



Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Inc.

TO: Members of the National Northeast Division MCLA

FROM: Linda S. Chamberlain, National Vice President, Northeast Division

SUBJECT: NOTES FROM NATIONAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
Friday, March 3, 2017 – Saturday March 4, 2017

Joint Opening Session: The Joint Opening Session was called to order by Foundation President Gregory Hunt at 9:00 AM. Following the introduction of the Big Flea, 58h Chief Devil Dog, National Auxiliary President and the National Commandant, honored guests Kate Kelly, Supervisor of Arlington National Cemetery, Lt. General Peter Osman, Toys For Tots President/CEO and Tim Toume, Operation Awakening for the Injured Marine Semper Fi Find were introduced and addressed the body.

The Joint Opening closed at 10:15 AM followed immediately by the Memorial Service and Chapel of the 4 Chaplains Ceremony.

Friday March 3, 2017

The Meeting was called to order at 2:25 PM and opened according to ritual. The vacant chair of the Southwest Division Vice President was filled by PNP Gerri Tuohy.

Madam President asked for additions, corrections or omissions to the minutes of the August 2016 National Convention. JA Evelyn Joppa indicated there was a wording error and would bring the correction to the Saturday morning session.

The minutes of the 2016 post convention meeting were read by the Convention Secretary. PNP Gerri Tuohy indicated she was not the auxiliary liaison to the foundation. There being no additional corrections the minutes were approved.

The minutes of the March 2, 2017 pre-board meeting were read. SVP Carol Smith noted Karen Grady is the National Secretary not Executive Secretary. There being no additional corrections the minutes were approved.

Reports of Elected Officers – Madam President Aune read her report. PNP Gerri Tuohy made a motion to accept the report and all reports that follow into record, motion seconded by Southeast Division Vice Joyce Brickett. Motioned passed. The Senior Vice, Junior Vice, Judge Advocate, and Jr. Past President read their reports. The reports of the Division Vice Presidents were not read as they were on the table in the back of the room.

Chaplain's Report – PNP Barbara Nobile – Twenty deaths have been reported since the National Convention in August. Chaplain Nobile appreciates the information being

emailed so she can circulate them to the members however the formal death certificate is required for the chaplain's records. It is also the form used by the League and Auxiliary National Chaplains to create the scroll for the Memorial Service.

Forms Committee – Mary Brief – Six (6) requests for new forms were received prior to today's meeting with additional request being received since arriving at the conference. All form requests will be reviewed by the committee prior to presented to the body at the National Convention in August.

Ritual Committee – PNP Marilyn Loeven's report was read. One question was received and responded to regarding draping of the charter at all meetings.

VAVS – Nancy Calleja – Seventeen (17) representatives and deputies have been recertified. Twenty-one (21) 100% attendance certificates were handed out reflecting the representatives and deputies who attended all four (4) meetings between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016. Congratulations to Sandra Krauthem from the Department of Pennsylvania, Upper Darby Unit as one of the recipients.

Memorial Fund – Debby Kruger – Reported on the activity of the fund from July 2015 through December, 2016. The Fund's working balance is \$12,572.03. \$500.00 was distributed in financial aid during this period.

Membership Report – JVP Evelyn Joppa – As of December 31, 2016 the Auxiliary has a total of 2632 members with 16 departments and 154 units. Overall membership is down 416 members since June 30, 2016. Fifty (50) units, 2 departments and 1 division achieved 100% membership by the December 31, 2016 deadline. Several transmittals were received after the deadline and will be included in the numbers presented at the National Convention in August. As of December 31, 2017 we had 29 new life members, 121 new regular members and 25 new associate members. Dual members are transmitted as a new regular member with the Dual Member application form being sent with the transmittal. Dual members are counted twice as a member in each unit but are only counted once for voting rights. Congratulations to the following units in the Northeast Division who achieved 100% membership: New Jersey, Salem County, New York, Adirondack, Massena and J W Thurston and for Pennsylvania, All Divisions, Chester County, Coal Cracker and Northeastern.

