



## Marine Corps League Department of Florida

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To: All Department members  
From: Department Board of Trustees (BOT)  
Subject: Monthly message

If you have not already submitted your delegate registration for National Convention please do so now. The registration form can be found on the Department web site under the upcoming events tab. The Department can only vote the number of votes based on delegate registration. If you want our voice to be heard, the delegates must be registered – they do not have to attend.

Begin thinking of the 2017 Fall Conference and Leadership School in October at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott. A Medal of Honor recipient will be the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the banquet. More information on this distinguished guest will be forthcoming. Registration information is located on the Department website under the upcoming events tab. Please purchase an ad in the program book to support the host Detachments. It would be great if each Detachment were to obtain an ad from a local business. The ad will help generate awareness of the business and support the League.

Should there be any awards you want presented at the Fall Conference, submit the nomination form early to SVC Frank Glassford so the nomination may be vetted and the certificate prepared.

The bidding for the Spring Conference will be re-opened, due to the many problems encountered at the Altamonte Hilton. If your Detachment is interested in hosting the conference submit a bid to the Adjutant (reference Convention/conference planning guide on website). Presentations of bids and membership vote on the location of the Spring conference will be conducted during the Fall Conference.

Your BOT has been busy working for you. Some of the business that is being conducted includes: seeking a new venue for the annual convention; brainstorming fund-raising opportunities outside of the Department, in order to not ask the members for more and more; preparing for National Convention; 2 Chapter 9 filings; reduction of delinquency, and many other projects. The BOT and staff are doing what you elected them to do and much more. Each one of them is dedicated to serving you, which can best be done with your cooperation and assistance when needed.

JVC Westervelt is hard at work trying to decrease the high percentage of delinquencies and increase the number of new outstanding members. Vigorously attack the delinquency problem at the Detachment level and help JVC Westervelt with the huge task he has. With a little effort from each of the Detachments the goal of less than 10% delinquency can be reached very quickly and easily maintained.

Life membership audit was recently sent to each Detachment. Although the deadline is 31 December to submit the audit why wait? Members, be sure your Detachment Commandant and Paymaster conduct the audit, sign it and submit it to the Department Paymaster. The Department will submit the audits to National. The Department is doing what it can to ensure each Detachment receives its share of the PLM distribution for 2018. Too many Detachments did not receive the 2017 distribution which is loss income (however small it may be) to the Detachment operating funds.

Adjutant John Marsh reminds all to submit your ROI immediately after the installation. Scan the properly completed (including the total amount of dues for your Detachment) ROI, attach it to an email, and send to the Adjutant. Do not wait and potentially forget. Often the new Commandant or other officer needs to be contacted by Department or National staff; and all too often it is learned that a change of command took place weeks ago, Email the ROI to the Department Adjutant who will in turn distribute to everyone else. It is imperative to remember that you cannot install yourself into office. If the installing officer will also serve as an installed officer/staff member then there must be an additional ROI with another qualified installing officer.

Paymaster Beal would appreciate receiving transmittals for 2018 early in order to prevent the overload (and slow the processing) that is likely if everyone submits during September. Remember the Paymaster is a volunteer, one-person shop. Help her to better serve you with minimal delay in processing transmittals. Again, you must pay attention to the details in completing and submitting the form and providing the correct amount of transmitted dues. The Paymaster has spent many hours correcting mistakes. I have instructed her to return improperly prepared transmittals for correction rather than she having to research and correct. This will be especially true during the next several months as we move into the one date annualized expiration date.

The IWFF, Inc. is a separate organization supported by the Department of Florida. If you are aware of a veteran in your area that may qualify for assistance from the fund, please refer them to the IWFF. More information is available on the website.

You may notice a frequent recurrence of referral to the website. The Department of Florida website is one of the premiere websites in the League. Lou Calleja deserves your appreciation and gratitude for the many years he has dedicated to building and maintaining the site, as you know it to be today. Visit it frequently as new information is posted often. Due to technical issues, the website is in the process of being transferred to a new host. The webmaster duties are also in transition from Lou Calleja to Lori Keiser. They are working together diligently to have a seamless transition from one host to another which should take place in the next 2 or 3 weeks. You may see some slight differences in navigation of the site but all the information that you now know will be there; although some information may take a little longer to get up and running after the transition. Stay tuned for more!

This past month the Department received 2 requests for assistance: one for a Marine on life support who was not expected to live another day; and another for a reported homeless Marine. Both requests were handled in a truly outstanding manner with credit to the Wilson Detachment 1045 and many of its individual members. The Marine on life support is recovering and is now off life support. He has rescinded his do not resuscitate directive and has a desire to continue his life. The family has told me that he wants to join the League as soon as he can get out of the hospital. The family credits this "miracle" to the response from Marines John Readey, Glenn Galtere, and an active duty 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. who came to the bedside in dress blues. This is an inspiring response that we all should be prepared to

emulate! It is an honor to know these men and the unselfish response that is the norm for them rather than the unusual.

Semper Fidelis,  
George