. Marine Corps would remain the most feared fighting force in the world. It is our sworn duty to uphold those standards and stay true to our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Though technology and equipment change, the Marine Corps' culture of excellence must not. The road ahead is far from certain, but our ethos will never change – *Every Marine a Rifleman* and *Everyone Fights*.

As I've said before, it is the honor of my lifetime to be a Marine and serve as your Commandant. I'm proud to stand alongside each of you, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for our Corps. When I travel to visit Marines here at home and deployed around the globe, I find absolute confidence that this generation of Marines has what it takes to uphold our Corps' legacy and prevail in any conflict we face. Happy Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric M. Smith".

Eric M. Smith
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps



From Ramona's Desk:

Season's Greetings to all!

I hope everyone is excited to share the warmth and joy of the holiday season with Family and Friends.

For awareness, the National Headquarters will be minimally manned during the holiday period. I will be monitoring email throughout this period and will respond to all of your emails in a timely manner. If you have an urgent matter, please indicate that your inquiry is time sensitive.

A reminder, if you have not sent in your transmittals yet, please do so ASAP to be counted for Midwinter.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ramona Smith

Happy Birthday to our Fabulous Members with December Birthdays!

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1-Dec Pauline Forsell | 11-Dec Jennifer Ringvelski | 19-Dec Margaret Myers |
| 3-Dec Darlee Lebo | 11-Dec Katherine Witham | 22-Dec Shana Marcotte |
| 4-Dec Joanne Concannon | 11-Dec Jamie Libby | 24-Dec Kathleen Stafford |
| 4-Dec Karen Vance | 12-Dec Anne Schultz | 26-Dec Gretchen Ashley |
| 4-Dec Josephine Larsen | 12-Dec Indiana Favata | 26-Dec Diana Watkins |
| 4-Dec Donna Schneidtmiller | 12-Dec Efthimia Tikos | 28-Dec Michelle Gosiewski |
| 5-Dec Catherine Bennett | 13-Dec Lucetta Burke | 29-Dec Karen Pulscher |
| 6-Dec Susan Baethke | 13-Dec Janice Meredith | 29-Dec Tracy Morris |
| 7-Dec Rosemary Beall | 14-Dec Barbara Griffith | 29-Dec Jill King |
| 8-Dec Eileen Ditullio | 14-Dec Anna Wilson | 29-Dec Erika Thompson |
| 8-Dec Geraldine Abramchak | 16-Dec Angela Bollwerk | 30-Dec Lynn Harkness |
| 9-Dec Letha Marshall | 16-Dec Karen Francis | 30-Dec Faye Porter |
| 9-Dec Sandra Mangum | 17-Dec Janet Jackson | 30-Dec Jean Hunhoff |
| 10-Dec Sandra Britt | 17-Dec Kathryn Johnson | 30-Dec Abigail Jean Peltier |
| 11-Dec Linda Yaple | 17-Dec Sharon Klenotiz | 31-Dec Diana Ryan |

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 sending an email to MCLAHQ@nationalmcla.org.

Greetings from the Midwest Division!

I hope that you all had a great 249th Marine Corps Birthday. It was great to see good turnouts for the Birthday Balls! I love seeing the photos of all the festivities!

I am excited that our new National Staff was installed at the National Convention at Palm Springs, CA in August. Our National President is Dotty Sanning; Senior Vice President is Mary Brief; Junior Vice President is Darlene MacCubbin; and our new Judge Advocate is Lynn Courtright. The newly elected officers have hit the road running, and I hope that you all have a great term in office. Congratulations to you all!

We all know that National Conventions are a remarkably busy time to get business done. We did have many By-laws and Administrative Procedure changes this year. They are not published on the website currently but should be soon.

Now is the time to submit transmittals with dues and fees. Be sure that you also fill out and submit your BOND FORM with the transmittals. Your transmittals will be held if the bond form is not included. The 990N tax report is also due to be filed by November 15th. State Incorporations are also important to be current to keep your non-profit status.

As we all know our MCLA membership has been declining in most areas and it is our responsibility to recruit new members and retain the ones that we have recruited. What are your Units doing to recruit members? What works for you, personally? Do you keep applications with you? If you have a potential recruit what did you talk about to get them interested in becoming part of the MCLA? Do you invite your potential new member to your monthly meeting? How do you retain your new members? If you have ideas that work for you, please share them with other members.

As the Holidays approach, I encourage you to makes someone's day just a little brighter. It might be a Good Morning greeting and a smile. You never know what your smile might mean to someone else, but you can still savor the good feeling that only costs a smile or a kind word!

