

Marine Corps League Auxiliary



www.nationalmcla.org

Volume 5, Issue 1

September 2023



National President Linda Chamberlain

Where did the time go? Before I left for the National Convention, the store shelves still had summer merchandise, and school supplies were beginning to become more prominent and moving off the shelves quickly. I go away for 10 days and when I return, fall school supplies are gone, Halloween decorations and candy are prominent and, yes, there are even some Christmas decorations on the shelves at the card store! I guess the sayings, "Time waits for no man," and Albert Einstein's quote, "Time flies when you are having fun," are true.

What a wonderful MCL 100th Anniversary Convention! Oklahoma City, although hot, was beautiful and noticeably clean. If you did not get a chance to take the streetcar to one of the local restaurants or other attractions or walk through Scissortail Park, you missed out. Thank you to the Sooner Detachment Convention Committee for making our time in Oklahoma City a memorable experience. They did a wonderful job making everyone feel welcome and making the League's 100th Anniversary an event to remember.

I would also like to thank everyone for taking time from their busy lives to spend time at the Convention with your Auxiliary Sisters and help to make the convention a success. There were many first-time attendees at this year's convention. Thank you, ladies, for attending, and we look forward to seeing you (as your schedules and finances permit) at the Midwinter Conference in Arlington, VA, or at the 2024 National Convention in Palm Springs, CA.

Speaking of firsts, for those of you who were not in attendance, you missed a most memorable moment. PNC Baker included the Auxiliary in the vote as to where the 2025 National Convention would be held. Many of us do not have a Marine physically in the room when this type of vote is taken, so our opinion is never heard. This was just another way PNC Baker reinforced his support of the Auxiliary and proved that our opinions matter.

We had a full agenda each day and somehow managed to complete our daily tasks efficiently and in a most productive manner. As you are aware, there were many proposed bylaws, administrative procedures, and enclosures changes, as well as some revisions to our rituals. The various chairs presented the changes in a professional manner, ensuring that everyone had a good understanding of the proposed change. The changes approved by the Auxiliary are currently with the new Marine Corps League Judge Advocate for his approval and, once returned, the current bylaws and administrative procedures will be updated and emailed out as quickly as possible.



National President (Con't)

I had the distinct honor and privilege to present four new charters; Peoria Leathernecks Auxiliary, Illinois, Central Div; Middle TN MCLA Unit, Tennessee, Southeast Div; North Shore J.M., Louisiana, Southeast Div; and Basilone, New Jersey, Northeast Div. I was also privileged to present a 50-year pin to Twila Gensel, Susquehanna Valley Unit, Dept. of Pennsylvania, Northeast Division; a 30-year pin to Judy Blackmer, Burbank Unit, Dept. of Illinois, Central Division; a National President Award to Landis-McCleaf Unit for 70 years of dedicated service to the Auxiliary; and to the Susquehanna Valley Unit for 50 years of dedicated service to the Auxiliary, and, a VAVS Volunteer of the Year award to PNP Barbara Nobile. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THESE UNITS AND TO THESE DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Ship Store during the convention. With your help, we returned to Headquarters with several empty containers. I am glad everyone liked the new polo shirts. If you have an idea for an item you would like to see included in the store, please send it to Ramona so she can share with Chair Judy Blackmer.

Welcome to new Mideast Div. Asst. VP Pat Smith; Northeast Div. Asst. VP Karen Mastriana; Rocky Mountain Div. VP Tammy Yatt and Asst. VP Susie Georgopulos; Southeast Div. VP Rebecca Marcel and Asst. VP Christy Ellis; and Southwest Div. Asst. VP Shannon Lopez.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their support and confidence in me as I begin my second term as your National President. It is my honor and a privilege to represent all of you in my travels. I would also like to thank all the units, departments and individuals who contributed to the monetary gift presented to me prior to the close of the convention. Your generosity was overwhelming, and greatly appreciated.

I hope everyone had a safe Labor Day holiday and was able to sit back and relax with family and friends.

Until next time, stay safe.

