



Marine Corps League



Midwest Division IA, KS, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD

12 March 2017

Midwest Division Mid-Winter Update

Greeting, attended the Mid-Winter Budget Meeting at National Headquarters Tuesday 2 March. The good news, the weather was great. Bad news is the server at National crashed again and all Quick Books information was again lost, 3rd time in as many months. No backups were made and it looks like the last records were dated around 27 January. The Budget information will be reconstructed and released at National in Overland Park.

National is again looking to change the IT unit. The new IT Company will install the new served the Trustees approved to purchase at Mid-Winter. The new server will be used only by the Marine Corps League and will have a daily backup to avert the loss of information as has happened several times in the past.

Applications are being received for the National Executive Director position. Review of the applicants is currently underway. One change may be the National Executive Director position will be changed from an Executive Director to a Chief Operations Officer and have a business background. The position of National Adjutant/Paymaster may be dissolved and in place a bookkeeper (accountant or CPA) hired to keep National's financial records.

Due to the Marine Corps League not operating under IRS 501 (c) 4 rules, the entire Bylaws of the League are in the process of being rewritten to conform to the IRS rules. With the changes the Bylaws will go from around 226 pages down to approximately 20 pages. After the revision of the Bylaws, the portion that is really not a Bylaw in the first place will be moved to an Administrative/Procedures area. A vote to accept the changes will be made on the floor at National Convention in Overland Park. As members of the Detachment, Department or National Board of Trustees, we are charged with upholding

the Bylaws and Federal Law. If we knowingly allow Detachments, Departments, MODD Pounds, Packs to operate and collect donations without being properly registered under Not-for-Profit, we as Trustees, not the general membership, are in violation of Federal law and will be held accountable for such. All entities must be registered and current with their State Not-for-Profit office and have a valid EIN number, file a 990 form with the IRS. Additional information will be released when it becomes available.

Rosters: The National roster is not correct and will be scrapped in the near future. A new database will be implemented and the National roster will be maintained on a separate system. The new membership information will be requested around August of this year hopefully after the Non-Life member 1 September renewal date.

I am requesting all Detachment to check and verify that the Life Member Audit was submitted to National for the current year. Checks will be cut the first part of April. While checking, discovered the Midwest Division had a total of (14) fourteen detachments that did not respond with a LMA report as requested and will not receive a LMA refund check for 2016. The refund belongs to the detachment and department. If no response was received, National will keep the funds. If you have any concerns about being one of the fourteen detachments, contact me to verify your detachment information was received and recorded at National.

Membership Renewals: Renewals should get easier. 1 September all non-life memberships will due for renewal. Current memberships will expire on 31 August. As requested by National Jr. Vice Dennis Tobin, delinquent members that cannot be contacted should be reported to Jr. Vice Tobin and he will see they are removed from National's roster. Please put this on hold for now as members must be overdue for a period of one year before they may be dropped from the National roster. The NJV reported approximately 14,000 members are currently on the delinquent list, of those the Midwest Division had 617 reported as being delinquent.

2017 Spring Division Conference will be hosted by Homestead Leathernecks Detachment 1430. April 21-23 2017 at the Holiday Inn Express 4005 North 6th Street, Beatrice, NE 68310-0129. Reservations 402-228-7000.

National 2017 will be at the Sheraton Overland Park (SOLD OUT) Overland Park, KS August 13 – August 18, 2017. Hosted by the Larry Oppenheimer Detachment MCL Detachment & MSgt Luis Romero Jr. MCLA Unit, Lenexa, KS.

Semper Fidelis,

Harvey L. Harris

National Vice Commandant
Midwest Division

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"Once A Marine, Always A Marine"