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Semper Fidelis,

Jan Crowe





Programs of Pride

Mid-West Division

LITTLE BLACK DRESS FUNDRAISER



"I could hear the men crying, pleading, praying... I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage, their voices were the only thing that kept me going."



Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those heroic four chaplains were- Lt. George L Fox, Methodist, Lt. Alexander D Goode, Jewish, Lt John P Washington, Roman Catholic, Lt Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

If you look around your local community and all the organizations to which you belong, I am sure you will find some outstanding, over achieving folks. We all know those people who belong to every committee and organization they can find, but there rational for doing so may surprise you. The Chapel is looking for those who do selfless acts with no forethought of praise or reward. The folks I am asking you to seek out are those who go about these good works, acts of kindness, etc. without thinking about what THEY are going to get out of it.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains is just such an opportunity to honor those types of non suspecting wonderful folks.

The MISSION of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation is to tell the sort of the "Four Chaplains" to promote interfaith cooperation and selfless service to individuals and organizations. The mission of the Corporation is to encourage selfless service n the tradition of the Four Chaplains and to teach and promote interfaith understanding and cooperation among all peoples.

I suggest you go online and read the story for yourself, and as you do, I am sure several names will come to mind that should be nominated for this prestigious award. There are several categories of award that you can read about online. These awards are presented at Midwinter and National Convention. There is also the opportunity to have a special award ceremony in your own hometown, where the recipient can be honored by family and friends.

The beautiful and inspiring story of the Four Chaplains may be found online at- fourchaplains.org/chapel. There is a form and information on how to submit names and the letter that needs to accompany the submission. Those letters may be sent to PNP Barb Nobile, 8610 EP True Parkway, Unit 2007, West Des Moines, Ia. 50266, or pnppbarbmcla@yahoo.com or Sydney Minchin, 304 Sarheim road, Harrisburg, PA 17112-3342

The actual Memorial Chapel is situated at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia, PA. It's a beautiful place to visit when you are in the area. Please take time to check out this web site and look for those more than deserving folks in your area.

PNP Barbara Nobile, Chapel of Four Chaplains

Hello Ladies,

I hope each of you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. As always, I ate far too much. I know those of you working the Toys for Tots campaigns are chin deep into your distributions right now. Thank you!! It is hard to believe that Christmas is just a few weeks away. WOW!!

I am sure all units have filed their 990s and submitted them to Ramona by now. For those who do not know, the IRS ruling on filing Form 990 is due the 15th day of the 5th month following our fiscal year end. Since our fiscal year end is June 30, we are required to have our 990s for year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, filed with the IRS by November 15, 2024. Please note that the extended due date listed on the IRS website does NOT apply to organizations who file the Form 990-N (E-Postcard)

For those units whose fiscal years are January 1 through December 31 – please remember to file your 990s starting January 2nd. The deadline for these units is May 15, 2025.

Filing is still required if your exemption status is pending. In other words, if the League has sent your EIN to IRS for group status and the unit is still waiting for IRS acceptance, they still need to file their annual Form 990 showing the status as pending. This is because our organization is “subject to public disclosure.” ([IRS Processing of Exemption Applications](#) web page)

It is extremely important that we remember to file our Form 990s on time. Failing to file the annual return on time may subject to unit to penalties. Also, if a unit fails to file the Form 990 for 3 consecutive tax years, that unit will “automatically lose its tax-exempt status.” ([IRS Annual Exempt Organization Return: Consequences of Not Filing web page](#))

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have any questions, or need any assistance, please feel free to call me at 815-973-0073.

Have a very Merry Christmas and as well as a happy and blessed New Year.

Thank you,
Donna Rae Smith
EIN/Insurance Committee Chair



Celebrating Community Spirit: Lake of the Ozarks Unit and Wreaths Across America

Ladies, I am thrilled to share the journey and accomplishments of our Lake of the Ozarks unit over the past two years.

Discovering a Need

In 2023, while searching for a fundraising opportunity and a meaningful community service project, we discovered that local cemeteries did not have a Wreaths Across America program. We saw this as a perfect fit, as each wreath sold provides a \$5 fee to the sponsoring organization and allows us to honor our veterans.

Getting Certified

Starting in October last year, our journey began with getting our unit certified as a Wreaths Across America representative. We chose the cemetery closest to our monthly meeting location to receive wreaths for veterans' graves. This led us to discover that the local cemetery has 310 veterans interred, requiring us to sell 310 wreaths at \$17 each.