Semper Fidelis,

Linda S. Chamberlain
nationalpres@nationalmcla.org
natlpresmcla22@gmail.com

*We may not have it all
together, but together we have
it all, and together we can
make anything happen.*





September - too hot for sweatshirts but too cold for tank tops, at least in my area of the country.

At the National Convention in Oklahoma City, we experienced quite a bit of COLD! Not the weather outside, but the temperature inside the hotel and meeting rooms. A recurring theme during the week was brrrrrrrrr, and a laugh or two! All joking aside, it was another great convention with abundant, valuable information given and all sessions presented were interesting and informative.

As the National Senior Vice President, I was privileged to present at the Department Presidents Council (spoiler alert, the name has changed). All of those present seemed to enjoy the camaraderie and active participation as we discussed The Crab Mentality. In addition, members in attendance gave their impressions on attitudes to consequences and possible solutions regarding this important topic. What? You were not able to join us for the lunch meeting? GTS, baby, GTS, or call me.

I appreciate everyone who took the time to submit a Bylaws Change, Administrative Procedure change, Forms change, Uniform Change or Ritual Book change. Oftentimes it takes a fresh pair of eyes to see a different way of doing things. We depend on each other to support and instruct us to help make all of us better Auxiliary members.

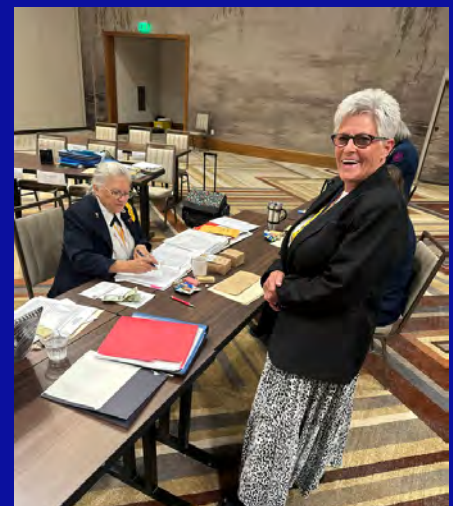
Finally, thank you for electing me to a second term as National Senior Vice President. I hope to visit with many of you in the coming year to find out how you believe our organization can grow and thrive. I know there are outstanding recruiting ideas out there across the country that are waiting to be shared with others. Reminder to future convention participants – bring a wrap, jacket, or blanket (which can be conveniently purchased from our Ship Store) so you can feel more comfortable while attending the business meetings just in case we have another cold meeting room.

Respectfully,

Dotty Sanning



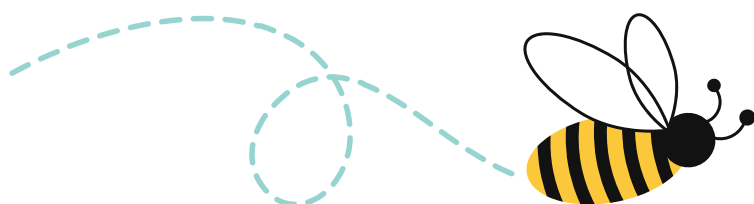
Sr VP Dotty Sanning at the
Dept. Presidents
Council Workshop



Sr VP Dotty Sanning and Patricia
Smith at the Past Presidents Club



“According to all known laws of aviation, there is no way that a bee should be able to fly. Its wings are too small to get its fat little body off the ground and in the air”



The most productive ones are called worker bees. Their wings beat twice as fast and move in all directions. Your Division Vice Presidents (DVP) and their Assistants are the worker bees of the of Marine Corps League Auxiliary.

During the National Convention the DVP and their Assistants were a buzz while attending a class where they learned about “getting back to the basics”. We covered what should be done and when it should be done.

Several divisions have elected new DVP and/or Assistants, we welcome them into the hive of worker bees.

If you are unsure of who your division representatives are, you should be receiving correspondence from them which will be sent to the Departments and Units with letters of introduction. We are counting on each Department and Unit to respond so we can be of better assistance in helping with your needs and opening the lines of communication.