OLA – PNP Barbara Nobile – Our donation at the 2016 National Convention to the Oklahoma Baptists Children's Home in Owasso, OK totaled \$1500.00. A \$1000 monetary gift was given at last year's mid-winter conference to Alternative House in the Virginia area. Our monetary gift of \$1000 this year will be presented on Saturday to Jessica Cruz from Beauty for Ashes a teen challenge facility in Fredericksburg, VA. New House a domestic violence facility is being looked at as our gift recipient at the National Convention. OLA will have one large item to be raffled off at the 2017 National Convention.

Ship Store Report – Ship store sales for Thursday totaled \$1,745.51. Madam President thanked Kathy Ashley for manning the ship store in Karen Bressler's absence.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM until Saturday March 4, 2017 at 9:00 AM.

Saturday, March 4, 2017

The meeting opened according to ritual and was called to order at 9:00 AM.

Reading of Minutes: The minutes of the Friday, March 3, 2017 meeting were read by the convention secretary. Several corrections were noted. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Chief of Staff – PNP Gerri Tuohy read her report.

Comptroller Report – Peggy Tuohy – National Secretary Karen Grady is excellent she is very knowledgeable and helpful. Peggy stated she spoke with Tom McIlwee regarding life membership checks which were originally done incorrectly and need to be redone. PNP Ruth Moyse questioned why no monies were placed into the PLM account on the report presented at the Board Meeting by Tom McIlwee. Madam President stated the new secretary was unfamiliar with the posting of monies to the various line items. This had all been straightened out and all monies will be posted to the proper accounts. Peggy also mentioned at the end of convention last year she collected monies which she deposited directly with BB&T unfortunately her report never made it to the national secretary. The report will be resent and the monies will be placed into the correct categories.

Guest Speaker Tim Toume – Operation Awakening – Tim spoke on Operation Awakening and his previous hike during which he was aided by members of the MCLA he encountered along the way. Tim then spoke on his upcoming Pacific Ridge Trail hike which will be 2667 miles and will take approximately 5 ½ months to complete. He explained the resupply process and gave the website to track his trip.
www.opawakening2.com.

Chief Devil Dog – Chief DD C O Smith presented two checks from the Military Order of Devil Dogs each in the amount of \$1250.00 one for Operation Little Angel and the other for the Military Order of Devil Dog Fleas.

Convention Liaison Report – PNP Jackie Hunter reported on the 2017 94th National Marine Corps League and Auxiliary Convention. The Sheraton Overland Park Hotel at the Convention Center is completely sold out. Complete information for the convention is attached to this report. The 2018 95th National Marine Corps League and Auxiliary Convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo New York August 10-19, 2018. The host for the convention will be the Department of New York Marine Corps League. Convention information regarding the 2018 convention is attached to these minutes. To date no bids for the 2019 convention have been received possible locations are Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming, Alaska, Washington, Montana, Oregon and Idaho. Bids are due by May 30th. All questions regarding conventions should be addressed to PNP Jackie Hunter.

Recognition of Guest and First Time Attendees – Madam President Aune recognized Bonnie Lawton who is interested in becoming an Auxiliary member and is looking to start a unit in New York. There were also six (6) first time attendees at this mid-winter conference.

Budget Committee: PNP Gerri Tuohy reported the committee reviewed the budget expenses to date and we are on track. The committee discussed the issue of checks not being used in sequence and this will be addressed with the national secretary.

President's Council – SVP Carol Smith – 24 members attended. PNP Deborah Evans and Gerri Tuohy were recognized as were department and unit presidents. Webmaster Meg Krebs requested all units and departments let her know if they have a web site so it can be linked to the national web site for better communication with unit secretaries, treasures and presidents. Topics also covered were What makes a Good Leader, keep your department and unit going & growing, read and refer to bylaws and chain of command, be sure your unit and department has an EIN number and your 990 has been filed failure to do so can result in fines up to \$25,000, also be sure your unit and department is incorporated.