Organizing the Effort

The project quickly grew into a significant endeavor. Many graves needed cleaning to read the headstones. Our dedicated team split into groups: one for cleaning graves, another for selling wreaths, and two program coordinators.

The Ceremony

Our efforts culminated in a beautiful ceremony held inside the funeral home. The event featured:

- Opening remarks by local and state dignitaries
- A color guard presentation by our Marine Corps League Detachment
- The Pledge of Allegiance
- Taps

Wreaths were placed in honor of veterans from each branch of the U.S. Military and POWs. After the indoor ceremony, volunteers moved outdoors to honor each of the 310 veterans interred by reading their names aloud and placing a wreath as a bell tolled in remembrance.

A Successful Start

Thanks to strong community support, last year's event was an enormous success. We are building on that momentum this year with wreath-laying ceremonies planned at two additional nearby locations. One cemetery will honor 49 veterans, and another will honor 42 veterans.

We are incredibly proud of our unit and volunteers' community spirit and dedication. Together, we are ensuring that our veterans are remembered and honored with the respect they deserve.

For additional information, please visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Hartwick,
MCLA National Guard



Programs of Pride

Marine Corps League Auxiliary
Holy City Unit 522



Diane Bittick, Lynn Cortright, Dorothy Tackett and Helen Breen.



Patriotic tag on each blanket.



Dorothy Tackett, Diane Bittick, Helen Breen and Christina Breen making fleece blankets for Soldiers Angels.



We delivered blankets, scarves, and knitted hats to a VA representative that will give them to Soldier Angels. Pictured Helen Breen, Dorothy Tackett, Diane Bittick, VA Rep. Samuel Matthews and Lynn Cortright at the North Charleston VA Clinic.



Of course we needed a sweet treat after our drop-off.



Bake sale to help raise funds for more fleece!

Soldiers' Angels

Operation **WARM WINTER**

Our homeless Veterans are not
prepared for the cold.
Together we can all turn up the heat
for our Veterans in need.



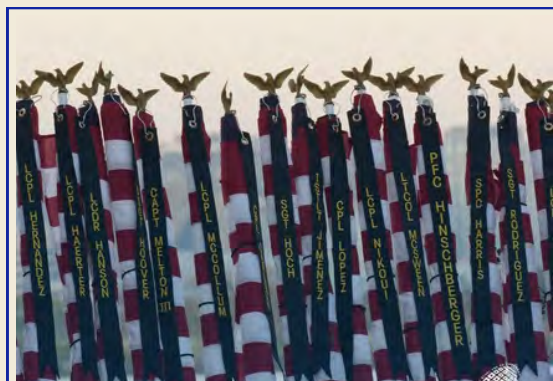
**Marine Corps League Auxiliary,
Holy City Unit 522, is accepting monetary
donations to provide handmade fleece
blankets, hats, and scarves.**



INSPIRATION



The All Divisions Unit and Department of Pennsylvania couldn't be prouder of Judy Wonderly who honored her parents Joan & Ray Devlin by running in the Marine Corps Marathon on October 27, 2024 (she wore one of her mom's MCLA pins on one sneaker and her dad's dog tags on the other). Many of you know Joan as not only the past Northeast Division Vice President but the National Ships Store Chair for many years. Judy raised just shy of \$2,100 for the Semper Fi Fund from sponsors.



2025 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

Sheraton Pentagon City

900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204
Phone: 703-521-1900 (Hotel)
or 800-325-3535 Reference National Marine
Corps League



2/27/2025 – 3/1/2025
(check-in 2/26, check out 3/2)

Hotel Rate: \$131 per night plus tax)

Reservation Deadline: February 4, 2025

Parking: On-site garage parking is \$10 per day,
Free shuttle to/from Reagan Airport (DCA)

Cancellation Policy: Any cancellations after
February 10, 2025, will forfeit the one-night deposit.

Other: Complimentary WIFI is included.

The hotel overlooks Arlington National Cemetery and is adjacent to Henderson Hall and the Fort Myer Exchange. The hotel has 4 double ADA rooms with 1 with a roll-in shower, and 10 King ADA with 3 with roll-in-showers. If ADA room is needed, call the reservation number.



2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION AUGUST 11-15, 2025



HOST: MCL Department of Texas

HOTEL: Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport

RESERVATION PHONE #: 1-800-233-1234 (Reservations opened at 9 AM (Central Daylight Time) on Monday, August 19, 2024. **Website:** <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/DFWAP/G-MCL5> **Block Code:** G-MCL5

ROOM RATE: \$162/night includes taxes, breakfast for 2 and parking (RV parking is available at Terminal B at the airport) – Check in 3 PM, Check out 12 noon.