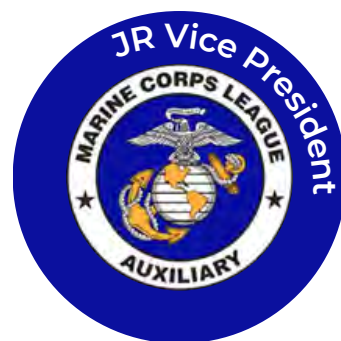
Working together on the required paperwork for the Auxiliary will make it easier and allow you more time to do the fun things so you can continue to legally operate and help Veterans.

Your DVP is there to help and assist you with any questions. If they don't have the answer readily available, they will find the answer for you and get back with you. Busy people get things done.

You are all so wonderful for what you stand for and the wonderful work you do for our Veterans!

Semper Fi and God's Blessings,

Mary Brief



IT'S NOT SO MUCH
HOW BUSY YOU
ARE, BUT WHY YOU
ARE BUSY.
*The bee is praised.
The mosquito is
SWATTED.*

I want to thank all members who were in attendance at the National Convention in Oklahoma City for their attention, questions and voting on the bylaws and administrative procedures. They have been submitted to the League's National Judge Advocate for review and, after being signed and returned, will go into effect on January 1, 2024. I will let Ramona and the body know when the bylaws are returned to me. Once the information is updated at National, if you have purchased the thumb drive from the Ship Store, you can have it updated at National or Midwinter.

The \$5 increase for annual dues will not go into effect until January 1, 2024, so let's get all dues paid as soon as possible.



An item that has been brought up to me is who is eligible to hold an elective office. Per National Bylaws Section 630- Rights of Members: **(A) A new or reinstated Regular member must be a member for one (1) year before holding an elected office, except for a newly chartered Unit or for an Associate Member who has been an Associate Member for a least one year in good standing, whose membership status has changed to a Regular Auxiliary Member. (Rev. 08/14)**

I hope all of you have a wonderful Fall full of color.

Darlene MacCubbin





Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Inc.

TO: National President Linda Chamberlain, Board of Trustees and MCLA Members

RE: Legislative Action

FROM: Darlene MacCubbin, Legislative Liaison

The Elizabeth Dole Home Act (H.R. 542) would give additional support to caregivers and expand access to home and community care-based care programs for older veterans.

If passed, this Act would require the VA to:

- a. Expand access to a non-VA provider that would furnish all-inclusive care to elderly veterans living in the community.
- b. Update electronic capabilities to assist veterans and caregivers using long-term health care and support services.
- c. Start a pilot program that would address homemaker and health aide services to veterans.
- d. Give reports and conduct studies on programs that provide medical and health services to elderly veterans in their homes and communities.

Even though veterans may require assistance with daily activities, being at home offers independence and familiarity, which is essential for their mental health. The freedom to remain in their homes needs to be supported by VA services and funding that will not financially stress the veterans and their families.

VA E-Notification Enhancement Act (H.R. 1169) This bill would require the VA to provide digital access to eligibility and award documents related to the ***Post-9/11 GI Bill***. If made into law, this would give student veterans easier access to documents to show that they are eligible to receive VA education assistance.

It has been an honor to serve the Marine Corps League Auxiliary.

Legislative Liaison
Darlene MacCubbin



National Convention HQ Project Raffle Oklahoma City 2023

The Convention Headquarter Project Raffle was implemented by our National President Linda Chamberlain. What a great idea. This raffle of one night stay at Midwinter at the Sheraton Arlington Hotel or \$150.00 was a success. Tickets were sold by the committee and many other auxiliary members. The number of tickets sold was 324. Donations were also collected. The recipient of the \$150 winning ticket (drawn by National President Linda Chamberlain) was Karen Francis, CPL Mason O Yarbrough Unit.

The committee would like to thank the many members who stepped up to help sell the tickets and the many Leaguer and Auxiliary members who supported this fund raiser by buying a ticket or donations. The project added \$1575.

