

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
WILLIAM BACKES
Department Commandant



To All Members:

At the Department Convention in Fort Lauderdale FL I was elected to represent you as your Department of Florida Commandant. The membership also elected Lou Calleja, Department Sr. Vice Commandant; Bill Maher, Jr. Vice Commandant; Bill Cona Department Judge Advocate.

I would like to personally thank all members that attended this Convention. The Host Detachment, Tamarac # 755, did an outstanding job and a big pat on the back to Jim Ruggiero who catered to the Department's requests. Detachment Commandant John Palermo also get's a big Woof Woof for making sure the refreshments were ordered for the Devil Dogs and to Scott Egan, the new "PUP", for his support on delivering the Pizzas.

Marines, we are now entering a new phase in the MCL. Our National Sr. Vice Commandant Vic Voltaggio from Detachment # 708 Spring Hill, Fl, will be taking over the helm at the National Convention this August, in North Carolina. The National Staff holds the Department in very high regard; in fact, our Department is often mentioned by the Executive Director as the model of how a Department should be run. On the Detachment level, members who have attended the leadership school that are scheduled at the Fall and Spring Conferences, now have a greater knowledge on the Elected and Appointed positions of which they serve. I invite all members to attend the School, the Conferences, and the Department Convention. Please get involved; there is plenty to do on all levels of the MCL. I have a challenge to all Commandants and Elected Staff. Make all members feel welcomed. We have a lot of untapped talent in the MCL so find out who would like to help out and use them wisely. Next year we will be giving out an Award for the Best Detachment Commandant. The District Vices' will be involved along with the Department Elected Officers. Our Scholarship Fund was higher this year, but we had more applicants then last year; therefore, our awards were lower because of the higher amount of applicants. I have to work on funding to bring the awards up next year.

Again, thank you for electing the Staff and we will work to keep the Department on top. Remember, we're here to help and serve you. There is no problem that can't be solved.

Semper Fidelis

William G Backes

[Return to reports page](#)

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