OLA – Jessica Cruz, Children's Beauty for Ashes Women and Children's Home Director gave an overview of the home which is the only complete recovery home where children stay with their mother. The age of the women in residence is between 18 and 27. Women usually stay 12-18 months. The facility has a full day care center where the residents can drop their child off in the morning so they can do their studies, learn about the Lord and work on life skills. The facility can house 8 families. All children are under kindergarten age, 4 babies have been born this year addiction free. Jessica was most grateful for our \$1000 donation which will sponsor a bed.

Guest Speaker – Commandant Richard Gore – Commandant Gore thanked the Auxiliary for all we do for the league. He mentioned the activities he and Madam President have participated in since August. He also spoke on the state of the league and their rebuilding efforts and the new headquarters building.

Guest Speaker – Tom McIlwee from Morgan Stanley – Tom spoke on the PLM account and a better way to calculate the PLM payments to make it a little more even on the distribution level. Rather than using the current method they are looking at a 3 year average using the fiscal year ending balance (current year plus two previous years) and averaging this total by 4% this figure would then be the amount available for life member payment distribution. A spending policy statement will be developed for the PLM account and add in with the investment policy statement where the investment statement will dictate the guidelines we are following and the spending policy statement will dictate the 3 year average with the 4% distribution. Tom also spoke on a change in one of our investments in the general fund. There are two different funds within the general fund the one with the lowest income will be sold off completely and invested in American Balanced fund which is 60% stock equity and 40% income.

Guest Speaker – Gregory Hunt MCL Foundation President and Convention Chair – Mr. Hunt spoke first on the conventions. The convention in Tulsa had a record attendance

the final count for the auxiliary was 105 with 76 of those being delegates. The 94th National Convention in Overland Park is coming up. Activities sign up will be available online April 1st. The Early Bird Reception in Overland Park is going to be held at the National World War I Museum. The WWI Museum in Kansas City is the only national war memorial that is not in Washington DC. The dinner will be a full hot meal similar to the original meals served when the US entered into WWI. This museum has a glass walkway that overlooks a poppy field. The hotel bar will be turned into a replica of Tun Tavern, recruitment posters will be around the bar. The website for the convention is www.2017MCLNationalconvention.com. The National Convention Committee could not make a decision between Buffalo NY and Charleston West VA for the 2018 convention therefore the Board of Trustees made the decision to go to Buffalo, NY.

Mr. Hunt asked the body how they felt about coming to the DC, Fredericksburg area every other year and how we would feel if the mid-winter conference was moved around similar to the national convention. Suggested locations were Birmingham Alabama, Reno Nevada, Louisville and Lexington Kentucky. It has been proposed to the Board of Trustees to consider rotating the mid winter conference the same as the national convention between the three (3) quadrants. We will be in Fredericksburg in 2018 with an option for 2019, 2 years here, then 2 years somewhere in the south and then 2 years in the west so we are not in the same location all of the time.

The foundation thanked the Auxiliary for their donations. Since the convention in August the foundation has helped 8 Marines and their families for a total of just under \$15,000. The foundation funded 133 scholarships for a total of \$66,500.00. The foundation still accepts donations for the Corrigan Fund which is specifically for mothers of marines. All donations go to the general fund unless specified otherwise. Currently the foundation has assets of \$1.3 million dollars two years ago the assets were \$500,000. Donations and the purchase of the memorial certificates this past fiscal year totaled \$51,000. The foundation continues to provide \$10,000 to the Marine Youth Foundation, \$2,000 to the Young Marine of the year for their education and \$6,500 to the Marine Military Academy in Dallas Texas for a cadet's education. The foundation is part of the Combined Federal Campaign #10195 for donations through your employer if they participate in the Combined Federal Campaign. The foundation is still listed as one of the best Independent Charities in America. The memorial certificate program is still going. Thirty-six memorial certificates have been done since the convention in Tulsa.

The Bible was closed and the meet recessed at 11:55 AM.