Each room features complimentary Wi-Fi, single cup Keurig coffee maker, mini refrigerator, and hair dryer.

AMENITIES: Fitness Center, Pool, On-site restaurants (including a coffee bar), Business Center, Pet Friendly Hotel. There is limited food delivery to the hotel.

Free shuttle from airport to hotel and from hotel to downtown Grapevine

Grapevine Main Street will offer Military Discounts or shoulder badge discount.

Events will be listed on the Website MCL250.org beginning Monday, August 19, 2024. Tickets will go on sale starting February 1, 2025. Tickets for all events can be purchased in one transaction.

They are planning both daily and evening events:

- Cowboy BBQ Meet and Greet
- Daily trips to Grapevine & Arlington, TX
- National Medal of Honor Museum Banquet
- MODD/MODD Fleas Dinner & Silent Auction
- Convention Banquet



Updates will be published in the Newsletter as they are received. Do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

PNP Linda S. Chamberlain

MCLA Convention Liaison
natlpresmcla22@gmail.com



*MCLA
Ship Store*

GOOD NEWS!

We are able to order a small amount of jackets from our vendor. If you were on the list and still want to purchase, or if you now have a need for a new jacket, you can order now in time for Mid-Winter Conference!

Please note, the jackets run a little small so please order one size larger as they are a fitted form design.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

PNP EVELYN B. JOPPA

Irene G Benavides 10/13/24

It is with great sorrow and sadness to announce that our life member passed away. Irene was a past Dept. of Texas President, a past Coastal Bend Unit President, and held other offices throughout the 40 years in our Auxiliary. Cards may be sent to JoAnn B. Garcia at 4214 Christie St., Corpus Christi, TX 78415.



Sharen Green 10/31/24

Central Missouri Unit longtime member and friend Sharen Green recently passed away. Should you wish to send a card to her son, Marine Kevin Green, the address is: Kevin Green, 2311 E McCarty St., Jefferson City, MO 65101.



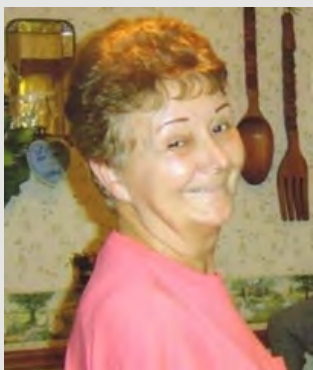
Kathleen Einhorn 8/29/24

Kathleen Einhorn member of Semper Fidelis Unit, residing in Homosassa, FL. Passed August 29, 2024. She is survived by her son, Kenneth H. Einhorn III, her daughter, Kimberly Einhorn, and three grandchildren.



In Loving Memory

Janet Anders, President of the Cpl. Mason O. Yarborough Unit in Cape Girardeau, MO grandmother passed away on Friday. I am sure your cards and prayers would mean so much to her and her family. Janet Anders, 2622 Liberty Ct., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-1977.



Chaplain's Corner Notes

Merry Christmas and a most prosperous New Year!

As we reflect on this passing year, we are reminded that our most important treasures are our families and friends and the fact that God richly Blessed us by placing us in the USA.

May we always remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Prayers for Members

Christy Ellis and her daughter Becca, (an auxiliary member) need those powerful prayers! Becca will be having a stress test and an echocardiogram done on Tuesday due to some heart issues she has been having for several months. Prayers do wonders!

It is with sad news that we must report that our Flint Unit Member, Nancy Henn's husband Duane Henn has died on 11.22.24. He and Nancy have always been a great supporter of the Flint Unit projects and events and have attended many conventions and functions and birthday balls. Nancy Henn, 4999 Green Rd., Cass City, MI 48726.

Baltimore Unit member Rosemary Koontz and her husband Howard need our prayers. Both have medical issues. They now reside at Oak Crest Senior Living. Cards of encouragement can be sent to: Rosemary Koontz, Oakcrest – 88101 Walther Blvd Apt 1601, Parkville, MD 21234.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Dotty Sanning	MCLANatPres2024@gmail.com
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Jr. Vice President Darlene MacCubbin	darlenemaccubbin@gmail.com
Judge Advocate Lynn Cortright	lyncortright27@gmail.com
Jr. PNP Linda S. Chamberlain	ssgtnwife@verizon.net

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Operation Little Angel	PNP Barbara Nobile	pnpBarbMCLA@yahoo.com



Marine Corps League Auxiliary
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Dated Material: December

Address Service Requested