



Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Inc.

FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

To: All Members of the Auxiliary
From: Caroline Ruhmshottel, National President

Perseverance and Perspective – It is said that when we go through trials we show our strength. It is also said that perseverance is when we fall down, we get up; and, when we fall down again, we get up again, and again, and again. Perspective is also important because, in order to show our strength and persevere, we need to put our trials into perspective.

Right now, there are young men and women in harms way, risking their lives and sacrificing for us to live in freedom, work, volunteer, provide support for our families, develop lasting relationships, and give back to our country and communities. We need to keep our eyes on our mission to serve and represent them, and those who have gone before them, to the very best of our ability. That is the perspective we need to have every time we meet.

Many of you know that our National MCLA Headquarters is now without a secretary. Regarding this issue, I sent an urgent message dated January 8 to the National MCLA Board of Trustees to disperse to as many members as possible. You will find it on the next page of this newsletter. Please read it and let your Department President and Division Vice President know the consensus of your Unit so they will have your input for the Board vote on February 12, 2010.

Congratulations to Southwest Division Vice President Geri Phillips for a new unit forming in Meza, AZ – the Saguaro Blossom Unit. The charter is now in process.

Congratulations to Assistant Southwest Division Vice President Joni Cruver for resolving two reoccurring roadblocks that our headquarters office experienced for many years. They were: 1) ordering and receiving Life Membership Cards in a timely manner and with the correct information and, 2) ordering and receiving covers (caps) in a timely manner. Thanks to Joni Cruver both processes are now under control and moving forward. Joni Cruver is also our National Ship's Store Committee Chairman.

National Guard Carol Smith created an MCLA Glossary of Acronyms and Terms included in this newsletter. It may be especially helpful to new members; thank you Carol.

I hope to see you at the Midwinter Conference. Safe travels for all who are attending meetings and conferences. May your devoted service reach further and touch more.

Semper Fidelis,

Caroline S. Ruhmshottel

Caroline S. Ruhmshottel

E-mail: cruhmshtottel@comcast.net

National Web site: <http://www.nationalmcla.org/>

National Marine Corps League Auxiliary can earn a donation every time you search the Internet and shop online!!!

Go to: www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx

Type: Marine Corps League – Auxiliary (Fairfax, VA) in the space asking “Who do you want to support?”

GoodSearch & GoodShop



MCLA urgent need for your input

From: cruhmshottel@comcast.net

Date: January 8, 2010 11:13:06 AM PST

Dear members,

Last year at our 2009 National Convention we voted to have an administrative assistant position to handle the membership record keeping, the banking, and the Ship's Store. After creating a job description, interviewing and hiring a talented and qualified person who started on September 15 for twenty hours a week she submitted her resignation on December 22, 2009. She was offered an excellent position with the National VFW. She was very concerned about our processes stating that we could make them more efficient.

We all had hopes for success. When we receive disappointing news we need to reexamine to see if it might mean an opportunity for change. The MCLA Board of Trustees was informed and asked for input. We discussed the pattern of high turn over of secretaries, the costs of traveling and interviewing for hiring a new secretary, the costs of keeping the office running, possible reasons for high turnover, and decided that this situation offers us the opportunity to consider change.

In 1978 the National Marine Corps League Auxiliary moved into an office in Fairfax, VA. Most businesses needed an office to run efficiently. Tasks had to be done by hand because there were no computers, email, stamps.com, cell phones, PayPal, credit card orders or online banking. Now many businesses operate successfully from homes and they have the equipment to do so. When we lost our secretary in April of 2009 we divided the work and operated successfully from homes for five months through the dedicated work of national staff. It was so successful that there were no complaints about life membership cards, orders, orders for covers, or membership records during that time. Between now and the Midwinter conference we will be operating again from the homes of some of your national staff with confidence that the work will go smoothly. We are seeing success with the model of dividing the work and making it home-based and would like to consider continuing this model. Your input is crucial to this important decision.

Such an important decision needs a vote of the MCLA Board of Trustees at the Midwinter Conference February 11-13, 2010. A more opportune time would be at the National Convention, but we cannot wait that long.

Two votes will be needed:

- 1) Whether or not to move the administrative assistant position into the home of a well qualified person to receive mail, record and report all membership information and handle all banking and reporting for an eight-month trial basis of March through October 2010.** The performance and satisfaction would be monitored and reevaluated by the end of October 2010. That would give this new option the opportunity to test its value through the months of heavy transmittal submission.
- 2) Whether or not to move the operation of the Ship's Store into the home of a well qualified person to receive and ship orders, keep current inventory records, and report on costs and profit for an eight-month trial basis of March through October 2010.**

Division Vice Presidents be sure to distribute this proposal to the members you represent immediately. Request and record input from them and send it to me. Their input will determine your vote at the Midwinter Conference. They may have ideas for better options.

