

Starting a Marine Corps League Auxiliary Unit

If you receive the question from Marine Family members or Marine Corps League members, “How do we start a Marine Corps League Auxiliary Unit?” here is some important information and the steps to follow:

- Structure – A Marine Corps League Auxiliary (MCLA) Unit is its own entity with its own charter and is free to develop a unique outreach to support Marines, veterans, and the community. They can even choose their own name. The Detachment has no authority over the Auxiliary.
- Membership eligibility - Female relatives sixteen or older who are a wife, widow, mother, stepmother, sister, daughter, stepdaughter, grandmother, granddaughter, aunt, and daughter-in-law of an honorably served Marine and FMF Corpsman eligible to belong to the Marine Corps League and women Marines (former, active and reserves) and associate members are eligible for MCLA membership.
- Process - Seven women who meet the eligibility mentioned above will meet the requirement to start an MCLA unit. Associate members who do not meet the eligibility requirements may also join the original seven if the unit votes to accept associate members.
 - Once the ladies show interest they need to “take the ball and run with it”. They meet and discuss their interests and desires. One of the ladies contacts the MCLA Division Vice President for their area (see the list of division contacts in the Semper Fi magazine on the Auxiliary page) and is the point of contact to receive a starter kit.
 - They receive a charter application, membership applications and instructions on how to proceed. The women move forward to make it happen.
- Opportunity to serve – Often the Marine family is familiar with and shares their Marine’s love of God, Corps, and Country. The family has served our country through their love and support of their Marine. Many want to continue their service in a volunteer capacity that suits their talents and fits within their other commitments. The Marine Corps League Auxiliary offers such an opportunity.
- Complement the League - Discuss the added value of an Auxiliary to compliment the League by adding new skills and talents to reach further and deeper into the community through spouses and family members and by meeting community needs that the League may not have thought of such as infant needs, children at risk, or the needs of active duty female Marines.
- Let them know what we do - Typically the MCLA Unit supports some or all of the following programs: Marines-Veterans, Active Duty and Family, Veterans’ legislation-inform and send letters of need to federal and state legislators, Youth & Community, The Operation Little Angel local and national program serving children in need, Young Marines, Girl Scouts, and Toys for Tots, Marine Corps League Detachments, Birthday Ball, Marine Corps Birthday celebrations, parades, conventions and fundraisers. It is usually a good idea to focus on one main project for the first year:

To learn more about our Marine Corps League Auxiliary see our National Website:
<http://www.nationalmcla.org/>

May your dedicated service reach further and touch more.

Semper Fidelis,

Caroline Ruhmshottel NATIONAL PRESIDENT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY 2008-2010