Reminder from Pat Smith, the HQ Project Chair additional recipes for the Cookbook must be turned in by September 30. (mclauxpaxriv@gmail.com)

2022-23 Headquarter Project Committee

Patti Morgan, Pat Smith, Pauline Forsell, Lynn Cortright and Evelyn Joppa





From Ramona's Desk:

It was fabulous to see so many of you at the National Convention! Thank you to everyone who came by the Ships Store and supported our organization with your purchases. I nearly came home empty!



I'll be re-stocking the store soon and will keep you informed as items arrive. In the meantime, keep the orders coming and I will get them to you as soon as possible.

Of note, the cost of the Covers has increased to \$32 plus shipping and handling. This price went into effect on 1 September 2023.

Ramona Smith

*"Together
Everyone
Achieves
More!"*

AUTHORIZED TO WEAR

Marine Corps League Auxiliary members in good standing during this 100th Anniversary Year are permitted to wear the MCL 100th Anniversary Ribbon. This ribbon was awarded to Auxiliary Members by PNC Johnny Baker during his visit to our meeting on Friday, August 18, 2023.

Only those MCLA Members in attendance at the Convention are authorized to wear the gold frame (wheat print upward) over the ribbon and the optional "100" on the ribbon.



A motion was made, seconded and passed to increase the number of ribbons permitted to be worn on the left side of the Auxiliary jacket to four (4), allowing for the anniversary ribbon to be worn with three (3) other awarded ribbons.

VAVS REPRESENTATIVES AND DEPUTIES

Annual Joint Review –

The Annual Joint Review is due in October for all Marine Corps League Auxiliary Representatives & Deputies! It is the Representative's responsibility to schedule with the Chief and invite the Deputies to be present at this review. Please schedule with the Chief of Volunteers at your VA facility as early as possible to complete the review in October.

Remember the appointment as a Representative and/ or Deputy must be renewed every two years. See Enclosure #35. The only exceptions are those with indefinite appointments. If you have one of these special appointments, please email your updated information to evelyn.mrsjs@gmail.com. If you have questions call.

*Thank you for all you do for our veterans!
VAVS Chair Evelyn Joppa (727-207-2149)
VAVS Assist Chair Donna Rae Smith (815-973-0073)*



Military Order of the Devil Dog Fleas

To all Hide Scratchy Fleas,

Please send transmittals to me at:

**2003 Wooded Lane Rd
Jefferson City, MO**

**If you have any questions, you may call
me at (573) 353-3944.**

**Semper Mordendi,
Dotty Sanning**



To all PPC Treasurers,

**Please send transmittals
to me at:**

**2003 Wooded Lane Rd
Jefferson City, MO**

**If you have any
questions, you may call
me at (573) 353-3944.**

**Respectfully,
Dotty Sanning**



MID- WINTER SHERATON PENTAGON CITY

900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Phone: 800-325-3535 Reference National Marine Corps League

HOTEL RESERVATION LINK

2/22/2024 – 2/24/2024 (check-in 2/21, check out 2/25)

- Hotel Rate: \$129 plus tax (currently 14.25%) (about \$148)
- Parking: Onsite garage parking is \$10 per day
- The reservation deadline is January 30, 2024.
- Any cancellations after February 10, 2024, will forfeit the one-night deposit
- Free shuttle to/from Reagan Airport (DCA)

The hotel overlooks Arlington National Cemetery and is right near 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 of them being roll-in-shower. If ADA room is needed, call the reservation number.

Wednesday arrivals begin

Thursday some committee and board meetings, stores open in the afternoon.

Friday general session

Saturday general session, evening banquet (black tie or coat and tie appropriate)

Sunday departures

2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION

WESTIN RANCHO MIRAGE GOLF RESORT AND SPA

7133 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

You may book two (2) rooms with your name. 30 days prior to the convention, you must provide the hotel with the second name. CUTOFF FOR RESERVATIONS IS JULY 8, 2024. Reservations after that will be at the prevailing rate on space available.