The Bible was opened and the meeting reconvened at 1:00 PM.

OLA – The collection taken up today totaled \$209.

National Scholarship Committee – David Hatfield – Recipients received scholarships in the amount of \$500.00. Less than 50% of those who applied for the scholarship did not receive them. A checklist was provided that will be used for reviewing the scholarship application. Completed applications should be mailed directly to David Hatfield, do not send via certified mail, if tracking is required send by priority mail. 298 applications were received by the deadline many were rejected because: grade point

average was below 3.0, missing information, not signed by the Detachment Commandant or Unit President, certified by the sponsor themselves, unofficial transcripts (the final term or semester need to be included and cannot be a web site copy), letter from registrar proving enrollment of 12 hour study or more for the semester, and applications received without transcripts. Deadline for applying is July 1, 2017. Preliminary approval will be posted on the website.

Uniform Committee – Susie Lee – CINTAS is no longer providing uniforms for the MCLA. Susie will be contacting them in an attempt to reestablish a relationship with them.

Insurance Committee – Elaine Schieffer – Elaine asked if the insurance company where an event was being held was the primary insurance company or was Rust Insurance the primary. Madam President suggested she speak with either the league's representative or directly with Rust Insurance Company. During discussions Asst Central DVP Mary Brief advised that Rust Insurance is not listed in our bylaws and there is no link to their website on the Auxiliary website. Madam President made a note that a statement will need to be included in our Administrative Procedures covering this.

Legislative Committee – Darlene McCubbin read the report

Headquarters Project – Peggy Tuohy – Winners of the fall project were: Greg Wills \$250.00, William Peless \$150.00 and Armando Trevino \$100.00.

Bylaws & Administrative Procedures – PNP Jackie Hunter – Bylaw change submissions need to be postmarked 90 days prior to the convention (May 16th). Administrative Procedures can be submitted at any time or brought to the floor at the convention. Bylaws submissions can be sent electronically but three copies need to be sent. Bylaws submissions must go through National Headquarters do not send them directly to the National JA. In the past the bylaw change submissions were sent to National Headquarters, the national secretary would send a copy to each member of the committee, keep a hard copy on file at HQ and send a hard copy to the convention. Madam President requested PNP Hunter submit to the Newsletter the procedures for submission of bylaw changes.

Ship Store – Sales for the conference totaled \$2,245.55.

National Big Flea – Rogene Hackbarth – the theme for this year's scratch will be Patriotic God Bless America.

990N Question – Midwest DVP Judy Blackmere asked PNP Jackie Hunter a question regarding her 990N form rejection. PNP Hunter advised that if any unit receives a rejected filing they are to notify her for assistance. PNP Hunter gave the Division Vice Presidents a list of all of their units showing the current status of the 990N filing. Many units never filed and will be placed on the league parent list as new.

Girl Scouts – No report

Unfinished Business – Life member checks will continue to be mailed yearly there was a suggestion that checks be mailed every other year. The checks that should have gone out in the fall will be going out within the next few weeks. Distribution example: \$9,000 to be distributed, \$3,000 goes to National MCLA, \$3,000 to the departments and \$3,000 to the units.

Updates to the National Roster:

Twila Gensle – correct email address genseltwila@gmail.com

Karen Bressler – new email address kkb1959@icloud.com

PNP Jackie Hunter is now the Convention Committee Liaison

Prayers were requested for:

John Tuohy who is getting out of the hospital

PNP Shirley Keys sent thank you through PNP Cindy Marshall

Announcement of Candidacy for National Offices: The following officers announced they would be running for a second term at the National Convention in August:

National President Karen Aune – will be running for National President

SVP Carol Smith – will be running for National Sr. Vice President

JVP Evelyn Joppa – will be running for National Jr. Vice President

JA Coleen English – will be running for National Judge Advocate

The Division Vice Presidents announced their intention to run for office.

There being no additional items to be discussed the conference was closed according to ritual at 2:50 PM.