If the vote were favorable, the administrative assistant position would be opened to MCLA members across the nation who have been unit or department treasurers and are recommended by their unit or department. If agreed, the job description will be posted soon after the vote and a cover letter, resume, and recommendations would need to be submitted with phone interviews to follow for those selected.

If the vote is not favorable to the change the alternative is to continue as we have for many years with the risks of a high turnover of secretaries at our national headquarters and our work shutting down when the secretary leaves or has a medical crisis.

Semper Fidelis.



Cardine

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND TERMS

ACRONYMS

AM	Associate Member
ADVP	Assistant Division Vice President
DVP	Division Vice President
EIN	Employer Identification Number
HQ	Headquarters
JA	Judge Advocate
JVP	Junior Vice President
LM	Life Member
MAL	Member-at-Large
MCL	Marine Corps League
MCLA	Marine Corps League Auxiliary
MODDF	Military Order of the Devil Dog Fleas
OLA	Operation Little Angel
PDP	Past Department President
PNP	Past National President
PPC	Past Presidents' Club
PUP	Past Unit President
SVP	Senior Vice President
T4T	Toys for Tots
USMC	United States Marine Corps
VAVS	Veterans Administration Volunteer Service
YM	Young Marines

TERMS

990 and 990N

As of 2008, all tax-exempt organizations, including MCLA departments and units, must file a Form 990N annually on or before November 15 with the IRS. The form must be completed and filed electronically at the following website: <http://epostcard.form990.org/>.

Banner

Each department and unit is entitled to purchase its own banner (flag). For specifications, visit the National website: www.nationalmcla.org. Click on “Forms,” then on “Banner and Standard.”

Bond Fee

Each unit is responsible for paying an annual bond fee by August 31 each year. The bond form is available on the National website: www.nationamcla.org. Click on “Forms,” then on “Bond Form.”

Divisions

There are 10 divisions, each with an elected Vice President and Assistant Vice President.

The divisions are:

New England Division	(Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island)
Northeast Division	(New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania)
Mideast Division	(Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico)
Southeast Division	(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee)
Midwest Division	(Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota)
Central Division	(Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Kentucky)
Southern Division	(Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas)
Southwest Division	(Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada)
Rocky Mountain Division	(Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming)
Northwest Division	(Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho)

Credentials

Delegates and Alternates desiring to attend business sessions of a National Convention must possess paid up membership cards, plus properly executed, signed and prepaid credentials, and must be registered with, and approved by, the Convention Credentials Committee.

Delegate/ Alternate

Each unit is entitled to one or more Delegates/Alternates to the National Convention, depending upon the number of members in the unit. (See National Bylaws, Article One, Section 105.)

Employer Identification Number

An Employer Identification Number (EIN) or Federal Tax Identification Number is used to identify a business entity. The number is required by all units and is issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

Enclosures

Enclosures are the forms referenced in the National Bylaws that can be accessed on the National website: www.nationalmcla.org.

Fiscal year

The League and Auxiliary operate on a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30.

GoodSearch.com

A website that serves as a portal to search the web and to shop at a wide variety of stores while helping to raise funds for the cause of your choice. Please specify “Marine Corps League - Auxiliary” (Fairfax, VA) when visiting this website.

National Board of Trustees

The National Board of Trustees is comprised of the elected National Officers: National President, National Senior Vice President, National Junior Vice President, National Judge Advocate, National Vice Presidents of Divisions, Junior Past National President.

National MCLA Headquarters Project

The Headquarters Project is National’s semi-annual (fall and spring) fundraising raffle. Tickets are mailed to each member twice a year with drawings held at the annual Mid-Winter Conference and National Convention.

Operation Little Angel

Operation Little Angel is a program of the National Marine Corps League Auxiliary, the purpose of which is to provide clothing, food, toys, and items necessary for survival to agencies that provide care for children in crisis. Learn more about how you can help at www.nationalmcla.org. Click on “Operation Little Angel.”

Reports

Each unit is responsible for annually reporting volunteerism (volunteer hours, times, and value of donations) in the following categories: Americanism, Child Welfare and Youth Activities, Civics, Girl Scouts, Rehabilitation, and VAVS. Forms and instructions may be found on the National website: www.nationalmcla.org.

Robert’s Rules of Order (Revised)

This is the parliamentary reference for all meetings including Conventions of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary.

Ship's Store

The Marine Corps League and Marine Corps League Auxiliary both operate Ship’s Stores that offer merchandise specific to the needs of members. Visit the MCLA Ship’s Store online at www.nationalmcla.org. There are three ways to order: fill out the Merchandise Order Form from the National website and fax it to 1-703-207-0264, scan and email it to mclahq@aol.com, or mail it to National MCLA Headquarters, 8626 Lee Highway, Suite 207, Fairfax, VA 22031-2135.