HOTEL RESERVATION LINK

HOTEL RESERVATION PHONE: (888) 627-7086

RESERVATION CODE: "MCL" or "Marine Corps League"

Dates: Monday August 12, 2024 to Friday, August 16, 2024

Rates are **\$159 single** (one person in room) & include breakfast Monday through Saturday for one (1) and are inclusive of taxes, resort fee, and parking. Rates are **\$169 double** (two persons in room) & include breakfast Monday through Saturday for two (2) and are inclusive of taxes, resort fee, and parking.

2025 National Convention

*The League & Auxiliary voted to have the 2025 Convention in Dallas, Tx
at the Hyatt Regency DFW.*

National Convention Awards 2023



**Judy Blackmer Receives
a 30 Year Pin**



**National Recruiter of the
Year 2023 Ann LeClair**



**National President Award
Susquehanna Valley Unit 50 years**



**National President Award
Landis McCleaf 70 Years**



**Charter Presentation to
Basilone New Jersey**



Twila Gensel Receives a 50 Year Pin



**VAVS Award for Service
Presentation to PNP Barbara
Nobile**



**Charter Presentation to
Middle TN & North Shore J.M.**



**Charter Presentation to
Peoria Leathernecks**





Flea Scratch 2023





National Convention 2023



National Convention Gala 2023

In Loving Memory



National Chaplain PNP Barbara Nobile



DOROTHY MCMILLAN

14 May 2023 – Whitewater Valley Unit, IN
Condolences to Cindy Kersey, 848 Watermead Drive,
Noblesville, IN, 46062

While at National convention we sent cards signed by all in attendance to many of our members. I hope they enjoyed reading all the names.

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Sherry Moore fell and blew out her knee on the stairs. Cards of encouragement for her may be sent to - 11250 E. State Rt. 69, #1118, Dewey, AZ 86327-4405.

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Joshua Bacon, son of Donna Rae Smith of Colorado, wishes prayers for her son as he goes through hip replacement surgery the first week of September. His address for cards of cheer is - 343 Creekview Meadows Dr., Springtown, TX 76082.

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Melanie Capps is recovering from a recent hip replacement. Cards of cheer - 7485 Horizon Way, Prescott Valley, AZ 86315-3439.

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Doris and George Simpson are long time, loyal MCLA and MCL members who were not able to attend National convention due to health issues. A cheerful greeting for them would brighten their days. 11474 Chapel Road, Lorena, TX 76655-3007.

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Linda Shurtleff from the Melvin M. Smith unit in Washington needs our continued prayers. Linda had a heart attack and had a pacemaker put in. Cards of cheer for Linda may be sent to - 3307 W Dalton, Spokane, WA 99205-2111.

**National Chaplain
PNP Barbara Nobile**

Viola Trevino's brother is having open heart surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery. Cards may be sent to - Pantaleon Guerrero, 2633 Auther, Corpus Christie, TX 78410.

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Prayers were requested for Pat and Jim Freeman of the Central Division. Cards may be sent to them at - 146 22nd, St. Alton, IL 62002.

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Past Chief Bill Taylor, who loves the fleas, was not able to attend convention. I know he would love a card from the MCLA - 99 Felton St., Apt. B, Waltham, MA 02453.

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Flint Unit member Nancy Henn and her husband Duane are in need of those powerful MCLA prayers. Duane has been diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer. Please show them your love with cards - 4999 Green Drive, Cass City, MI 48726.

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Edison Kline Van Slyke Unit member, Debbie Zarazua, has been struggling with ongoing lung and kidney health issues for several years. She was recently in the hospital with CHF. Her husband has been going through cancer treatments. Again, send those prayers to this couple along with cards of encouragement - 4037 Dover Lane, Bay City, MI 48706.

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Joan Kuhne, mother of National Jr. VP, Mary Brief, took a nasty fall while Mary was in Oklahoma at convention. Joan is home from the hospital now, but needs our thoughts and prayers as she heals. She was to have 6 to 8 weeks of non-weight bearing. Not one to sit around, help her deal with this by sending your cards - 243 Walnut St., Frankenmuth, MI 48734.

