



**George LaMont**  
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To: Members of the Department of Florida  
From: George LaMont, Department Commandant  
Subject: Monthly Communication

I wish everyone could be at the Fall Conference in a few days in Palm Beach Gardens but I know that there are many valid reasons that some cannot attend. The conference will offer the opportunity to attend a leadership class, network with members from other Detachments, join in the sea stories and fellowship, and most importantly to learn more about your Marine Corps League. I am continually amazed with how little of the League is known by so many of our members. It is time for everyone to start thinking about the 2018 Spring Conference and the opportunity to learn.

A priority for your Board of Trustees has been the welfare of every member during and after Hurricane Irma. There were many issues around the Department to include: flooding, power outages, road closures, trees down, and so forth but none as severe as what your brothers and sisters experienced in the Keys, especially the middle Keys near Marathon.

PRO Robin Barker and I visited the area and met some of the League members in Marathon 2 weeks after Irma made landfall. The area experienced severe impact that some may never be able to recover from. Kudos to your fellow Marine Corps League members from the Marathon Devil Dogs Detachment 1216 for their outstanding community service and dedication to their fellow veterans. The Department has established a dedicated account to collect financial donations to help our members in the Keys. As of this writing, more than \$10,000.00 has been donated and more has been promised. I am moved and so very grateful for all the donations but it will never be enough to really help.

The local Commandant Michael Rhine and I, together with other Department and Detachment members, will vet every request for assistance and make sure that there is a real need and that the money is used for that need. Commandant Rhine and his Paymaster, Ken Bell, have asked the Department to collect donations, help with disbursements, and provide the administrative support for them. The Department is doing that and will have an after-action report available upon request. The recovery in Marathon will take a long time. Every one of the members down

Department of Florida – Marine Corps League, Inc.  
Web Site: [www.mclfl.org](http://www.mclfl.org)

Marine Corps League was formed in 1923 - Chartered & Incorporated by Congress on August 4, 1937  
Not for profit veterans service organization per IRS Code 501(c) (4)

there have been impacted with some worse than others. One Marine lost his home, several lost their sources of income, others had other varying degrees of damage but, to the best of our knowledge, no one was injured – which is really amazing to me.

Department PRO Robin Barker has prepared and distributed a press release with photos. Please help spread the word by having your local media run the press release. Irma is already stale news for most media; but so many citizens continue to live it every minute of every day and will do so for a long time to come. Don't forget your fellow Marine Corps League members and donate to the fund, if you can.

The Department staff and officers have all been doing a great job for you and the League. I have asked each officer to attend as many different Detachment meetings as they can. When they visit, they are not there to criticize or inspect but rather to listen to you and pass your words up the chain. Please share your thoughts, needs, and ideas.

Although Detachment meetings were mostly canceled or postponed during September, most are back to normal business preparing for Birthday Balls, Veterans Day events, and Toys 4 Tots. Thank you all for all that you do for the Marine Corps League and your communities.

Semper Fidelis,  
George