2017
94th NATIONAL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY CONVENTION

HOST: General Larry Oppenheimer 1025 Detachment
Chairman: Joe Hughes (913) 660-4817 (e-mail jnhughes@vereestkc.net)

Date: August 11th – August 18th, 2017
Hotel: The Sheraton Overland Park Hotel at the Convention Center,
6100 College Park, Overland, KS

There is a shuttle to and from Kansas City Airport, (approximately 35 minutes from the hotel). Service is NOT complimentary; price is determined by the number of passengers in each vehicle. Average cab fare is \$65. Telephone # for Sheraton Hotel "Classic" Chauffeured car service is (913) 685-3832. Airlines serviced are: Air Canada, Tran Airways, American, Delta, Frontier, Sea Port, Southwest, United and US Airways.

Complimentary self-parking for all guests; valet parking is available at \$16/day with in and out privileges. RV parking is available – NO Hookups – There is an RV park within 30 minutes.

Rates: \$115.00+17.50% tax daily for one to four people in a room. Includes daily complimentary breakfast for 2 people per room. Check in time is 3 PM; check-out time is 12 noon. There are 11 handicap rooms available – some have walk in showers. The hotel has four elevators and four check in stations. Bell man service is available but guests can use the bell carts. There will be motorized wheelchairs available at \$215.00 a week, price subject to change.

There is a safe in all guest rooms as well as a single cup coffee pot. The hotel features Starbucks Coffee. Microwaves and refrigerators are available for rent. Refrigerators are free for medical use. There is a restaurant in the hotel. Provisions will be made for grab and go lunches in the convention center. There are more than 45 restaurants within minutes. The local area provides many options for shopping, dining, live theater, comedy and cinema. Free Wi-Fi all over the hotel. Complimentary high speed internet access with in-room data ports in all guest rooms. The Hotel is Pet Friendly. There is an indoor pool and whirlpool spa open 5AM to 11PM. 24-hour fitness center, outdoor veranda with fire pits.

The Hotel has a unique option. A contest for making PB&J sandwiches for the local soup kitchen. The hotel provides the bread and the PB&J. The MCL Devil Dogs are looking at the same project as part of their initiation process. If the Auxiliary is interested we should check to use a different day than the Devil Dogs.

PLEASE NOTE A LISTING OF OVERFLOW HOTELS CAN BE FOUND ON THE CONVENTION WEB SITE www.2017MCLNationalconvention.com If you call for reservations at any one of these hotels and are told they are filled please let me know so I can contact PNP Hunter

**2018
95th National Marine Corps League and Auxiliary Convention**

Host: Department of New York Marine corps League

Hotel: Hyatt Regency Buffalo

Date: August 10-19, 2018 – Reservations open at 8:01AM on Aug. 21, 2017

Room Rate: \$113.00 single, \$130.00 double + taxes. One night rate charge will be charged to your credit card at the time of making your reservation.

There are 350 rooms available and 9 handicap rooms available. Check in is at noon, check out is 3 PM. Each room features complimentary Wi-Fi, single cup coffee maker, refrigerator and hair dryer. Free self parking.

The hotel also has a fitness center which is open 24-hrs/day with room key access, indoor salt water pool, spa and salon, gift shop business center with Wi-Fi printer, copy and fax services is available. There is no guest laundry. A dry cleaning service is available drop off by 9 AM back by 5 PM.

The hotel is pet friendly (50 lbs or less) with at \$100 charge for up to 6 days. Inform the hotel in advance concerning a pet. The exception is no charge for service dogs.

The hotel features one main restaurant with American style cuisine and an EB Green's Steakhouse. There is a Starbucks coffee shop next to the restaurant. There are approximately 30 restaurants within easy walking distance.

The hotel is located 12 miles from the Buffalo Niagara International Airport. Shuttle service will be provided.

The general meetings of the MCL & MCLA and MODD will be held in the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center attached to the hotel directly across the street or accessible thru a covered walkway.

Should you wish to go over to Canada you will need either a passport or a passport card.