THE OPERATION LITTLE ANGEL COMMITTEE

Invites you to

- Be our guest – Friday, Feb. 12th, 2010,
- 7:10 p.m. in the MCLA Meeting Room,
- Fairview Park Marriott, Falls Church, VA.

TO SALUTE THE FAMILIES OF QUANTICO MARINE CORPS BASE, VA

- WOMEN OF THE CHAPEL – OUR 2010 GUESTS
- ALONG WITH MCLA PRESIDENT CAROLINE RUHMSHOTTEL

Our theme is

A RED, WHITE AND BLUE SALUTE IN HONOR OF OUR GUESTS
(PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COSTUME OR WEAR COLORS TO ENHANCE THE NIGHT)

*We invite all ladies present at the Midwinter Conference
for fun, food and friendship.*

- JOIN US IN SHARING OUR MARINE FAMILY SPIRIT WITH THOSE WHO ARE LIVING IN THE MARINE FAMILY MOMENT RIGHT NOW.

Please give all gift cards to a committee member before the event. Gifts may be brought down to meeting room on Friday morning. If you wish to donate money for shopping, it must be received by the committee before Thursday.

OLA COMMITTEE:

Chair – PNP Barbara Nobile,
PNC Helen Hicks,
Gerri Tuohy,
Tracey Killinger,
Pat Engel,
Janet Voltaggio,
Lora Woods,
Carol Smith

VA NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS

“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.” – Lao Tzu

Originally started in 1978, the National Salute to Veteran Patients was formerly called The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. The National Salute to Veteran Patients is always celebrated the week of Valentine’s Day.

The purpose of the National Salute to Veteran Patients is to:

- Show appreciation to America’s veterans;
- Increase the awareness of the local VA Medical Center in the community;
- Encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans during Salute Week and consider becoming a VA volunteer; and
- Increase the awareness in the community of the issues facing injured OEF/OIF veterans and their families.

Valentines are always welcomed to be given to the veterans in the hospital during this week.

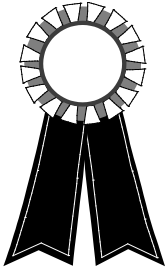
A V4V (Valentines for Veterans) Concert is a way for families to share time together, and a way for wives or husbands alone on Valentine’s Day to be among people in similar situations. Valentine’s Day should not be a day of sadness.

Admission to a V4V Concert is always free – the price has already been paid. The concerts offer an exciting new way to take the National Salute out of the VA and into the community, attracting a new generation of VA volunteers. There is always a VA volunteer recruitment booth available. The first concert was held in Prescott, Ariz., on Valentine’s Day, 2006. Since then concerts have been held each year. This year the concerts will be in Baltimore, Md.; Battle Creek, Mich.; Charleston, S.C.; Chicago, Ill.; Fayetteville, Ark.; Kansas City, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Prescott, Ariz.; and St. Louis, Mo.

These concerts are made possible through the generous support of the national nonprofit organization Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV). Since 1971, HHV has donated 15 million arts and craft kits at no charge to the veteran patients at VA and military medical facilities. Organizations in the community also donate funds to help with expenses of bringing in the national performers.

For more information on how you can help, please contact your local VA hospital or send an email to frankcimorelli@live.com. He will be able to tell you who the entertainers will be this year at the concerts.

Rosemary Bressler
VAVS Representative



Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Programs of Pride

Frank J. Carroll Unit – MCLA, Denver, CO



Left to Right: Unknown person, Janice Miller, Wayne Coleman, Barry Georgopolous, Tommie Coleman, Bob Cowan, unknown, and unknown.

At our Annual December Christmas Food Baskets this year we presented baskets to 10 families who live in the Arvada area. We got assistance from the City of Arvada's program "Lighting up the Holidays." We were helped with toys from the city and our unit bought the Colorado Share Christmas Baskets. The Auxiliary added canned food and non-perishable items to the baskets. We also presented the families with \$25 gift cards redeemable at Safeway grocery stores. The 22 children who attended were overjoyed to receive toys as well as Christmas Stockings filled with goodies as were their parents who

were speechless with all the things they were given for Christmas. It is so nice to help families this time of year.



Left to Right: Tommie Coleman, Bea Georgopolous, Nadeen Kaiser, Pat Hunter, right side of table: Unknown

On November 21, 2009 we put together 100 Christmas stockings for Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan. We received a couple of thank you cards back from them. A quote from one of the cards said, "I can tell you they were well received. Your thoughtfulness, effort and energy brought smiles to all the members." It was nice to bring a little bit of home to these Marines at Christmas.



Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Inc.