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Prayers were needed for the father of our National JA, Darlene MacCubbin. Her Dad Jackie Jackson was in the hospital during convention and then just again lately. They have adjusted some meds and hope this will help with his breathing and chest pains.

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PNP Alice Blackford had surgery this for a perforated ulcer. She is having some issues at this time with a wound, so please offer a healing prayer for this wonderful lady. The PNP's gave her a call at their meeting during convention to let her know she was missed and in their prayers. Cards of cheer - 3302 Amber Meadow Dr., Katy, TX 77449.

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PNP Marilyn Loeven could use some encouragement as she visits her hubby, PNC Lew Loeven each day in rehab. He had another bad bout of health issues this past month and is working on getting his strength back. Difficult time for both our dear friends. Cards may be sent to them at - 3556 Raven Street, Levittown, NY 11756-5026.

**National Chaplain
PNP Barbara Nobile**

Rose Mary Koontz is dealing with breast cancer and many other health issues and having difficulty walking. Cards would be welcome at - 211 Oakdale Road, Baltimore, MD 21206.

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Barbara Dugan had foot surgery and is hoping for a speedy recovery. We missed her at convention as the healing was not allowing her to wear a shoe and she is still in pain. Barbara Dugan - 5081 Circle Drive, Conover, NC 28613.

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Joan Hansen is having age related health issues. A thoughtful card to her would be most welcome - 8428 Oak Stream Drive, Laurel, MD 20708.

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HPNP Lynn Laberge had knee replacement surgery prior to National convention. She was with us and doing very well. She hobbled when necessary and had a scooter; it was great to see her up and about. 9636 SW 25th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73128-4961.

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PNC John Tuohy was not with us at convention as he had a pacemaker sound check and did not want to risk infection. We missed both he and our comptroller, Peggy Tuohy and wish them the best. Greetings may be sent to them at 3171 Ivy Lane, Grand Blanc, MI 48439-8198.

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It is with great delight that I share, PNP Caroline Ruhmshottel was married on Saturday, August 26th to Eric Dorendorf. Cards of blessing may be sent to them at 1453 11th Street, Benton City, WA 99320.

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There were many of our members who returned home from convention to flu like symptoms and covid. We wish all a healthy September.

There are always those who do not let us know of their personal sufferings. To that end, I would ask you keep all our members in your prayers. I especially ask for your prayers for our National officers as they take on the duties of guiding our organization for another year. Congrats to our new National big flea, Vickie Brown.

I wish to thank my assistant, Linda Szura for her help during convention.

MAY YOUR DAYS BE FILLED WITH MOMENTS OF CHILDLIKE AWE AND MAGIC. MAY THE WONDER OF LIFE DELIGHT YUR HEART AND ENCHANT YOUR SOUL.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE

PNP Barbara Nobile



ELECTED OFFICERS

President Linda Chamberlain
Sr. Vice President Dotty Sanning
Jr. Vice President Mary Brief
Judge Advocate Darlene MacCubbin
Jr. PNP Evelyn Joppa

NationalPres@nationalmcla.org
NationalSrVP@nationalmcla.org
NationalJrVP@nationalmcla.org
NationalJA@nationalmcla.org
evelyn.mrsjs@gmail.com

DIVISION VICE PRESIDENTS

Ann LeClair
Doris Bujanowski
Jan Crowe

PNP Ruth Moyse
Vickie Brown
Tamara Yatt
Rebecca Marcel
Antonia Hurtado
Pauline Forsell

CentralDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org
MidEastDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org
MidwestDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org
NewEnglandDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org
NortheastDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org
NorthwestDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org
RockyMountainDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org
SoutheastDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org
SouthernDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org
SouthwestDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org

PNP Barbara Nobile
Operation Little Angel

NationalChaplain@nationalmcla.org
OperationLittleAngel@nationalmcla.org



Marine Corps League Auxiliary
PO Box 3038
Stafford, VA 22555-3038

Dated Material: September

Address Service Requested