To: All members of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary

The Southeast Division has continued to grow. We have four new Units in Florida: The Martin County Unit in Stuart, the Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Curtin Unit in Zephyrhills, the Morris F. Dixon Unit in Seminole and The Oldest City Unit in St. Augustine. There are prospects for more in Florida and Tennessee.

We still have some Units that are struggling to stay alive. One Unit has less than five members. Our total membership is not available at this time.

The Units in this Division are continuing with the same projects as last year:

We participate in all of the Veterans activities including:

Memorial Day Services, laying wreaths, placing flags and attending special luncheons.

Veterans Day Celebrations, marching in parades and attending a reception.

Attend Marine Corps Birthday Balls.

Present Christmas Programs for Veterans.

Prepare bags of snacks and presents for hospitalized Veterans.

Buy Christmas Gifts for Homeless Veterans.

Send Boxes of personal items calling cards and other essentials to Veterans overseas.

Collect toys for Toys for Tots.

Support OLA.

Send supplies to Ronald McDonald House and other hospitality homes.

Work with Veterans Hospitals and Nursing Homes.

Support and work at Operation Stand Down.

Attend funerals of Veterans and our Marines who have been KIA.

Hold BINGO at Veterans Hospitals and furnish snacks.

Support the Young Marines.

You Ladies are to be congratulated for all that you do. Keep up the good work and God Bless all of you.

Semper Fidelis,

Inda Adams

Inda Adams

National Southeast

Division Vice President



Chaplain's Corner

February 2010

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Mary Anne Walker of the Lake Havasu Unit has been diagnosed with bone cancer. Her husband John had a slight stroke in early December. Prayers and cards to: 3101 Rocking Horse Dr., Lake Havasu, AZ 86406-8533.

Bobbie Hawkins fell and shattered her right elbow. This Baltimore Auxiliary member could use some prayer as she deals with the pain of healing and therapy. Send to: 3003 ½ California Ave., Baltimore, MD 21234-4102.

Please continue to pray for Past Chief Cliff Williams and his wife Marie. They have health issues and Cliff's daughter, Beverly Hill had a serious stroke. She is paralyzed on her right side and also, she had been laid-off from a job. There is no medical insurance. This is her address: 1400 Hesters Cross, Round Rock, TX 78681.

Continued prayerful thoughts are needed for our National Chaplain, PNP Barbara Nobile as she tries to send encouragement and strength to her brother-in-law Jerry. He will probably need therapy and possibly more surgery after the December car accident that tragically claimed his dear wife, Pat. It is still difficult for Barbara and Jerry to talk on the phone. I understand her voice on the phone is much the same as her sister Pat's.

* * *

Jeanette L. Verhaeghe passed away September 25, 2009. She was a member of the Agerholm Gross Unit. We received this information December 28, 2009. Condolences may be sent to: Robert Verhaeghe, 5126 Shirley Ave., Racine, WI 53402-2477.

Ruth DeFrancesco of the Gen. Smedley D. Butler Unit passed away October 17th. Sympathy cards to: Marino DeFrancesco, 311 Lexington-Riddle Village, Media, PA 19063-6021.

The Marine Corps League's National Receptionist Mary Clarke suffered a stroke and is in the hospital. She is going to be recuperating for some time it appears. We need to keep her encouraged and covered in prayer: Mary Clark, Room 285-1, Fairfax Hospital, 3300 Gallows Road, Falls Church, VA 22042.

Department of Washington Commandant Bill McCutchin had a triple-bypass in December. He is progressing well. Cards to: 2610 East Section Street, Unit 71, Mt. Vernon, WA 98274-6106.

Please keep Marilyn and Lew Loeven on your prayer list. Lew was to have surgery on his spine, and therapy for that and his shoulder. Time will tell what else may be necessary. I am sure they missed seeing all at the Convention and Mid-winter. These are emotional times for all those who are so dedicated to the League and the Auxiliary. Let them know we miss them: 3556 Raven St., Levittown, NY 11756-5026.

Marine "Bill" Siebel passed away January 3rd. He was very dedicated to the U.S.M. Youth Foundation in New Jersey. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Siebel at 633 Watchung Rd., Bound Brook, NJ 08805-1745.

CWO-4 Frank Kovacs, Jr. was called home January 4th. He was the adjutant/paymaster for PFC. Bruce Wayne Carter Det. #052. Sympathy cards to: Louise Kovacs, 11161 S.W. 57th Street, Miami, FL 33173.

Please be in prayer for those in our government. We are of mixed opinion, I'm sure, on many issues. WE MUST BE UNITED IN OUR STAND FOR FREEDOM. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Stay warm dear ones,

PDP Glenda Travis

National Chaplain Assistant

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY**
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FEBRUARY 2010



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